



The School of History, Classics and Archaeology *Graduate School Newsletter, Issue 21, March 2010*



**Professor James F. McMillan (1948-2010)
(extract from Glasgow Herald Obituary
by Professors Jeremy Crang and Jill
Stephenson)**

Professor James F. McMillan, Richard Pares Professor of History and former Head of School, has died at the age of 61. He was an outstanding scholar, an inspirational teacher, a brilliant academic manager and a wonderful colleague: the word 'collegial' might have been coined to describe him. His death robs the Historical profession of a bright star whose warmth and humanity won him so many friends, in Edinburgh and many other places.

The respect and admiration he earned from his colleagues made him an obvious choice as the founding Head of the new School of History and Classics in 2002, as part of the university's internal restructuring. His preparation for an orderly transition was painstaking. Some staff were sceptical about the new

structures, but Jim patiently took time to nurse them. This was his method throughout: to take colleagues along with him, by consent. Jim's judicious policies, especially in the area of staffing, saw the appointment of many talented young scholars to the new School. He leaves a solid foundation for the future.

Cancer claimed Jim at the height of his powers. At the end of his tenure as Head of School in 2005 he assumed the directorship of the university's Centre for the Study of the Two World Wars and was awarded a Major Leverhulme Fellowship to enable him to research and write a book on the Great War and the Western religious imagination. The following year he was elected to a Visiting Fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford. Alas, emerging ill-health prevented him from making the most of these new avenues and opportunities and his book remained unfinished. Jim faced his long illness with typical

courage and dignity. He was a truly inspiring figure whose remarkable human qualities and exceptional scholarship will be sorely missed by his colleagues, friends and family.

Speaking at his funeral, Professor Tom Devine said "Only yesterday, I was told by the family that for many years, Jim has been known to them as 'Big Jim' to distinguish him from his brother-in-law of the same name. I like that - Big Jim McMillan, how apt for a man of such stature, intellect, personality and character! We will miss him but we will not forget him".

Jim is survived by his wife, Donatella, Lecturer in Italian at the University of Glasgow.

Professor Tom Devine's Tribute:

http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/news&events/Other_News/index.htm

Staff Profile and Publications List:

<http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/staff/academic/jmcmillan>

New McMillan PhD Scholarship Awards

In memory of Jim, the School has established a number of new scholarships for on-programme PhD students. These will be known as the McMillan Scholarships. We feel it is a fitting tribute that a new generation of scholars be associated with his legacy to the School, College and University. More details on the application procedure as well as other will be on the Graduate School's web pages in the near future.

Dr Enda Delaney awarded prestigious ESRC Mid-Career Development Fellowship

Dr Enda Delaney, Senior Lecturer in History and Director of Graduate Studies, has been awarded an Economic and Social Research Council Mid-Career Development Fellowship.

This scheme is designed to enable outstanding social science researchers to take a new direction in their research. These highly competitive awards (c. 10 awards annually across the whole range of UK social science disciplines) are made on the basis of a track record of excellence in research and the ability to demonstrate exceptional all round scholarly ability. The fellowships provide award holders with a mixed package of support, including research leave and funding for organising seminars and workshops. Dr Delaney will use his two-year award (valued at over £250K) to complete a monograph on 'Ireland and Modernity' for Oxford UP, as well as organising specialist workshops and an international research network on 'Modernity, History and the Social Theory'. This award confirms the School's reputation as one of the leading centres for social science history in the UK

Professor Peltenburg elected FRSE

Professor Edgar Peltenburg has been elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's national academy. Professor Peltenburg is Emeritus Professor of Archaeology in the School. Fellows are elected after a rigorous four-stage selection process culminating in a ballot of the entire Fellowship. Each new Fellow of the RSE is recognised within his or her peer group as having achieved excellence within their discipline or profession.

School Co-location to the West Wing: Provision for graduate students

The Graduate Study Space User Group have recently endorsed revised proposals for how the two large graduate study rooms will be utilised. For more information on the move, please see:

http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/school_move/index.html