

## **BIOGRAPHIES OF KEY PARTICIPANTS**

### **John Harper, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Robert Gordon University**

John was born and brought up in Wick in the North of Scotland before moving to Aberdeen where he studied for both an honours degree and a PhD in Chemistry at the University of Aberdeen. John has been involved in a range of national activities, including teaching quality assessment, external examining and course development and approval. This contributed to his attaining the award of Fellowship of the Royal Society of Chemistry. John was promoted to the role of Assistant Principal/Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Care before progressing to his current role.

John is a member of a number of national committees associated with institutional quality assurance, quality enhancement and widening participation. He is a QAA Institutional Reviewer and is also a member of the Health Professions Council, acting as Convener of its Approvals Committee and Vice-Convener of its Education and Training Committee.

John is married with a family of four and, in his leisure time, enjoys following a range of sports with active participation now being restricted to playing golf!

### **Sjur Bergan, Head of the Department of Higher Education and History Teaching at the Council of Europe**

Sjur is Head of the Department of Higher Education and History Teaching at the Council of Europe (Directorate of School, Out-of-School and Higher Education Directorate General IV - Education, Culture and Cultural Heritage, Youth and Sport).

He joined the Council of Europe in 1991 and has since been involved in most of the Council's higher education activities, amongst other functions as secretary to the Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research (CDESR) and Council of Europe representative on the Bologna Follow Up and Preparatory Groups.

He is responsible for the Council's activities on recognition and mobility, including the establishment of a joint programme with UNESCO in this area, Co-Secretary of the ENIC Network. Before joining the Council of Europe, Sjur Bergan worked in the administration of the University of Oslo from 1983 until 1991. Sjur Bergan is the editor of Recognition Issues in the Bologna Process (2003) and, with Nuria Sanz, of The Heritage of European Universities (2002).

### **Andy Walker, Director of Postgraduate Studies at Heriot-Watt University**

Andy Walker was born in Harrow, England on 24 June, 1948. He received a B.A. degree in physics, an M.Sc. degree in Quantum Electronics and a PhD degree from Essex University, England, in 1969, 1970, 1972, respectively. In 1983 he joined Heriot-Watt University, where he is currently Professor of Modern Optics in the Physics Department, studying semiconductor optoelectronic devices and optical interconnects, and their applications to free-space digital optical processing and switching.

Professor Walker is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and is currently Vice President for the Physical Sciences and Engineering. He is also a Fellow of the UK Institute of Physics, and was Secretary to its Quantum Electronics Group from 1982 to 1985 and Chairman of the Scottish Branch 1993-95. He is Assistant Principal(Resources) and Director of Postgraduate Studies at Heriot-Watt University and is a member of the Planning and Management Executive. He has published over 200 scientific papers and letters.

### **Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning**

Fiona Hyslop was born in Ayrshire in 1964 and was brought up in her early years in England before returning to Scotland and graduating from Glasgow University with an MA (Hons) in Economic History and sociology. She completed a post graduate Diploma in Industrial Administration at the Scottish College of Textiles. She then moved to Edinburgh and joined the financial services company Standard Life where she held various positions in sales and marketing latterly as Brand Development Manager.

She was elected a Lothians MSP in 1999 and was latterly the Shadow Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning and a member of the Parliament's Education Committee.

She is married with three children and lives in Linlithgow.

### **Dr. Judith Vincent, Vice Principal Learning and Teaching, University of the West of Scotland**

The University of Paisley appointed Dr Judith Vincent as its Assistant Principal responsible for the development of student support and all aspects of learning and teaching across the University. Dr Vincent, who took up the post in January 2003, previously held the position of Dean of Students and Educational Innovation at Thames Valley University, London.

Her current post sees Dr Vincent driving forward the implementation of the University's quality enhancement strategies. Dr Vincent has a wealth of experience in the field of learning and teaching. She previously led the introduction of two new work-based learning awards - Foundation Degrees and Graduate Apprenticeships - at Thames Valley University.

Judith Vincent has worked in the area of educational innovation since the early 1990s and previously held the post of Programme Manager, School of Creative, Cultural and Social Studies at Thames Valley University. Prior to this she was Assistant Director of Studies (BA/BSc programmes) at University College of Ripon and York St John.

### **Dr Alastair Hunter, University and College Union**

Dr Alastair Hunter, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies in the University of Glasgow. Worked in the university sector since 1980, with extensive experience in the academic union (formerly AUT, now UCU). President of UCU Scotland for three years to May 2007; currently vice-president (Higher Education) of UCU. Wide experience of Quality Assurance both in Glasgow University and throughout the UK, having participated in subject reviews in St Andrews, Stirling, Edinburgh Highland Theological College, Oxford, SOAS, Manchester, Lancaster, Anglia Ruskin, Newcastle, York St John, and Birmingham. Has served as Dean and Head of Department. Publications in a wide field, including inter-faith studies, Judaism, Psalms, and Biblical wisdom literature. Most recent book: An Introduction to the Psalms (T & T Clark, 2008).

### **Jill Little, Depute President, National Union of Students, Scotland**

Jill Little was re-elected as Depute President of NUS Scotland in March 2007, to serve on the Executive Committee for another year. She is a graduate from the University of Paisley, where she was President of the Students' Association between 2004-06.

As Depute President, Jill leads the NUS Scotland Housing Campaign this year. Brick by Brick, highlighting issues facing students seeking affordable and safe accommodation. She is also working on Final Demand, NUS Scotland's priority campaign on education and funding, getting thousands of students across filling in questionnaires on the levels of

hardship and debt they are facing . pushing for better access; better support and the removal of barriers to education.

### **Stephen Adam**

Stephen Adam is Principal Lecturer and Leader of the Undergraduate Politics Area in the Department of Social and Political Studies at the University of Westminster. He is the author/rapporteur of a number of research projects and studies for the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO including: the Diploma Supplement Development Project (1999), ECTS Extension Feasibility Project (2000), the Transnational Education Project (2001), Qualification Structures in European Higher Education (2003). He is currently involved in a number of European Commission funded projects including ECTS, the Tuning initiative, and updating and extending the 2003 report on Transnational Education in Central and Eastern Europe for the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education (Hogskoleverket).

### **Norman Sharp, Director, Quality Assurance Agency Scotland**

As Director of QAA Scotland Norman is responsible for the development and implementation of the QAA's policy and practice in Scotland. He works with a number of bodies in Scotland related to government, funding, the higher education sector, the further education and school sectors, professional bodies and employers. He also helps develop and implement QAA's international portfolio.

Norman previously worked as a Lecturer (Public Economics), Senior Lecturer and Director of Programmes at Glasgow Caledonian University. Before his current role, he was Assistant Director at one of QAA's predecessor organisations the Higher Education Quality Council.

### **Konica Stones, Student Recruitment Manager, PwC**

Konica Stones joined PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in 2003 in the student recruitment team in Scotland. She is currently student recruitment manager with responsibility for recruitment into PwC's three Scottish offices - Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow. She also involved in various student recruitment projects nationally at PwC. Prior to this, Konica worked as a Recruitment Consultant for a consultancy in Edinburgh. Her degrees are in Science (BSc in Biochemistry and Physiology) and a Masters in Pharmacology. Upon graduating, she joined a contract research organisation conducting clinical scientific research before making the move in HR.

### **Michael Horig, European University Association**

Michael Horig is project officer at EUA since October 2006, where he is responsible for the follow-up of the Statutes Review Group, supporting the Secretary General and being the helping hand where needed. He has a keen interest in higher education issues such as widening access, Lifelong Learning, qualifications frameworks and innovative teaching.

Previous to his function at EUA, Michael Horig was involved in ESIB . The National Unions of Students in Europe, representing the students' interests in the Bologna Process. He also worked for 3 years as a communication and international officer at the National Union of Students in Flanders.

Michael Horig has a Master's degree in Political Science, International Relations, from Ghent University, Belgium and studied one year at Stockholm University, Sweden. During the summer months he likes to teach German in the United States.

## **Jens Vraa-Jensen, Education International**

Jens Vraa-Jensen is a trade union adviser in DM, Denmark which is an affiliate to Education International (EI). He has been working with higher education and research policy since he was a student and after graduation from Copenhagen University in Danish trade unions . from 1990 in DM which is the Danish trade union for higher education and research.

Jens is engaged in collective bargaining for university teachers and researchers at the national level and is responsible for the international work of DM within higher education and research.

Jens has been a member of the EI European Standing Committee for Higher Education and research for app. 10 years and was elected chair of the committee last year.

He has also participated in global conferences of EI. He has represented EI in conferences and seminars on transnational education, GATS, quality assurance and he was a member of the EI-delegation to the Ministerial Bologna conference in London, May 2007.