



Mary Burton
1819-1909

Mary Burton persuaded the Watt Institution and School of Arts to open its doors to women students in 1869 - 23 years before Scottish universities. She went on to become the first woman on the School's Board of Directors and a life Governor of Heriot-Watt College. One of the first women to serve on Edinburgh Parochial and School Boards, Mary was a lifelong campaigner for women's suffrage and an advocate for educational opportunities for all. In commemoration one of the University's buildings is named after her.

Christina Miller
1899-2001

Dr Christina (Chrissie) Cruickshank Miller (1899-2001) overcame deafness to pursue a distinguished career as a research chemist and an inspirational teacher and mentor to generations of students. She began her career by working as a laboratory demonstrator while a student at Heriot-Watt College in 1920. She went on to become Heriot-Watt College's first woman fellow. She was also one of the first 5 women to be elected to the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1949. She was a senior lecturer at the University of Edinburgh until 1961, juggling caring responsibilities for her sister and mother as well as managing her own disability. The University has named one of our Halls of Residence in her honour.



Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon
1864-1939

Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon, pioneering geologist, began her scientific career at Heriot-Watt College in 1888 where she studied Theoretical Mechanics. She was the first woman to receive a Doctor of Science from UCL and a PhD from Munich University. Maria combined academic research with married life and work for the Liberal Party and women's action groups. She won the Geological Society Lyell medal for research on plate tectonics and became a Dame of the British Empire for her work for women's rights.

Anna McGillivray Macleod
1917-2004

A pioneer of research in brewing and distilling, Anna Macleod dedicated over 30 years of service to Heriot-Watt, becoming the University's first female Professor in 1975. Leading her field as President of the Institute of Brewing, in 1976 she was awarded the Horace Brown medal for outstanding achievement by the brewing industry. Anna bequeathed the University a financial gift in her will which enabled the University's International Centre for Brewing and Distilling to establish the Anna Macleod Scholarship.



Watt women

Sources:

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Heriot-Watt originated as the School of Arts of Edinburgh, founded in 1821 as the world's first Mechanics Institute, which revolutionised access to education. Heriot-Watt College was formed in 1885 and in 1966 Heriot-Watt became a University by Royal Charter.

Heriot-Watt University is an early pioneer of equal opportunities: we welcomed women as early as 1869, some 20 years ahead of other institutions. We want to celebrate the role of women in shaping who we are today.

