



# THE MARTLET

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

ISSUE 6  
SPRING 2017

## THE YOUNG UNIV GALLERY

CELEBRATING  
INSPIRATIONAL  
OLD MEMBERS  
UNDER 35

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

VETERAN JOURNALIST AND BROADCASTER RAJDEEP SARDESAI (1986)

THE ASSASSIN IN THE COMPUTING ROOM: PRINCE YUSUPOV AND THE 'MAD MONK'

SHOOTING THE PAST WITH ALEX VON TUNZELMANN (1996)



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# FROM THE EDITOR

**W**elcome to the Spring 2017 issue of *The Martlet*, the magazine for members of University College Oxford. I would like to express my sincere thanks to those Old Members, students, Fellows, staff and Friends of the College who contributed to this issue.

Enormous thanks also to Dr David Bell, Emeritus Fellow, and Justin Bowyer, Social Media Manager, who provided copy-editing support for this issue. I would also like to thank Dr Robin Darwall-Smith for his invaluable assistance in preparing the *In Memoriam* section.

I do hope you will enjoy reading all that the magazine has to offer. If you have news or views you would like to share for the next issue, the website or e-newsletter, please e-mail me at: [communications@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@univ.ox.ac.uk)

Kind regards,

Sara Dewsbery  
Communications Officer

A large print version of this  
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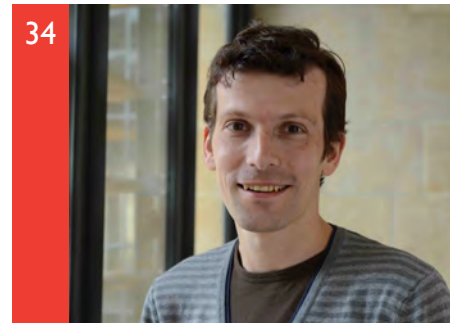


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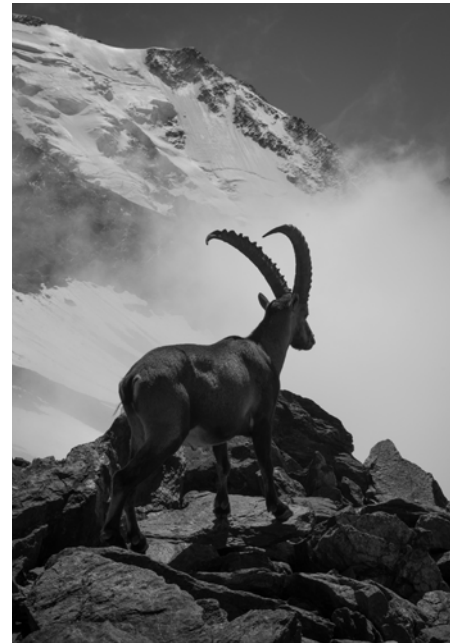
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# MY VIEW OF UNIV

The French Alps around Mont Blanc, where the Univ Chalet sits, have many qualities. One of them is a certain statuesqueness, which is perhaps best seen at night and in monochrome. Oxford, and Univ, boast this attribute as a result of centuries of human design. The architecture of the Alps, on the other hand, has evolved over tens of millions of years of tectonic convergence between Africa and Eurasia, along with intense weathering by wind, rain and ice.  
**Sam Cornish (2012, Geology)**





# FROM THE MASTER



**H**ow will Univ fare in post-Brexit Britain? What changes can we expect? The University, and the College, Fellows and students alike, voted overwhelmingly to remain, out of both professional self-interest and personal values. The deep dismay (and shock) at the result was palpable the day after and has persisted since. The College foresees a chilly climate of economic austerity and academic isolation ahead.

Little is likely to change in the short-term, other than continuing uncertainty about the long-term. The legal status of our many Fellows and teaching staff from the EU is secure for the time being but they naturally feel unsettled about the future further ahead. The fee liabilities and loan entitlements of our current EU students, as well as for this year's applicants for places, are also secure, but are uncertain from 2018 onwards. UK obligations to existing EU-funded research programmes will be honoured, including programmes that continue after Britain has formally left the EU, but the probability and terms of UK participation in European science agencies and the EU's research programmes after 2020 are quite uncertain.

The College cannot escape the impact on University departments, to which all our Fellows belong. Oxford has benefitted enormously from EU support for science, punching well above its weight. Big science today is almost invariably a collaborative enterprise involving a group of laboratories across the UK and Europe (and elsewhere in the world); Oxford is notable for producing the lead department in many cases. Two years or more of uncertainty about the UK's future part in the European research community has already affected Oxford's capacity to attract and retain the world's leading scientists, with EU candidates withdrawing from shortlists and EU citizens in Oxford posts applying for positions elsewhere. Departmental plans to bid for major EU programme funding – 2-3 years advance preparation is the norm – have been suspended or abandoned as a result of withdrawals by their putative European partners.

Pessimism could be premature. The Government may agree to pay for UK universities to remain eligible for EU research funding as 'associate members' or, if not, replace EU funding with its own. An expensive and tiresomely bureaucratic visa regime has not stopped Oxford attracting world class academics from America, South Asia and the Far East and is unlikely to do so from Europe either.

The adverse impact on the recruitment of EU students seems more certain. Currently EU students are treated as UK students for tuition fees and loans to pay for them. After Brexit, universities will have no legal basis for treating EU students differently from other non-UK students and on financial grounds will have to charge them the higher overseas fee, for which no UK Government loans will be available. Inevitably Oxford will be fishing in a smaller pool of (largely wealthy) EU applicants, to the detriment of the diversity of the student body.

It remains to be seen whether withdrawal from the EU will produce the enduring economic downturn that most economists expect. If it does, the damage to the University in the form of a squeeze in public funding, industrial funding and financial support for students will be more significant than whether the UK is inside or outside the EU.

Sir Ivor Crewe





## A CITY DIVIDED: RESEARCH TRIP TO BATON ROUGE

**Y**ou might be wondering: "Why Baton Rouge?" It may help to explain that my family roots lie in South Louisiana, but this rarely convinces anyone of my choice to conduct fieldwork there. Although Baton Rouge is the state capital, a major hub of Exxon refineries, and the site of Louisiana State University as well as of the historically black Southern University, it is not a place that normally gets much attention. Its suburban population of 800,000 people spread across 4,000 square miles makes it feel more like a big small town than a small big city. In contrast to its lively neighbours of Cajun country in Lafayette and cosmopolitan New Orleans, Baton Rouge is content to be known for its love of family, faith, and (American) football.

To be fair, this lack of cultural distinctiveness lent the capital to my cause: I needed a prototypically American setting for my research into the intersection of race, class, and geography in the United States. And Baton Rouge is a city cleanly divided into black and white, poor and rich, north and south.

What sealed the deal, however, was my learning of a recent initiative by the

unincorporated parts of East Baton Rouge parish to break away from the consolidated city-parish governance structure and incorporate a new municipality: the city of St. George. Leaders of the effort argue that the new city would bring many improvements, but their primary goal is creating an independent school district in the southeastern part of the parish.

For anyone familiar with Baton Rouge's troubled history as home to the longest school desegregation lawsuit in the country (1956-2003), the St. George movement immediately sets off alarm bells. If incorporated, St. George would instantly become one of the richest and whitest cities in Louisiana, leaving behind the impoverished and mostly black community of North Baton Rouge. The case of St. George therefore offered a perfect opportunity to explore public opinion about race and class by orienting my conversations around a movement that identifies as race-neutral, but has deeply racial implications.

I could never have expected how much more there would be to talk about in Baton Rouge this summer. The start of July brought

a wave of wrongful deaths of civilians at the hands of police officers, and of officers at the hands of civilians. I spent my first day in Louisiana attending the funeral of Alton Sterling, and my third, watching in horror as news unfolded about the murders of officers Montrell Jackson, Matthew Gerald, and Brad Garafola. The following weeks were an experience of collective shock and mourning. Calls for 'togetherness' and 'unity' were by far the loudest. For some, this rhetoric reflected a real desire for conversation about structural racism and inequality; for others, it seemed a way to call for healing without recognising the cause of the sickness. It all amounted to an unexpected and tragic background for my research.

I kept up a brisk pace to interview 48 Baton Rouge residents in four weeks. I spoke to prominent voices in the St. George effort and to those who led the opposition; to teachers, school board members, charter school operators, and district employees; to 'insiders' in Baton Rouge's local government and downtown organisations; and to social workers, community organisers, homemakers, priests, professors, lawyers, and more. It was clear that the racial tensions



that erupted this summer had their origins in the same foundation which had allowed the St. George movement to take hold. Proponents of St. George argued that the recent violence validated their reasons for severing ties with Baton Rouge. Opponents saw the violence as representative of the consequences of the 'white flight' that had created the split between the St. George area and the inner city in the first place.

The varied perspectives I collected will play an integral role in my future research. My larger doctoral project re-examines the 'group threat' hypothesis, or the idea that members of a majority group respond to geographies of racial diversity with heightened levels of hostility. The research I conducted in Baton Rouge offered powerful evidence for the need to update the rhetoric of threat and hostility to capture the degree of insularity and complacency that, I argue, are most pernicious in upholding an unequal racial hierarchy in the U.S.

Given the turmoil I found on my arrival in Baton Rouge, it is incredible that my departure came at a time of yet more tragedy. I left amidst historic flooding that destroyed much of the area in mid-August. The situation remains dire for many, and is still unfolding as Baton Rouge gears up for a runoff election to choose a new mayor – who may ultimately decide the fate of St. George, along with inheriting leadership of a flood-damaged and racially divided city.

The coincidence of my being in Baton Rouge amidst so much tumult heightens my gratitude that I was able to carry out this research, and motivates me to put the reflections that were shared with me to good use. A dissertation about public opinion could be written using survey data alone, but my time in Louisiana convinced me of the importance of engaging with the people and places behind quantitative data. It was a powerful summer; academically as well as personally, and it would not have been possible without an award from Univ's Graduate Research Training Fund. The College's support for graduate research is invaluable, and I hope sharing my experiences may serve to highlight the meaningful opportunities afforded to Univ graduate students thanks to the generosity of the College and its Old Members. 🐦

Nina Yancy (2015, DPhil Politics)



Facing page: A memorial on Airline Highway to the officers killed by a gunman on July 17th, 2016. A police chaplain was present to pray with mourners.

Top: A memorial at the Triple-S Food Mart where Alton Sterling was shot at point-blank range by Baton Rouge police officers on July 5th, 2016.

Middle: More street art in Old South Baton Rouge, depicting the bus boycott of 1953 which inspired the more famous one to follow in Montgomery, AL.

Bottom: Sugar kettles at the Whitney Plantation, the only one of Louisiana's famous "River Road" plantations to focus exclusively on the experiences of enslaved individuals.





# INTERVIEW WITH RAJDEEP SARDESAI

**Rajdeep Sardesai** (1986, Law) is a senior Indian journalist, author and television news presenter. His book *2014: The Election That Changed India* is a national best seller that has been translated into half a dozen languages. Currently the consulting editor of the India Today group, he has 28 years of journalistic experience in print and television. He was the founder editor of the IBN 18 network which included CNN IBN, IBN 7 and IBN Lokmat. Prior to that, he was Managing Editor of both NDTV 24X7 and NDTV India and was responsible for overseeing the news policy for both channels. He has also worked with *The Times of India* for six years and was city editor of its Mumbai edition at the age of 26. Rhodes scholar **Helen Baxendale** (2016, DPhil Public Policy) interviewed him for *The Martlet*.

**You read law at Oxford but pursued a career in journalism instead. What was it about journalism that appealed to you more?**

I returned from Oxford in July 1988 with a desire to pursue law. But a few months at the courts left me feeling that my heart was somewhere else. I had been writing the occasional column for various newspapers and found I rather enjoyed it. Most importantly, I was obsessed with current affairs and so journalism became a natural calling. Also, I loved the smell of a newspaper office when I worked in one during a summer internship. I just enjoyed the opportunity that journalism gave to have a ringside view of social and political change.

**Covering current affairs in a country as large and demographically diverse as India must be challenging. Could you elaborate on some of the complexities of producing and editing the news in a media market of 1 billion people?**

I have often said this: India is the best place to do journalism because it is the most diverse society in the world. In a sub-continent sized country, no two days are ever the same, often no two hours are the same: so to report the news as it happens is a big challenge. Real time TV news in particular keeps you on the edge all the time. The challenge then is to absorb the news and disseminate it while remembering one's social

responsibility, to keep away from the 'shoot-and-scoot' breaking news culture of news.

**What is the most memorable story you have covered in the course of your career?**

I would say covering the communal riots of 1992-93 in Mumbai and then in Gujarat in 2002 have been the most challenging for me as a journalist. The riots claimed hundreds of lives: one was able to report the human and political dimensions of the story from ground zero. That I was born in Gujarat (Ahmedabad) and had grown up in Mumbai made it even more challenging: reporting on the riots was a deeply personal experience.





**Is technology changing the media landscape in India, and if so, what are the political, economic, and/or social implications of these transformations?**

Technology is changing the media landscape in India rather dramatically. In the mid 1990s, India experienced a television revolution when the monopoly of government broadcasts was broken. We now have almost 400 24/7 private news channels beaming into people's homes. We also now have more than 300 million smartphones. The explosion of information has created a society that is more aware but also more noisy. The media revolution has fuelled the aspirational urges of a new India: it

has driven the country towards a market economy while also making the country more politically conscious. The anti-corruption campaign in India a few years ago, for example, was literally driven from TV news studios.

**You have been a major figure in broadcast television, but you've also written a regular newspaper column for many years. Is your role as a commentator different in these different media? Does compelling TV journalism have basically the same ingredients as a compelling newspaper column or are there critical differences in, say, tone, emphasis, composition?**

I have always seen myself as a multi-media person. So while I began my career in print, I eventually found a professional home in television. Writing newspaper columns is satisfying because it gives me a chance to express my opinion on complex issues in a manner that a TV programme perhaps never can. Television can be compelling viewing, especially in live situations. But it tends to have a sense of urgency as a result of which certain nuances are lost. A newspaper column, on the other hand, offers an opportunity to press the pause button and reflect. I enjoy both. I also now have my column translated into half a dozen Indian languages to reach new readers.



**"I was given out LBW wrongly! Scoring a century at Lords would have been the icing on the cake!"**



of the friendships one built with students from different nationalities. To be in a Middle Common Room with postgraduate students from so many different countries was a unique and cherished experience. My other enduring memory is of playing cricket at the Parks in the summer. That was the closest one got to bliss!

**Were there any tutors or fellows at Univ you especially admired?**

I had a law professor Martin Matthew who was particularly generous to me with his time and intellect. He even took me once to an Oxford United football match. Law and sports brought us together!

**It has been said by others that the Oxford system of weekly essays and tutorials is an excellent preparation for journalism as it trains one to compose cogent arguments quickly. Has this been your experience?**

Absolutely. Both my wife Sagarika and I are journalists, both of us are Oxonians (she is a Rhodes scholar from Magdalen). Both of us enjoyed the tutorial system because it constantly challenges you as a student. We were always typically argumentative Indians so the essay/tutorial system was made for us. Whether it made us better journalists, the jury is out on that one!

**You had a distinguished cricketing career while at Oxford, winning a Blue. What is your fondest cricketing memory from your university days?**

My fondest cricket memory from Oxford is scoring an unbeaten half century for Oxford against Kent on my first class debut. I scored 66 not out against an attack that included the great Derek Underwood! And yes, also the opportunity to play at Lords and win a Blue. I made 40 good runs and maintain to this day that I was given out lbw wrongly! Scoring a century at Lords would have been the icing on the cake!

**Do you have a favourite cricketer? If so, who is it and why?**

My late father Dilip Sardesai was an Indian test cricketer and an early hero. Another cricketer I admired while growing up was the Pakistani cricketer Javed Miandad. I guess all Indians loved to hate him because he always scored runs against us. But I guess if you grew up in the 1970s, Sunil Gavaskar was our ultimate cricket icon: he gave Indian cricket a much needed identity and self respect. 🐦

**You wrote in a recent column that you are an 'anti-nationalist.' Can you explain what this means to a readership that may not be familiar with Indian culture and politics?**

One of the more troubling narratives in contemporary India is the 'national' versus 'anti-national' divide. Political groups and their cheerleaders are holding out 'patriotism' certificates based on an individual's belief systems. I find this disturbing and my column on being proud to be 'anti-national' was designed to send out a message that I will not be chained by someone else's definition of 'nationalism' which I find divisive and polarising.

**What do you consider to be the major opportunities and challenges facing contemporary India?**

I think one of the biggest challenges facing contemporary India is how to hold out equal opportunities to all citizens. We are a society still deeply riven with stark inequalities. Bridging those inequalities, be it income, education or access to basic infrastructure, is the real challenge. We are the world's youngest society (by 2020 the median age in India will be 29) but how do we ensure that the demographic dividend doesn't end up becoming a demographic disaster: can we provide jobs to all young Indians? Can we give every young Indian a shot at quality education? That is the big challenge and opportunity for India.

**Do you have a literary hero?**

I don't have a literary 'hero' as such but I am a great admirer of Salman Rushdie. I guess

*Midnight's Children* had a profound impact on me when I read it for the first time. Rushdie's ability to tell a story with passion and imagination has always impressed me. Most importantly, he has become a symbol of literary freedom in a world where writers are often soft targets of religious zealots.

**Your most recent book is titled *2014: The Election that Changed India*. How did the election of Narendra Modi change the country, and are these changes broadly for better or worse?**

The elections of 2014 were a watershed moment in Indian politics. To my mind, they marked the end of the Congress 'raj', the end of the primacy of India's party of the freedom movement. With the emergence of India's first right wing majority government, we now have a fundamentally crucial ideological shift in Indian politics. Narendra Modi is the first RSS pracharak<sup>1</sup> to become prime minister: he mirrors the rise of the Indian political right. What this will do in the long run to the idea of India as a plural diverse society is uncertain. Whether it will create a majoritarian Hindu state in the long run is a concern. In the short run, Mr Modi's persona reflects change in style as much as substance: a tough, muscular leader who wants to discard the baggage of Nehruvian socialism and secularism.

**Reflecting now on your time at Univ and Oxford, what are your most enduring memories?**

My most enduring memories of Univ are

<sup>1</sup>A full-time worker in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a right-wing, Hindu nationalist, paramilitary volunteer organisation in India



# UNIV'S OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMME



## INTRODUCTION

From the October 2016 admissions round, the College increased its undergraduate intake by 10%. These new places will be filled through the University's normal competitive admissions process, but they will be available only to students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. These additional students will be selected in the usual way and according to the usual academic criteria. The aim of the scheme is simple – to ensure that very deserving students of high potential who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, but who might otherwise miss out on a place at Oxford due to the sheer number of applications, have the chance to study here.

Students will be eligible for one of these new places if they are predicted to achieve our standard conditional offer for the course to which they have applied and they are also 'flagged' under the University's contextual data system as coming both from a lower performing school and living in an area of relative socio-economic deprivation. Additionally, all students who have been in care for more than three months will be eligible. Students from these backgrounds are among those whom the university has identified as under-represented in its student body and are therefore a priority for widening access. There is no separate application process for this scheme. Students will simply apply to the College in the usual way, and all eligible applicants will be considered in all subjects offered by Univ.

Many students from disadvantaged backgrounds may not have had the opportunity to broaden and deepen their academic skills and experience beyond the school curriculum, and so the College will offer to these new students an intensive four-week bridging programme in the summer before they start their degree. This bridging programme will consist of subject-specific tuition, wider exploration of academic material, and the development of key academic skills so as to ensure that these students hit the ground running when they start their first term. This bridging programme will be free to the students. The College will make no charge for accommodation or food during the bridging programme, and in addition we will offer a £500 grant to every student who attends.



Univ's new Opportunity Programme is a scheme which will increase the number of UK students from disadvantaged backgrounds at the College and provide those students with targeted support to ensure that they succeed. The first students to be admitted under this new scheme will join the College in October 2017. The programme has been discussed widely in the College and University, and following its launch in July has attracted a great deal of very positive coverage in the national media. Since then, we have been approached by several other colleges expressing an interest in following our lead.

**Dr Andrew Bell** (1993, History)  
Senior Tutor





*We've developed a scheme which promotes widening participation and which works within the University's current admissions process and competitive standards. It takes students who have already shown exceptional ability and potential, and then through an intensive bridging programme gives them that extra boost which other students already benefit from because of their school and family background. In offering new places, we're not reducing anyone else's chances of gaining a place at Univ – we're creating a new opportunity for new students.*

**Sir Ivor Crewe, Master of University College**



## ARE THERE ENOUGH STRONG 'WIDENING PARTICIPATION' CANDIDATES OUT THERE?

This scheme is predicated on the assumption that there are good flagged students already in the applicant pool who are missing out on offers. Is this in fact the case? University-wide, the answer is certainly yes. Over the three years 2013-15, nearly a quarter of disadvantaged candidates who applied to Oxford and were not made an offer went on to exceed the standard offer for their course by at least one grade (e.g. A\*AA for an AAA offer). Over the three years, there were almost 600 of these students in total. That is not to suggest that every single student who goes on to exceed our conditional offers should be admitted – we see many such students from all backgrounds every year and we reject them for good reasons – but it does seem that there are quite a lot of candidates who apply from disadvantaged backgrounds, who go on to achieve A Level results which are better than those of some of the students whom we take, and yet are not admitted. To the extent that it is possible to identify them at time of application, these are the students whom this scheme seeks to target.

In the three years 2013 – 15, Univ received 127 applications from candidates with two or more flags and 67 applications from candidates with three or more flags. Of the 127 applicants with two flags, 69 (54.3%) were shortlisted and 30 (23.6%) received an offer. Of the 67 applicants with three flags, 44 (65.7%) were shortlisted and 23 (34.3%) received an offer. This compares with an overall average for UK-schooled applicants of 51.4% being shortlisted and 26.8% receiving offers. This is all in the noise, but it does at least show that there are good flagged candidates out there, and that Univ already has a fair few flagged applicants who are deemed worthy of shortlisting but who do not currently receive offers. Taking the university-wide data on A Level performance together with the College data on numbers of applicants, we can be confident that we are very likely to have a decent number of flagged applicants worthy of considering seriously for a place on the proposed scheme, and that's without taking account of any additional strong applicants whom the scheme attracts.





# WHY LAUNCH THIS SCHEME?

Univ has done a great deal of work to promote access and widening participation over the years. The College was the first in Oxford to employ a schools liaison officer; its Staircase 12 website is a pioneering super-curricular support resource, the Old Members Trust generously funds top-up grants and vacation bursaries for less well-off students, and we have a prize-winning prospectus. Also, many Fellows and students generously give their time to access and outreach activities, both in College and beyond. All of this activity has seen a rise in the raw number of applications, and an increase in the proportion of students applying from, and admitted from, maintained schools in the UK. What it has not seen, however, is much of a rise in applications from, or offers to, the least advantaged groups. Indeed sector-wide, the gap between the participation rates of the most advantaged groups and the least advantaged group has widened, not narrowed, over the last forty years. For better or worse, the University's access agreement with OFFA, on which its right to charge the higher tuition fee is predicated, is constructed in terms of the admission of precisely these least advantaged students.



## WHAT WILL IT COST?

The main costs of the bridging programme itself will be board and lodging for students charged at the internal rate, a maintenance grant for the students, and salaries for a programme director; tutors and student helpers. We may also wish to add in a small budget for entertainment and social activities. These can be approximated as follows:

- Board and lodging for ten students and two undergraduate assistants over four weeks at £60 per person per night, £20,160
- Maintenance grant of £500 per student, £5,000
- Salary of programme director on a three-month contract at grade 6, approximately £7,500
- Tuition costs, based on an average of 10 hours per student per week, approximately £10,360
- Salary for two student assistants based on the UNIQ (Oxford Access Summer School) rate, £4,392
- Social events and entertainment, approximately £1,000

All in all, we are looking at a ballpark figure of £50,000 for a four-week summer school for ten students. There are likely to be additional direct and indirect start-up costs, including promotional activities.

Much more significant will be the costs of managing the infrastructural demands of an increase in the size of the student body. These have to do with accommodation, teaching, and the ongoing financial support of disadvantaged students. The College has taken steps towards increasing its accommodation offering, and has plans to supplement its tutorial provision.



“

*I am delighted to welcome Univ's creative new initiative to bring to Oxford more smart students from disadvantaged backgrounds and to provide them with an innovative bridging programme to help ensure that they thrive here.*

**Professor Louise Richardson,**  
*Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford*

“

*My time as an undergraduate immeasurably enriched me, both academically and socially. I want future students to be able to enjoy the extraordinary experience which Univ offered me, and I am so proud of Univ's progressive applications policies, including the Univ Opportunity Programme.*

**Sarah Kershaw (1992)**





*"He sank his fingers into my shoulder like steel claws. His eyes were bursting from their sockets, blood oozed from his lips. No words can express the horror I felt. This devil who was dying of poison, who had a bullet in his heart, must have been raised from the dead by the powers of evil. It was the reincarnation of Satan himself who held me in his clutches and would never let me go till my dying day." (Felix Yusupov, Lost Splendour)*

# THE ASSASSIN IN THE COMPUTING ROOM

December 2016 marked the centenary of the violent death of the 'Mad Monk' Rasputin. Neither mad, nor a monk other than by affectation, the Siberian peasant Grigory Rasputin had risen to be the trusted confidant of the last Russian Imperial couple even as Russia tottered through a ruinous war and into the maw of revolution. Decisive was not just his powerful personality and 'magnetic' eyes, nor the prevailing vogue for spiritualism, but the Empress Alexandra's implicit conviction that Rasputin had the power to calm the sickly heir to the throne and actually ease the symptoms of

his haemophilia. Her indebtedness could not have been explained publicly without disclosing the frailty of the succession. This left Rasputin with a growing popular image as a debauched hell-raiser, and the Empress sullied by bawdy association, while patriotic aristocrats, exasperated by Rasputin's growing power to meddle with impunity in affairs of state, blamed him for the paralysis besetting the Tsar and sought deliverance in this moment of Russia's mortal danger.

Rasputin himself had no direct connection with Oxford, nor even Cambridge, but one of

his potential adversaries – the author of my opening quotation – was a Univ man. He came up in 1909 and was a prominent presence here for three years before returning to Russia, marrying the Tsar's niece and becoming embroiled in the grisly doings alluded to.

When young Mr Elston, or 'Mr Elkins', as he was often known among the College staff, signed the College Register in 1909 in his rather shaky Latin, he revealed himself as Felix, Count Sumarokov-Elston of St Petersburg, hence scion of probably the richest family in Russia, soon to inherit the title Prince





Yusupov. This did not exempt him from the requirement to live in College for his first year, but it seems to have given him a greater say than some in the quarters allotted him. During a reconnaissance visit to Univ earlier in the year, Felix had been most cordially received by the Master, Reginald Macan, to whom he presented letters of introduction dignified by the coats of arms of both the Russian and the British Royal Families. The Master, Felix recalls in his memoirs, then obligingly walked him through the College pointing out possible rooms. Upon hearing that one ground-floor set in the North-East corner of Front Quad (VI.1) was known to the student-body as 'The Club' and that, regardless of who chanced to live in it, they would congregate there of an evening to drink whisky, Felix immediately begged to become its next incumbent.

The alacrity of his response might reasonably give us pause. Was this man a true scholar?

*Upon hearing that one ground-floor set in the North-East corner of Front Quad (VI.1) was known to the student-body as 'The Club' and that, regardless of who chanced to live in it, they would congregate there of an evening to drink whisky, Felix immediately begged to become its next incumbent.*

If we add to such doubts his striking good looks, sartorial elegance and legendary affluence, which caused ripples even in blasé Oxford society, then we seem to have the makings of a stereotypical aristocratic under-achiever. And at times the cap does seem to fit. Having been permitted (apparently uniquely) to read for the joint school in English and Forestry, Felix credits Univ's Dean of the day with the advice to neglect things sylvan for a while in favour of the more urgent priority of improving his English. (Felix recalls a note he had written, ordering livestock for his Russian estate: 'Please send me one man cow and three Jersey women.') Eventually, faced with the prospect of

studying for a fourth year, Felix transferred from the degree-course to the Diploma in Political Economy and even contrived to finesse a pass, to his own professed surprise (though less, perhaps, to ours).

Soon after I moved to Univ in the eighties I heard from a scout, at a remove of several generations, two anecdotes about the fabulous Mr Elkins. The first was a garbled legend, transferring to his rooms in Univ Front Quad a later and entirely innocent event when the ballerina Anna Pavlova came to be discovered snoring in Felix's bed at his house in George Street. The second legend has Felix tipping College servants so





Pictured: Eric Hamilton, second from left.



*The most famous image of Felix as aristocratic sybarite shows him wearing the garb of a feudal boyar bedecked with genuine fur and gemstones in which he took a London ball by storm.*

frequently and so extravagantly for walking the few yards from his rooms to collect his latest social invitations from his pigeon-hole that the lure of working in his immediate vicinity threatened to paralyze the smooth-running of the College. In this vein, the most famous image of Felix as aristocratic sybarite shows him wearing the garb of a feudal boyar bedecked with genuine fur and gemstones in which he took a London ball by storm. But despite external appearances, the young man who moved into VI.1 in October 1909 was in a damaged and vulnerable frame of mind.

Felix had left his parents still reeling from the death only a year before of his elder brother Nikolai in a particularly grotesque and hopeless duel. Felix's mother would

never regain her health and composure, while he himself came to Univ not least to find escape from his feelings of guilt and inadequacy. In this he had considerable success as his letters home record.<sup>1</sup> Felix is at pains to avert any suspicions of idleness or fecklessness, and even sends his mother an hour-by-hour weekly timetable, including the names of his various tutors and teachers. The academic side of his week is dominated by English and French literature, with a little philosophy thrown in, but it also includes Chapel at 8 each morning, dinner in Hall and, more surprisingly, rowing from 2 to 4.30 on six afternoons a week. Felix praises the bracing vigour of this routine, but is not long in switching to golf. The highlight of academic life at Oxford for him is how it fosters independence: 'There is no spoonfeeding, and everything has to be achieved by your own unaided efforts.' His mother shares his hopes and enthusiasm: 'If you do learn to work independently then that will be the greatest benefit Oxford can bring.' As for Felix's busy social life, what seems to have bolstered his morale above all was not his exploits as a social lion, but his encounter with more immediate forms of friendship

amidst the rough and tumble of college life. He evidently felt that in his own College he was for the first time genuinely liked by a wide variety of coevals: 'It's like living a second life,' he writes, 'and I am sure it will give me strength and moral clarity to face the future.' He even finds struggling or unhappy fellow-students turning to him for counselling, though here his mother is on her guard. All too familiar with the louche bohemian reputation and cross-dressing pranks of his youth in St Petersburg, she is uneasy about her son's tendency to attract the emotionally disturbed, and socially unconventional, worries constantly about the company he keeps and occasionally criticizes his taste in décor as insufficiently 'manly'. Of course, a student's letters to his mother are hardly the most dependable reflection of college life, but there does seem to have been from the first a genuine mutual enthusiasm – Felix liked Oxford as much as Oxford liked him, and his first year living at Univ anchors that experience.

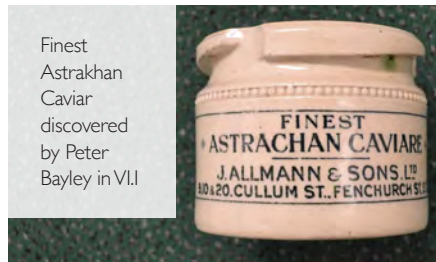
In VI.1 of an evening he claims to have been ever ready to respond to a knock on his barred ground-floor window and sprint up

<sup>1</sup> Extensive excerpts of the correspondence are assembled in a biographical compilation: Elizaveta Krasnykh, Knyaz' Feliks Yusupov: «За все благодарю...» (Moscow: Indrik, 2012).

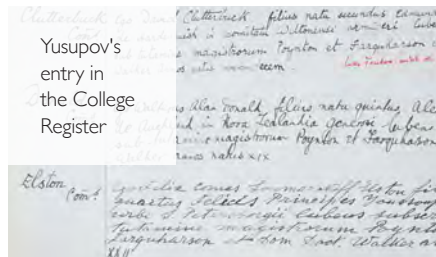




A drawing of Yusupov by Eric Hamilton



Finest  
Astrakhan  
Caviar  
discovered  
by Peter  
Bayley in VI.I



Yusupov's  
entry in  
the College  
Register

to the roof to lower knotted sheets and save from the wrath of the Dean any student stranded outside the locked College gates. Here, too, in his tiny cubbyhole of a bedroom, he remembers freezing at night during that first Oxford winter: 'Never in my life have I been so cold,' writes the man with two estates in Siberia and he describes in his memoirs how he would squelch over the soggy carpet to where ice formed on the ewer of water for his morning wash. Our Archivist Robin Darwall-Smith's investigations into College battels and fuel-bills confirm not only Yusupov's colossal kitchen bills and extravagant ways, but a consumption of coal scarcely surpassed within the College. The fire in the hearth of VI.I can rarely have been allowed to go out. The late Peter Bayley's researches while himself a student in VI.I in

unprecedented compensation restored the depleted fortunes of the Yusupovs in emigration. Equally unrelated, one might think, was that tense moment when Rasputin seemed set to obtain at least some posthumous redress through the agency of his daughter Maria, then working in America as a lion tamer for Ringling Brothers Circus. Her attempt to sue Felix for libelling her father in his memoirs was abandoned after Maria was badly mauled in Peru, Indiana by a cantankerous Himalayan bear; unimaginatively named 'Himmie'. But such episodes are reflexes of Yusupov's involvement in the assassination of Rasputin, and that event of 1916 does have its links with Front Quad VI.I.

Historians and biographers tend to date from 1915 Felix's determination to save the

whose regard and warmth towards Eric is amply confirmed in the family correspondence. More than that – Eric kept a diary, from whose pages there leaps a startling entry:

*Wednesday August 31: F & I to P'burg – F to pay a visit to meet a mysterious hypnotist whose powers F is trying to defeat in a very clever way of his own.<sup>2</sup>*

Yusupov is known to have met Rasputin around this time and expresses antipathy towards him in his memoirs, but the depth and nature of his feelings towards Rasputin are not clear. This makes all the more intriguing the assertion by one close to Felix that his conspiratorial ardour might have begun to crystallize so early. Indeed, nearly fifty years later in an unpublished memoir Eric elaborates: 'even in the early Oxford years he [Felix] had spoken more than once of that sinister and evil power behind the Russian throne...'<sup>3</sup> And when, in one of the many warring and speculative versions of who killed Rasputin, the candidature of a British secret service agent, Oswald Rayner (an Oriel man!) is advanced, Univ need not tremble for its laurels. For even if Rayner really were present on the night of the murder, helping out the amateurs and delivering the *coup de grâce*, the fact remains that he first met Felix here in his rooms at Univ, stayed in touch after he went down, eventually helped Felix translate his memoir of that night's events and, all in all, can comfortably be assimilated into Felix's gang. I shall not claim that it all started in the Rhodes Computing Room, but, clearly, Felix did

*He evidently felt that in his own College he was for the first time genuinely liked by a wide variety of coevals: 'It's like living a second life,' he writes, 'and I am sure it will give me strength and moral clarity to face the future.'*

1940 included crawling flat on his stomach into a remote inaccessible corner at the back of the cupboard and extracting a large stone pot with metal clasps labelled 'Finest Astrakhan Caviar'. Cautious observers concede that this might have been Felix's. Univ's students of Russian are content to declare it so.

Many of Yusupov's later exploits might seem to have little association with Room VI.I. For example, the legal victory he and his wife won in the landmark libel case *Yousoupoff v Metro-Godwyn Mayer* came in 1934, following the release of *Rasputin and the Empress*, starring all three Barrymores. Apart from prompting the now ubiquitous warning that this or that film bears no resemblance to persons living or dead, the trial and their

Monarchy and Russia by actually doing away with Rasputin, influenced not least by the despair of Felix's mother and wife that no one seemed capable of acting against him. However, that dating is intriguingly undermined by one of Felix's new friends at Univ in 1909. Through the good offices of the Bishop of London, prompted by the Yusupovs' various royal allies, Felix was brought together with another Univ freshman in an arrangement so contrived that it could never have prospered. And yet Felix's friendship with Eric Hamilton, sportsman, priest's son, future Dean of Windsor, grew against all the odds and endured until Eric predeceased Felix in 1962. At the end of their first year Eric followed Felix back to St Petersburg and spent an unforgettable month as guest of his family,

more than just shiver in his tiny Front Quad bedroom that winter of 1909. The germ of an idea was stirring, and from it, in due course and with whatever modification, sprang Felix's complicity in Rasputin's assassination with all its repercussions, and his luridly sensational account of the deed.

Univ would never condone or commemorate assassination, but with the College's plans to hold a dinner in early 2017 for past and present Modern Linguists coming to fruition, room will surely be found for a toast: to Felix Yusupov of Univ. 🐦

**Dr Michael Nicholson**

Emeritus Fellow and Former Dean of University College Oxford

2. *The Record*, Vol. IX, No 3, 1982, p.189.

3. *Oxford and a Glimpse of Russia*. University College, :P25/MS/2 (1956).



# INVESTIGATING AGING PROCESSES ASSOCIATED WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS



**Pradeep Sacitharan** (2012, Medicine – DPhil Musculoskeletal Sciences) a final year DPhil graduate focusing on ageing biology, is currently based in the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology and the Arthritis Research UK Centre for Osteoarthritis Pathogenesis at the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, at the University of Oxford. *The Martlet* caught up with him in the lab to discuss his project to develop a new drug that might have a significant impact on treating Osteoarthritis in the future.

After finishing my Master's degree I wanted to focus on hard problems in the field of medicine that will be a huge societal burden in the future. The average lifespan of individuals across the globe is increasing which will result in a dramatic increase in age-related diseases such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and osteoarthritis. The increased incidence of these diseases will subsequently increase healthcare costs. Hence, I set out to address one of these key aged-related diseases during my DPhil.

Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis worldwide and patients suffer from severe pain, distress and restricted movement. Osteoarthritis occurs when cartilage tissue located on the top of articular joints which provide protection and lubrication for movement is degraded away over time. There are no effective treatment options for osteoarthritis. Age is the primary risk factor

for the disease, however, little is known on why the prevalence of osteoarthritis increases with age. My DPhil research is centred on investigating ageing processes in cartilage associated with osteoarthritis.

For the last twenty years, an enzyme called SIRT1 has been extensively shown to control various age-related cellular pathways. My project aimed to explore the role of SIRT1 in osteoarthritis and to investigate its therapeutic potential to treat the disease. At first I showed SIRT1 declines in human cartilage over time. Thereafter, using new ways to manipulate genes in mice I discovered how SIRT1 controls the ageing process in cartilage. I unravelled that SIRT1 controls autophagy, a process that recycles unwanted and defective proteins in cartilage. After observing the link between SIRT1 and autophagy I developed a drug to activate this critical link and showed a reduction in osteoarthritis in mice. This treatment option can now be taken to early clinical trials to see if it is effective in managing osteoarthritis in humans. I am honoured that my DPhil discoveries have resulted in several awards:

- American Society for Bone and Mineral Research New Investigator Award
- European Calcified Tissue Society New Investigator Award
- British Bone Research Society New Investigator Award
- British Bone Research Society best oral communication award
- Nature Reviews Rheumatology international best talk award
- University of Oxford Medical Sciences Divisional 3 minute thesis champion

I have thoroughly enjoyed my DPhil over the last four years. Univ has been an amazing place to conduct my doctoral studies. I chose Univ due to its historical age, notable alumni, and the opportunity to meet fellow students from a breadth of specialities and the upside of great food especially at brunch on the weekends. Moreover, my College tutor, colleagues and the Dean of Graduate Studies have been very supportive throughout my DPhil journey. I thank everyone at the College for their kind support over the years.

I believe my experience at the University of Oxford and Univ will put me in a strong position to achieve my short-term goal of starting my own research lab concentrating on targeting pathways to treat chronic inflammatory diseases associated with ageing. My long term dream is to be a director of an institute concentrating on treating and curing these diseases by applying cutting edge technology, recruiting the brightest researchers and providing educational opportunities to the best young talent from all around the world.





# UNIV'S NEW LIBRARY IN NUMBER 10



We are very happy to announce that the start of the new academic year heralded the first major expansion to Univ's Library since the 1930s. Although our students were overwhelmingly positive about Univ's Library provision, it was clear that expansion would allow more students to work in the library and provide much needed space for our ever-increasing collection.

The return of 10 Merton Street to College use provided the perfect opportunity to give our students another library, with almost 40 additional desks and vastly increased shelf space. In addition, we were able to respond to an increasing demand for group-study spaces: we now have two six-seat study rooms which can be booked by students and tutors alike.

The Old Library continues to function as our Humanities and Science Library, while the New Library houses the Social Sciences, Music, and our collections about Oxford, College, and books by Old Members. The Law Library has also been incorporated into the 10 Merton Street site, with a group study room as well as access to silent study space. For the first time ever, our Law students benefit from having professional staff on site to assist them.

Since the New Library opened at the end of September it has become, like the Old Library, a busy but studious place. In fact, we recorded an increase in student numbers of almost 20% during the first two weeks of Michaelmas term compared with the same time last year.

The New Library is a symbol of Univ's commitment to helping students achieve their academic potential, and we look forward to welcoming new students and Old Members for years to come.

**Elizabeth Adams**  
College Librarian

'Reading history as an undergraduate, the Univ library was many things to me – a beautiful place to discover, to learn, to think and just be when the rest of the world was too overwhelming. Returning recently for a visit, researching my historical novel, I was thrilled to discover these qualities remain. I have no doubt that the New Library will continue in this tradition in the years to come.'

**Charlotte Wightwick**  
(1997, Ancient and Modern History)

'Overall, I must have spent weeks, if not months, of my life in Univ's Law Library, through good times and bad. I hope the culture of the old library lives on in the new building and the next generation of students will use and enjoy it to the same extent I have.'

**Alex Haseler**  
(2014, Law)

'I am immensely grateful for the academic support of the University College Library and its librarians. The Library has provided me with a 24-hour study space for which I am thankful, especially in the early hours of the morning before an essay deadline! The librarians work hard to create an environment that cultivates pedagogical achievement and they are always happy to assist me in finding the right books. I am excited about the library expansion and I look forward to making full use of the New Library.'

**James Kirkpatrick**  
(2013, Philosophy graduate)

'The New Library has become my place of choice to study. Tucked away in the corner of College, it strikes the perfect balance between a quiet working atmosphere and relaxed environment. I am very grateful to the College for such a fantastic transformation of 10 Merton Street.'

**Oscar Marshall**  
(2015, Biochemistry)

'Univ Library forms a central part of the Univ community. It provides a daily reminder that despite the academic challenges a given student may face, we are all in this together. The Library acts as a source of motivation and reassurance.'

**Agatha-Christie Onwuzuruike**  
(2014, PPE)





# BEHIND THE SCENES OF UNIV'S WORKS DEPARTMENT



## RICHARD PYE

COLLEGE SURVEYOR  
SINCE AUGUST 1996

### ROLE

I am responsible for all the College-owned property, whether it's occupied by students or a retail development. I have 70 student-occupied structures to look after. We also own domestic properties in North Oxford.

### CHALLENGES

Because some of our buildings are so old they need looking after. It's normally decoration and maintenance, which often requires scaffolding, and access here is quite difficult.

### PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT

For me it was the completion of a full external cycle of repairs, redecorations and reroofing. It took us eleven years to do it, including renewing the Hall roof two years ago.

### WHAT I ENJOY MOST

Turning around an area or a project – where it comes as an idea from the College or from students. We research it, cost it, get the legislation and building regulations approved, building control and planning permission and then turn it around and everybody moves in. I still get a buzz from that.

### NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT...

I'm a carpenter by trade. When I was an apprentice I went to college on day release for nine years after leaving school. From being an apprentice carpenter I qualified to be a master carpenter and so on upwards.

### TRADE SECRETS

The old carpenter I trained with used to dip his screws in a bit of beeswax so the screw goes in easier and doesn't split the wood.

### WHAT UNIV MEANS TO ME

It has given me the chance to work on a national asset. I've worked at the MOD, Army, Navy and Airforce – but working at Univ has given me the chance to work on a nationally important estate.



## ADAM WALKER

WORKS SUPERVISOR  
SINCE UNIV APRIL 2013

### ROLE

My role involves running the day-to-day works. I run things through planning, our architects and structural engineers, and organise whatever is required to complete even the smallest of jobs.

### CHALLENGES

Access is normally an issue. It's the nature of being a working College. For example, we'll be upgrading a fire alarm system and we can't enter a room from below because it's a listed building. We do get lovely little jobs as well, like the island unit in the back of the Lodge. Our joiners made it all in house. Bob our Head Porter loves it.

### PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT

The conversion of the old bus depot in 83 High Street into the new Treasury offices. Also turning the 45 degree narrow staircase that used to lead down to the laundry into a big oak staircase, which involved taking out a barrel vaulted ceiling; the amount of acro support we had in place it looked like a game of Kerplunk!

### FAVOURITE PART OF THE COLLEGE

Probably the tower up from Staircase 5 because you can see so much of the College.

### TRADE SECRETS

Do it nice or do it twice.

### SURPRISES

We had problems in the Radcliffe Quad where we had to dig down the side of the building to add a waterproof membrane. We found all sorts of things, like old pipes, bottles and bones. One of our painters doesn't like going into Staircase 8 because it might be haunted by Obadiah Walker. I've never seen him, although he might be a distant relative!

### NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT...

I used to live in New York, I grew up there. I went to school in Rome, New York State, near Syracuse.





## STEPHANIE ROBERTS

WORKS DEPARTMENT  
ADMIN ASSISTANT SINCE  
APRIL 2013

### ROLE

I do all the admin for the Works Department, I arrange all the servicing, whether it be fire alarms, boilers or emergency lighting. I run around after the lads, organising the dustmen, moving cars...

### WHAT I ENJOY MOST

I love all of it – particularly working with the lads, they are great fun and there's never a dull moment. I love walking around the old buildings; walking through the quads every morning, it's just lovely, or when the music is drifting out of the Chapel at night that can be beautiful.

### LIFE BEFORE UNIV

I worked at a local builder's for eight years, and prior to that I worked at the county council looking after all the public buildings in Oxfordshire – schools, old people's homes, libraries.

### PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT

I organise all the name plates for every single student once a year. I have to type them all then arrange to put them all up.

### CHALLENGES

None really. I've never had a horrible boss, but Richard is the best boss I've ever had. It's a happy team.

### FAVOURITE PART OF THE COLLEGE

I love the Chapel – it's beautiful.

### NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT...

I have two dogs so I'm always out walking those and my daughter has a horse so I'm always lending a hand there. Also I do a bit of cross stitch in the little spare time I have.



## PAUL COZIER

CARPENTER & JOINER  
SINCE NOVEMBER 2014

### ROLE

General maintenance and I'm often called out to unlock locks for students and guests who have locked themselves out.

### LIFE BEFORE UNIV

I worked with a local building company as a carpenter and joiner. I spent 20 years in a joiner's shop, then about 14 years at different times out on site. Then I was out on site permanently – working around a lot of the colleges in Oxford, including Worcester, Brasenose, Magdalen and St Anthony's.

### CURRENT PROJECTS

I've been doing a lot of fire upgrade work on the doors. I work on the main site mostly, but I do odd bits and pieces at the Boat House and Sports Pavilion.

### PROUDEST MOMENT

The little display case opposite the Porter's Lodge – although it's nothing special it looks quite neat. I did the carpentry side of it and the painters and electricians did the rest.

It's nice to work on something that might be there for hundreds of years, and used and loved by people – especially if you're working on something in the Chapel. I quite enjoy the ecclesiastical stuff.

### FAVOURITE PART OF THE COLLEGE

Probably the Chapel, and the Chapel roof in particular because it's *proper* carpentry.

### NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT...

I enjoy kite buggying down in Westward Ho! or Cleve Common at Cheltenham. I've got the VW campervan and everything that goes with it!







**Laurence D. Hurst** (1988, Biology), Professor of Evolutionary Genetics at the University of Bath, with **Jotun Hein** (left), Univ Professorial Fellow and Holder of the Chair of Bioinformatics. Conversation transcribed and edited by Cathy Shafto (2013, English).

# A UNIV CONVERSATION



2015 was a momentous year for **Professor Laurence D. Hurst** (1988, Biology). In the same year he was elected a Fellow of both the Royal Society and the Academy of Medical Sciences. As these accolades indicate, it is only recently that the impact of his work into the nature of genome structure has been fully realised; they follow a long career of research in his field. Laurence's work has recently been applied to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as cystic fibrosis and cancer and found to be deeply insightful. After completing his DPhil at Univ in 1991, he took a Royal Society Research Fellowship at Cambridge and was then appointed Professor of Evolutionary Genetics in the Department of Biology and Biochemistry at the University of Bath, where he remains to this day. He is also Director of the Milner Centre for Evolution and will shortly become the President of the Genetics Society. In a conversation with Univ Fellow **Professor Jotun Hein**, Professorial Fellow and Holder of the Chair in Bioinformatics, he discusses his work, along with reflections on his time in the Univ WCR.

Laurence Hurst chose to do his DPhil at Oxford because of the chance it would give him to work with Professor Bill Hamilton, who was a leader in the field of evolutionary biology at the time. As an undergraduate at Cambridge, Laurence had found Hamilton's work captivating, and his tutor suggested

*"I found going back to the WCR and hearing other viewpoints – that mix of both people with different world views because they're from different parts of the world, but also different views because they are studying such disparate subjects – is immensely profitable."*

he might seek out the chance to study with him in person. Laurence admits having been surprised that anyone famous enough to be in textbooks was still alive. He met Hamilton shortly afterwards, at his admission interview, along with Alan Grafen, who was also a prominent voice in the field, and was astonished just to have met them both.

During his time at Univ, Laurence was an active member of the WCR and found it a useful forum for academic development. To be involved with the community was a formative and engaging experience noteworthy because of the community's diversity, in terms of its population, but also its intellectual capacity and curiosity. The interdisciplinary exchange between students from different academic areas which took

place was a very influential factor that he feels helped to develop his own academic mindset. 'I found going back to the WCR and hearing other viewpoints – that mix of both people with different world views because they're from different parts of the world, but also different views because they are studying such disparate subjects – is immensely profitable.' In particular, he remembers a study group made up primarily of philosophers specifically focused on the philosophical nature of terms used in biology: 'I love the clarity of thought that a good training in philosophy brings', he explains. 'They looked at what we mean by causality, and what we can mean by altruism, and it was very helpful for my own thinking. It exposed all sort of hidden assumptions.'

*"The other one was I was always taught is that genetic code is a frozen accident and others discovered that it's not frozen – there are variants."*

Having admired Bill Hamilton's 'elegant solution' to problems of selection, Hurst is candid about his preference for working on simple versions of complicated problems (he admits to being in awe of neuroscientists, while having never felt any compulsion at all to study neuroscience himself) which shaped the direction of his doctoral research and his later work. He explains that he thinks of the problems he attempts to solve as 'bespoke' – though without being either strange or

esoteric – simply because they engage with evolutionary issues that no one has dealt with before in precisely the ways that interest him, or by imposing the right controls.

The pattern of exposing assumption in academic work, a habit learned and fostered in the WCR, is certainly something that is also a pronounced theme in his own academic work. 'Looking back,' he reflects, 'It does seem to me that I've been doing something which I guess most scientists do, which is to question those things we're always told are true. You know that great Rumsfeld quote about the known knowns and unknown knowns... there is an important missing component to it which are knowns that are actually not-knowns, that are simply wrong.' Focusing on his work


within evolutionary biology, Hurst explains that more than once he's come across instances of accepted 'knowns' which upon closer scrutiny have emerged to be wrong; 'I have found a few of these that I've stumbled upon. I was told there was no rhyme and reason to gene order in mammalian genomes, and we did an analysis years ago where we took all of the expression data which existed at the time and found that there is a rhyme and a reason: the genes that are expressed in many tissues cluster together in the genome.' Establishing impartiality from assumption is something which underpins his approach. Much of his day to day work, he explains, having taught himself computer programming to design the required algorithms, is a matter of

running thousands of simulations in order to wrinkle out subtle biases in data.

Having designed a remedy for the presence of biased data, Hurst also highlights the fundamental importance of questioning assumptions which underpin a whole spectrum of scientific thinking. He expands with a very particular example of a clash between commonly accepted theory and the findings of his own research: 'The other one I was always taught is that genetic code is a frozen accident and others discovered that it's not frozen – there are variants. Myself and a graduate student worked out that not only is it not an accident but why it's not an accident; it's beautifully adapted to minimise the effect of mistranslation errors, so if you mistranslate, the amino acids that are most chemically similar are in closer proximity to one another.' He says that what intrigues him about this, and about countless other examples that he has come across is when someone really important to the field has made a claim which has later been shown to be false.

Indeed, the underpinning factor he says he has taken away from his work in genetics, suggests that accepting any kind of pattern or rule is itself very dubious because genes themselves are so prone to error: 'Genomes appear to be adapted to control error,' he explains, 'Their real problem on an everyday level is that they keep on getting it wrong.' This finding allows very little scope for uniformity or delineating a consistent model of genetic structure and so, Hurst notes,





## DNA Strand

'When you read your biochemical textbooks, you're told this is how transcription works, this is how translation works and you're told the ideal. But, for example, when you transcribe, how often do you transcribe the wrong gene? When you translate, how often do you actually put in the wrong amino acid? Or do you frame-shift? We're always taught the ideal view of how a genome works but now when you look at the estimates of the rates at which these errors are occurring it's actually stunningly high; it's actually much higher than the mutation rate. So in your cells at the moment you are actually processing large amounts of mistranslated protein.'

Hurst also shows a pronounced interest in the significance of his work to the world outside the lab, both in terms of the applications of genetic theory to medical problems but also of the social implications of working within concepts which have a bearing on clinical practice. Again, discussions that he had while in the WCR at Univ played a role in the formation of these concerns. He cites, for instance, exchanges with historians as a useful way to harness the historical significance of the terms used in his own work. 'Disease is a very interesting one historically,' he reflects, 'In the 19th Century what was a mental disease and what was criminality was very poorly differentiated... today we do attempt to differentiate, but I doubt very much if that's perfect.' He acknowledges that the historical

baggage behind the term disease determines that it has to be deployed judiciously and sensitively; 'I'm colour-blind and I never know whether to call that a disease: I can trace it back, I know I've got a particular mutation in the receptors, and that's fine as a mechanistic description of what's going on in my head, but whether or not I'd want to call it a disease attaches a large amount of baggage with it.'

Quite consciously, he has turned the findings of his research towards practical applications in diagnostics. 'I am engaged in a project examining the world's most interesting disease,' he explains with some excitement. That disease in his view is pre-eclampsia; a condition generally affecting first pregnancy, which, if allowed to run to course, kills both mother and baby. Hurst explains that because of the high mortality rate for mother and baby where the condition is present, 'This must have been one of the most powerful selective forces in human evolution.' His hypothesis frames pre-eclampsia as a misplaced immunological response to the foetus; it is probably the mother's body misrecognising the foetus and the immune system responding as it does as a defence against other foreign material. 'There is no universally accepted model for pre-eclampsia,' Hurst explains, reflecting on the current difficulty in handling the disease – the only cure at present is a caesarian section. The natural implication is that work like Hurst's which

helps to understand the condition's nature and causes could prove momentous in finding ways to treat and prevent it.

Vital to his work on this project has been co-operation with a team of researchers in Berlin. Speaking more broadly, he reflects that such collaborations and productive conversations with closer colleagues have been instrumental to the development and completion of much of his work and emphasises that in his view supportive and friendly working relationships are the most productive: 'I like collaborating with nice people: a really great problem is something really important' he says, 'But actually a lot of science is done by simply talking to people who you can really get on with.' Evident in the way that Hurst talks about his discursive working method is that sense of intellectual and interdisciplinary exchange which first sparked his enthusiasm in Univ's WCR. 'On top of that, of course,' he continues, reflecting particularly on the WCR, with a distinct tone of fondness, 'They were all stupendously smart people. In retrospect, I think there's nothing more glorious than spending time with stupendously smart people who think differently from you, or even if they don't think differently have thought about different things.' It is evident from the way that he talks about his work that his enduring value of a thoughtful, challenging and multi-sided approach is key to the success of his research. 🐦



# THE YOUNG UNIV GALLERY



The College has created a photographic record of almost 50 Old Members aged 35 or under called The Young Univ Gallery. The gallery highlights many of the important, unusual and impressive journeys taken by our young alumni. All of the portraits will be on display in College from March 2017 and on a dedicated website [youngunivgallery.univ.ox.ac.uk](http://youngunivgallery.univ.ox.ac.uk), along with extensive biographies, interviews and a short film about the project.

After graduation, Univ students from all backgrounds move on to an extraordinarily rich variety of jobs and enterprises. Some follow well-trodden career paths in the established professions and large institutions, but many set up their own enterprises, work

in the voluntary sector, or become writers and performers. Many work outside the UK, across the globe, in poor as well as wealthy countries. The Young Univ Gallery aims to inspire current and prospective students by showing the wide range of paths open to them on leaving College.

My thanks to all who took part in The Young Univ Gallery which we trust will have a lasting impact throughout the Univ community.

Sir Ivor Crewe  
Master



JOHN  
CAIRNS

John is a professional photographer specialising in portraits and documentary photojournalism. He started taking photographs to record the size of fish he caught as a young teen in his local river. As John grew, the fish got (slightly) bigger and the cameras followed suit. Finally admitting that photography was a hobby that had got out of hand, John left his day job – as a Biology teacher – and has never looked back. He lives in Oxford, but frequently

works throughout the UK and often overseas. (You can see more of his work at [www.johncairns.co.uk](http://www.johncairns.co.uk)).

'It was a real privilege to be a part of this project and to meet the enthusiastic young alumni, pursuing such a wide variety of interesting careers. I enjoyed the challenge of using a different College background for each subject to try and ensure that no two portraits look the same.'





## AIMÉE CAMPBELL

(2008, BA PPP)

HRBP Refreshment R&D  
Unilever

### Who was your biggest influence at Univ?

It's got to be Acer Nethercott, because I do Ironman quite seriously now and have been to the World Championships, but it was Acer, Tom Walker and Howard Duncan who did an Ironman while I was in my second year at Univ and it had always been on my bucket list.

They were very good college rowers and I was a good Uni rower – I thought if they can do it, I can probably do it. So I entered one and Acer just said, 'You're going to nail it!' and he looked at my time afterwards and said, 'You have to try and go to the World Championships at Kona.' This is a guy who went to the Olympics, but was so humble and generous with his time.

### How important do you think the gallery project is?

I think it's fantastic just in terms of raising people's aspirations. There are people involved in this who have gone way out of the area they did their undergrad in; I think Univites tend to go outside of their comfort zones or topics – the topic is merely the training session, it gives you so much access to other things. Having confidence, taking risks, travelling, putting yourself in new situations – the Univ travel bursaries for example allow people a taste for that.

## MARTIN CHAN

(2008, MENG)

Engineering Consultant  
Rolls Royce



## DR OLIVER COX

(2006, BA, MST, DPHIL HISTORY)

Heritage Engagement Fellow, University of Oxford and  
Director of Thames Valley Country House Partnership

### What do you recall about your first day at Univ?

I remember being dropped off in Logic Lane and us walking all of our stuff over and wondering who had got through from interviews, but after that it's all a bit of a blur of excitement for the rest of that week... I do remember going into my room and thinking 'Oh bloody hell, this is really all happening,' and at that point my father becoming quite emotional. My main memory was that I felt I needed to have something vaguely cool for my room. We'd been to Ikea the week before along with everyone else going to university and trying to think about what bedspread to have...



### How did Univ shape you?

My job now involves cutting through a lot of spin. People are trying to sell you different narratives, trying to obfuscate, omit, bend the truth and you have to use your intellect to pick out what's true. Univ, I think, gives you the independence of judgement and the confidence in developing your own ideas and standing your ground when you have made a judgement. The tutorial system, sitting there having to come up with ideas and fight to develop them through dialogue with tutors, is crucial to developing critical judgement.



## LUCY FISHER

(2007, BA CLASSICS)

Senior Political Consultant  
*The Times*



## ASHLEE GODWIN

(2003, BA MODERN HISTORY)

Committee Specialist  
UK House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee and the  
Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy

### Any particular influences on you at Univ?

One of my tutors Professor von Strandmann was a big influence on me. I was very fortunate to have one-on-one tuition with him in my second year, which is, I think, when you really start to grow into the historian you are going to be. I thoroughly enjoyed those conversations – we talked about my essay for the first hour, trying not to go off on tangents, and I might still be there two hours after that talking about other things; history, politics, current affairs... I just really enjoyed that interaction and conversation. That was so important to me then and I'm still in touch with him every now and then, letting him know what I'm up to.

### How important is a project like this?

It's so intensely valuable, I can't stress it enough. I was very fortunate that I had an older sister that had been to a university that was very similar and therefore already had something in my world that meant that my mind was open to it. But neither of my parents went to university, my dad is Egyptian – I'm a second-generation immigrant – and there are many reasons why this might have not been something I would ever have thought to do. So things like this that make people feel welcome, is truly invaluable.



## LAURA HANNA

(2005, BA ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE)

Actress



### How do you think that Univ shaped you?

Indelibly obviously! It's a huge, formative life experience coming away to any university and Oxford, in particular; it's a big learning curve. Overall I think Univ made me ultimately more confident in my abilities, not to begin with – often it's very common when you come to Oxford and you arrive, having been the best at your school, to think 'Oh my goodness, there are so many phenomenally talented people here!' and you suddenly feel very mediocre. Challenging yourself to pull through that feeling and find a new level of resilience and confidence means you grow, quickly, as a person.



### FABIENNE MORRIS

(2004, BA MUSIC)

Head of Communications and Marketing  
Intermusica

### Who was your biggest influence at Univ?

Academically Professor Marc Stears. I did political philosophy with him and he did this great thing of not tying you to a syllabus, but just encouraging you to read things critically and come up with different ideas, exploring your own viewpoint. That was incredibly valuable. On the non-academic side, I would have to say my friendship group in my year – people from many different backgrounds studying lots of different things; all incredibly supportive of each other and that allowed me to become who I am now.



### NADIA ODUNAYO

(2010, BA PPE)

Co-Founder/Director  
Ignition Works



### LAURA OAKLEY

(2011, BA PPE)

Policy Adviser in Civil Service Economics Fast Stream  
HM Treasury

### What were your preconceptions?

I always thought that Oxford was full of people who weren't like me; I thought they would be super clever and in a different league. I always thought that at some point they would find me out, that they would realise I wasn't supposed to be here, but that I should enjoy it in the meantime. Actually everyone was equally nervous in those first weeks and everyone was so friendly and went out together. It was only later that everyone admitted how terrified they had been.



A black and white portrait of Minesh Shah, a young man with dark hair, looking slightly to the side. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting his face.

## MINESH SHAH

(2004, BA PHYSICS)

Investment Executive  
Infrared Capital Partners Ltd

### Did you have any preconceptions of Oxford?

No, other than the usual thing of Oxford as a place of excellence; Univ a place for excellence. The reason I chose Univ was that when I came to look at all the colleges Univ was the only one where the porter said 'would you like to come in and have a look?' If the porter is that friendly and that's the welcome you get as a visitor then as a student it's going to be fantastic...

### How important do you think the Young Univ Gallery is?

It's really good because the careers you might be most exposed to at university won't be for everyone; it's great to show that there are other possible paths out there. Just hearing what other people have done is important and Univ has been very good at bringing people back; this is a really good way of opening it up and showing those available paths.

A black and white portrait of Oliver Watts, a young man with light-colored hair, looking slightly to the side. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting his face.

## OLIVER WATTS

(2008, BA PHYSICS)

Filmmaker  
Twice Cut Films

A black and white portrait of Amy Zheng, a young woman with dark hair, looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a dark shirt. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting her face.

## AMY ZHENG

(2008, BA MEDICINE)

Core Surgical Trainee

### How important was Univ in shaping you?

Univ gave me lots of good experiences but also lots of good memories. It will always feel like home and coming back here always feels nostalgic. Most importantly it was a really good mix of friends from different backgrounds and not all medics. That's the most important thing: you don't get that at other universities where the medics all stick together but at Univ I had friends who were lawyers, PPEists and psychologists, which is much healthier.

**See the full gallery at:**  
[youngunivgallery.univ.ox.ac.uk](http://youngunivgallery.univ.ox.ac.uk)





# SHOOTING THE PAST

Historian and screenwriter **Alex von Tunzelmann** (1996, History) writes drama for film and television, and has written for *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Conde Nast Traveller*, *BBC Lonely Planet Magazine* and *The Daily Beast*. At Oxford she edited both *Cherwell* and *Isis*. Her books include *Indian Summer* (2007), *Red Heat* (2011), *Reel History* (2015), and *Blood & Sand* (2016).

Avery Curran (2015, History) interviewed her for *The Martlet*. Avery is a second year historian and Univ's LGBTQ rep 2015-2016. She is particularly interested in Victorian cultural and gender history.





Brain Cox as Sir Winston Churchill. *Churchill*, Alex's first feature film, will be released by Lionsgate Films on 16 June.

### How did your time at Univ affect your life and career?

I didn't realise how much my time at Univ would affect my career until I left. I thought I wanted to be a journalist: I loved history, but my parents were academics and I wanted to do something different. Only after university did I realise that there was a good market in popular history, and that I might be able to write books for that market. In retrospect, my degree was formative. I wish I could go back and do it again, paying more attention!

### What is your fondest memory of Univ?

There are so many, and a few of them are slightly blurry thanks to all the cocktails. I had a wonderful time: it wasn't about one specific moment, but the incredible privilege of being allowed to live and study in such a fantastic place alongside so many clever people.

### Who were your tutors at Univ and how did they influence you?

I was lucky enough to have a trio of brilliant history tutors at Univ: Leslie Mitchell, Sandy Murray and Hartmut Pogge von Strandmann. They had very different approaches, which meant we as undergraduates couldn't get too complacent, but all had great charisma and passion for their subjects. They also all had a sense of humour, which I valued enormously.

### Do you have any advice for students who want to go on to become writers?

Use your time at university to read loads, and read analytically: why does one book capture your imagination while another bores you? This is essential whether you want to write fiction or non-fiction. Structuring your writing is a technical skill and you can learn it. Great writing comes from empathy, which is harder to learn, though you may develop it: listen to people and try to understand them. Also, do not feel constrained to 'write what you know' in any simplistic sense, and especially – I really can't emphasise this enough – do not write a novel about your time at university. It won't be as good as *The Secret History*, and somebody has already written that.

### How did you end up collaborating with Jeremy Paxman?

A job advert – 'journalist seeks researcher' – appeared in *Cherwell* in my final term. I applied, and found out I'd been shortlisted when Jeremy Paxman called me for an interview. He asked me to come for lunch the following week: the time he suggested was half an hour after my last Finals paper. I warned him that I might be a bit frazzled, but he said that was the only time he could do. As I walked out of the exam somebody hit me with cheap fizz, streamers and a glitter cannon. I didn't have time to change. And

so I went in to face Britain's most fearsome interviewer in my soggy, sticky, glittery subfusc, looking like a partied-out penguin. Jeremy looked quite surprised: 'Oh! You really have just finished!' He ordered champagne. I knew immediately that he was the kind of person I wanted to work with. I researched British politics for his book *The Political Animal*, and then royal history for his book *On Royalty*. It was a terrific job, and allowed me lots of space to develop my research skills and knowledge of twentieth-century British history.

### How did your Reel History column in *The Guardian* come about?

When I was researching my first book, *Indian Summer*, I noticed Lord Mountbatten's interest in cinema. I found a list of the films that were screened at Viceroy's House over the course of Indian independence negotiations and noticed subtle ways in which the choices reflected what was going on in real life. So I became very interested in the interplay of film and history. *The Guardian* approached me to write the column a year or so after the book came out, and I jumped at the chance.

### Why do you think people enjoy period films, and which are your favourites?

I'd love to give you a high-minded answer about people watching historical films to understand more about the past and,



thereby, the present. Some do, but honestly a lot of people just like the costumes. I made a lighthearted list a while ago of the common selling points of historical films over the last century: 'swordfights, explosions, gladiators, spies, pirates, cowboys, Nazis, heaving bosoms, cavalry charges, sex, intrigue, murder, torture, ridiculously large guns, and Henry VIII.' There's really nothing wrong with people just enjoying historical movies for fun. Yet most of my favourites are the ones which are both engrossing and – even if they're not perfectly accurate – have something intelligent to say about the past and the present. They include *The Lion in Winter*, *The Madness of King George*, *Twelve Years a Slave*, *Ran*, *Spartacus*, *El Cid*, *Queen Christina*, *The Right Stuff*, and *Lawrence of Arabia*.



From left to right: Ella Purnell, Miranda Richardson and Brian Cox in *Churchill*.

### What is your favourite historical inaccuracy in a film?

I relish the really shameless ones, such as the 1936 Errol Flynn version of *The Charge of the Light Brigade*. The producers decided that the Crimean war was boring and India was sexy, so they set most of it in the Khyber Pass and made the Battle of Balaklava a revenge attack by British forces on an Indian prince. Often, if the filmmakers change one thing they think is small, it means changing much more. For instance, the very bad film *U-571* is based approximately on Operation Primrose, the Allied recovery of an Enigma machine in May 1941. The producers wanted an American submarine crew to be the heroes instead of the real-life British crew of HMS Bulldog. This meant they had to set the film at the beginning of 1942, because the US didn't enter the war until the end of 1941 – but in real life the Enigma had been cracked for months by the time of Pearl Harbor; so the whole thing makes no sense at all. I also love the moment in the amazingly terrible 1967 King Arthur musical *Camelot* when Arthur tries to recruit knights to his Round Table by scattering thousands of leaflets out of towers and from horseback, all across the land. The film is set about a millennium before the printing press arrived in England, so you can only imagine how long it must have taken his monks to illuminate all those. Then it gets even better when all the remarkably literate sixth-century peasants pick them up and have a good read.

### Where do you think the right balance lies between historical accuracy and entertainment in a film?

There are no hard and fast rules: it's always a question of finding a balance for each

story between engaging an audience and doing some justice to historical complexity. Almost all films have to amalgamate characters, speed up timelines and simplify stories, because a feature film is typically only 90-120 minutes long and history doesn't fit into three-act structure. Getting to the core of historical truth doesn't always mean following documents to the letter: compare Steven Soderbergh's *Che* (Part 1 & 2) to Walter Salles' *The Motorcycle Diaries*. Soderbergh's films are rigorously based on Che Guevara's memoirs of the Cuban Revolution and his guerrilla campaign in Bolivia, but they make for bloated, tedious narratives which give you a very partial view of the character and the wider story. *The Motorcycle Diaries* is faithful to Che's memoirs too, but allows itself to be more playful and approaches its subject as a human being, not just an icon. It's a much better movie and, to my mind, is more insightful for being less slavish.

### Do you notice any particular trends in the period films being produced today, and if so do you think they tell us something about the part of history we ourselves are living in?

It's a difficult moment to answer that question: the world saw dramatic changes in 2016 and the film industry hasn't yet had a chance to respond. It seems unwise to make predictions about the next few years, but what I will say is that the entertainment industry, and film particularly, often flourishes in times of strife. People look for escapism. It's probably not a coincidence that high-glamour royal and aristocratic TV shows, such as *Downton Abbey*, *Victoria* and *The Crown*, have been huge hits during a period of austerity.

### What made you decide to write about the crises in Suez and Hungary in your book *Blood and Sand*?

I felt that there was something to be gained from looking at the twin crises in parallel: after all, they happened in the same fortnight. The fact that they were simultaneous was why people at the time were calling it 'World War III', though thankfully it never got that far. The stories of Suez and Hungary relate to so much that concerns us today: the politics of oil, religious fundamentalism, ill-conceived plans for regime change, the sometimes mystifying nature of actions from Moscow, and politicians who take big risks only to come a cropper.

### Do you think the kind of Cold-War era conflict you discuss in your book *Red Heat* is occurring again today?

We are going into an uncertain and precarious period for international relations. One mistake people make about the Cold War is to imagine that it was always 'cold', implying a bloodless standoff. As I wrote in *Red Heat*, it frequently became violent, whether in terms of proxy wars, civil or military uprisings, or state repression. Millions of people suffered because of these; globally, millions were killed. I very much hope we don't fall into that situation again.

### Can you give any details on what you are working on now?

My first feature film, *Churchill*, is coming out in 2017: it's a biopic of Winston Churchill as war leader, starring Brian Cox and Miranda Richardson. Having written *Reel History* judging historical movies for years before writing my first screenplay, I feel like a gamekeeper turned poacher. I just hope that I pass my own test! 🐾





On Friday 14 October, Univ Old Member Dr Nicholas Cole (1997, Classics and History) launched [www.quillproject.net](http://www.quillproject.net), an innovative online platform for the study of negotiated texts in general and the negotiation of the United States Constitution in particular. I spent my summer as Dr Cole's research assistant, entering the records of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 into the platform, and reconstructing the process of negotiating this iconic document.

I first met Dr Cole when I was a second year undergraduate at Univ. Unable to choose from the vast list of General History papers for Finals, I settled on 'Britain's North American Colonies from Settlement to Independence' and was sent to him for tutorials at Pembroke College where he is Senior Research Fellow. Already convinced of my vocation for German cultural history, I was taken unawares in Trinity Term 2015 by a fascination with early America. Our tutorials opened up an age defined, on the one hand, by swashbuckling revolutionary heroism and political brilliance, and marred, on the other, by the spectres of Atlantic slavery and the brutal colonization of native lands.

As Finals approached, Dr Cole convinced me that there was work yet to be done on this contradictory era. While helping me with my application for the MSt in US History, he let slip a few details of a research project he was undertaking. Would I like a summer job doing some data entry? Absolutely, I replied. A few weeks of typing the records into a computer would make me a little extra cash, then I would hand the work over to the other research assistants he was planning to employ and spend the rest of my post-Finals vacation doing as little history as possible.

Little did I know that my relaxed summer job would turn into a three-month stint of re-editing some of the most difficult historical sources I had yet used. My peaceful post-Finals summer became a microcosm of life as an academic historian: navigating incomplete records, negotiating funding arrangements, hunting down potential donors and collaborators, and organising the October conference at which the

project would be launched. Difficult questions hung over our heads: would the records be complete enough to allow us to reconstruct the entire process of negotiating the US Constitution? Would our representation of the Convention provide new interpretative angles to rival or overtake traditional narrative histories? To round off this challenging summer, Dr Cole offered me the opportunity to give my first ever conference paper at Quill's Pembroke College launch event, in which I attempted to answer these questions.

Like other digital humanities projects, Quill allows researchers access to documents, and links together transcriptions, manuscripts, and other resources from across the web. Unlike many of them, however, it seeks from the outset to provide new ways into old sources. The Quill platform allows the reader to view the negotiation of documents by parliamentary procedure in detail, mapping the decision-making processes that create constitutions, laws, and treaties. By entering the minutes of the 1787 negotiations into the platform, we have been able to reconstruct the text produced by the Convention at each stage of its amendment and view the context of particular speeches with an unprecedented precision. The platform transforms access to the voting records (extremely confusing in print), and shows which of the Convention's delegates were most active in drafting the document – we discovered that the most influential actors were not necessarily those best known to us today!

The key motivation behind the project was to improve access to and understanding of documents central to national and global histories. The importance of civic education has recently been dramatically highlighted. The Quill team hopes to reconstruct the negotiations of texts ranging from the 1832 Reform Act to the Iraq Constitution of 2005, and aims to offer easy and enlightening access to fundamental legal documents to historians, lawyers, teachers, and students around the world.

**Grace Mallon** (2013, History)



# FELLOW IN FOCUS

## DR JACOB ROWBOTTOM

Tutorial Fellow in Law and Associate Professor of Law in the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford



restricting dishonest campaign statements enacted? Several years ago, I looked at the problem of lies in election campaigns and found strong arguments that the right to free speech does not extend to knowingly false statements. The difficulty is that legal solutions can bring more problems. A law is likely to restrict only the most obviously false statements, and in any event there are constitutional difficulties in allowing judges to adjudicate on the merits of campaign statements. In a democracy, it is the people who are the final judges of competing claims.

One alternative is to say that free speech is valued for letting people have their say and participate in the democratic process, regardless of whether that leads to well-informed or wise decisions. In this view, freedom of speech is important in recognizing the status of citizens as responsible and autonomous agents. Although this is a compelling argument, it does not justify dishonest and manipulative statements, which undermine the process of autonomous decision-making.

Another option is to maintain the ideal that free speech can lead to better informed citizens, while looking critically at how the communications system works. There is nothing natural or inevitable about the current news values or the algorithms used in the digital media. However, both have a big impact on how information is communicated, received and interpreted. The challenge is to look for ways to ensure an informational environment that better serves the needs of citizens. This does not mean censorship, but strategies to hold the media and digital intermediaries accountable, and promote fairer election campaigns. Some respond that such a task will inevitably fail, and those warnings should be taken seriously. However, it is still relatively early days for the digital media, and the current problems should not be allowed to undermine the right to free speech, a right that has been a defining part of western democracies.

Jacob Rowbottom holds a BA in Jurisprudence from Oxford and an LLM from New York University School of Law. He was previously a University Lecturer in Law and Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. He is a qualified barrister and worked on the staff of an election campaign for the US Senate. His research interests include media law, freedom of expression and the legal regulation of the democratic process. He is the author of *Democracy Distorted* (2010) and writes on a range of topics including the funding of political parties, media regulation, speech on the internet, election campaigns and obscenity laws.

In 2014, the Supreme Court judge Lady Hale described free speech as 'the foundation of any democracy'. The reason, she said, was that without free speech the people would not know who to vote for, or whether to support government actions. The basic idea underlying her view is that the free exchange of ideas is essential for people to acquire political knowledge. The US philosopher, Alexander Meiklejohn famously said that free speech should aid 'wise' decisions in a democracy.

The ideal of the informed citizen that underpins the classic democratic argument for free speech has long been viewed skeptically, especially with regard to standards of truth in both political campaigns and media reporting. The quality of debate in

the US presidential campaign and in the 2016 UK referendum on EU membership was often said to be evidence of 'post-truth' politics. Both campaigns consisted of high levels of emotional appeals, often descending into abuse, and the use of often dubious factual claims.

Why has our democracy taken this turn? One view is that a general disillusionment with traditional politics has been building for some time. Another possibility relates to the rise of social media. When content is filtered through recommendations by friends, or is based on past reading history, there is a danger that people simply listen to those that are like-minded. Such filtering leads to an 'echo chamber effect' in which existing views are reinforced, rather than challenged.

Another problem lies in the ability to assess information. The political issues being debated may be complex and not all the facts may be accessible to the public. In these circumstances, when presented with a multitude of conflicting claims, each disputing the other's versions of events, it becomes difficult to decide which side to trust. It is hardly surprising then, if people resort to gut instinct when casting their vote, which is troubling for the ideal of the informed citizen.

Does this mean the ideal of free speech should be devalued and more laws



# FELLOWS' NEWS & NOTES

Senior College Lecturer in Modern History **Dr Jakub S. Beneš** contributed a talk to the BRIHC (the Birmingham Research Institute for History and Cultures) Materiality seminar series on 16 November on 'Forests, Fields, and Peasant Revolution: The "Green Cadres" and the Collapse of the Habsburg Empire'.

**Prof. Elaine Fox**, Professor of Experimental Psychology and one of Univ's newest Special Supernumerary Fellows, was a guest on the BBC World Service on 8 August discussing how we respond to fear and how fear is used to obscure the truth. Professor Fox is Director of the Oxford Centre for Emotions and Affective Neuroscience.



Special Supernumerary Fellow, **Prof. Daniel Freeman**, a clinical psychologist at Oxford University's Department of Psychiatry, was quoted in a BBC News article on 10 August about research by Google to prevent players harassing each other in virtual reality. Professor Freeman's research into using virtual reality to help treat people with severe paranoia was highlighted on the BBC World Service on 21 August.



Univ alumna **Prof. Karen O'Brien** (1983, English), the new head of Oxford's Humanities Division, has been confirmed as Professorial Fellow and member of the College's Governing Body. Professor O'Brien was previously Vice-Principal (Education) and Professor of English Literature at King's College London.



Tutorial Fellow in Physics **Prof. Caroline Terquem** received an MPLS teaching award in July. Professor Terquem received the award for her outstanding contributions to the year 2 core course on Electromagnetism in MT 15.

**Dr Andrew Ker**, Tutorial Fellow in Computer Science and Associate Professor of Computer Security, won a University Teaching Award in 2014-15.

Senior Research Fellow, **Prof. Ngaire Woods**, Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government and Professor of International Political Economy, spoke to comedian David Baddiel about the IMF on BBC Radio 4's 'David Baddiel Tries to Understand' on 27 July.

## RECENT APPOINTMENTS



**Nicholas Myers** has been appointed as Junior Research Fellow in Experimental Psychology. His research investigates the cognitive neuroscience of flexible intelligent behaviour.



**Kasia Szymańska** joins Univ as our new Junior Research Fellow in Slavonic Languages (Polish). During her Fellowship, she will continue to work on Polish late Communist and post-Communist literary translation.

## FORMER FELLOWS

**Prof. Paul Cartledge** (Harold Salvesen Junior Fellow, 1970-72) has written a new introduction to *The World of Herodotus* by **Aubrey de Sélincourt** (1913, Classics), in which he mentions de Sélincourt's college affiliation. [www.foliosociety.com/book/WHR/world-of-herodotus](http://www.foliosociety.com/book/WHR/world-of-herodotus)

A full list of Fellows' News can be found in the *University College Record*.

Senior Research Fellow and Head of Oxford's Earth Sciences Department, **Prof. Gideon Henderson FRS** delivered the 30th Annual Plymouth Marine Science Lecture on 'Metals in seawater: critical, toxic and changing' on 2 November.



# IN MEMORIAM

Below are notices of deaths that we have been informed of since the publication of the summer 2016 edition of *The Martlet* up to 30 September. Full obituaries are included in the *Record*.

## 1930s

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### HANS MICHAEL KARL NUSSBAUM (LATER NOAM)

(1936) (Aldenham) died on 15 October 2013 aged 94. Michael Noam read Agriculture at Univ, getting a First. Michael was born in Germany, but his family had emigrated to Palestine after 1933. He was still in Britain when the Second World War broke out and interned as an enemy alien, despite the efforts of our Master, Sir William Beveridge, to get him released. After the war Michael lived in Israel where he worked for many years in the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics as an agricultural economist. He was also a part-time lecturer at the Hebrew University. He retired in 1981 to become a tour guide, specialising in developing tours for bird-watchers.

### JOHN PLAISTOWE HORDER



(1938) (Lancing) died on 31 May 2012 aged 92. John Horder came up to Univ to read Classics, but after a year switched to Medicine. He qualified as a general practitioner, and became a highly respected figure in that field, serving as the President of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 1979–82. He helped write several important textbooks on general practice, including *The Future General Practitioner* (1972). He also held the unusual distinction of becoming a member of the Royal Colleges of both

Physicians and Psychiatrists through examination while in general practice. He was also elected a Fellow of Green College, Oxford, and of Queen Mary and Westfield College, London. He was awarded an OBE in 1971 and a CBE in 1981. Even after he retired from clinical practice in the 1980s, John continued to lecture and to teach, and in 1987 he founded the Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education. His son Timothy came up to Univ in 1962.

## 1940s

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### DR GLYN ARTHUR SIMPSON LLOYD



(1940) (Warwick School) died on 10 March 2016, just before his 94th birthday. He read Medicine at Univ, and went on to become a leading radiologist. He co-authored several textbooks on the subject, and worked at Moorfields Eye Hospital and the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital. He was a founder member of the European Society of Head and Neck Radiology, and in 1991 was awarded the George Davey Howells Memorial Prize for the most distinguished published contribution to the advancement of otolaryngology in the previous five years. Glyn also retained lifelong links to Univ, regularly attending reunions. He is survived by his ex-wife Katharine, their two children, and four grandchildren.

### ANTHONY JOHN PHELPS

(1941) (City of Oxford High School) died on 9 November 2014 aged 92. He read Classics at Univ, both during his cadet course during the war, and on his return in 1946. On going down, he joined the Civil Service, working mainly for the Treasury. He served as Junior Private Secretary and then Principal Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Treasury's representative in the Far East, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, and finally Deputy Chairman at the Board of Customs and Excise. He also took a keen interest in cricket, and was the co-author of *A History of Civil Service Cricket* (1993). His brother Peter came up to Univ in 1943.



## WILLIAM JOHN COONEY

(1942) (St. Dunstan's) died in December 2015. He read Modern Languages at Univ. He served in the RAF during the Second World War, and on getting his degree he taught languages at Farlingaye High School in Suffolk, for 25 years. He was a keen sailor, but also took a great interest in drama, both taking part in local theatricals himself, and regularly going to London and Stratford. He was a keen cook, and loved jazz, and all things French. He is survived by his three sons, Stephen, Andrew and Patrick, who kindly supplied information for this tribute.

## FRANCIS (FRANK) JOSEPH BARNETT

(1948) (St. Bede's College, Christchurch, and Canterbury University) died on 5 August 2016 aged 93. He read Modern Languages at Univ, getting a First in his Finals, and in 1951–2 was a Lecturer in Modern Languages here. In 1952, however, he moved up to the Broad when was elected to a Fellowship at Trinity College, where he remained until his retirement in 1986. Although he specialised in teaching French, Frank became fluent in at least five modern languages, including Romanian, but also researched and published on late Latin and medieval French. On retirement he and his wife Elizabeth returned to live in New Zealand, but regularly returned to Oxford.



## DAVID ALAN CAMPBELL

(1949) (Jarrow GS) died on 22 March 2016 shortly before his 86th birthday. He read PPE at Univ, but was also a keen member of Univ Players, taking part in a production of Karel Capek's *The Insect Play*. After Oxford he trained as an accountant and lived in Cambridge for 65 years, working first for Cambridge City Council and latterly the Anglian Water Authority. He took early retirement in the late 1980s and enjoyed a long and happy retirement. He loved crosswords, music and languages. [We are grateful to his son John for proving information for this tribute].

## 1950s

## JEFFREY STANSFIELD HOWLES



(1950) (Royal Grammar School, Newcastle) died on 6 September 2016 aged 86. He read PPE at Univ but his great passion was rowing. He was stroke of the 1953 Blue Boat, the Univ 1952 and 1953 summer 1st VIII's (each made 4 bumps) and of the 1953 Univ IV (which won the OUBC IV's). Following graduation he moved to Canada as an oil industry economist before emigrating to California and joining the Bank of America. He subsequently returned to London, where for 16

years he held senior positions in international banking covering the UK, Europe and Africa. He then started a new career in Executive Search, from which he retired in 1985. In his later years he lived happily in Herefordshire with his second wife, Lisbet, who died in 2008. He is survived by his two sons Geoff (Univ, 1973) and Chris. His daughter, Pandora, died in 2009. [This obituary was kindly supplied by his son Geoff].



## ALLAN PHILLIPS GRIFFITHS

(1951) (University College of South Wales) died on 1 December 2014 aged 87. Allan, known to friends and colleagues, as 'Griff' came up to Univ as a postgraduate and read for a BPhil. In 1964 he was appointed Professor of Philosophy at the newly founded University of Warwick, and remained there until his retirement in 1992. Allan was also Warwick's first University Orator; from 1970–7 he served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the university. Outside Warwick, he was Director of the Royal Institute of Philosophy from 1979–94. Allan was a keen musician, but also enjoyed playing poker, and collecting snuffboxes and antique clocks.





## PATRICK 'PADDY' THOMAS CORRIE LEWIIN

(1951) (Eton) died on 29 August 2016 aged 83. Having switched from PPE to History, Paddy stayed for a fourth year to obtain a Diploma of Education. He first taught at Truro Cathedral School and then returned to his native Kenya to teach at Alliance High School about forty miles from Nairobi. Alliance was a boarding school for the brightest boys from protestant mission schools in Kenya and after he had been there for about twelve years Alliance sponsored Paddy to go to Union Seminary in New York. The year at Union Seminary caused him to question his previously held beliefs but this created a problem at Alliance and Paddy came to England in 1972. He taught theology at the Blackheath High School for Girls for eleven years and then became heavily involved in The Society of Processed Thought for which he organised meetings addressed by distinguished philosophers and theologians. Paddy married Ann in 1994 and is survived by her and his three step-children.

## MICHAEL ANTHONY HAMILTON RUSSELL

(1952) (Diocesan College, Rondebosch) died on 16 July 2009 aged 77, but the news has only now reached us. He came to Univ to read Medicine, winning a Half Blue in swimming, before completing his training at Guy's Hospital. Michael returned to South Africa in 1960, but, disliking the political situation there, came back to Britain in 1964, and trained at the Maudsley Hospital. Michael began there to research the effects of smoking on health, and was a pioneer in creating nicotine-based products, such as nicotine gums and nasal sprays, to stop people smoking. He also supported an integrated method of stopping smoking, involving advice, therapy and professional support. Michael retired with his wife to Cape Town, but latterly suffered from Alzheimer's disease. Three of his brothers came up to Univ, Timothy (1955), David (1960) and Robin (1970).

## ROBERT VICTOR CLARKE

(1954) (Stockport GS) died in July 2016 aged 80. He read Geology at Univ. After working for a while at the Clarendon Press in Oxford, he read Geography at Birmingham University.

## KENNETH MICHAEL ASPDEN

(1956) (Priory County School, Shrewsbury) died on 9 May 2016 aged 2016. Having read Classics at Univ, he qualified as an accountant and then had a long career working for ICI.

## HIS HONOUR JUDGE WILLIAM FREMLYN COTTER THOMAS

(1956) (Bryanston) died on 22 June 2013 aged 78. William Thomas came up to Univ to read PPE, but left after one term to join RADA. He then returned to Oxford, but never finished his degree. He was called to the Bar in 1961 and became a Recorder in 1986. From 1990–2005 he was a Circuit Judge appointed to the South Eastern Circuit.

## DERMOT ALBERT CONWAY

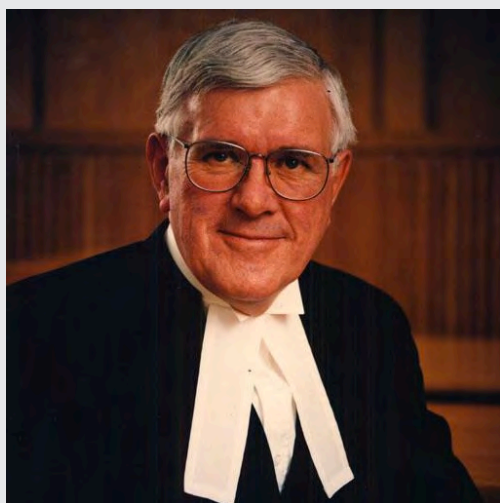
(1953) (St. Michael's College, Leeds) died on 14 June 2016 aged 82. He read History at Univ., and then stayed on to study for a DipEd.



## LUBOMIR 'LU' JOSEPH LEOPOLD CHMELAR

(1954) (Beaumont College) died on 24 June 2016 aged 81. Born in Czechoslovakia, Lu escaped with his parents in 1939, and was brought up in Kenya. He read engineering at Univ, and then settled in New York City, where he became a field engineer, working on such projects as the renovation of the original Rockefeller Center. After his retirement in 1989, Lu and his wife returned to the Czech Republic, where they devoted themselves to environmental causes. In particular, he spearheaded the creation and development of the Prague-Vienna Greenway, a two-hundred-and-fifty mile long network of walking, biking, and horse riding trails that joined castles, historic towns, and villages between Prague and Vienna.





## THE HON. JAMES RANDELL GUSHUE

(1957) (Memorial University of Newfoundland) died on 25 October 2015 aged 82. He came over to Oxford in 1956 as a Rhodes Scholar and originally matriculated from St. Catherine's Society (now St. Catherine's College), but in 1957 migrated to Univ, where he read Law. For a while he worked in Rome with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, but then returned to his native Newfoundland to work as a lawyer. In 1976 he was appointed to the Newfoundland and Labrador Supreme Court of Appeal, and he served as Chief Justice for the province in 1996–9. He retired in 2002.

## 1960s

### GORDON ALEC BARNETT

(1962) (Hampton GS) died on 28 June 2016 aged 72. He read Biochemistry at Univ, before becoming a trainee with Unilever. In later years he ran his own garden centre.

### NEIL POLLOCK MAGEE

(1962) (Sedburgh) died on 9 April 2016 aged 72. Neil read Greats at Univ, but was also a leading light in the University wine tasting club and a keen cook. He then worked in the City as an analyst with a stockbroker and then as an investment manager with Witan Investments. Neil returned to Edinburgh in 1970 to join Life Association as an investment manager and stayed with this firm until 1999 when it was acquired by a Dutch company (Aegon) and the investment department was moved to London. In 1983 he married Anna Gregor, who had left Prague in 1968 to train as a doctor in England. She subsequently became the head of cancer services in Scotland and was awarded a CBE. They had two sons. [Our thanks to Sir Tim Noble (1962) for providing information for this tribute]

### ANTHONY JOHN ODY

(1968) (St. Edward's) died on 28 February 2016 aged 65. He got a First in PPE at Univ, and then took an MPhil in Economics. Having worked for the VSO in Fiji in 1971–3, he joined the World Bank in 1975, where he remained for the next thirty years. His duties there involved him with Africa, China, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In his retirement he worked as a consultant for several bodies, including the World Economic Forum (Davos), and was an Affiliated Professor at Georgetown University in 2005–8. He was also a keen singer, and a member of several choirs. He leaves a widow, Nancy (who provided the information for this notice), two children, and three grandchildren, and a fourth expected in November.

### KEITH ROWLAND

(1962) (Vine Hall and Cranbrook) died on 23 June 2016 aged 72. Keith got a First in Engineering at Univ, but found time to play hockey here too. On going down, he joined Shell Chemicals UK, working for them in Cheshire and The Hague. In 1982 he joined Croda in Staffordshire, which was later to become Synthetic Chemicals, where he worked until 1994. Keith then worked for Lloyds Register on environmental assessments, and his work took him to Taiwan, Indonesia, Houston and Melbourne. He was a keen sportsman, but could also speak six or seven languages. Sadly, he was taken ill with early onset dementia, and spent his last years in a home in Cheshire. His younger brother Andrew followed him to Univ four years later. [We are grateful to Keith's daughter Pippa Miln for information for this notice].

### GEOFFREY CHARLES GREVILLE WOODS

(1967) (Sherborne) died on 14 February 2016 aged 68. Geoff came up to Univ to read Classics, and then embarked on a career in international banking with Grindlays Bank. He later qualified as a solicitor and worked at Theodore Goddard, Herbert Smith and in the legal department of BP Oil UK. A long period of service followed with the Greater London Authority and the London Residuary Body, until its final abolition. He was an active supporter of contemporary British artists. For a major part of his life Geoffrey was severely hampered by epilepsy, but he accepted it with dignity, bravery and patience, never allowing it to curb his enthusiasm for life. He had a witty sense of humour, and enjoyed travelling in Europe and all aspects of European literature and art, interests which he shared with his partner Susana (who helped with this tribute).



# 1970s



## DAVID JACKSON BRADSHAW

(1971) (Sandbach School, Crewe) died on 11 August 2016 aged 63 from the effects of prostate cancer. As well as his wife, Qing, Dave leaves a son, William. After a BA in Physics at Univ, which he combined with a parallel course in Table Football, Dave obtained an MSc in Physics and Cryogenics at Southampton. He became editor of an electronics journal, and then a researcher at *Which?* magazine. Moving to Ovum, a research and consulting business working in IT, telecoms and media, he became a VP, and an expert in databases and database software. In 2008, he joined IDC, a competitor of Ovum, and reinvented himself to focus on cloud computing, becoming known across the industry for his expertise in that field. He was very active in the Labour Party in his local area of Brixton, London. [Our thanks to Tim Warren (1971) for this tribute].



## ALEX DANCHEV

(1974) (King James's College, Huddersfield) died on 7 August 2016 aged 60. He read History and Economics at Univ, getting a First in his Finals. Alex first joined the army, serving as an officer in the Royal Army Education Corps, whilst completing a PhD in war studies at King's College London. He then moved into academia, working at Keele and Nottingham, until he was appointed Professor at the School of International Relations at St Andrews in 2014. Alex's earliest works were acclaimed biographies of Oliver Franks and Basil Liddell Hart, and a co-edition of the unexpurgated war diaries of Lord Alanbrooke. More recently he had written about Anglo-American relations and the so-called war on terror; but his remarkably wide-ranging interests led him in other directions, so that he also wrote biographies of Georges Braque and Paul Cézanne, and in 2013 produced a new translation of Cézanne's letters. He also published two volumes of essays, *On Art and War and Terror* (2009), and *On Good and Evil and the Grey Zone* (2016). In addition to his published work, he was a stimulating teacher; who was awarded the Dearing Award for Excellence in Learning and Teaching.

## JOHN GREGOR HUGH PAYNTER

(1972) (Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood) died on 29 July 2016 aged 62 from prostate cancer. He read Law at Univ, and did practise briefly as a barrister; before joining the Cazenove Group (later JP Morgan Cazenove) in 1979. He was appointed a partner there in 1986, Deputy Chairman in 2001, and Vice-Chairman in 2005. In 2008 he joined Standard Life, as a non-executive Director. From 2012-15 he was Chairman of Standard Life Investments Holdings. His hobbies included music and gardening, and he leaves a widow, Elizabeth, and two sons.

## OTHER LIVES

### THE RT. REV. STANLEY CHARLES STEER

Died on 10 December 1997 aged 97, but we have only just heard of his death. Stanley served as a temporary Chaplain at Univ, during a vacancy in the post, in Michaelmas Term 1932 and Hilary Term 1933. He came from Saskatchewan, and was a member of St. Catherine's Society (now St. Catherine's College). He returned to his native Canada in the 1940s, and from 1950-70 was Bishop of Saskatoon.



# COMMON ROOM NOTES

## FROM THE JCR PRESIDENT



**Stella Kremer** is currently reading PPE at Univ. A former student of St John Fisher comprehensive school in Harrogate, and the joint Sixth Form with St Aidan's, Stella was awarded an organ scholarship by Univ.

I would like to thank my predecessor, Agatha-Christie Onwuzuruike, and her committee, for their excellent work over the past year. Their efforts were an important part in the process of Univ achieving Living Wage accreditation, and I hope to build on Agatha's success in making Univ a more inclusive and progressive place to live and work.

Michaelmas term began with Welcome Week, during which the Welcome Week Committee ran daily events for the new intake of undergraduates. As well as a time for socialising, it was a chance for the JCR Welfare and Liberation Reps to set a tone of tolerance and inclusion through various workshops.

During Michaelmas, the JCR has come out in support of the Univ Divestment

Campaign, in our efforts to further improve the College's position on environmental issues. We have also sought permission to hold a ball in Trinity 2018, following the great successes of the 2016 Interstellar Ball. At the moment discussions are taking place regarding the Student Support Fund and how to make it more accessible for all, and I am also looking forward to working with the Domestic Bursar on renovating the bar and moving the JCR.

Follow us on Twitter [@UnivJCR](https://twitter.com/UnivJCR).

*Stella Kremer (2015)*

## FROM THE WCR PRESIDENT



**Daniel Woods** is reading for a DPhil in Cyber Security at Univ, after completing an MSci in Mathematics at the University of Bristol. His research looks at using economic theory and financial markets, in particular insurance, to address the problem of Cyber Security.

And so a new year is upon us. Unlike at undergraduate level, graduate courses vary greatly in length. Some taught masters last just eight months, while some DPhils can go on long after the designated three years. As such the graduate community changes significantly year on year; particularly when time spent on researching abroad is taken into account. Yet a continuous sense of community remains.

That community is in part based on shared values. The curiosity endemic among graduates lends itself to exploring the intricacies of each other's research. This can just as easily take place at a Martlets Talk, a series of talks given by WCR members about their research that is kindly hosted at the Master's Lodgings, as over a pint in a bustling pub.

Another important factor is the shared experience found in events that recur year after year. The scavenger hunt of Welcome Week is a seemingly endless source of tales every year, some less savoury than others. DPhil students perilously deep into their write up will live vicariously through freshers exploring Oxford for the first time. These shared values and experiences are just part of why Univ boasts one of the most active graduate communities in Oxford.

For regular term-time updates on our activities, follow us on Twitter [@UnivWCR](https://twitter.com/UnivWCR).

*Daniel Woods (2015)*



# SPORTS & SOCIETIES

REPORTS FROM AROUND THE COLLEGE

## BOAT CLUB

BEN NORBURY (2014, ENGLISH), UCBC PRESIDENT



UCBC had much to celebrate at our annual post-VIII's dinner. Not only did we have 63 Univites involved across seven boats, but not a single one of those crews suffered a bump making us joint most successful club overall. It is incredibly gratifying to see the spirit of participation and personal development in the club result in universal intercollegiate success.

After a Hilary of flooded rivers and long gym sessions had paid off in Torpid's, both top crews achieved excellent results at the top end of Division One. W1 bumped

Magdalen on the first day and held off a series of determined challenges from behind to finish third on the river, matching the record of the 1993 crew. M1 produced two dominant bumps on Trinity and Magdalen before the gut to finish sixth on the river. Our lower crews managed to match the senior VIII's' performances. W2 bumped twice to solidify their position in division three whilst M2 achieved revenge for their Torpid's spoons by bumping Linacre and holding their position for the rest of the week. Our M3 and W3 moved up two and three places respectively, and Univ's mascot

beer boat 'M-X' narrowly missed out on blades in division seven, but rowed with characteristic vim.

Being the joint most successful boat club at VIII's leaves us in a challenging and exciting position for the coming year. W1 will have the headship in their sights and M1 will aim to further consolidate their position. More importantly, the whole club shall aim to further entrench the source of our prior successes: our spirit of openness and willingness to get as many people out, enjoying rowing, as possible.



A successful campaign last year led to our promotion to the hallowed courts of League One. The 2016 team was built on a strong foundation of veterans, along with new additions ranging from fresh-faced freshers to finalists.

The season kicked off with a cuppers tie against Wadham. Despite reaching the quarter finals last year, 2016 was sadly not meant to be, with Univ losing the final deciding rubber to spiral out of the competition. This did not dampen our spirits, however, as the league campaign started with optimism with a comprehensive 8-4 win over noisy neighbours Merton. The following matches were won in a similar fashion. A minor blip in the season came in the form of Balliol. Univ could not match the consistency of their players, which led to our first league loss of the season. The league standings at this point showed that Univ needed a win to grasp the trophy away from Balliol. A new partnership in Alex Coker and Will Banks shone during the final match against Teddy Hall, and Univ finished the day with a comfortable 12-0 to win the league.

This result shows real optimism for the future of UCLTC, and we will look to improve our cuppers campaign and retain our league title under the guidance of next year's captain, Felix Duxfield.

# TENNIS

HIRO SHIMAZAKI (2014, BIOCHEMISTRY),  
CAPTAIN



# THE MARTLETS SOCIETY

CHARLES EVANS (2014, CHEMISTRY) AND RACHEL SKOKOWSKI  
(2015, MODERN LANGUAGES) 2016-2017 CO-CONVENORS

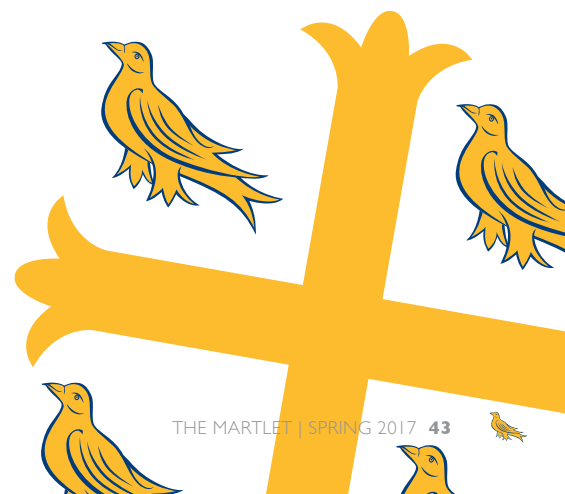
The 2015-16 Martlets Society seminar series, co-convened by Jeffrey Hawke and Harriet Drage, was incredibly fruitful, with nine speakers from Univ's postgraduate student community presenting their research to a broad audience of graduate students and fellows. A testament to the quality of the research and delivery of the talks was the consistently large audience attending each talk: the Master's Lodgings were frequently close to capacity.

The diversity of topics speaks to the diverse nature of scholarship at Univ. Our speakers covered topics ranging from international

relations and law to protein structures and oceanography. Many thanks to John-Lidwell Durnin, Amanda Rojek, Cate Laporte-Oshiro, Katherine Crofts-Gibbons, Eamon Byrne, Paul Cheston, Leticia Villeneuve, Graeme MacGilchrist, and Emma Lawrence for putting together such engaging presentations. We would also like to thank Lady Crewe and Sir Ivor for generously hosting and supporting the talks.

The 2016-2017 Martlets talks are already off to a strong start with Mikolaj Barczentewicz's extremely topical presentation on 'Brexit and the Constitution.' We look forward to

welcoming Jan Buys as our second speaker for Michaelmas term, and to continuing the success of the series in Hilary and Trinity!



# MUSIC AT UNIV



The start of the new academic year has played host to an eclectic mix of musical events. On 26 October UCMS held a Freshers' concert in the Master's Lodgings that encouraged the first years to perform and showcase their talent. Further Master's Lodgings concerts are planned for the coming year; and the committee hopes that the Christmas songs concert, given by the choral scholars on 17 November, left people feeling suitably festive for 'Oxmas.'

28 October saw a more informal event; Open Mic Night, held in the College bar. Plenty of varied performances – including a cameo appearance from Will Yeldham, an Old Member who graduated last year – led to an evening enjoyed by all. The upcoming renovations to the bar will provide an even better space for events such as these to take place.

As well as planned renovations to the bar, the expansion of the College Library to 10 Merton Street is now complete, including a large seminar room with a grand piano. UCMS

are looking forward to hosting a musical inauguration of the new concert space, which will prove invaluable as a concert venue for all college musical events in the future.

The Chapel Choir's has been building on the strengths it gained from a summer tour to Prague and the recording of Advent music at the end of the last academic year. The Martlet Ensemble and the choir gave a candlelit Bach Advent and Christmas Cantata concert together on 22 November in the College Chapel. The annual Christmas Advent carol services took place on 3 December, with mulled wine and mince pies in Hall.

We are very excited to announce the release of the Chapel Choir's new CD. *Dayspring Bright* is a collection of music specific to the Advent season, featuring carols which form the musical backbone of the yearly Advent Carol services at Univ. The disc includes old favourites like *In the bleak midwinter*, *O come, O come Emmanuel* and Benjamin Britten's *A Hymn to the Virgin*, as well as some more modern carols

by composers such as Sally Beamish and Alexander Campkin. We are also delighted to have been able to record a carol by Old Member Jonathan Lane (1977) – a setting of the mediaeval text, *There is no rose of such virtue*. To order your copies, please visit: [www.univ.ox.ac.uk/content/univ-cd](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/content/univ-cd)

We hope that the CD will also give those Old Members who find it difficult to attend events held in Oxford a chance to once again engage with music at Univ.

*Dayspring Bright* marks the beginning of a recording project highlighting the Chapel Choir's singing of seasonal music. The next disc will contain music for Lent and is planned to be both recorded and released in 2017. If you would like to contribute to the costs of making our next CD please contact the Development Office.

**Charlotte Hayton** (2015, History)  
UCMS Publicity Officer, 2016-2017

**Oscar Hansen** (2015, Music), President of UCMS, 2016-17



# DEVELOPMENT OFFICE NEWS

## 2015/16 ANNUAL FUND



Thank you to each of the **2,358** Old Members and friends of Univ who made a gift in 2015-16. Your generosity helped to make last year a record-breaking year for the Annual Fund, raising **more than £1.165m** in total. This will have a powerful impact on the lives of Univ's students over the coming year; providing more hardship assistance,

funding for access, grants for research and support for the College's tutorial teaching, as well as enabling us to develop pioneering schemes such as the new Univ Opportunity Programme and the forthcoming expansion of our Staverton Road Annexe.

Old Members from all countries, subjects and year groups contributed to this fantastic achievement. The 1966 year group celebrated their Golden Anniversary Reunion in September; and marked the occasion with an appeal that has so far raised over **£100,000**, establishing a new 1966 Academic Opportunities Fund. This Fund will provide grants to allow students to take up opportunities they would not otherwise be able to, such as travelling to conduct research or participate in internships during the vacations.

Due to the UK government's recent changes to charity regulations, following the publication of the Etherington Report, University College is required by law as a

registered charity to have your documented permission in order to contact you in the future. It is of the **utmost importance** to the College that we are able to stay in touch with all our Old Members around the world, and to keep you updated on our news, events, updates and campaigns.

Without your documented consent, Univ will soon no longer be legally permitted to send you *The Martlet* magazine, e-newsletters, the *College Record*, invitations to events, fundraising appeals or any other communications. We value our ongoing relationship with you. Please make sure we can stay in complete touch by giving your consent online at: [www.univ.ox.ac.uk/consent](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/consent) or contact the Development Office. Please tick all the boxes that apply, so that we can continue to stay in touch with you, and safeguard Univ's success for the future. Thank you.

**Josie Turner**  
Annual Fund Manager

## YOUNG UNIV



Now in its third year, activity in the Young Univ community continues to go from strength to strength. Since the summer, the Young Univ committee has seen some significant changes. Harry Pasek (2014), who co-ordinated the committee for 2015-16 and worked as Univ's Development Intern,

left us for a post at the British Film Institute but remains a member of the committee. Now leading the committee is recent English graduate Cathy Shafto (2013). We were sad to see the departure of two of our committee members, Nadia Odunayo (2010) and Fabienne Morris (2004), and thank them for the valuable contributions they each made in bringing the Young Univ community together.

Thanks to Cathy and Harry's collaborative efforts, our recent event at CRATE Brewery in Hackney was a great success. It was a relaxed and informal evening which was well attended by Old Members from across the Young Univ cohort. The evening featured a tour of the Brewery, which was both informative and amply supplemented by samples of beer. It was a fantastic chance to catch up with old

friends and meet Unives from other years. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our next trip (also to Hackney), to The Yard Theatre on 8 December.

Young Univ's financial support of College proved incredibly generous last year. In 2015-16, Young Univ made an outstanding contribution to the College's Annual Fund, totalling **£102,411**, representing **almost 10%** of the fund as a whole. We are very grateful to all of the Young Univ members who made a gift to College, at whatever level they were able to, and thank them for participating in community life in this way.

**Cathy Shafto** (2013, English)  
Development Intern



# UNIV'S 20/20 CAMPAIGN MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

In 2006 the College launched an ambitious ten year campaign to re-endow the College. The target was £55m for the purposes of consolidating the tutorial system through the endowment of fellowships, providing bursaries for undergraduates from low-income households, establishing full scholarships for graduates and maintaining the fabric of the College buildings. To the best of our knowledge no other Oxford college aimed so high. I am delighted to report that the College closed the campaign in September 2016 having met, indeed slightly exceeded, its target.

## 20/20 CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

- To raise £55m by 2016
- To consolidate the tutorial system through endowment of fellowships
- Providing bursaries for undergraduates from low-income households
- Establishing full scholarships for graduates
- Maintaining the fabric of the College buildings

This has been a wonderful achievement by Univ's community of Old Members. Altogether 4,628 Old Members made a gift during the ten-year campaign, and most gave frequently and regularly. The proportion who made a contribution in any one year steadily rose over the ten years and reached 35% by 2015. By the end of the campaign, the Annual Fund attracted well over £1m a year in gifts. No other college in Oxford or Cambridge has raised funds on the same scale with such regularity.

A special debt of appreciation is owed to a small group of benefactors, largely anonymous, who provided 'challenge funding', committing themselves to match contributions made by Old Members to the Annual Fund and to our Radcliffe Graduate Scholarship Fund. This proved a powerful incentive to prospective donors. We are particularly grateful, too, to the Old Members who organised our annual Golden Anniversary appeals to those who matriculated 50 years earlier.

The £55m raised by the campaign has enabled Univ to withstand the political



and economic vagaries of the past decade and fulfil its fundamental purpose: to admit exceptionally able and committed students, irrespective of their financial circumstances, and expose them to an intellectually stretching education through the tutorial system. Three major benefits made possible by the campaign make the point. The College can now immediately fill vacancies in the tutorial fellowship even when, as happens quite often, the University fails to make its financial contribution for a few years. Our bursary scheme has been built up to ensure that undergraduates whose household income falls below £52,000 a year do not have to rely on any parental contribution to meet

their living costs at Oxford. The number of fully funded and endowed graduate scholarships offered by the College has increased from 4 in 2006 to 35 in 2016, the largest number of any mixed college.

The College is deeply grateful to its Old Members and Friends for their generosity and loyalty.

Sir Ivor Crewe  
Master





# UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

'We may scatter ourselves across continents, we may forget one another, but Univ has not forgotten or lost touch with us, and has an eschatological plan to bring us all together somehow.' **Revd Alan Cook** (1980, History)

## SAN FRANCISCO DRINKS RECEPTION

**Tuesday 28 March**

A reception in San Francisco kindly hosted by Dr Chris Mammen (1993, Law). Guest speaker is Dr Kurt Giles (1987, Chemistry and Medicine).

## NEW YORK DRINKS RECEPTION

**Tuesday 4 April**

Drinks Reception at the Fridman Gallery, New York, kindly hosted by Alexander Zaslavsky (1992, PPE) with guest speaker Oliver Cox (2006, History) Heritage Engagement Fellow, Radcliffe Humanities - 'Mount Stuart: Scotland's Treasure House Past, Present and Future'

## ELDON SOCIETY SUBJECT DINNER

**Saturday 22 April**

Dinner in Hall for all current and former undergraduates, postgraduates, Fellows and lecturers of Law at Univ and practising lawyers, past and present. Guest speaker is Jonathan Taylor (1986, Law).

## UNIV IN THE CITY

**Wednesday 3 May**

The Great Hall, The Chartered Insurance Institute, London. A speaker and networking series bringing together our community of Old Members in the City. Kindly hosted by Sian Fisher (1981, Law). Guest speaker is John Cummins (1981, History). We encourage you to bring friends, colleagues and work associates with you.

## WILLIAM OF DURHAM CLUB RECOGNITION DAY

**Saturday 20 May**

An annual luncheon for those who have made a legacy or any other planned gift to Univ, and anyone interested in leaving a legacy to the College.

## SUMMER EIGHTS: 1249 SOCIETY RECEPTION & THE MASTER'S RECEPTION

**Saturday 27 May**

Includes a private drinks reception for members of the 1249 Society, followed by a general reception for all members of the College.

For further details about any of these events, please contact Julie Boyle, Alumni Relations Officer [julie.boyle@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:julie.boyle@univ.ox.ac.uk) or visit [www.univ.ox.ac.uk/content/alumni-event-listing](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/content/alumni-event-listing)





# UNIV'S PHILANTHROPY SURVEY

Univ's Development Board (UCDB\*) has completed its independent analysis of the 2016 Philanthropy Survey. Warm thanks to those of you who responded, for your time and thoughtful remarks, and you should each by now have received your copy of the summary report.

The prize draw winner was Sophie Yarde-Buller (1993, Art) who wins two bottles of College wine (which she has very kindly donated back to the College's Christmas raffle!)

The anonymised feedback has been shared with the Master and senior Fellows and is helping to shape the thinking on future development activity.

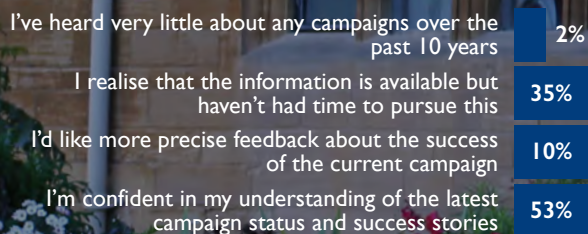
The study team is now inviting alumni who would like to take part in further stages of the research to join a review panel, which will have access to extended survey feedback, conduct its discussions through an online forum, and help to develop the initiatives to be taken forward. If you wish to take part, please email us at [philanthropystudy@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:philanthropystudy@univ.ox.ac.uk)

Paul Adler (1975, Physics)

## SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

HERE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS AND SELECTED QUOTES FROM THE SUMMARY REPORT:

### Q9. HAVE YOU HEARD MUCH ABOUT THE RESULTS OF UNIV'S CURRENT FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN?



*"I think there is a challenge for the College in getting its communications right without overwhelming recipients. There is a value in the College Record type of communication, but it is less important to me than clear statements of strategy and intent. . . I think the College can do more to share the impact evaluations it must have."*

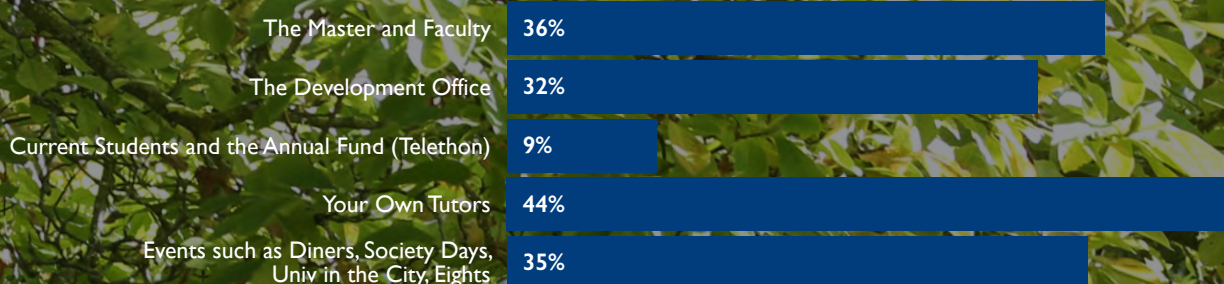
*"I was motivated by enabling Univ to widen access. I have sufficient confidence in the College to spend the money wisely that I do not think gifts need to be restricted."*

*"We need hard information about the challenges which the College currently faces. Because our commitment is genuine, it needs 'real world' info, not just nostalgic memories."*

*"My only criticism is that there are lots of different goals and no main one which can be confusing - sometimes appears from the outside to lack coherence."*



## Q20. COULD UNIV ADD MORE VALUE THROUGH ITS COMMUNICATIONS WITH OLD MEMBERS?



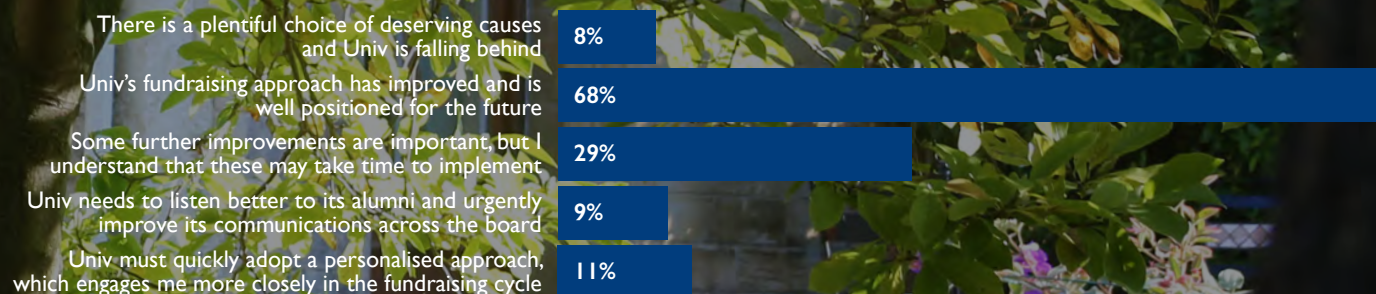
*"I am interested in what OM's are up to in general, but especially those whose lives/ careers might overlap with mine and extend my network. I am also very happy to share my expertise/understanding of the world I'm in with graduates, if it was to help them with their own career selection."*

*"I strongly believe that the way to get engagement of OM's with Univ is to facilitate engagement between the OM's themselves."*

*"It always seems to me that the key to unlocking donations is finding an issue that engages an individual. All individuals are different so anything that can be done to personalise things is good."*

*"I think it might be an idea to have tutors speak to OM's more often about their work. The periodic high-profile lectures etc. are worthwhile, but I don't think most OM's have a good sense of the excellent academic work going on in the College."*

## Q26. HOW SHOULD UNIV'S FUNDRAISING EVOLVE?



*"Raise the profile of how Univ research is contributing to broader society's goals. Univ will always be a bastion of privilege – we can't let this become a reason not to give back to Univ. People want to feel connected with an institution that is helping to improve things."*

*"I will always be loyal to the College. Univ could do more to initiate and promote subject-based groups, naturally formed around the leading tutors of their generation, which might lead to higher donations."*

*"The strategic objectives of the fund-raising activity probably need more clarity... the governance is traditional; consideration should be given to updating this."*

*"Broadening the informal Univ network for Old Members – Univ will benefit from a 'halo effect' if it can effectively promote greater interaction between like-minded Old Members."*

Your feedback will form a vital input to strategic planning for Univ's future. Thank you.  
For more details please e-mail: [philanthropystudy@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:philanthropystudy@univ.ox.ac.uk)





# OLD MEMBER EVENTS

**W**e were delighted to welcome our Old Members to reunions and College celebrations this autumn and winter. We would like to thank everyone who hosted and supported these events, and to all those who attended and helped to make them such a great success. We hope you enjoyed re-connecting with old friends and with the College. Event reports and photographs can be viewed at: [www.univ.ox.ac.uk/event-reports](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/event-reports) and [Pinterest: https://uk.pinterest.com/UnivOxford/](https://uk.pinterest.com/UnivOxford/)



## ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Old Members, Fellows, students and their families gathered for a celebration of Advent by candlelight in Univ Chapel on 3 December 2016, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in Hall.

## THE MARTLET ENSEMBLE CANDLELIT CONCERT

All members of the College were invited to a candlelit concert by The Martlet Ensemble on 22 November in College Chapel. The programme of Bach Advent and Christmas Cantatas included *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* (BWV 62), *Sie werden aus Saba* (BWV 65) and *Wachet auf* (BWV 140), with special guest soloists: Augusta Hebbert, Soprano, Guy Cutting, Tenor and Johnny Herford, Baritone. The Martlet Ensemble was led by Caroline Balding and Univ Chapel Choir were directed by Giles Underwood.

## YOUNG UNIV BREWERY TOUR

Members of Young Univ were invited to join us for a tour of CRATE Brewery in London on 27 October. The event was a great success. It was a relaxed and informal evening which was well attended by Old Members from across the Young Univ cohort.



## ANNUAL SEMINAR

Old Members and their guests were invited to join us for the 12th Univ Annual Seminar and Buffet Supper on 24 November at The Royal Society, London. Guest panellists, including Lord Butler (1957, Classics), Prof. Dr Julian Lindley-French (1976, History), Gilly Lord (1992, Maths), Prof. Anand Menon (1984, History and Modern Languages) and Prof. Marc Stears, discussed 'How can the Government meet the challenges of Brexit?'





## UNIV IN THE CITY

Old Members, their colleagues and friends were invited to join us at the Law Society in London on 11 October for an evening drinks reception as part of our 'Univ in the City' networking series. Guest speaker was David Miles CBE (1978, PPE) of Imperial College, London, member of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee from 2009-2015, interviewed by Gillian Lord (1992, Maths).



## 2007-2009 GAUDY

Matriculants from 2007-2009 were invited to attend their Gaudy on 24 September. The programme included tea in the Master's Lodgings, College tours and a formal dinner in Hall.



## AUTUMN USPGA (GOLF) MEETING

All Univ golfers were invited to the Downs Course at Goodwood Golf Club on 11 October, where Allan Kerr (1970, History) welcomed us to this fine course. The photo shows Allan Kerr presenting Eric Cooper with the winner's cup.



## UNIV ALUMNI DAY 2016

Old Members and their guests were welcomed back to College on 17 September for a special programme of talks, tours and a drinks reception, organised as part of the Oxford Alumni Weekend 2016. Guests enjoyed a tour of the College gardens with Head Gardener, Bruce Taylor; a talk by Sollar Fellow, Dr Lars Hansen and a drinks reception hosted by Dr Mike Nicholson (Emeritus Fellow - Russian, Dean of Degrees) in the Master's Lodgings. A report kindly provided by Revd Alan Cook (1980, History) is available to read on the College website.



## 1966 GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY REUNION

The Class of 1966 celebrated their Golden Anniversary Reunion in College on 10 and 11 September. Activities on the Saturday included lunch at Turl Street Kitchen, a guided tour of the Ashmolean, drinks in the Fellows' Garden and Dinner in Hall. On the Sunday, guests enjoyed breakfast in Hall, a service in the Chapel, a tour of the College with Director of Development William Roth and a barbecue lunch in the Master's Garden. A report kindly provided by Alan Franks (1966, English) is available to read on the College website.

'Considering Philip Larkin's observation about our not being suited to the long perspectives, the weekend was a heartening one, with these products of the twentieth century's allegedly most libertine decade now voyaging into the upper reaches of their own Sixties and beyond.' Alan Franks (1966, English)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our thanks to everyone who contributed an announcement for this issue. If you have news you would like to share in the next issue of *The Martlet*, please e-mail [communications@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@univ.ox.ac.uk) by 22 May 2017.

## 1950s



Nick Schlee's (1952, English) latest publications include *Drawing to Painting*, featuring 130 or so full colour plates of his vibrant drawings and paintings. [www.nickschlee.co.uk](http://www.nickschlee.co.uk)



We were delighted and honoured to welcome Univ Old Member and Honorary Fellow **Prof. Stephen Hawking** (1959, Physics) to College on 15 November 2016. Professor Hawking met current Physics students, Fellows and staff – and very kindly indulged in a 'selfie' or two.



Geologist and geophysicist, Univ Honorary Fellow **Lord Oxburgh KBE, FRS, HonFREng** (1953, Geology), a member of the Parliamentary Advisory Group on Carbon Capture and Storage, discussed 'Lowest Cost Decarbonisation for the UK' in October as part of the Oxford Energy term-time talks at the School of Geography and the Environment.

## 1960s



Foundation Fellow **Edward Scott** (1960, PPE) has been awarded the 9th BNP Paribas prize for individual

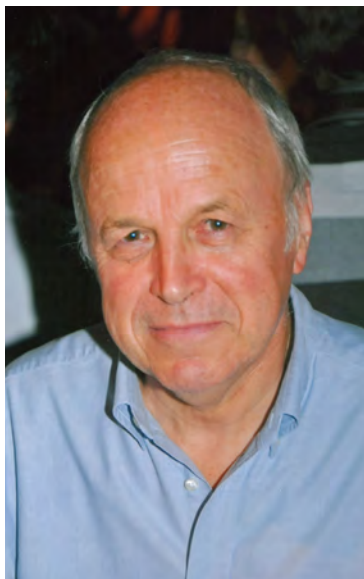
philanthropy. Mr Scott received The Grand Prize 2016 for his effective policy-led and campaigning work in areas such as poverty relief, third-world debt reduction, the fight against AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis as well as autism research and treatment.



**Martin Davis** (1962, Law) has written about a three-week walk on the Voie de Vézelay in September this year; and since published the illustrated paperback, *Notes in the Slow Lane* on Amazon.com – also available as an eBook via Blurb.co.uk.



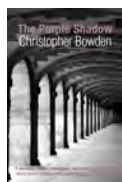
**Martin Weitz** (1968, PPP) has written a new thriller *The Elena Text*, published 26 January 2017 – the first volume in *The Moses Frank Trilogy*. Novelist Ashley Stokes calls it 'upmarket Dan Brown'.



**Dr David Vaughan** (1968, Geology), Research Professor of Mineralogy at the University of Manchester, has achieved the rare distinction of being elected a Foreign Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, that country's national academy. David is the leading international authority on metal sulphide minerals, key materials for the Canadian economy and natural environment, and has played a major role in establishing the field of molecular environmental science which integrates research on the mineralogical, geochemical and biological systems of the Earth's surface at the molecular scale. Dr Vaughan was a research student at Univ and the first non-American President of the American Mineralogical Society.



# 1970s



**Christopher Bowden** (1971, Modern History) has published his fifth novel, *The Purple Shadow*, a literary mystery set in Paris and London, with glimpses of the film and theatre worlds

of the 1930s and the art world of today. 'An intriguing literary tale with a well-drawn cast of characters,' says *Lovereading*; 'a compelling read,' declares *The Bookbag*.



**Dr Nick Smith** (1976, English and Education) published a novel on 30 December called *Drowned Hogg Day*, reflecting on the events of 30 December 1816 (the Shelley marriage) and 30 December 1916 (Rasputin's murder).



**The Right Hon Philip Hammond MP** (1974, PPE) was named Chancellor of the Exchequer by incoming Prime Minister Theresa May. Mr Hammond was foreign secretary under David Cameron from 2014 to 2016, having previously served as defence and transport secretaries. He replaced George Osborne.



**Prof. Sir Simon Wessely** (1978, Medicine) will be taking up the unique and prestigious role of Regius Professor of Psychiatry at King's College London from 1 February 2017. Sir Simon trained at the Maudsley and is now Chair of Psychological Medicine at the IoPPN, Co-Director of the King's Centre for Military Health Research and President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. His main interests are the boundaries between medicine and psychiatry and military health.

# 1980s



**Prof. Katharine Ellis** (1982, Music), has been elected to be the next 1684 Professor of Music at Cambridge – a highly prestigious position. The Professorship of Music was founded in 1684, and is one of the oldest professorships at Cambridge.



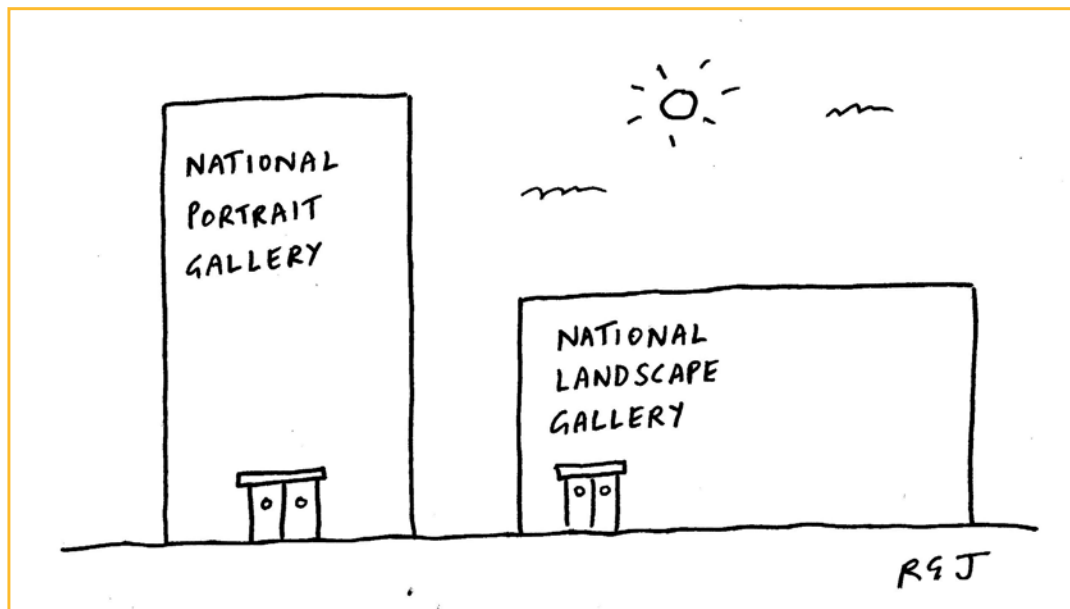
**Prof. Anand Menon** (1984, History and Modern Languages), wrote an article 'Arguing with the EU' for *Prospect* magazine on 14 July. Professor

Menon, a former JCR President, is Professor of European Politics and Foreign Affairs at King's College London and Director of the UK in a Changing Europe Initiative.



**Lord Wood of Anfield** (1986, PPE), former adviser to Gordon Brown, spoke to fellow Univ alumnus **Nick Robinson** (1983, PPE) about the 'trauma' of leaving Number 10 at the end of the Prime Minister's tenure on BBC Radio 4 *Today* on 13 July.





**Richard Jolley** (1986, PPE) was presented with the award for Joke Cartoonist 2016 at the Cartoon Art Trust awards. Richard is a freelance cartoonist for *Private Eye*, the *Spectator* and the *Mail on Sunday*, amongst others. This award obviously eclipses David Low's mere knighthood and makes him Univ's highest achieving cartoonist of all time.



Former Univ Junior Dean **Pireeni Sundaralingam** (1986, Experimental Psychology) has been awarded a Salzburg Global Fellowship in the cognition of creativity, in addition to a fellowship at the Exploratorium Museum in climate change understanding. Her work as a poet appeared this year in *American Poetry Review*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, and others and has been selected for the Best New Poets 2016 anthology (University of Virginia Press). She is a founding member of the 'Vision & Content' committee, and currently lead strategist on creativity and decision-making, for the newly announced United Nations Museum of Humanity.



**Simon Talling-Smith** (1987, Economics and Engineering) has been appointed CEO of private airline Surf Air Europe. Mr Talling-Smith worked for British Airways for 22 years, latterly as chief executive for the Americas, followed by a two-year stint at Silicon Valley deals site TravelZoo, where he revived search engine Fly.com.

## 1990s



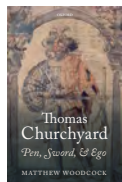
Award-winning theatre director, writer, poet and teacher, **Jake Murray** (1990, English) directed *Strindberg's Women* at Jermy Street Theatre, London, from 2-26 November 2016. Jake was Associate Artistic Director at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester 2001-8.

Univ Old Members **Julian Glover OBE** (1991, History), lately Special Adviser to the Prime Minister; and **Eleanor Wolfson OBE** (née Shawcross) (2001, History), lately Deputy Chief of Staff to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, received OBEs for political and public service, in the Prime Minister's Resignation Honours. **Julian Glover** (1991, History) has been appointed the Director of the 2017 Wolfson Prize for Economics. This £250,000 prize will be offered for the best new and practical idea for funding and maintaining roads. The prize was won in 2014 by David Rudlin, assisted by **Nicholas Falk** (1961, PPE) from their company URBED (Urbanism and Environmental Design). Julian Glover was advisor to Patrick McLoughlin, the transport secretary until the summer, where he helped shape the creation of Highways England and the Road Investment Strategy. He is also the author of a new biography of the great engineer Thomas Telford, published in January 2017.





The French translation of **Carellin Brooks'** (1993, English) novel, *One Hundred Days of Rain*, was published last autumn in Canada, and will be published in the spring in Europe with Les Allusifs.



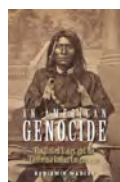
**Dr Matthew Woodcock** (1995, English) has published a new book called *Thomas Churchyard: Pen, Sword, and Ego* (Oxford University Press). [global.oup.com/academic/product/thomas-churchyard-9780199684304?cc=gb&lang=en](http://global.oup.com/academic/product/thomas-churchyard-9780199684304?cc=gb&lang=en) 'Soldier; courtier; author; entertainer; and amateur spy, Thomas Churchyard (c.1529-1604) saw action in most of

the principal Tudor theatres of war; was a servant to five monarchs, and had a literary career spanning over half a century during which time he produced over fifty different works in a variety of forms and genres. Churchyard's struggles to subsist as an author and soldier provides an unrivalled opportunity to examine the self-promotional strategies employed by an individual who attempts to make a living from both writing and fighting, and who experiments throughout his life with ways in which the arts of the pen and sword may be reconciled and aligned.'

Work began in August on a £60m scheme to transform Oxford University's Iffley Road site into a 'globally competitive' sports centre. The initial phase will see an £8.5m indoor sports hall built next to the Sir Roger Bannister running track. The sports hall will be named after **Dr Acer Nethercott** (1996, Philosophy and Physics), who died in 2013. He coxed the University in the Boat Race three times and won silver in the Beijing Olympics.



**Benjamin Markovits** (1997, English) won the 2016 James Tait Black Memorial Prize for his sixth novel, *You Don't Have to Live Like This*. He was presented with the £10,000 prize at a ceremony at the Edinburgh international book festival on 15 August.



**Prof. Benjamin Madley** (1994, MSt in History) is Associate Professor of History and Chair of American Indian Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. He recently received the 2016 Heyday History Award for his new book, *An American Genocide: The United States and the California Indian Catastrophe, 1846-1873* (Yale University Press). Professor Madley will present a public book talk at Oxford University's Rothermere American Institute at 4pm on 7 March 2017.



**Venetia Welby's** (1999, Classics) debut novel *Mother of Darkness* will be published by Quartet Books in February 2017. 'A lyrical, wry and darkly comic debut that navigates the no man's land of loss, addiction and religious zeal, *Mother of Darkness* is a dazzlingly original work from an unmistakeable new voice.'



DPhil graduates **Dr Leonardo Raznovich** (1998, Law) and **Dr James Reeve** (1999, Physical Chemistry), who met at Univ in 1999 and have been together since then, celebrated their same sex marriage in Argentina in 2012. They are currently living in the Cayman Islands where they recently won a ground breaking case on immigration. Dr Raznovich is now a legal resident of the Cayman Islands and his next project is to launch a socio-legal research in 10 countries in the Caribbean region (all former British colonies) that still criminalise homosexuality. Dr Raznovich has managed to gather the logistical support of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the financial support of the International Bar Association and the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Read more at: [www.caymanreporter.com/2016/07/25/landmark-decision-iat-rules-raznovichs-favour/](http://www.caymanreporter.com/2016/07/25/landmark-decision-iat-rules-raznovichs-favour/)





**Dr Andrew Zawacki** (1994, English) was recently awarded a poetry fellowship by The Howard Foundation, to complete his new manuscript, 'Unsun : f/1.1'. Awarded every five years to a trio of mid-career poets, the \$33,000 fellowship released Zawacki from teaching at the University of Georgia, where he is Associate Professor of English and former Director of the Creative Writing Programme. While living in Nantes, France, with his family this year, he is also translating Pierre Bergounioux's récit *B-17 G* and continuing to work on a hybrid photo-parose project about Parisian graffiti. His latest translation, of poet Sébastien Smirou, *See About: Bestiary*, is due from La Presse / Fence Books in spring 2017. Zawacki was assisted in completing the volume by translation fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Centre National du Livre.

## 2000s



A startup co-founded by **Dr Mark Catherall** (2003, Engineering) won a research and development competition recently to receive funding from the Government. Canopy Simulations provides simulations to F1 and other motorsports teams through a cloud-powered web platform. [www.canopsimulations.com](http://www.canopsimulations.com)

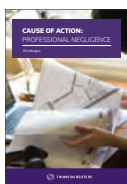


**Dr Oliver Cox** (2006, History) has been appointed as the University of Oxford's inaugural Heritage Engagement Fellow, responsible for developing collaborative projects with UK and international heritage organisations, and for managing the University's strategic partnership with the National Trust. He was interviewed recently for Oxford's *Alumni Voices* podcast series and discussed 'Capability' Brown on BBC Radio 4's Broadcasting House on 21 August.



*Life According to Saki*, directed by **Jessica Lazar** (2009, English), won the coveted 2016 Carol Tambor Award, the highest honour at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The play is due to have a New York run in February/March 2017.

## 2010s



**Eric Morgan** (2005, Law) is currently practising law in Toronto, Canada at Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP. Carswell has recently published his first book, *Cause of Action: Professional Negligence*. The book examines the legal elements as well as the practical steps involved in professional negligence claims.



**Stefan Lachowycz** (2010, DPhil Earth Sciences) has received a Fulbright-Lloyd's of London Scholar Award to conduct research in the USA on one of the world's most esteemed and selective scholarship programmes.

DPhil work on 'Pulse of mid-Pleistocene volcanism in Ethiopia at the dawn of modern humans' from Univ alumnus **Will Hutchison** (2011, DPhil Earth Sciences), now a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at St Andrews University, has been published in *Nature Communications*. Will also received support for his fieldwork from Univ.



**Julia Gottwald** (2012, MSc Neuroscience), PhD Candidate in the Department of Psychiatry at Cambridge has, with her PhD supervisor Professor Barbara Sahakian, written a popular science book on hot topics in neuroscience. *Sex, Lies, & Brain Scans: How fMRI reveals what really goes on in our minds* will be published in January by Oxford University Press. [global.oup.com/academic/product/sex-lies-and-brain-scans-9780198752882?cc=gb&lang=en&](http://global.oup.com/academic/product/sex-lies-and-brain-scans-9780198752882?cc=gb&lang=en&)



**Harriet Rawson's** (2012, DPhil Earth Sciences) recent thesis paper sets the scene for the first results for the Department of Earth Science's Deep Volatiles work in Chile (a NERC funded five year research programme: Volatiles, Geodynamics and Solid Earth Controls on the Habitable Planet). Harriet's work reveals evidence for a new process deep within the Earth influencing the chemistry of lavas at the planet's surface. Harriet received support from Univ for her fieldwork.



# DON'T MISS THE BOAT



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL OLD MEMBERS

Due to recent changes to charity regulations, University College is required by law to have your documented permission in order to contact you in the future. It is of the utmost importance to the College that we are able to stay in touch with all our Old Members around the world, and to keep you updated on our news, events, updates and campaigns.

Without your documented consent, Univ will soon no longer be legally permitted to send you invitations to events and keep you up to date with our news and fundraising appeals.

Don't miss the boat. Please make sure we can stay in touch by giving your consent at **[www.univ.ox.ac.uk/consent](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/consent)**

If you have any questions, please contact the Development Office on +44 (0)1865 286208 or [development@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@univ.ox.ac.uk)

**[www.univ.ox.ac.uk/consent](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/consent)**



**UNIV**  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD



## A WALK AROUND MAIN QUAD WITH ANN PECK

JOB TITLE HOUSEKEEPER  
DEPARTMENT DOMESTIC BURSARY  
YEAR JOINED UNIV 1985

### What does your role involve?

I supervise the scouts, I check the conference rooms are ready, I train all the scouts on the room standards.

### What you enjoy most about your job?

I've seen such an improvement in the rooms. When I first came here it was iron beds and blankets, and everything was mix and match. I came here as a scout, then I worked in the SCR, from there I was in charge of the Hall and from the Hall I went on to be a Housekeeper.

### Do many of the students get homesick?

Maybe some of the first years. They're quite timid when they first arrive. By the second year they've got their confidence and they're a typical student!

### What has been your biggest challenge since you joined Univ?

The biggest challenge last year was getting the new Goodhart up and running, getting everything ready for the conferences, so I was running around. I had to get all the kettles and enough linen to cope with the B&Bs. I didn't think that we would have so many bookings – it did take off quite well.

The summer schools come in July and August. There are three different groups from the USA, here for six weeks – SMU, SMU Law and the University of Virginia. Two weeks after that we have the Hosei group from Japan and City University of Hong Kong, but the Americans have been coming here the longest. It's great that they want to come back here year after year.

### What does Univ mean to you?

Univ is my life. The one thing that struck me when I first came here – and I was very shy when I first arrived – was that everyone made you feel part of a family.

## Q&A

### Any highlights?

One of my highlights was meeting the Queen when we celebrated the 750th anniversary of the College. I was in charge of the Hall at that time. The Queen came for lunch and afternoon tea and I had my photograph taken with her. I also served President Clinton and Harold Wilson, and I was here when Princess Alexandra came to a Feast. They are highlights of my life and I will never forget them.

I have worked for five Masters – Lord Goodman was my first, then Kingman Brewster, John Albery, Lord Butler and now Sir Ivor Crewe.

### What is favourite part of the College?

The Chapel, because of the stained glass windows. I like the grounds as well – all the gardens are really nice.

### How will you be spending your retirement?

I would like to have a craft shed. I like crocheting, and I want to have a go at picture making. I recently crocheted a lot of teddy bears and sold some of them – and the war heroes benevolent fund asked if I would be interested in making some for them.

### Tell us something about yourself that not many people know.

I've got 16 grandchildren and so many great grandchildren I've lost count of them... and another one on the way!







# EVENT LISTING

## 2017

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Monday 20 March  
**HONG KONG DINNER**

Friday 24 March  
**SINGAPORE DINNER**

Tuesday 28 March  
**SAN FRANCISCO DRINKS RECEPTION**

Wednesday 29 March - Monday 3 April  
**UNIV CHAPEL CHOIR TOUR TO FLORENCE**

Tuesday 4 April  
**NEWYORK DRINKS RECEPTION**

Friday 21 April  
**INTERCOLLEGIATE GOLF**

Saturday 22 April  
**ELDON SOCIETY SUBJECT DINNER**

Thursday 27 April  
**MARTLET VOICES: REFLECTIONS & PRAYERS**

Wednesday 3 May  
**UNIV IN THE CITY**

Sunday 7 May  
**MARTLET ENSEMBLE CONCERT**

Monday 8 May  
**UNIV ACCESS LECTURE**

Monday 8 May  
**USPGA (SPRING) MEETING**

Sunday 14 May  
**CHOIR REUNION**

Saturday 20 May  
**WILLIAM OF DURHAM CLUB ANNUAL  
RECOGNITION DAY**

Saturday 27 May  
**SUMMER EIGHTS  
1249 SOCIETY RECEPTION  
THE MASTER'S RECEPTION**

Saturday 10 June  
**PRAGUE DINNER**

For event enquiries, please contact Julie Boyle,  
Alumni Relations Officer: [julie.boyle@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:julie.boyle@univ.ox.ac.uk)  
or visit [www.univ.ox.ac.uk/alumni-event-listing](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/alumni-event-listing)



# THE YOUNG UNIV GALLERY

Over the past months, the College has created a photographic record of almost 50 Old Members aged 35 or under called The Young Univ Gallery. The gallery highlights many of the important, unusual and impressive journeys taken by our young alumni. All of the portraits will be on display in College from March 2017. The project aims to inspire current and prospective students by showing the wide range of paths open to them on leaving College. All of the portraits will also be on display on a dedicated website, along with extensive biographies, interviews and a short film about the project. We hope everyone will be inspired by The Young Univ Gallery.

