



THE MARTLET

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

ISSUE 9 | SPRING 2019

UNDER THE DOME

Theatres of Hope

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

MAKING WATER WORK

Smart handpumps saving lives

UNITED NATIONS

Shaping attitudes to education

I'M GONNA BE (4,000 MILES)

Istanbul to Vienna and back

From the Editor

Welcome to the spring 2019 issue of *The Martlet*, the magazine for all members of University College Oxford – past, present and future.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to this issue. In particular, my colleague Dr Robin Darwall-Smith, College Archivist, for compiling the *In Memoriam* section, Ariane Laurent-Smith and Justin Bowyer, for their copy-editing and proof-reading assistance, and Charles New at B&M Design & Advertising for his fantastic design work.

I hope that you will enjoy everything that this issue has to offer. If you have any suggestions for future articles, or any comments, please email communications@univ.ox.ac.uk.

Our next issue will include features celebrating forty years since women were first admitted to the College. In the meantime, keep an eye out on the College's website, e-news and social media for details of activities taking place throughout the year to mark the occasion.

Sara Dewsbery

Communications Officer



40th anniversary logo designed by Issy Davies (2016, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History)

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Cover image: *The Jungle*, West End production, Photo by Marc Brenner

A large print version of this magazine is available on request.

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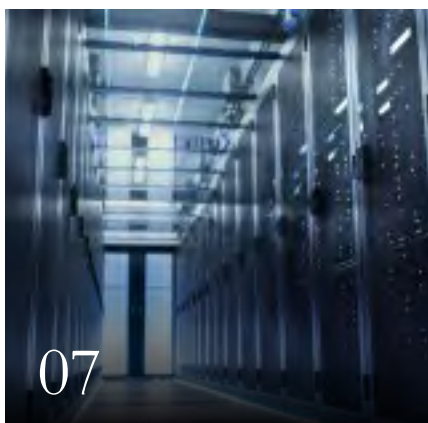
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I'll cherish Univ and thank the Marshall Scholarships for the rest of my life.”

Philip Power

“Don’t be afraid of chasing after your dreams, and don’t listen to anyone who says you won’t succeed.”

Skye McAlpine



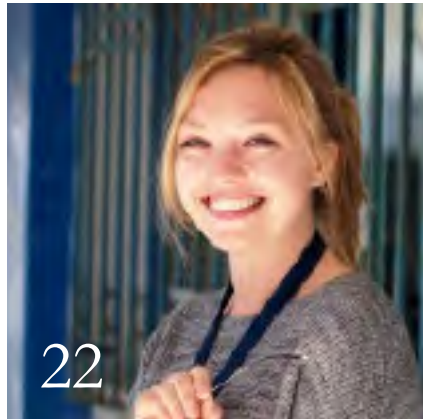
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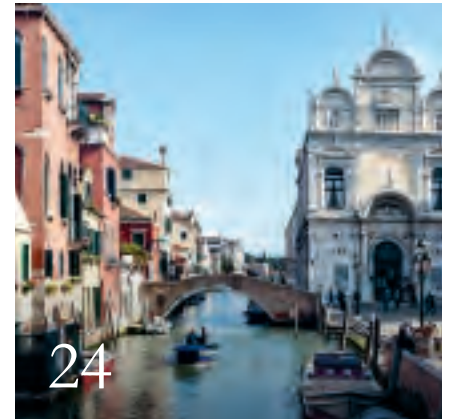
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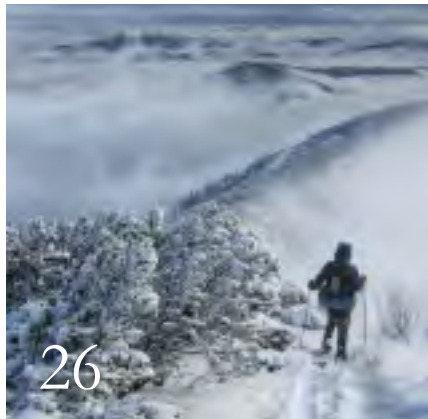
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“Borders have grown between us, and art can be used to bridge that gap.”

Joe Robertson



From the Master

Sir Ivor Crewe reflects on the modernisation and diversification of the History and English degree curriculum.



One of the offences on the current charge sheet for Oxbridge is that the academy has been infected by political correctness, notably by conceding to pressure from a radical minority of students to “de-colonise” the curriculum, starting with the English and History Schools. The press has produced hair-raising stories of reading lists overhauled to ensure the “correct” proportion of books and articles by non-Western authors and the dismantling of the canon of English literature. It is time to set the record straight.

Although Oxford faculties periodically review their curricula, they are in fact slow to adjust the structure and substance of their degree programmes to shifting intellectual currents or the changing enthusiasms of students. This is as it should be; academics are the best placed to sort the wheat of scholarly evolution from the chaff of ephemeral fads, so long as the gatekeepers of the disciplines at Oxford are not confined to elderly men.

It is this evolutionary process, not capitulation to a political lobby, that has recently led to fairly modest changes in the undergraduate History and English degrees. English at Oxford (unlike Cambridge) has never been structured around a “canon”: only Shakespeare is compulsory for Finals Schools, and the large number of optional courses, including more options in post-colonial and other English-language writing by non-British authors, enable students to depart and diversify from the A level straightjacket.

Oxford History has never been as Euro-centric as critics claim. Courses on the history of India, Japan, China and Latin America have been available for decades, although the teachers were often based outside the Faculty of History

“
In paying greater attention to world history students are recognising the global influences on their national history, even in pre-industrial times, not devaluing it.”

(in Oriental Studies, for example). But a syllabus reform five years ago added one course in extra-European history to two in British History and two in European History as a requirement, in order to get students to look beyond the West, which many wished to do. This is a very limited re-balancing of the degree, and one might argue too limited.

In paying greater attention to world history students are recognising the global influences on their national history, even in pre-industrial times, not devaluing it. They are more aware than earlier generations that England was never a “fortress built by Nature itself against infection and the hand of war” even if it is “[a] precious stone set in a silver sea”.

Demographic factors are at play. When freshers come to the Master’s Lodgings to sign the College Register what particularly strikes me is the large and growing number of our British undergraduates who have at least one parent born abroad or who have already lived in another country. Their parents have worked for international companies and agencies. The fluidity of national boundaries and the interdependence of countries is part of their life. They see no contradiction between being both British and citizens of the world. Their wish to globalise the curriculum is natural and legitimate.

Sir Ivor Crewe

Your view

Letters, emails, posts and tweets.

“Awesome article and photos in @UnivOxford magazine about #greenland #skaergaard fieldwork. @sam_onEarth looking particularly heroic!”

@WillHutchGeo



Jim Ray, the man behind the music room

I got to know Jim while I was up at Oxford. It was not a good time for a West Pointer to be at Oxford. There was still a lot of anger at the way that Eisenhower had handled the Suez crisis. Our impression was that he had encouraged us to face up to Nasser, only to turn against us at the last minute when it would do maximum damage to our position. I suspect that the full story was more complex than that, but this was how a lot of people saw it at the time. The decision by the US Administration to strongly encourage the South Vietnamese to reject the possibility of peace in Vietnam was viewed by a majority of undergraduate and postgraduate students as an act of unprincipled meddling.

Most of the US contingent who were up at Oxford at the time were very much against any involvement in Vietnam, which must have added to Jim's sense of isolation. I was a member of the OTC at the time, which gave us something in

common, but to my regret, I never felt that I got to know him at all well.

When I heard that he had been killed in Action in Vietnam, like many of my Univ contemporaries, I was very upset by the news.

Colin Bright (1958, Maths)

Although I never met Jim, our lives intersected in some very important ways. I was, and continue to be, impacted personally by his accomplishments at both West Point and Univ.

West Point Class of '59 received six Rhodes Scholarships and the side effect of that was that the Naval Academy Superintendent and other Navy higher-ups thought the Naval Academy should at least be represented. That led to myself and Andy Sundberg from the USNA class of '62 being asked to apply and ultimately going up to Oxford in 1963. Sundberg went to New College.

In my first year at Univ I had David Stout as an economics tutor who encouraged me, based on Jim's record, to focus on economics and pursue a first in PPE and take a third year under the Rhodes Scholarship which Jim did as well.

Long story short, I did what David Stout proposed and was able to achieve an "economists first" which, among other things, carried me into the West Wing of the White House and many other many interesting stops along life's journey.

Thanks for following up on Jim. I have often wanted to know more about Jim and his life of service dedicated to the pursuit of excellence.

The Hon John Knubel (1963, PPE), former Assistant Secretary and Chief Financial Officer at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.



Just a quick note to say how lovely it was to read Professor Mark Smith's article on Osiris in the latest edition of *The Martlet*. I have very fond memories of my time at Univ and particularly Professor Smith who was so patient with his Egyptology undergraduates, and whose flashes of dry humour always brightened an afternoon of struggling through the more impenetrable passages of Graeco-Roman hieroglyphs.

Even though I'm now a lawyer, I can't imagine a more enjoyable grounding for a career in law and I very much have Professor Smith and the Egyptology tutors to thank for helping to nurture a lifelong love of mythology. My bookshelves are currently occupied by Norse, Greek and Japanese tales but the article was a super reminder to fish out the Egyptian texts!

Harriet Fielding (née Dillistone), (2006, Egyptology)

If you would like to share your view:

Email: communications@univ.ox.ac.uk

Write to us at: University College Oxford, OX1 4BH

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[t UnivOxford](https://twitter.com/UnivOxford)

Fellows' news

New appointments.

College appointments

Tutorial Fellows



Professor Joel Hamkins has been elected as our new Sir Peter Strawson Fellow in Philosophy. Professor Hamkins is Professor of

Logic at Oxford. His main research interest lies in mathematical and philosophical logic, particularly set theory, with a focus on the mathematics and philosophy of the infinite. He was previously Professor at the Graduate Center at City University of New York (CUNY).

Supernumerary Fellows



Professor Sarah Harper, CBE, has been elected as our new Supernumerary Fellow in Gerontology. Professor Harper is

Co-Director of the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing which she founded in 1997. She is a Director and Trustee of the UK Research Integrity Office and a member of the Board of Health Data Research UK.



Professor Philip Stier has been elected as our new Supernumerary Fellow in Physics. Professor Stier is Professor of Atmospheric

Physics at Oxford, where he heads the sub-department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics as well as the Climate Processes research group.

Junior Research Fellows



Dr Roly Armstrong has been elected as our new JRF in Organic Chemistry. Dr Armstrong was previously a Postdoctoral

Research Associate at the University of Bristol, investigating new methods for stereoselective olefination. His current research is directed towards developing new transition-metal catalysed processes for enantioselective C–C bond formation.



Dr Daniel Luban has been elected as our JRF in Politics, Political Theory and International Relations. He is especially interested

in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century European social thought and in theories of capitalism and economic order. He has also worked as a political journalist and continues to write about politics and ideas for a general audience.



Jack Parlett has been elected as our Stevenson JRF in English. His research focusses on the literary output of Fire Island

throughout the twentieth century. His research seeks to explore how queer space is constructed whilst also considering the complex relationship between the utopian and the nostalgic.



Dr Ann-Katrin Gill has been elected as our Lady Wallis Budge JRF in Egyptology. Dr Gill was previously a research

assistant on The Tale of Sinuhe project at Oxford and a junior curator at the Museo Egizio in Turin. Her research focusses on ancient Egyptian religion, in particular funerary and ritual texts.



Dr Marieke Oudelaar has been elected as our Stevenson JRF in Biochemistry. Dr Oudelaar's research focusses on the

structural organisation of DNA inside human cells – in particular the use, development and computational analysis of Chromosome Conformation Capture techniques to explore the three-dimensional structure of DNA.



William Roth, Development Director and Fellow, left Univ at the end of January

to take up a senior position in the Development Office at the University of Toronto.



Martha Cass has been appointed as Interim Director of Development.

Martha worked at Univ as a Senior Development Executive (Major Gifts Manager) between 2013 and 2016.

You can read more Fellows' news in the *University College Record*.

Banking and Big Data

Understanding central bank communication with machine learning.



A key goal of central banks in the modern economy is to manage market expectations of future economic conditions. Increasingly central banks rely on public communication as a policy instrument for affecting expectations. There is also substantial evidence that communication drives the interest rates that agents in the economy are willing to lend to each other. Surprisingly, these effects arise even for long-term (e.g. ten-year) market rates.

The main data that communication events generate is unstructured text: minutes of policy meetings, press conferences, and public speeches are all delivered via natural language, not quantitative indicators. The traditional empirical tools that economists use are not well-suited for such data, which limits our ability to understand the effects of communication.

Modern machine learning methods developed outside of economics provide a way to address this challenge. So-called topic models allow one to estimate the fraction of time each document in a corpus spends discussing different themes. For example, one policy speech might spend 10% of its time discussing inflation

“Incorporating tools for big data in economics can yield important policy insights.”

and 20% of its time discussing labour markets, while in another the percentages are reversed. This allows researchers to decompose central bank communication into a variety of interpretable signals, and to identify which ones are most responsible for driving market reactions.

An example of how the marriage of machine learning with unstructured text can provide new insights is recent work with the Bank of England that studies the market impact of its quarterly Inflation Report, which summarises the Bank's views on future economic conditions. This is a major source of news for markets, and on the days that the Inflation Report is published there are large changes in short- and long-run market interest rates. But the important question is: why?

Even after controlling for the effect of quantitative forecasts, the narrative information in the Report explains substantial changes in interest rates. But the

information that drives short-run rates is completely distinct from the information that drives long-run rates. Topics related to the level of economic conditions drive the former, while those relating to the uncertainty in conditions drive the latter. The uncertainty channel is a novel effect, which arguably could only be measured with machine learning.

This is just one example of how incorporating tools for big data in economics can yield important policy insights. The future will likely produce many more.

Dr Stephen Hansen is Schröder Family Tutorial Fellow in Economics at Univ and Associate Professor of Economics at Oxford. He is also a Fellow of the Alan Turing Institute.

*Further reading:
bit.ly/univ0247
bit.ly/univ0248*

The art of composition

A Univ conversation about music, composition and expression.

Dr Matthew Cheung-Salisbury interviewed former music scholar Lewis Coenen-Rowe about what it takes to be a composer, for *The Martlet*.

What have you been up to since Univ?

I've been in full time education for the past few years. I did a Master's in composition at St Hilda's and then moved to London to do a composition PhD at King's College, focusing on issues of interpretation and communication in contemporary classical music. Around this time, I started getting very interested in opera and have since written three of them. I simultaneously moved to Glasgow to take up a teaching position in the music department at the university, where I'm still working now.

What attracted you to composition in the first place?

It was originally because I wanted to avoid practising the piano pieces I was supposed to be learning, so I would improvise things instead. These started to turn into notated compositions, which I would play to myself. As a relatively quiet and reserved person, I think I was attracted to the way that composing seemed to offer a way of expressing myself outside of language. In my first year at Univ I was suffering a bit from performance anxiety, so I increasingly turned to composition and started writing more and more things for other people to play. I enjoyed the process of composing – combining broad aesthetic goals with detailed logical processes – but I also enjoyed the fact that the process of composing took place in a private unpressurised environment. I still do.

What's your most recent project?

The last big thing was my third opera, which I collaborated on closely with a librettist (for the first time). It's called *Last Thursday*. It concerns an upper-class couple and their two servants trying to remember what it is that happened last Thursday, the

mystery of which continuously deepens without a real answer ever arising. It's a kind of farce with deliberately exaggerated characters, but it also tries to deal with issues of class and power relations. The music is half decadent and indulgent and half desolate and empty. It's a chamber opera, performed in a small space with the audience right up close to the performers. I'm increasingly interested in these up-close-and-personal-type performance contexts because it allows you to do very subtle things with music and acting that wouldn't be possible in a bigger space.

What particularly appeals to you about opera as a medium?

There are two main things. Firstly, I find it very stimulating to work with text, narrative, and characters. It provokes me to do

things as a composer that I wouldn't have thought to do otherwise. It also creates this interesting multi-layered effect where the text and music, for example, can interact in lots of different ways: they can try and match each other perfectly or express totally contradictory ideas. Secondly, I increasingly prefer to work collaboratively. Writing operas requires collaborating with a whole creative team – writer, director, set-designer etc. – which brings together a whole set of different ideas and perspectives as well as providing a break from the often-solitary work that composing requires.

Other than penning the next masterwork, what do composers spend their time doing?

I find that if I'm in the middle of writing something, I tend to spend most of my



Dr Matthew Cheung Salisbury is Lecturer in Music at Univ. His broad interests are in the liturgy and sacred music of the late Middle Ages. His research explores the texts and plainsong found in the extant sources of the medieval liturgy, with particular emphasis on transmission and reception.



Lewis Coenen-Rowe (2011, Music) is a composer of opera and chamber music, having written and performed three operas, *Collision* (2016), *The Storm* (2017), and *Last Thursday* (2018), as well as vocal music and incidental music for theatre. He is currently a Teaching Assistant at Glasgow University music department.



time thinking about it even when I'm trying to do something else, so it can be quite hard to get a good work-life balance between composing time and non-composing time. They tend to bleed into each other. I'm currently spending quite a lot of time teaching, which I really enjoy and it pays the bills. I think composing and teaching balance each other out very well. One is solitary, personal, and involves very slow progress; the other is communal, public, and hour-long seminars seem to fly past in no time at all. Aside from this I'm currently writing my own libretto for the first time, so I've been reading a lot of plays as well as doing research into my subject matter, and I'm still trying to learn French (progress here is very slow).

How should universities like Oxford respond to the ongoing challenges faced by music education in schools?

That's a tricky one. A big problem is that when there's reduced provision for music education in schools, it's the people who can afford music education outside of school that end up having a huge advantage when applying to universities. This is already the case, but it's probably going to get worse. It does perhaps mean that universities like Oxford ought to try and take into account more "potential" rather than existing skills and knowledge when interviewing and offering places. Although exactly how "potential" can be recognised is a whole other can of worms.



What would you say to someone thinking of reading music at university?

I'm not sure that I really have any words of wisdom here. Everyone's experiences of university are so different. But I think I would probably tell them to always stay excited and passionate and to be as open as possible to new ideas and experiences. It can be easy to become jaded and see education as a series of essays to be written and hoops to jump through, but for me it's all about discovery, discovering new ideas that challenge you as well as discovering what your own ideas are. Doing a degree is hard work and if that passion for discovery isn't there then I'm not sure how much you'll get out of it.

What is your favourite memory of Univ?

Hard to pick! Singing off the top of the tower with the chapel choir. Going to a bop dressed as a right-angled triangle. Finding that tiny door in 90 High Street...

“

Always stay excited and passionate and... be as open as possible to new ideas and experiences.”



Who inspired you while at Oxford?

I remember being very intimidated by the PhD composers and wishing that I knew as much about music as they did. Now that I know more, it feels less intimidating, but I'm also more aware of all the other things that I don't understand.

What did you learn here that still resonates with you today?

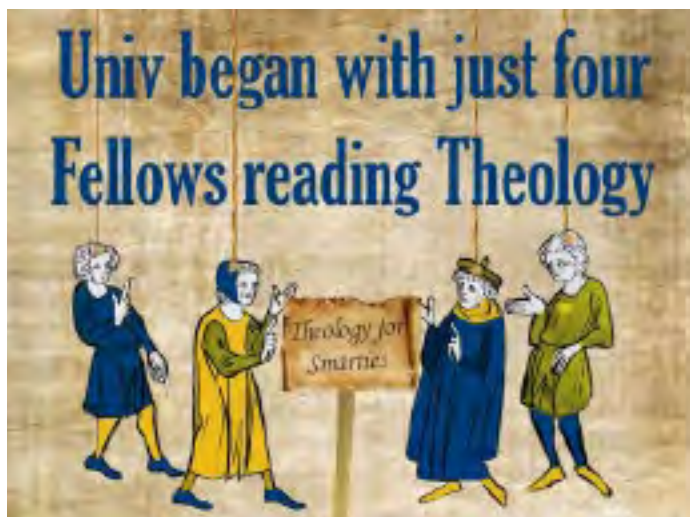
What strikes me most are ways of thinking. How almost everything is interesting if you look at it the right way. How knowledge comes in many different forms. How to get to grips with a puzzle and work through it logically. How to form an argument. These kinds of ways of thinking are the things that I relate most strongly to my time at Univ. I learned a lot of facts and figures too, but learning what to do with them strikes me now as the most valuable thing. It has allowed me to carry on learning under my own steam.

Follow Univ online

4,500

Five fantastic ways to keep up to date with everything that's happening at Univ.

The number of times our Christmas film has been watched. Watch it again at bit.ly/univ0249



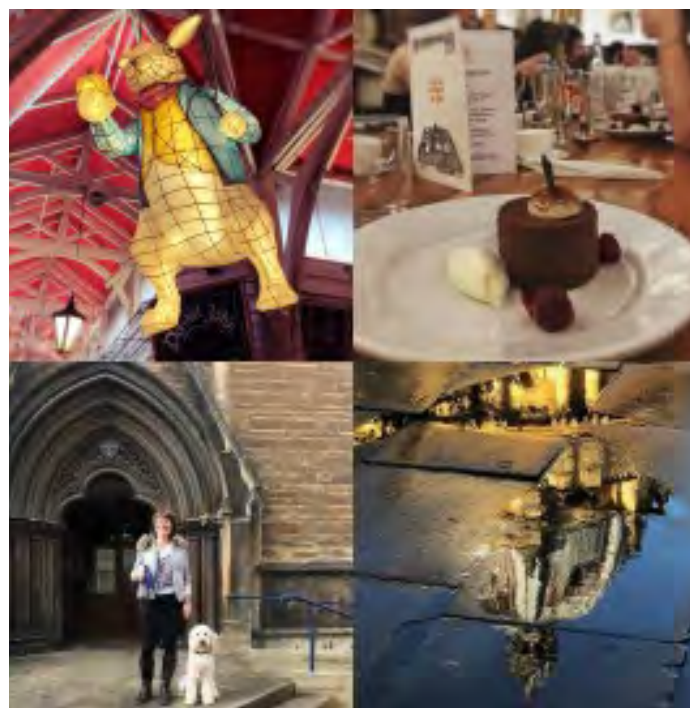
It has been a busy year for Univ and an equally busy one for “Digital Univ”. Our new website was launched at the beginning of 2018 and has gone from strength to strength, with the addition of new sections and functionality. The regularity of news and features publication has increased greatly and covers details of College and alumni life, garden and travel reports, updates from our partner charities and, of course, thanks to our fantastic Library team and Archivist, our popular “Treasure Features.”

We greatly encourage and warmly welcome your input to our News and Features pages. Please contact communications@univ.ox.ac.uk.

We were incredibly proud to have had the site selected for the Web Archive of the Bodleian Libraries, with their curators recognising it for being: “...of lasting research value and worthy of permanent preservation.” Thank you to all that have supported its creation and continued evolution.

And speaking of evolution, the latest substantial addition to the website is the development of a new and comprehensive “Applying to Univ” section. Along with details of Univ’s Outreach work, Open Days and the ambitious Opportunity Programme, this is also where prospective students can find support and encouragement for applying to any top university with the inclusion of an extensive Reading Bank and wide-ranging Resources hub.

On a less academic note we’ve had a lot of fun creating videos for Team Univ at the Town and Gown 10k, the Christmas Film, and the (very) short, (very) light-hearted animated *History of Univ* to promote the 2018 Open Doors event – you can see the latter at bit.ly/univod18.



Our social media channels have also grown; whilst we continue to publish regularly to our 6,500+ followers on Twitter and to Facebook (22,000+ page “Likes” – thank you) the last 12 months have really been the year for Instagram. The number of highly-engaged followers of @univcollegeoxford has grown exponentially and the feedback on content – ranging from historical facts and OM quotes to regular #pictureoftheday posts and some delightful student-generated pictures – has been tremendously encouraging.

Over the coming months we will continue to add Instagram “stories” and evolve the way in which we reflect life at Univ and at Oxford in general. If a picture really is worth 1,000 words then we look forward to publishing volumes two and three of #univ_life over the course of this year.

Justin Bonnyer, Digital Communications Manager

Follow Univ on social media:

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- 📷 @univcollegeoxford
- 📺 bit.ly/univ0250
- 🌐 www.univ.ox.ac.uk

My view of Univ



Fellows' Garden *Watercolour on paper*

I painted this scene following a plein air study in the Fellows' Garden, in the summer of 2018. As an undergraduate student, I spent my Trinity terms in the Library, often choosing seats that overlook the Fellows' Garden. It has always been for me a space of post-exam indulgence and relaxation. As a DPhil student, I like to spend time in the garden in the summer to enjoy the view, read, eat my lunch, or paint. The sense of a hidden, quiet place in the middle of a busy city is why it has always been my favourite part of the College. I painted it after Trinity Term ended, so most of the students had headed home. On that afternoon, I had the garden to myself.

Diana Avadanii (2013, MESC Earth Sciences)
NERC DTP Student - Mineral Physics

🐦 [dianaavadanii](#)

📷 [dianaqowor](#)

See Diana's beautifully illustrated Roger Short Travel Scholarships journal at:
bit.ly/univ0258



College news

A new war memorial, Univ's new research centre in blockchain and Staircase 12 gets a facelift.

Univ in numbers

 6,500+

The number of followers Univ has on Twitter
@UnivOxford (the highest of any Oxford college)

A symbol of reconciliation

In November 1921 a memorial to the members of Univ killed in the First World War was unveiled in our Chapel. There was, however, one name omitted from it. This was Rolf Wilhelm Baron von Seldeneck, our only German casualty in either World War. As at other Oxford Colleges who had lost German alumni, feelings were still too raw at Univ to want to commemorate him.

Rolf had been born in 1890, the youngest child of Wilhelm Rudolf Baron von Seldeneck, and grew up in Karlsruhe. As befitted a well-born young man, Rolf studied at three universities. He was at Munich in the summer semester of 1910, and he also studied at Geneva. He then came up to Univ in October 1911. Our tutorial lists of the time show that Rolf was studying economics. He was just here for a year, and one suspects that Rolf was one of those students who saw his university years as a chance to acquire “polish” and connections, rather than a degree.

While at Univ, Rolf was a member of the so-called “Hanover Club”, which was intended as a forum for furthering Anglo-German friendship (a poignant time for such a thing to be founded), and had been founded by another German at Univ, Alexander von Grunelius.

We do not know what Rolf did on his return to Germany in 1912, but he did join the army during the First World War, and rose to become a Royal Prussian lieutenant in the 1st Baden Leibdragoner Regiment No. 20. Rolf was killed on 24 January 1917, while serving in what is now Latvia. His body was interred at Karlsruhe. Family tradition has it that Rolf, as the baby of the family, was adored by his older sisters, who were deeply affected by his loss.

Thus Rolf disappeared from history. I first came across him myself while writing my history of Univ, and our former porter, James “Dusty” Miller, included him in his register of our war dead. As the centenary of the Armistice drew closer, it was agreed that something definite should be done to remember Rolf, not least because other Colleges had erected monuments to their German war dead.

It was decided that, rather than add Rolf to the existing war memorial, we should give him one of his own, on the wall adjoining it. The memorial was designed, however, to match the older memorial both in its decoration and its lettering. The inscription is the work of our Chaplain, Andrew Gregory, and the memorial was created by Jonathan Rayfield, of Rayfield Stonemasonry.

Rolf's memorial was installed in time for our Remembrance Day commemorations. At the Evensong on 11 November the



names of all Univ men killed in the First World War were read out (including Rolf's), and three wreaths laid in the Ante-chapel, one each for the two World War memorials, and one for Rolf's. We also welcomed a great-nephew of Rolf's, Peter Baron von Holzinger, and his wife Penny, as representatives of his family. Baron von Holzinger was clearly delighted to see his great-uncle remembered at last by his old College.

We hope that members and friends of Univ will call by the Chapel when they are passing through Oxford to see this symbol of reconciliation a century after the end of the Great War.

Dr Robin Darwall-Smith (1982, Classics), College Archivist

 2,200+

The number of people who visited Univ during the Oxford Open Doors event in September

 2,388+

The number of followers we have on Instagram. @univcollegeoxford

 240,000

The number of page views of the Univ website in the last six months

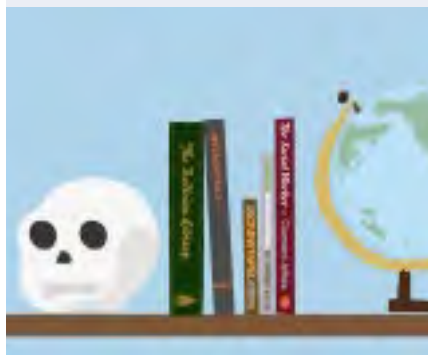


Staircase12 has migrated

Staircase12, the College's digital resource to support 14-18 year-olds as they aim for competitive universities, has had a facelift. The 130+ book suggestions, reviewed by tutors and students, and the hub of over 150 online resources, have a new home on the main Univ website. This will enable us to support even more students to explore their subjects.

Redesigned on every level and fully optimised for mobile use, the Staircase12 move to our main site creates stronger links with our existing information – everything from subjects offered to our Academic A-Z listings – for a richer experience and more informed decision making.

You can read more at bit.ly/univs12



Univ's new Blockchain Research Centre

The Opening Ceremony of the University College Oxford Blockchain Research Centre, headed by Professor Bill Roscoe (1975, Computer Science and Maths), FREng, Senior Research Fellow in Computer Science, was held on 3 October at Univ, bringing together guests from academia, industry, law and investment.

Sir Ivor Crewe, Master of University College Oxford, officially announced the College's new endeavours. He stated: "This is a research centre that will carry out cutting-edge research on blockchain technology that is poised to transform the everyday lives of people in the world. University College, known as the oldest college in the University of Oxford, is at the forefront of advances in new technology."

Professor Bill Roscoe, Director of the

Centre, recounted how the Centre started. "Researching into blockchain convinced us that there were hidden depths in the subject, combining intellectual fascination with real practical benefits. There is much to be discovered." He acknowledged that, although blockchain has some misunderstood negative associations, he anticipated huge potential both for the development of computer science and for practical applications. He firmly believes that with a top-class multi-disciplinary team of researchers the Centre will uncover the exciting possibilities of blockchain technology and its public benefits will come to be appreciated.

Read more about the University College Oxford Blockchain Research Centre at: blockchain.univ.ox.ac.uk

Event news

Memories, movies and a meeting of minds.

£100,000+

The amount the Class of 1968 committed to raise through their Golden Anniversary appeal

“

A gaudy's real delight lies in the rekindling of vivid shared memories of those formative times with old friends.”

Fiona Price (1979, Biochemistry)



1975-1979 Gaudy

All those who matriculated between 1975 and 1979 were invited to attend a Gaudy on 22 September. The programme included afternoon tea, talks, tours, drinks and dinner. Photos from the event can be viewed at bit.ly/univ0260

Class of 1963 College Reunion

The Class of 1963 held a College Reunion on 28 and 29 September to honour 55 years since their matriculation. Our sincere thanks to Giles Bateman (1963, Law), John Collinge (1963, Law), Dr Roy Gordon (1963, Medicine), Professor Hank Gutman (1963, Law) and Ron Jordan (1963, History), who organised the reunion, and to The Hon. Jonathan Davies (1963, Geography), who shared his wonderful colour film footage of Univ from the period.

[Read more at bit.ly/univ0253](http://bit.ly/univ0253)

1968 Golden Anniversary

The Soixante-Huitards celebrated their golden anniversary at Univ on 22 and 23 September. President Bill Clinton (1968, Politics) and John Isaacson (1968, PPE), sent letters which were read aloud at the event. Herbie Knott (1968, PPE) curated a wonderful assembly of photos from the time, and broadcaster Paul Gambaccini (1970, PPE), gave a talk on “Music from the Quad” – a selection of songs recalling the Spirit of ‘68. Special thanks are due to Simon Chester (1968, Law), for his role in helping to organise the weekend.

[Read more at bit.ly/univ0251](http://bit.ly/univ0251)

14th Univ Annual Seminar

On 22 November at The Royal Society London guest panellists, Professor Daniel Freeman and Professor Elaine Fox, and Univ alumna Dr Rachel Massey-Chase (2002, Psychology), discussed: *Mental health challenges among the young: causes and responses*. Read a report of the event by Anya Emmons (2013, Russian and Linguistics), at bit.ly/univ0252



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 14 May
USPGA (Golf) Spring Meeting

Thursday 16 May
Univ Historians' Reunion

Saturday 18 May
William of Durham Annual Recognition Day

Sunday 19 May
Choir Reunion

Thursday 23 May
Univ in the Arts: Music and Conversation with Sophie Solomon, violinist

Saturday 1 June
Summer Eights, 1249 Society and Master's Reception

Saturday 28 September
1984-1987 Gaudy

Sunday 29 September
1969 Golden Anniversary

*For more details on events visit
bit.ly/univ0169*

Development news

An exciting matched funding opportunity.

£1 million+

The amount raised for the 2017-18 Annual Fund

thank you

Supporting the next generation of humanities scholars

Univ has a goal of funding up to five new humanities scholarships through Oxford's new AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership matched funding opportunity. This will build on the 30+ graduate scholarships established in recent years and further enhance our standing as the college of choice for the most outstanding graduates in Oxford.

Professor Karen O'Brien (1983, English), Univ Professorial Fellow and Head of the Humanities Division at Oxford, said of the AHRC bid, "This is an endorsement of our collective commitment to developing the next generation of Humanities scholars."

Matched studentship funding is required to secure a successful bid to the AHRC at a rate of at least 50%. This is in addition to 100% of college fee funding which the College must provide under the existing rules for its AHRC-funded scholars. The cost of a gift to fund 50% of an AHRC studentship is up to £45k in total for all three years of fee liability. Scholarships can include the chosen name of the donor, providing AHRC is also referenced in the title.

The new DTP will give a new generation of the most promising young researchers an innovative and challenging experience which will prepare them to take the wide-ranging expertise, skills and values of the arts and humanities into an equally wide range of careers.

If you have an enquiry about the AHRC DTP matched funding opportunity, please contact: Martha Cass, Interim Director of Development, martha.cass@univ.ox.ac.uk.

“This will...further enhance our standing as the college of choice for the most outstanding graduates in Oxford.”

The impact of a scholarship



“I am incredibly grateful for the scholarship, which has enabled me to undertake my Egyptology DPhil at Oxford, one of the key research centres in the UK for the subject. Receiving this support from Univ was particularly meaningful as I have been at this college since 2012 when I started my undergraduate degree.”

Ellen Jones (2012, DPhil Oriental Studies – Egyptology)
Loughman Scholarship



“I don't think it would have been possible for me to undertake the mammoth task of a DPhil without being fully funded. The scholarship has taken a lot of the pressure off financially and allowed me to focus on my studies.”

Abigail Karas (2018, DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages – Russian Cultural Studies)
Univ-CEELBAS-AHRC Studentship



“Not only has the scholarship allowed me to live in Oxford, it has also helped me finance numerous research trips to conduct essential primary research for my dissertation.”

Sage Goodwin (2017, DPhil History)
Oxford-Urquhart-RAI Scholarship



Gonna fly now...

Our fantastic team of student callers are limbering up for the Univ Telethons in March and June. They are looking forward to speaking to Old Members across the globe, updating you on all the latest on life at Univ today, and seeking your support for the 2018-19 Annual Fund.

The Marshall Plan

Founded by a 1953 Act of Parliament, Marshall Scholarships commemorate the Marshall Plan and were created to strengthen the enduring relationship between the British people and their American counterparts. The 40+ Marshall Scholarships awarded annually enable intellectually distinguished young American citizens to study in the UK, helping Scholars gain an understanding and appreciation of contemporary Britain. The Scholarships provide a minimum of two years of postgraduate funding, and are awarded on the basis of academic merit and leadership and ambassadorial potential.

Since receiving its first Marshall Scholar in 1956, University College has had 34 Scholars in its history. The 35th Scholar matriculated in College in 2018, joining the ranks of distinguished Scholars including:



Dr Rajaie Batniji

(2007, International Relations and Politics) Chief Health Officer and Co-Founder of Collective Health.



Neil Gorsuch

(1992, Law) Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.



Marisa Van Saanen

(2002, International Relations) Litigation Associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.



William Coquillette

(1971, Law) former Partner at Jones Day and Former President of the Association of Marshall Scholars.



Professor Frederick Lamb

(1967, Physics) Professor of Physics and Astronomy Emeritus at the University of Illinois.



Dr Maia Schweizer

(2004, Earth Sciences/ Palaeobiology) Energy Executive in Australia and practicing fine artist.



Mark Daniell

(1977, Law) Founder and Chairman of the Raffles Family Wealth Trust, and author of eight books to date.



Dr Kimberly Marshall

(1982, Music) holds the Patricia and Leonard Goldman Endowed Professorship in Organ at Arizona State University.



Dr Geoffrey Tabin

(1978, PPE) Professor of Ophthalmology and Global Medicine at Stanford University.



Professor Clark Freshman

(1986, PPE) Professor of Law at University of California Hastings.



Dr Phil Lik Mui

(1995, Management), Senior Vice President of Technology at Salesforce.



Joshua Friedman

(1976, PPE) Co-Founder, Co-Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer of Canyon Partners.



Philip Power

(1962, PPE), Founder and President of The Center for Michigan and Founder of HomeTown Communications Network.

“

Even today when I arrive in the UK, I feel like I am returning to the familiar surroundings of a former home. University College was a wonderful place for my experience as a Marshall Scholar and I made many enduring friendships.”

Bill Coquillette

Meet Univ's 35th Marshall Scholar

Olivia Zhao (2018, MPhil Economics) is Univ's 35th Marshall Scholar.

Originally from Overland Park, Kansas, Olivia graduated from MIT majoring in Economics with minors in Public Policy and Mathematics. She has conducted research with MIT's Economics and Political Science Departments and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Her research has covered topics including workers' compensation laws, children's health insurance, and performance enhancing drug use in baseball.

Outside of her economics work, Olivia has been an active volunteer for numerous causes. For example, she developed training sessions for volunteers at Cambridge's Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House (Cambridge, MA) to discuss issues related to privilege, food insecurity, and racial inequality.

What inspired you to study economics?

The decision to study economics came naturally from the intersection of my different interests. I grew up watching the news and became interested in current events. Through experiences interacting with different communities through volunteer work, I became interested in public policy issues, like education, poverty, and healthcare. And in school, I loved math and history. Choosing to study economics in university seemed like the best way to find answers about the effects of public policy on our lives.

What brought you to Univ?

Oxford's academic reputation is obviously world renowned, and I wanted to be at a university with lots of academic and cultural events that bring together people of different interests and origins.

What is the focus of your research?

I'm currently exploring possible thesis topics, so I can generally say I'm interested in how labour market policies supporting vocational training or STEM education can affect economic inequality and the changing nature of jobs.

The prestigious Marshall Scholarship is for "intellectually distinguished young Americans [and] their country's future leaders". What, for you, is the most valuable aspect of the Scholarship?



As someone interested in public policy, the opportunity to study in the UK has been incredibly valuable. The US and the UK face similar issues, such as widening inequality, a resurgence of populism, stagnant wages and stress on health care institutions. Communities in both countries are grappling with globalisation, immigration, and the aftermath of the Great Recession. With shared problems the opportunity arises to find shared solutions, and studying the social, economic, and political factors affecting policy effectiveness in one country can shed light on possible solutions for the other. The Marshall Scholarship gave me an opportunity to gain this insight into another country, and the policy possibilities and limitations in both countries.

What have you enjoyed most about your time as a postgraduate Scholar at Univ?

I have loved talking to other students who span so many different disciplines and backgrounds. I'm looking forward to plenty more interesting conversations in Hall and the WCR with people who are passionate about the things they're studying.

You have been an active volunteer for numerous causes. What motivates you to volunteer and what have you learnt from your experiences?

As a child, my parents always encouraged volunteering, so I grew up with volunteer work as an important part of my life. I enjoy talking to other people, learning about people who grew up with lives so much more different than mine. It's easy enough to read news articles or academic papers about different communities, but it's a totally different experience to interact with those communities.

What are your future plans?

I want to continue with economics research in academic institutes, government research bodies, or nonpartisan research institutes.

What do you do to relax?

I like scoping out farmers markets, walking around areas of Oxford I have yet to explore, and cooking dinner with friends.

Univ in three words:


Supportive, comforting, enjoyable.

Under a new arrangement, the College and the Marshall Commission have agreed to co-fund new Scholars with the Commission covering the Scholars' full maintenance and travel costs, while the College will meet Scholars' tuition and course fees for their selected course. Donations from former Marshall Scholars and other interested benefactors will be warmly welcomed to support these new Scholars and the new arrangement with the Marshall Commission.

If you would like to discuss making a potential gift towards postgraduate scholarships and support, please contact liza.roure@univ.ox.ac.uk. Thank you.



LONDON...
CALLING

A photograph of Joe Robertson, a Black man with a beard, wearing a white kufi, a patterned scarf, a tan jacket, and brown trousers. He is performing on a red stage, pointing his right index finger upwards with a joyful expression. The background is a set designed to look like a refugee camp, with cardboard walls, a green exit sign, and a sign that says 'WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE'. A diverse audience of young people is seated in the foreground, watching the performance. A large white semi-circle graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, framing the title text.

UNDER THE DOME

THEATRES OF HOPE

Matilda Warner (2016, English) interviewed **Joe Robertson** (2008, English), playwright and Artistic Director of Good Chance Theatre, on the eve of press views for *The Jungle* – the play he co-wrote with Joe Murphy – at the Playhouse Theatre in London, directed by Stephen Daldry and Justin Martin.

I understand you met Joe Murphy, the other half of your writing duo, while studying for your English degree at Oxford. Did you work together on any projects while you were there?

I was a member of the Univ Players, and was involved in a lot of wider drama, but mainly as an actor. I particularly remember putting on Congreve's *Way of the World* in the Master's Garden, with lots of Restoration costumes! It was intimidating to enter the Oxford drama scene; lots of people had a pre-planned route to creating a production company by their third year. Initially I started auditioning for plays at the Burton Taylor Studio and Old Fire Station.

I met Joe in 2010 doing the Thelma Holt international tour [to Japan], when we were both in the cast of *The Taming of the Shrew*. That tour is an amazing experience because you form a company, and we performed in Covent Garden, Stratford upon Avon, Tokyo and Saitama. It was during that summer that we decided to write together, and when we got back – to my third year and his second year – we wrote our first play, *Fairway Manor*. That was seven years ago, and we've been working together ever since, gradually working out what we wanted to write about.

You both spent time in the Calais "Jungle" in 2015 and 2016 – what did the experience teach you?

I learned a huge amount about my own naivety and my own ignorance. Its overwhelming effect was showing me that my preconceptions about that place were wrong. We originally visited not to write a play, and not to help in any direct way, but to understand what was happening there, as there was a lot of confusion online and in the press about who these people were. As soon as we met the 25 nationalities of people there and realised that there was no one story, and no one experience, we saw a

whole society of people. They were of all ages, religions, backgrounds, and we realised at the heart of this crisis were human beings, with great artistic ability and traditions, who needed an outlet to express what was happening (as we all do). That's why we ended up staying.

I have a friend, Majid, a painter from Iran, who started painting again in the theatre we built in Calais, who describes his time in The Jungle as being in a university; what happened there was quite extraordinary. There was no government, no authorities, only ordinary people from ordinary places trying to make a go at it themselves. A sort of quasi-welfare state was established: a place for dentistry, our theatre, a sauna, barber shops, cafes, mosques, churches. Refugees and volunteers from around the world together were trying to fill the gap that the authorities weren't filling, and in that gap they created structures that were designed to make life liveable and bearable.

Your Good Chance Theatre website says "It is time for theatre and art to rediscover its ancient power: to connect, unite and reclaim our individual and collective narratives." Why do you think theatre is able to achieve this more effectively than other art forms?

We live increasingly atomised, ordered and individual lives. More and more we are pitted against each other, especially in digital worlds. The idea of coming together in a space, where you're breathing the same air and experiencing something together, is a shared experience that's quite radical these days. In The Jungle, the refugees who were there had lost a sense of their past, and their future was unknown, so it was important to place art in their present, to create a narrative about what was happening. That's why the theatre in Ancient Greece, the Epidaurus, was part of a spa/hospital complex, and theatre was known as a form of healing. We often think

that the important things in a crisis situation are food and shelter, and they are, but also important is the ability to reflect on what is happening, and to try to understand it. In the design of the production, we tried to recreate the warm feeling from those restaurants and cafes that everyone was the same; everyone was there to get out of the rain.

Your play, *The Jungle*, raises the question of whether volunteer intervention in Calais was ultimately beneficial. What do you think is the best course of action for anyone keen to help migrants and asylum seekers?

It is a complicated question. On the one hand, it is important to say that the people I got to know and work with need support, but they are also strong, brave, clever, human beings, who don't so much need help as an opportunity and a chance. In writing the play, we tried to show the importance of a lack of hierarchy when it comes to "helping" people. Not only can we donate food and clothes, but we also have the power to volunteer, and open our doors to people. In terms of trying to effect broader change, we should all write to our MPs, and go out and meet the people newly arrived within our new community. The big challenge Europe has to face is living together, and finding new ways of talking to one another. Borders have grown between us, and art can be used to bridge that gap.

Do you have any advice for budding playwrights, or any student keen to enter the theatre industry?

Write, write, and write! When you're at university you have an enormous wealth of resources and support on offer to you. The same goes for actors and other creatives. Always ask for support too – I used to think you had to prove yourself on your own, but theatre is about collaboration. A play goes through so many layers of interpretation, so surround yourself with people who can help you make a truly collaborative work. For *The Jungle*, we cast people who were refugees and had come from Calais, and people who had a more indirect link to the themes of the play; the production team also visited and worked in the camp. All these people brought a wealth of experience, and the joy of it comes from the acts of discovery these people shape.

“In The Jungle, the refugees who were there had lost a sense of their past, and their future was unknown, so it was important to place art in their present, to create a narrative about what was happening.”

Looking back on your time at Univ, what are your most treasured memories?

Being a part of a really amazing family, and feeling very supported. University can be very liberating. I came from a working class background in Hull, and thought I'd be intimidated. One person said to me when I first arrived, "Oh, I'm from the north too, I'm from Cambridge"! But Univ has the best bursary scheme anywhere, and tries really hard to make students feel welcome. I felt very welcome at Univ; it was like home.

What did you learn at Univ that still resonates for you today?

I learned to question in a much deeper and more unconventional way, which has served me well. It was also all about the people there. In the summer after my first year, Univ sent out an email saying that an old Univite, Eric Bentley (editor and friend of Bertolt Brecht), was in New York, and would love to meet the students. I was in New York at the time, so I met him. The College has such a history of radical, intellectual figures, and they have shaped the world.

Do you have any new projects planned and/or major ambitions for the future?

My theatre company Good Chance (founded with Joe Murphy) is growing and growing. *The Jungle* is heading to New York in 2019. We have a dome in Paris (modelled on the theatre they first built in *The Jungle* – which was visited by leading British actors such as Jude Law, Toby Jones and Benedict Cumberbatch), which is now running sustainably, and we're going to Athens in the next couple of weeks. We've been invited to places like Lebanon and Mosul. The dome itself is a very strong temporary structure, because of its interlinking shape; you need about 100 people to build it, so it's immediately a communal space that belongs to everyone. It's a very democratic space,

being round, and universally neutral.

It's very exciting being able to create spaces of welcome in places where art has a very practical role, and for everyone to be able to bring their own talents. Everyone paints the dome and leaves their own mark on it. It's great to go to places where artists should be going, and intervene in places where artists should be intervening, to create solidarity and bridges among different countries and people. We're working with an increasing number of amazing artists, not just from refugee backgrounds, but also British and French, who are creating very exciting things together. And we've just released an album, *Sounds of Refuge*, which was written in the rehearsal and dressing rooms by members of the current cast. There's a lot to do,

“
Borders have grown between us, and art can be used to bridge that gap.”

and many opportunities to create strong, positive, exciting narratives and experiences. Lots of hopeful stories.

Finally, could you please describe Univ in just three words?

Welcoming, provoking, community.

Since the interview took place, *The Jungle* enjoyed successful runs in London and New York, and is due to premiere on 26 March at the Curran Theatre, San Francisco.





LIFE IN THE THIRD SECTOR

In the second of our features looking at careers in the third sector, *The Martlet* caught up with Univ alumna **Elizabeth Creek** (2008, BA and MSt Oriental Studies), who is currently based in Kabul, Afghanistan as Associate Programme Coordinator for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

“
I find it quite
fascinating how
traditions and culture
can shape attitudes to
education”

What does your current role involve?

I'm currently working on a series of projects run by UNESCO HQ to help countries most at risk of not meeting global "Education for All" goals. I oversee the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these development projects, working with government counterparts in the Afghan Ministry of Education and colleagues from other UN Agencies.

How does your current role compare with your previous one at the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) headquarters in Amman?

My role now is quite different, but so too are the agencies; UNRWA runs its own schools in five different fields, and there I worked primarily on one teacher training project. UNESCO focuses more on providing technical expertise to national governments. As such my work is now more "upstream" and policy-focused, and I spend more time working with staff from the MoE. My current projects will (hopefully) result in validated national policies or strategies, and strengthened national government capacities.

What challenges have you faced since you joined UNESCO?

Working in Afghanistan provides certain challenges whoever you work for. There are many security considerations, and it's never easy to hear of incidents arising in the city or even other provinces, knowing the suffering people face, and witnessing colleagues' fears for their families and loved ones. On a technical level, the security situation can affect project implementation. For example, if we are unable to visit a

region, or in provinces where it is too dangerous even for national staff to be seen to be working for the UN, then monitoring and evaluating the impact of a project can be nigh-on impossible.

What sort of work experience did you have after Univ?

After leaving Univ I spent some time volunteering in a school for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties, before moving overseas to teach. What began as ESL teaching progressed to teaching History and English Literature. It was this background in education that helped me secure my role at UNRWA, as I was initially tasked with more practical work on a teacher training project, before I moved towards project coordination and management.

Did you have any specialist training to prepare you for your current role?

Aside from the obvious safety and security training required to move here (think mock-kidnapping and how to survive hostage situations) no training was required per se. Often UN roles desire a familiarity with funding and administrative procedures, but there is nothing that can't be learned on the job.

Can you share some of your most rewarding moments?

Some of the "everyday" moments involve successfully securing funding for a new project, or an extension for ongoing work. Other, more unique moments include the first time I was able to work in person with colleagues from Gaza, with whom I had

previously only been able to work via Skype due to visa restrictions. A more recent example involved successfully submitting to the Government a review of UNESCO's entire portfolio of projects in Afghanistan, less than a week after our compound had been attacked and we were required to relocate. What I found most rewarding was how staff from all units in the Agency worked together in particularly trying circumstances, focusing only on the task in hand and ultimately meeting the tight deadline that was set. It made for a shared sense of success and solidarity at a time when morale was otherwise rather low.

What attracted you to this profession?

My primary interest lies in education but I've always been interested in travelling and learning about new cultures, and a career in international development complements that. I find it quite fascinating how traditions and culture can shape attitudes to education, and how organisations like the UN, with their own priorities and goals, work with and sometimes around them.

Is there anyone who inspires you in your current work?

I have found since moving to Kabul that those who inspire me the most are my Afghan colleagues. Whilst international staff are housed in compounds and move only in armoured vehicles, national staff live in the city and commute to our offices independently. Since being known to work for the UN or any international organisation can carry great personal risk, I find their dedication to work and willingness to bear this risk each day most inspiring.



a Table in Venice

Skye McAlpine (2003, Classics) spends the majority of her time in Venice, where she writes, practises photography and teaches cookery workshops. She is the author of the successful blog, *From My Dining Table*, writes a monthly column for *The Sunday Times* and has contributed to publications from around the world, including *vogue.com*, the *Guardian*, the *Saturday Telegraph*, *Vanity Fair* and *Conde Nast Traveller*. She has 153,000 Instagram followers and was shortlisted for the Jane Grigson Trust Award 2018. Her debut cookbook *A Table in Venice: Recipes from my Home*, was released in March 2018 by Bloomsbury Publishing.

Who or what inspired your blog?

I have always loved cooking and adore cookbooks: I devour them like novels. I find the narrative around food endlessly fascinating: how something universal can also have a profound personal significance. Talking about food, reading about food, dreaming about food... and by extension cooking and eating food too, are a huge part of my life. Soon after our son was born, I wrote a blog

post as a creative outlet. I didn't really know why I was writing – I just rather enjoyed it. My blog grew over a few years: I loved writing it and then began to write for other publications as well.

Who taught you to cook?

I'm certainly not a trained chef. I have no formal culinary education and not much to recommend me in the kitchen other than my greed and a deep curiosity. I've learned how to cook from here and there. I also spend a lot of time – probably far more than I should – leafing through cookbooks.

How many cookbooks do you own, and which ones do you return to again and again?

I've given up counting my cookbooks: I have an entire wall covered in books in my study, and countless more piled up around our home – by my bedside, in the kitchen, on the floor... Here are the ones I turn to again and again: Skye Gynge's *How I Cook* – it's a dreamy book. Marcella Hazan's *Essentials of Italian Cooking* which is THE absolute bible of Italian food; she also has a wonderfully bossy narrative

voice; Nikki Segnit's *Flavour Thesaurus* – brimming with inspiration and ideas; Nigella Lawson's *How To Be A Domestic Goddess* – I find her writing very soothing; and Arabella Boxer's *First Slice the Cookbook* – it's a beautiful book from the sixties. At the moment I'm loving Felicity Cloake's *Completely Perfect...* and *Cold Dishes for All Season* by Charmain and Spike Hughes: published in the early seventies, it is filled with recipes like pink Mexican soup and pineapple Veronique, that I am longing to make.



What is the secret of good food photography?

Natural light, a pretty plate and a decent camera – the cameras on the newer iPhones will do. I knew nothing about photography before I started and love looking at beautiful images of food and trying to recreate that feeling, mood, or sense of light.

Who do you collaborate with, and how do they inspire you?

The food world is wonderfully collaborative: I've been lucky to have incredibly thoughtful and inspiring mentors, like Ruthie Rogers and Skye Gyngell. I also hugely enjoyed working alongside the Bloomsbury editorial team.

Is there anyone you would like to thank?

Robin and Jill Butler for making my time at Univ so inspiring. Bill Sykes for making college feel so welcoming. My tutor, Bill Allan, for his endless patience with my terrible Greek grammar!

Your new cookbook includes recipes sourced from old Venetian cookbooks. Could you tell us more about the process of sourcing and adapting the recipes?

I grew up with many of the recipes. I worked from old Venetian cookbooks: mostly books written in dialect. Once I had translated the original recipe, I would adapt it to a standard British kitchen, and then tweak it ensuring that the ingredients can be easily sourced in Britain. I wanted readers to cook from *A Table In Venice* not just read it!

What are you working on at the moment?

I write a cookery column for *The Sunday Times*... and I'm working on another book. I'm also hoping to launch a series of cookery workshops at our home in Venice this year.

How do you think Univ shaped you?

I loved my time at Univ: I made lifelong friends there and feel incredibly lucky to have spent four years in such an inspiring environment: the beautiful architecture, the tutorials, the access to libraries – and my peers.

Who inspired you when you were at Univ?

Oh goodness, that's a long list! I feel privileged to have been at Univ when Robin Butler was Master: he had remarkable energy and was so generous with his time. On Sunday evenings he would invite speakers from all sorts of walks of life, each one brilliant in their own way: I found it hugely inspiring and it opened my eyes to the myriad of exciting career paths.

What is your most treasured memory of Univ?

Meeting my now husband, Kajji Santospirito, in the Beer cellar.

What advice would you give to current students considering embarking on a career unrelated to their degree subject?

Don't be afraid of chasing after your dreams, and don't listen to anyone who says you won't succeed. Social media has changed the way we work in such a dramatic way that I can't help but feel that most careers are within your reach. Work hard, have faith and stick with it.



I give to Univ because...

I enjoyed unique opportunities there and hope to help others to do the same.

Univ in three words...

Exciting. Inspiring. Always welcoming.

@skymcalpine | www.frommydiningtable.com

In *A Table in Venice*, Skye McAlpine tells the story of her life in Venice and offers an insider's perspective on Venetian home cooking. With lyrical storytelling and her own stunning photography, Skye brings this fabled and enigmatic city to life like never before.



Bulgaria

Serbia

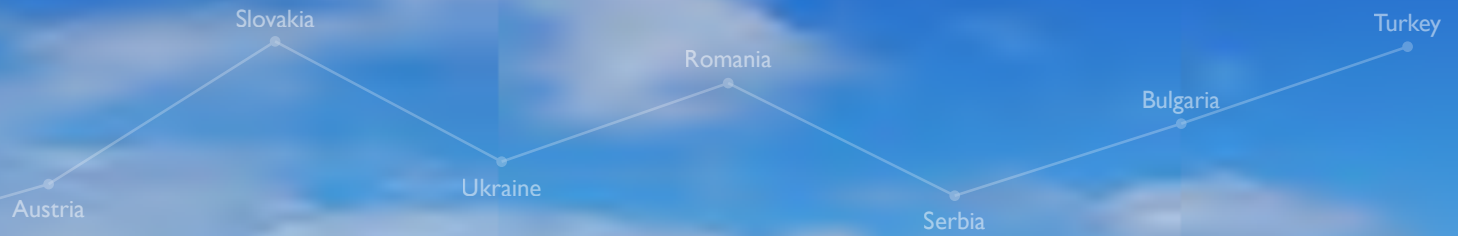
Bosnia-Herzegovina

Croatia

Italy

Turkey

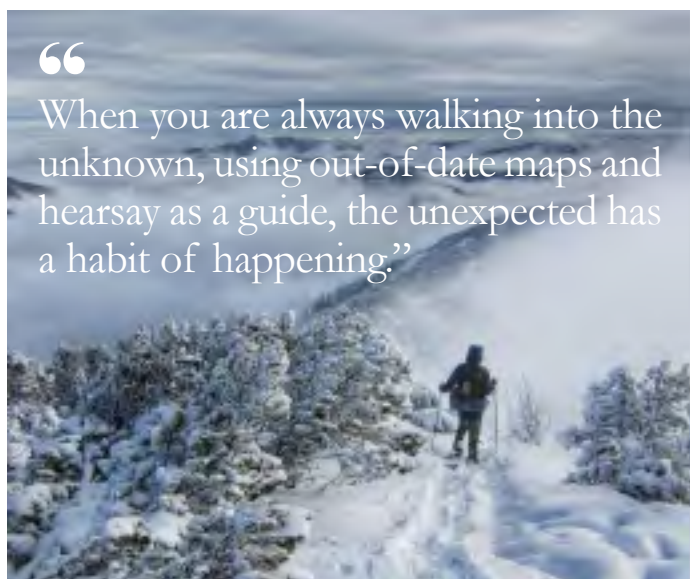
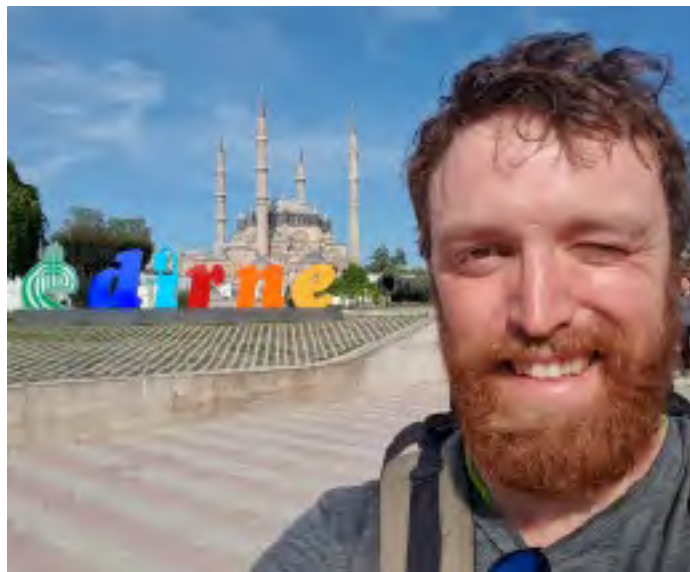
Slovenia



I'M GONNA BE (4,000 MILES)

Patrick (Paddy) Devlin (2007, MESC Earth Sciences) describes his epic walk from Istanbul to Vienna and back.





“
When you are always walking into the
unknown, using out-of-date maps and
hearsay as a guide, the unexpected has
a habit of happening.”



On 9 May I walked the final few kilometres into Istanbul with my Dad by my side. My Dad had come out to join me for the last two days of the walk, for which I was very thankful. On the last day of the walk we ran out of path numerous times, had to wade through streams, push ourselves through thick undergrowth, stealthily circumvent farms with potentially hostile hounds, attempt to climb across an Ottoman era aqueduct 30m above a reservoir, before getting scared and turning back, and found ourselves accidentally in the middle of an army base which we had to escape by crawling on our bellies in the mud to squeeze under the perimeter fence.

We emerged from the army base – victorious – into the metropolis of Istanbul – filthy, soaking wet (the heavens had opened at one point), bedraggled, late, but relieved to have a clear route to the finish ahead of us. I was sorry to have put so much discomfort on my dad, when I'd sold the last few days as a piece of cake, but on the other hand – it was an excellent microcosm of the rest of my walk. When you are always walking into the unknown, using out-of-date maps and hearsay as a guide, the unexpected has a habit of happening.

When we finally made it to the Suleymaniye Mosque, the finish-line, it brought to an end for me a walk of 472 days, from January 2017 until May 2018; of around 6,500 km (c. 4,000 miles); across 12 countries; with around 150,000m of ascent and descent. A walk which took me up to 2,925m on Musala mountain in Bulgaria, and down to -15°C in the Carpathians of Ukraine, across parched limestone karst scenery in Croatia in temperatures up to 40°C, through the minefields and battered villages of Bosnia, in amongst the shattered peaks of the Italian Dolomites, and through the perfectly manicured and tamed valleys of the Austrian Alps.

Why did I do it?

What was the catalyst for my decision to throw in the towel at work and set off? At its heart, the thing driving me to quit the comforts of the office was a finely-honed sense of romanticism bred from a steady childhood diet of western, adventure and fantasy genre books and films. This was the primer, which filled my malleable young

head with ideas of adventure, perils, and beautiful landscapes. During my teenage years and early adulthood, the intention gradually coalesced in my mind to go on a huge adventure; one that would be free from modern, rapid forms of transport, that would take me through wild spaces where few had trod, through difficult conditions, in a manner representing almost total freedom. I felt that it would have to be a long trip, perhaps even more than a year, as how can you experience total freedom if you know that your trip will soon come to an end? I wanted to be travelling for so long that it was difficult to conceive the end of the trip, so that my life became that of the wanderer and not that of a person on a brief holiday from life who will shortly return to the day job.

The difficulties...

One of the greatest mental challenges I faced was the loneliness, and having the mental strength to keep going day after day, week after week, when the conditions got tough during the second half of the trip in the winter of '17/18. The day I entered Ukraine in January 2018, I remember reaching the border town of Uzhgorod, looking up at the snow-covered Carpathians on the edge of the town, and feeling extremely alone. What was I doing here, why was I still pressing on, why didn't I call it a day? After a few days preparation, I managed to set off into the implacable mountains, but I battled constantly in Ukraine with loneliness, alienation, and deep mental fatigue. I had been walking a year by that stage, which is a long time, arguably too long, to be walking by yourself.

High points...

The best part of the trip for me and that which had the greatest effect on me – was constantly meeting new people, and making new friends. Meeting people the same age as myself, living and working in tough circumstances, especially in the non-EU countries, and encountering so much hospitality from them humbled me. It made me more aware of the opportunities I had had growing up, of the privilege I had unconsciously enjoyed since birth, privilege based on the pure chance of being born in a relatively wealthy, well-run, peaceful, open, and outward-looking country. This awareness led me to pursue a career in

teaching with Teach First when my walk came to an end, in the hope that I might use what skills and energy I have to help others and not purely myself.

Conclusion

Whilst at Univ I was very fortunate to receive a travel grant from Univ which enabled me to hitch and bus around Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan in the summer of 2009. This trip introduced me to solo adventurous travel, incredible Islamic hospitality, and some of the cultural treasures of Syria before it was sadly consumed by the civil war.

The thing I learnt at Univ which I still use every day today, and which helped me on my walk, is the habit of thinking critically about everything. Many people told me before and during my walk that I shouldn't do it, or shouldn't continue; because it was too dangerous, there was too much snow, the animals would kill me, etc. etc. The tutorial system at Oxford, and the excellent Univ tutors told me to relentlessly question received fact and wisdom, to gather your own data, to make your own analysis and interpretations. I thought critically about the nature of the knowledge and motivation of those advising me against going on with the walk, and weighed that against my own skills, experience and knowledge, and figured that with proper preparation and planning, it ought really to be as safe as say, going out to the pub in London!

My journey has hugely broadened my mind. It made me happy in my own company, yet more intensely aware of the joys that the company of others can bring. It helped to remind me of what to value in life: trust, humility, honesty, hospitality freely given, a clear head, diversity, access to wild spaces where we can free ourselves from the worries and concerns of modern life; and also food, water, shelter, and fire. It helped me to understand better what values I believe we should struggle against within ourselves, and be mindful of in others; hubris, entitlement, excessive nationalism, xenophobia.

Thanks to many generous donations, I managed to raise just over £6,800 for Médecins Sans Frontières during the walk.

Read more about Paddy's journey on his blog: wanderingpaddy.com.

MAKING WATER WORK

SMART HANDPUMPS SAVING LIVES

Univ graduate scholar Farah Colchester (2013, DPhil Life Sciences Interface) was part of the team to win the Vice-Chancellor's Innovation Award in 2018 for the Smart Handpumps initiative – an innovative technological response to water shortages and handpump service maintenance issues in Africa, the idea for which was inspired by a remote control for a computer games console. She explains how the handpump works, and how her DPhil research contributes to this life-saving initiative, for *The Martlet*.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, and other parts of the developing world, many people still lack access to safe, local water sources. Surface water from rivers and lakes is commonly used, or in wet or low lying areas wells can be dug to access ground water, but these supplies of water are prone to contamination causing illness and disease. In recent decades, many more people now have access to “improved” water sources

safer from contamination. For example, covering a well and accessing the water using a handpump greatly reduces the risk of contamination. In areas where the ground-water is deeper, bore-holes must be dug to access it, which owing to the equipment required can cost many thousands of dollars.

Since the 1970s much money has been invested by NGOs and governments in digging boreholes and building handpumps across rural Africa, which has greatly increased the number of people with access to improved water supplies. However, much less money or thought was given to the maintenance of boreholes and handpumps once the diggers had gone. The buzzword became “village level operation and maintenance” (VLOM), whereby the village itself would be responsible for maintaining the pump. For example, when the pump was installed, some men from the village might be chosen to be in charge of it, and given a demonstration of how to fix common faults. The pumps





“The Smart Water project has had a great impact on people’s lives across Kenya. Through my work we have a proven workable principle for further developments with the potential to change how water is managed across developing countries.”

that were installed were specifically designed to be robust to the high usage they received in a village (as opposed to other models commonly used on farms or rural households in other parts of the world) and to be easy and cheap to maintain. But despite all this, VL0M was not successful. Even the most robust things break eventually, and a couple of years later, would people from the village remember how to fix it, or be able to raise money for spare parts? Because of this, many handpumps fell into disrepair, or had long periods where they were out of use. It is estimated that a third of handpumps are out of use at any given time. This of course, is a waste of resources, and forces people to use unsafe water sources or travel much further.

The water development group in the Oxford School of Geography and the Environment, led by Rob Hope, addresses issues in relation to water and people's access to it in the developing world, including many projects involving handpumps. While watching a handpump in Zambia a student wondered if there was anything to be gained from attaching an accelerometer to its handle to record its movement and vibration.

They had the idea of using a Wiimote, the action-sensitive remote control from the Wii games console, which could be connected to a laptop by Bluetooth to record accelerometry information. This was attached to the handle of a pump in Zambia, and they sat there for many hours watching people pump and recording the data. From this they could calculate how many movements of the handle were needed to fill a 20 litre bucket of water, and so it was possible to estimate the quantity of water being withdrawn just from pump movement. This led to a "Waterpoint data transmitter" being designed. This is a small box containing an accelerometer, microprocessor, telecommunications chip and battery, which is placed inside the handle of the pump. This would count the number of pump strokes each hour, and calculate the volume of water drawn. Every four hours this data would be sent in a text message to a server, meaning that from anywhere in the world people could monitor the usage of the pump. This bringing of digital technologies to the issue of water became known as the "Smart Water" project.



These devices were put on some 200 handpumps across the study region. The location chosen was in Kwale, Southern Kenya bordering the Indian Ocean and Tanzania. Despite its beautiful coast attracting tourists, it is one of the poorest counties in Kenya. Its recent growth in large-scale agriculture, particularly sugar cane, and the development of a titanium mine, along with the increasing population, has put increasing pressures on its water system.

In recent years there has been recognition of the need to move away from VL0M.

The group developed a model for a new professional service to provide maintenance for pumps. A "Fundi", the Swahili for expert, was employed and provided with a loan for a motorbike and tools. They were to cover the study region in Kwale. If a pump broke the villagers would call them and they would repair it free of charge. A study had shown that when a pump broke it took over twenty days for it to be fixed, with the Fundi in place this fell to just two days. "Fundifix", as the scheme became known, is being developed to not be dependent on external finance, and instead be financed by the villages on an insurance-based model. The Waterpoint data transmitters are integral to this, as they allow accountability and evaluation. When the pump breaks, water output drops close to zero, and rises again as soon as it is fixed, and so we can ensure the Fundi is prompt at carrying out repairs.

Just the low-frequency movement data from the accelerometer is needed to monitor the movement of the pump handle, but high-frequency data representing the vibrations in the pump handle was also being collected. The question was whether this data could be useful for addressing other problems. David Clifton, from the Department of Engineering, did his PhD on a similar problem; he attached vibration monitors to the rotating parts of jet engines, in order to be able to predict when one was about to have a problem. He was brought in to the project. The three questions to ask of the vibration data are as follows:

Can we predict if the handpump is about to break down?

Can we predict the depth of water below the handpump?

Can we identify the users of the pump?

The first of these was inspired by the successes of Fundi-fix – if we could reduce the downtime of a handpump by having the mechanic come as soon as it breaks, can we reduce it to zero by calling the mechanic before it breaks? The second addresses the problem that currently groundwater depth measurements are only made at a few monitoring points. Being able to predict the depth of the water at every handpump would create an "accidental infrastructure" enabling better monitoring of the health of the aquifer. This is increasingly important as demand on the groundwater grows. The



third would allow us to know who is using the handpump and when, allowing us to know whether, for example, children are pumping water during school hours.

I read mathematics and statistics at Oxford for my Bachelors and Master's degrees. After a year out, I joined the Life Sciences Interface Doctoral Training Centre (DTC). This course encourages people from maths and physical sciences to go into the biological sciences, by first teaching a two term course covering all different aspects of biological sciences as well as computation. Unfortunately after the two terms, I realised I didn't actually have much interest in minutiae (in the literal sense; such things are of course very important) such as proteins, DNA or cell membranes. I wanted a project where the human side was much more in focus. We received our booklets listing PhD projects that supervisors from across the University science departments were offering students from the course. After each project's description was "Additional information" such as "Must know C++" or "Will include wet lab work", but the Smart Water project's information caught my eye – "Students will have to go to Kenya to collect data". Well that sounded more like it! And so I applied; maths and statistics gave me the perfect background for machine learning, and its human impact and emphasis on the developing world made me very interested.

My very first contact with a handpump was in the grounds of Kellogg College, where one had been set up as part of the project for experimentation and outreach. Over the first six months of the project I would go there a few times a week to measure the depth of the water by dropping a dipper through a hole in the side of the pump, and then to recording myself pumping. On our first visit to Kenya we stayed at a beautiful house in Kwale right on the coast, owned by one of our Kenyan collaborators. In the grounds was a handpump used by women from the local village and a few small herdsman. We spent a lot of time at the pump, recording each other pumping and the local users, often getting up before dawn to be there when the women arrived to do their laundry. The women did not collect drinking water from there, as at around 100m from the coast the water was slightly saline, a sign of the developing water problems in the area. With a local guide we also travelled around the area visiting pumps in villages and schools and recording ourselves and the local users.

My work is largely computer based. With the data collected in Kenya and at Kellogg I set about using signal processing and machine learning techniques to model the accelerometry data that we saw. I use this to train algorithms for the predictions I'm after, and test these on data I've held aside. For example, using the data I collected at

Kellogg I developed a method to predict the water depth, with moderate success. I studied the variation between different pumps using the data we collected in Kenya.

The focus of our second trip to Kenya was to collect data for condition monitoring, for which we needed to record at pumps that were broken. We travelled with the Fundi, Okoti, whenever he was going to repair pumps. We would pump water (or attempt to) while the pump was still in its broken state and then again after Okoti had fixed it. This gave us data from handpumps in both working and a variety of broken states, enabling us to see the difference in vibrations between the two cases. We had also developed devices that collected the high frequency data that could be placed in the handles instead of the WDTs. Owing to the large amounts of data, the data is stored on memory chips, which are collected by our colleagues in Kenya. This enables us to record continually and see the transitions as the pump goes from working to not working. My colleague has developed a basic algorithm that runs on their microprocessors, creating warning flags whenever the behaviour of the pump changes. I have been working on algorithms that require more computing power. Ultimately we would have an algorithm that runs on the microprocessor sending signals of "working fine" or "possible problems", until the risk or uncertainty is high, and vibration data is sent to the server for more analysis. We placed a dipper in the borehole below some of the handpumps to continually measure the depth of the water. With this data we are beginning to train deep learning algorithms to predict the depth.

The Smart Water project has had a great impact on people's lives across Kenya. Through my work we have a proven workable principle for further developments with the potential to change how water is managed across developing countries. The project has expanded not just across Kenya, but also to new study areas such as Bangladesh. I've greatly enjoyed my time as a postgraduate student in Oxford, both my research and my outside interests. Through Univ I've taken part in a string quintet and yoga classes, and enjoyed many fancy dinners! I'm thankful to the community I've met here and the support I've received from the College over the years.

Tools of my trade

Nick Gibbens has worked at Univ since October 1987. A member of the Works team, his responsibilities include restoring the gold leaf on the crests around the College (above Staircase arches and in the vaults of the Quad doorways), in the Shelley Memorial, on the intricate Fan Vaults of the Radcliffe Quad doorway, on gates and bosses, and on decorations in the Chapel.

- 1: Various paint brushes to apply the gold size (a type of adhesive for applying gold leaf to surfaces) and gold leaf.
- 2: Paint to mix with gold size. Because it is transparent it helps to mix a little paint in with it so that you can see where you have applied it.
- 3: Shellac varnish – used over white gold to stop it discolouring, particularly on surfaces outdoors.
- 4: Japan oil – another type of glue for applying gold leaf. For best results, I allow it to be virtually dry before applying.
- 5: Painter's palette – instead of carrying a huge jar I put a little of the gold size into a pot on the palette. I massage the brush on the palette before applying, to remove the excess glue.
- 6: Gilder's cushion – when you are using loose gold, as opposed to sheets, it is extremely delicate. I put the loose gold onto the cushion and cut it with the Gilder's knife, then pick up the gold with a brush and apply it. The loose gold is applied to very intricate work, such as mouldings on a picture frame. The gold leaf works more like a tattoo transfer.
- 7: Gilder's knife (mentioned above).
- 8: Soft, fine brushes to remove the excess flakes of gold after it is applied. Using a finger would remove or mark the surface.
- 9: Mahl Stick – I use this to lean on when working so that I don't put my hand or arm on any of the work.
- 10: 23 ¾ ct gold leaf.



Photo: Sam Cornish (2012, Earth Sciences)



Leading questions

Justin Wateridge (1989, Modern History) is the managing director of Steppes Travel, one of the UK's premier luxury tour operators. He lives with his family in Gloucestershire.

What brought you to Univ?

A brown Austin Allegro estate.

Who inspired you at Univ?

My friends, as they still do to this day.

What are your most treasured memories of Univ?

They are many and perhaps too risqué for these pages and the fear of ruining careers.

What are your fondest memories of the Boat Club?

Early morning outings on the back of a late night, were certainly not fond memories... more fond were the camaraderie and sense of achievement – not just of the First Eight but the College as a whole.

Steppes Travel is supporting Univ travel scholarships. How do you hope this will benefit participating students?

I'm lucky enough to have travelled a lot. It is a privilege I do not take for granted. With every country visited, I learn something new. I meet different people. I become less ignorant. I become curious. I learn that underneath the cultural differences of dress, location and religion, we are not so different.

Travel gives us a different sense of perspective. Travel breaks down barriers, it changes perception and prejudice.

Our world is wonderfully diverse and we should not shrink from it but experience it, relish it and use those experiences to redefine our own lives.

Who or what inspired your passion for travel and was your upbringing in Zambia a contributory factor?

Yes, growing up in Zambia and the fact that my father instilled in me the wonderful diversity of



“
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the world and the importance of understanding people.

Can you tell us about a memorable group tour that you enjoyed organising?

Taking a group of friends from Univ outside of their comfort zone dog-sledding in Svalbard, north of the Arctic Circle.

Whilst I will miss the lurch of the sled and the thrill of being pulled into that soundless, white world, it will remain with me forever.

What in your view is the role of a tour guide?

To be an engaging storyteller.

Have you witnessed a shift in the travel industry in terms of attitudes towards conservation and environment?

At Steppes Travel we have long supported conservation through agencies such as Tusk Trust and the Galapagos Conservation Trust to supporting individual researchers. In 2017 we held a travel festival at the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) campaigning against single-use plastic. We are again hosting a festival at the RGS later this year, the theme being women's education and empowerment as this is one of the key ways to reduce poverty, environmental degradation and over-population.

As to the industry as a whole, there has been a shift but I am ashamed to say that there is too much green-spin and the industry still needs to do more.

What are your favourite travel tips?

A sense of humour.

What is your advice to anyone thinking of making a gift to Univ?

To definitely do so.

Univ in three words:

Friends for life.



Opportunity for Univ Old Members

Curated tours to Romania, Armenia, Georgia and Albania.



Steppes Travel, organisers of tailor-made travel, ethical wildlife group tours, and expert-led cultural expeditions, have curated a series of exclusive tours for their clients and Univ Old Members in partnership with the College.

Donations from these tours and others will support Univ's student travel grants.



Romania Group Tour: Beyond the Carpathian Mountains

Departing 20 April 2019

A tour through the picturesque villages, UNESCO wooden churches, and mesmerising Carpathian Mountains of Romania.

For details visit: bit.ly/univ0254

Armenia and Georgia Group Tour: The Caucasian Silk Route

Departing 2 May 2019

A tour through the dramatic landscapes of the snow-capped Caucasus Mountains, stunning desert vistas, ancient cave cities and hill top monasteries.

For details visit: bit.ly/univ0255

Albania Group Tour: Origins of Illyria

Departing 15 May 2020

A tour through the "Land of Eagles", known as Illyria throughout the classical era. Visit historical sites, ancient towns and interesting cities, journey to Albania's coast and travel through the Albanian Alps.

For details visit: bit.ly/univ0256

Sports & societies

Angus Menzies (2016, Biochemistry), UCBC Vice President

UCBC had another strong Trinity term. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Friends of the Boat Club and the hard work of the committee, we were able to undertake a week-long training camp in the Easter vacation for those trialling for the first boats, at Dorney Lake and Abingdon, giving us a welcome break from the mayhem of the Isis. The first eights then continued to train from Abingdon Rowing Club during Trinity term, returning to the Isis for individual water work.

Following on from our training camp both the men's and women's top fours held our positions in City Bumps as the highest college in both categories. As in previous years both W1 and M1 gained some excellent racing experience at Bedford Regatta. M1 achieved its best result in recent years by reaching the final of Open Eights, unfortunately just being pipped by Corpus Christi Cambridge in the final.

After much hard work all the crews were very excited for Summer Eights to begin. Both M1 and W1 put in good



performances to maintain their high positions. Unfortunately, W1 and M1 were bumped by strong Wolfson and Balliol crews respectively, but held off strong challenges from fast Keble and St Edmunds Hall boats.

However, the stand-out performance at Summer Eights this year was W2, all of whom, bar one, began rowing and coxing in October, won blades by bumping many colleges' first boats to become the second highest W2 on the river. This spectacular result is in no small part down to the bond which has developed between the crew over the year and the boundless enthusiasm of their coach, Argyris Stasinakis – a fitting way to celebrate his five-year anniversary of coaching at UCBC.

M2 had an eventful Summer Eights campaign, on the first day they were bumped by New College after they clipped the bank just after the start, only to bump them back before Donnington Bridge on the next day. On the Friday a huge blockage of eight boats accumulating in the gut caused a klaxon to cut their race short. On Saturday they were bumped by Wadham M2 as they tried to chase down Peter's M1.

This year M3 was a beer boat in Summer Eights bumping on three of the days. They would have got blades, had it not been for narrowly missing out on an over-bump on the Friday.

The new academic year has started well for UCBC with the new coach Jonathan Cheeseman coaching both M1 and W1. Under their new coach, the seniors are working hard on their technique and have entered Wallingford Head at the end of term to create a strong platform to work off next term.

UCBC has had its usual intake of eager novices who are training well in their crews preparing for Christ Church Regatta. At Nephthys Regatta WNA had a great day making it to their final.

In the next issue of *The Martlet* following a training camp in Hilary term, I hope to bring news of UCBC's success at Torpids.



Follow UCBC on social media:

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 @univbc
 www.ucbc.org.uk

Sarah Haynes (2017, Classics), Univ WRFC Captain

Univ's women's rugby team is looking forward to a promising year, after a successful recruitment at the beginning of Michaelmas doubling the size of the team. Third years William Heard and Ruairi Clayton have continued to coach the team on a weekly basis, with Univ student and OURFC Women's Blue Anna Bidgood offering additional coaching expertise in tackling sessions. There continues to be a lot of enthusiasm both for training and socials, and we're looking forward to getting our Cuppers campaign underway next term as one of the only teams made up of players from a single college. Our term culminated in the first ever non-Cuppers intercollegiate full contact women's rugby match against Worcester, which Univ dominated to earn a deserved 20-0 win. It is very exciting to be part of the rapid growth in women's rugby, particularly as we celebrate 40 years of women at Univ.



If you would like to know more about or support Univ WRFC, please drop us an email at sarah.haynes@univ.ox.ac.uk. We would also love to hear from any members

of the 1999 women's rugby team, whose photo is still up in the pavilion at Univ sportsground.

James Crompton (2017, Chemistry), UCRFC Captain

After the successes of last year (a double promotion and a run to the Plate final), Univ had high hopes for this season. Unfortunately, those hopes were not realised.

Univ started Div 2 against Wad/Trin (Wadham/Trinity). Univ scored 12 tries in a 42-72 demolition. However, the quality of teams already established in Div 2 soon became apparent.

Univ were high in confidence after our demolition of Wad/Trin and started the match against Saints strongly, leading 20-0



at half time with two tries against the run of play from Will Heard. However, after half-time we capitulated, the Saints back line proving too skilful despite a strong all-round defensive performance.

The performance against Saints had taken its toll and a depleted Univ side struggled against Worcester. After a fairly even contest in the first 20 minutes, Univ succumbed to the size of the Worcester pack and their pace out wide.

The next week saw a physical encounter against Hertford in appalling conditions. On a very small pitch, Univ did not have an answer to their strong pack and kicking game. Multiple injuries during the match never let Univ build any momentum and

despite an improvement in the second half, a 53-14 loss was a fair result.

After these defeats, only a win against an undefeated New College side would keep Univ in Div 2. Despite a strong performance, the lack of squad depth showed, with many players starting in unfamiliar positions. The score was perhaps unreflective of Univ's performance, which deserved at least one try.

Ultimately, the loss of several key squad members from last year exposed Univ's lack of depth and an injury crisis hit an already struggling team hard. Yet, with a fully fit squad after Christmas, Univ look to push for promotion back to Div 2 next year and have a strong Cuppers run again in Hilary.



Results

Wad/Trin 42 – 72 Univ
Univ 20 – 47 Saints
Univ 0 – 46 Worcester
Hertford 53 – 14 Univ
New 52 – 0 Univ

**Andrea Guariglia
(2017, Medicine),
Captain of UCFC**

Football continues to be a popular sport at Univ, and, despite a first term for both the Men's and Women's teams which didn't yield the best results on the pitch, there remains a strong team spirit and an enthusiasm that would be difficult to subdue.



The Men's team has been playing in the third division. This year's team looks very different to last year's, with several freshers joining the team as well as second years who had not played football for the College last year. This new team was faced with a challenging first few weeks of term; we beat the Univ WCR team in a balanced friendly game, and then we were pitted against last year's Cuppers champions, Worcester College, in our first competitive match. This

match set the tone for most of the following games. We saw a tenacious, determined, and resolute Univ team who kept on playing with their heads held high no matter the result, which usually did not go our way. As the team has continued to come together we have seen our performances improve, with some spectacular goals and spirited (although short-lived) comebacks, but the results haven't quite gone our way yet. We have also had some brilliant socials, which have brought everyone together. The major challenge has been getting a regular XI out, since team members are often busy with other commitments and academic work during the week. Nevertheless, we will continue playing with a positive attitude and keep improving and, more importantly, keep enjoying ourselves.

The Women's team has also been playing in the third division this term. We had a shaky start to the season, being knocked out of Cuppers after a fierce match against LMH and then losing to Exeter in our first league match. However, with several enthusiastic new players joining our team, next term is looking very promising. It is my hope that with more training and regular matches, we will be able to put out a strong and dedicated XI for every match next term.



**Bea Stevenson (2017,
English), Captain of
UCNC**

Despite my rise to netball captaincy in the adverse circumstances of relegation to Division 5, I feel that over Michaelmas term, the team and I have laid a solid groundwork for redemption and eventual domination of the league. We had a chance to bond as a team early on, following a cancellation of a match by Somerville, which unfortunately was to become a saddening trend of the term. It was on this bitterly disappointing occasion that positions were assigned and the scene was set for a historic victory in third week, in the form of Univ Netball's first win of Division 5. Was this to be our ticket to promotion? The highlight of the season was undoubtedly this unmissable win against Brasenose in third week. We



worked as a well-oiled machine to achieve a 3-2 win, whilst adhering strictly to the one man on the court at a time rule. Although our match against New was cancelled as a result of a poor show of enthusiasm on the other side, we took on the New men's

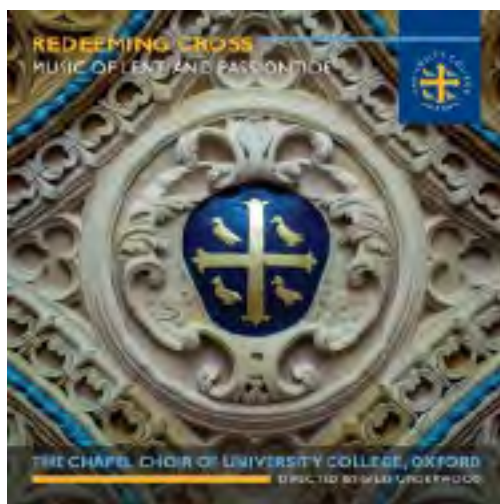
football team for a crewdate at At Thai, and proved undoubtedly victorious in morale and team spirit. I look forward to an even greater term of Netball playing and weathering Hilary together as one of the great teams of Univ.

Music at Univ

A report by Univ's Director of Music on Univ's music society, Chapel Choir, ensembles and the Mendl-Schrama Music Prize.



The new academic year broke over us like a wave in October, after what seemed like a short summer break. The musical life of the College always changes at the beginning of each new year as we receive the new generation of students. This year, we saw a more than average influx of new singers into the choir, including our largest ever complement of WCR members. Master's Lodgings concerts continue to flourish under the benevolent support of Lady Crewe, and the dynamic, new UCMS joint chairs, Rebecca German (2017, Music) and Priya Radhakrishnan (2017, Music), are galvanising the student body into taking part in as many events as possible.



The Chapel Choir has been singing regular services in Chapel but has also been out and about. It went on tour to Florence (Spring 2017) and Paris (Spring 2018), both times with assistance from Old Member, William fforde (1975, Classics). The Choir has just released a new CD, *Redeeming Cross*. This disc is a selection of the music sung in the Chapel during Passiontide and Lent. If you would like to buy a copy of this, or of the previous CD, *Dayspring Bright*, then please contact the Development Office (development@univ.ox.ac.uk). The

“
Music feeds the soul as well as the mind, and gives students the chance to unwind and find some peace in an otherwise hectic life.”

Choir has also been busy with performances of Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*, and a recital of Lenten music for The Brandenburg Choral Festival in St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Univ Consort, an offshoot of the main choir, participated in the Music Faculty's Bach Day in April 2018, curated by Natalie Clein, with soloists Ian Bostridge, Claire Booth and Giles Underwood. This was a fantastic opportunity for eight of our singers to take part in a performance of the highest quality.

The Martlet Ensemble continues to provide expert help for our instrumentalists, with performances of Brahms' *Sextets*, Mendelssohn's *Octet*, Debussy's *Introduction and Allegro* for harp and strings, among others, as well as two more Bach Cantata concerts with the Chapel Choir and professional soloists. 2019 sees the next in our series of Bach concerts, this time using soloists from The Royal Academy of Music, giving our students the chance to hear singers at the next stage of development.

In a similar vein to The Martlet Ensemble, Martlet Voices has been set up to provide opportunities for Univ singers. They have performed music by Monteverdi, Schütz, Britten, Tippett, Finzi, and many more in four varied programmes so far.

The Mendl-Schrama music prize is now in its fourth year, with 2017 winner Oscar Hansen (2015, Music), giving an excellent recital in January 2018. Rebecca German will be giving her winner's recital this year, a programme to include Grieg's only song cycle, *Haugtussa*.

Overall, the most inspiring thing about music in Univ is that it seems to be breaking out more and more. The new music practice rooms in 10 Merton Street are in constant use, with everything from jazz trios, rock bands and string quartets, to students just sitting and singing show songs for their own pleasure. This can only be a good thing, for music feeds the soul as well as the mind, and gives students the chance to unwind and find some peace in an otherwise hectic life.

Giles Underwood, Director of Music

Announcements

Thank you to everyone who shared their news. If you have news you would like to share in the next issue of *The Martlet*, please email communications@univ.ox.ac.uk by 24 May 2019.

1950s

Jack Diamond (1956, PPE), architect, transformed a hall at Marlborough College into a state-of-the-art performing arts centre.

Professor William Abraham (1957, Philosophy), Emeritus Professor at the University of California, was honoured with a portrait at All Souls College.

The Rt Hon The Lord Butler of Brockwell (1957, Classics), former Master of Univ, was a guest on BBC Radio 4's *The Museum of Curiosity*.

Derek Burnham (1959, Education and Geography) received the 2018 PRIME Cymru Mentor of the Year Award.

1960s

Dr Ian Brookes (1961, Agriculture) was elected to a Life Membership of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production.

Professor Daniel Coquillette (1966, Law) was honoured at a dinner at the US Supreme Court in recognition of his 34 years as Reporter to the Standing Committee on Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Robin Allen QC (1969, PPE) delivered the 2018 Hamlyn Lectures on the problem of comparison at the heart of equality law.

Henry Marsh CBE FRCS (1969, PPE), celebrated neurosurgeon and writer, appeared on *Desert Island Discs*.

1970s

Sandy Nairne, CBE, FSA (1971, History), Honorary Fellow, is assembling *The Coincidence of Novembers*: autobiographical writings and watercolours by his late father, Sir Patrick Nairne (1940, Classics and History).

Professor Julian Lindley-French (1976, History) delivered the Royal Navy's 2018 Trafalgar Night speech.

Professor Steven Parissien (1978, History) was appointed executive director of the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto, Canada.

1980s

Dr Xa Sturgis (1982, History), Director of the Ashmolean, was interviewed for *The Guardian* on the *Spellbound* exhibition.

Dr David C Frederick (1983, Politics) received an honorary degree from the University of Pittsburgh, at a ceremony where he also gave the graduate commencement address.

The UK in a Changing Europe, of which **Professor Anand Menon** (1984, History and Modern Languages) is Director, was awarded the Prospect magazine 2018 award of Best UK Think Tank for Global Affairs.

Aaref Hilaly (1989, PPE) was interviewed on Bloomberg Television about the use of AI and predictive computing to improve client sales forces.

Alexandra Zavis (1989, History) was named as Bureau Chief in Africa for Reuters. She previously worked at the *Los Angeles Times*.

1990s

Professor Dr Martin Stadler (1997, Oriental Studies) is director of an epigraphic field project in the Horus-temple of Edfu in Egypt.

The Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP (1996, International Relations) has been elected Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party and appointed Treasurer under the new Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison.

Dr Christian Müller (1998, History) was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Medal of the University of Nottingham.

Dr Manuel Montoya (1999, Education) delivered a talk at Rhodes House in January on the problem of global legibility.

2000s

Dr David Deller (2002, Economics) co-published the report "Fairness in Retail Energy Markets? Evidence from the UK".

Dr Geri Della Rocca de Candal (2006, History) organised an exhibition in September on *Printing R-evolution and Society 1450-1500 – Fifty Years that Changed Europe*, in Venice, and a conference of the same title.

Jessica Prince (2006, Law), was appointed Chief of Staff to the Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

Joe Robertson (2008, English) and Joe Murphy, were nominated for The Joe Allen Best West End Debut Award for *The Jungle*.

Dr Tara Shirvani (2009, Chemistry) received a 2018 Aviva Women of the Future Award.

2010s

Dr Antone Martinho-Truswell (2015, Medicine) has been appointed as the inaugural Dean of Graduate House at St Paul's College, Sydney.

David Todd (2010, Music) is the new Repetiteur and Assistant Chorus Master at Darmstadt State Opera in Germany.

Alexandra Wilson (2013, PPE), a first six pupil at Five St Andrew's Hill, has been elected as a member of Middle Temple Hall Committee.



(Clockwise from top right): Dr Tara Shirvani, Professor Daniel Coquillette (photographer Kevin Kennedy), Jessica Prince, The Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP

Books



Alwyn Edgar (1949, History) has written a five volume history of the Highland Clearances. Volume one, entitled *Clans and Clearance*, has just been published.

Professor Robert I Rotberg (1957, History) edited *Anticorruption: How to Beat Back Political and Corporate Graft*, in a special issue of *Daedalus* in Summer 2018 and *Corruption in Latin America: How Politicians and Corporations Steal from Citizens*.

Philip Bushill-Matthews (1962, English) published *The Eras of La Gomera*, a story of the island's rich history.

Professor Robert Ware (1963, Philosophy) published a new book: *Marx on Emancipation and Socialist Goals: Retrieving Marx for the Future* (November 2018).

Professor Robert B Reich (1968, PPE) published *The Common Good*, a passionate, clear-eyed manifesto on why we must restore the idea of the common good to the centre of our economics and politics.

Christopher Bowden (1971, Modern History) published his sixth novel, *The Amber Maze*, a literary mystery about the secret life of a forgotten artist, moving from Edwardian Oxfordshire (and the fictitious Oxford college, Martlet Hall) to 1960s Camden Town to the Mayfair art world of today.

Amanda Brookfield's (1979, English) latest book, *For the Love of a Dog*, was published on 1 November. A memoir and Brookfield's first work of non-fiction, it tells the poignant and often funny story of the labour of emotional recovery after the trauma of loss.

Professor Trisha Greenhalgh OBE (1980, Medicine) published *The Complete Guide to Breast Cancer: How to Feel Empowered and Take Control*.

The Revd Canon Andrew Norman (1981, PPE) published *A Church Observed: Being Anglican as times change*.

Dr Bryony Mathew (1996, Psychology) published a beautifully illustrated children's book *Blue Broccoli and Nanobots: Awesome careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths*.

Jeremy Tiang (1996, English) won the 2018 Singapore Literature Prize for his debut novel *State of Emergency*, which dives into the tumultuous days of leftist movements and political detentions in Singapore and Malaysia.

Dr Chelsea Mezvinsky (née Clinton, 2001, International Relations) published her third children's book. *She Persisted Around the World* is a picture book which tells the stories of 13 extraordinary women through the ages, from Marie Curie to Malala Yousafzai, who persevered in the face of prejudice and changed history.

Bruno Marques (2003, Physics and Philosophy) has published his first novel, *The Quantum Commute*, as B G Marques.

Skye McAlpine (2003, Classics) offers an insider's perspective on Venetian home cooking in her first cookbook, *A Table in Venice: Recipes from my home*, illustrated with stunning photography by the author.

Anthony Good (2004, English) published his debut novel: *Kill [redacted]* is a powerful and provocative exploration of the contours of grief and the limits of moral justice, and a blazing condemnation of all those who hold, and abuse, power.

Dr Tristen Naylor (2008, International Relations) published *Social Closure and International Society – Status Groups from the Family of Civilised Nations to the G20*.



Birthday Honours List

Robert Avis (1957, History and Social Studies) was appointed MBE for services to the community in Guildford in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours.



The Writer's Room

As part of the first group of women undergraduates to be welcomed across Univ's threshold in 1979, there was an appealing echo of that privilege in the invitation, issued 39 years later, to be the College's first ever "Visitor in the Creative Arts". I was thrilled to accept and a brief was drawn up, namely to pursue my own creative projects as a novelist while at the same time involving myself in the life of the College, particularly with regard to being available to students for discussions on matters relating to the arts. A fantastic job description, though quite how I was going to bring it into being, I had little idea. For the truth is, when you are the first of anything, you have to make it up as you go along.

Four months on, however, I can report with great clarity and pleasure on exactly what the job has entailed. Each future, fortunate, Visitor in the Creative Arts, will interpret the role uniquely, but for me this time back at the College feels like a second, delicious bite of a cherry I had thought never to taste again. I could not have been welcomed more generously, on all fronts. Highlights so far include being allowed to re-join the ranks of the super-talented chapel choir, attending and speaking at Univ's first ever "Women in Univ" dinner, reconnecting

with old friends, as well as making countless new ones, managing in the process to consume more fine food and wine than I normally manage in a decade.

Most importantly, I have held a series of events with scores of bright, enthusiastic, open-hearted students, discussing everything from poetry, journalism and memoir, to books that make you rage, to how inspiration can be hunted down (or not), to the transformation of personal biography into fiction, and of course much bigger issues to do with what we are all doing on the planet and how to make the best of it. Because any discussion about the arts is a discussion about life and therein lies its power and import.

Mention must also be made of my fellow "special visitor" to the College, Mabel, the Golden Doodle, who has enjoyed soothing stressed souls and winning hearts as if born to the task, in addition to assisting me at engagements to launch my latest book, a memoir, *For the Love of a Dog*.

With the end of Hilary Term in sight, I am once again happy, exhausted, and astonished at what can be crammed into eight short weeks. It was ever thus.

Amanda Brookfield (1979, English) Novelist and Univ's first Visitor in the Creative Arts





A life well spent

Professor Christopher Pelling, Honorary Fellow, pays tribute to his former tutor, colleague and friend.

George Cawkwell, who has died at the age of 99, was a central figure of the College for over 69 years. No longer-serving Fellow is known in the College's history – and “serving”, indeed, is the right word, even for the many years after his formal retirement in 1987, helping for some years with teaching and fund-raising, entertaining Old Members at home or in College, dining and chatting at Sunday High Tables, inviting to his home undergraduates he had met at Classics dinners, and indefatigably attending every Gaudy and remembering the most disconcerting details of one's undergraduate past. “And how is George?” was so often the first question a returning Univ man or woman asked, and until the last few months the answer was always “the same as ever”, with a mind and personality that retained

started a chemist's shop in Auckland which provided enough money for him to “go home” to Edinburgh to study medicine, and that was where he and George's mother met. She went out to New Zealand in 1912, but she remained very Scottish and George felt that she never really took to her new home. Her deep religious conviction affected his upbringing: his familiarity with Anglican hymns – he sang in the parish choir – could sometimes be sensed in George's diction, especially when he reached for an epigrammatic conclusion in lecture or in writing.

At King's College Auckland he certainly made his mark: two years in the first rugby XV, three in the first cricket XI, Company Sergeant Major of the Cadet Corps, and Head Boy. At the same time Patricia Clarke



“George always greatly liked and enjoyed the company of students, both in tutorials and socially, and he felt that he got on better with them the older he got.”

all their liveliness and vigour. The last time I talked to him was a couple of days before his death, when he rang to express sympathy over an illness of my wife. It was a similarly typical act of kindness that caused the accident that clouded his final six months: he had just been next door to leave a congratulatory note on the examination results of a teenage neighbour, and slipped on his own doorstep as he returned. It was also somehow characteristic that the passing motorist who came to help “turned out to be the daughter of someone I'd played cricket with”.

He was born on 25 October 1919. When his father was a young man he had

was Head Girl of nearby Diocesan College, though they did not meet until both were students at Auckland University. Their courtship was interrupted by the war, where George saw action – oddly, with the Fijian Infantry – in the Solomons in 1944, but they married in 1945. A year later they came to Oxford, as George won a Rhodes Scholarship to Christ Church, where, married man though he was, he was expected to stay in College. On the first night their eldest son, Simon, was born: the porter who brought that message the next morning must already have realised that this was not going to be a run-of-the-mill freshman. He went on to take a first in Greats in Michaelmas 1948.

While an undergraduate he also won two rugby blues, the first only two months after his arrival. In the dressing room at Twickenham he was asked which nation he would like to be considered for: he said “Scotland”, and on New Year's Day 1947 he duly played against France in Paris. France won 8–3, and all those playing south of the Border were immediately dropped. “I suppose,” he later wrote, “I was a moderately good player, but the truth is that my heart was never really in it and I can remember reciting Greek verbs as I jogged around the field.” What he would really have liked to excel in was cricket: “I hit some big sixes”. In a lunch for his ninetieth birthday

“

Typically of George, the lectures offered a terrific synoptic feel of how the whole period ticked, not just the details of this Peace or that Peace or what Agesilaus was up to, but why it all made a sort of sense and why it mattered – that grand sweep of the period, the historian’s feel as well as the puzzle-solver’s.”

in 2009 he recalled, in inimitable style, “all those I played sport with, so much fitter and healthier than I was. All now gone or going.” An interview with him as Scotland’s oldest living rugby international appeared in 2015, together with a rare picture of that 1947 match in Paris.

He came to Univ as Ancient History Fellow in Michaelmas 1949. George always greatly liked and enjoyed the company of students, both in tutorials and socially, and he felt that he got on better with them the older he got. That extended some way beyond his own pupils: his two dining clubs, the G.L.C. and the Bentham, and his brooding presence on the touchline during College matches were just two of the ways that he came to know many others. He also went out of his way to meet and ease the path of incoming graduate students, still a rare breed in George’s early days: he understood the isolation that newcomers, especially from abroad, could easily feel, and many will remember the kindness and sympathy that he offered. Two College awards reflect those particular interests, the Cawkwell Prize for the Classics undergraduate “who makes the greatest contribution to the general life of the College” and the Cawkwell Scholarships for postgraduate study in Classics.

He and Pat – they were very much a team – also entertained lavishly at home, with Pat keeping a meticulous diary of exactly who had come and what they had been served. It was always a delightful home to visit, and Pat bore with resignation the oddities that were features of academic married life: George even had to live in College for his first year or so as a Fellow, by which time the family had grown

to include Sarah and Tim as well. The marriage remained such a close and happy one that it radiated pleasure to all that knew them, and it was a devastating loss when Pat died in 2008.

Among his first pupils were two formidable scholars, Ernst Badian and Raphael Sealey: as he later said, being exposed to “the world premiere of some entirely original view” from one or other at 9 o’clock every Friday was “quite exhausting”, but those sessions were remembered with great gratitude by the recipients. He decided to specialise in the fourth-century Greek history option, and

swiftly made it his own, with a lecturing style that was unusually sympathetic to undergraduate needs, not least in such little things as repeating all references and offering hand-outs: these were the early years of photocopying, and I still remember the smell of formaldehyde that the flimsy sheets gave off. Thirty minutes from the start there would always be a break, with a firm “pens down”: nobody, he felt, could be expected to concentrate properly for a full hour. An academic anecdote would be told, or possibly the battle of Leuctra would be fought again on the lectern, with a pile of Oxford texts to represent one side and

“

For thirteen years we were tutorial colleagues, thoroughly amicable ones; for nearly fifty we have enjoyed conversations about rugby, Thucydides, and generally the way of the world, and by now the madeira or the burgundy did not stay in the bottle. I will miss him terribly.”



“

George's sixty-nine years are not a large fraction of Univ's 750 and more, but they are not a small fraction either, and it is hard to think that any fellow in that history has been remembered with such affection by so many."

Loebs the other. The Oxford texts always won. And, typically of George, the lectures offered a terrific synoptic feel of how the whole period ticked, not just the details of this Peace or that Peace or what Agesilaus was up to, but why it all made a sort of sense and why it mattered – that grand sweep of the period, the historian's feel as well as the puzzle-solver's.

Publications began in 1956, again concentrating at first on the fourth century: several became staples of reading lists, as again I remember from my own undergraduate experience in the late sixties. They were so important that the other faculty fourth-century expert, Geoffrey de Ste Croix of New College, felt moved to write rejoinders to circulate among his own students. George of course knew – a pupil reported this, adding “I didn't think dons behaved like that to each other” – but was too urbane to reply in kind; a few scores though were settled in footnotes in his later books. The first book, *Philip of Macedon*, appeared in 1978; immersion in College business – he was successively Senior Treasurer, Librarian, Dean of Graduates, Senior Tutor, Dean of Degrees, Steward of Common Room, Procurator, and eventually Vice-Master at a time when that office was particularly burdensome – meant that the others had to wait till retirement. By then a Festschrift had also appeared to mark his seventieth birthday (*Georgica: Greek Studies in Honour of George Cawkwell*, edited by Michael Flower and Mark Toher, 1991): that began with a warm assessment by Simon Hornblower of George's scholarship (“priceless”... “innovative and deeply original”... “original and important”), which ended by emphasising the link between the

teaching and the writing: “the savour of George's writing is the savour which can be added only by the born pedagogue”.

There was plenty still to come. In the later books the focus shifted back to the fifth century. *Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War* was published in 1997, and won the Runciman Prize; *The Greek Wars* followed in 2005 – a telling title, appropriate to his project of exploring what are usually called “the Persian Wars” from the eastern viewpoint. Then in 2011 Oxford University Press published a collection of his most important articles as *From Cyrene to Chaeronea*: an important role in encouraging that book and seeing it through to completion was played by Lisa Kallet, his successor at Univ and the holder of what is now fittingly named the Cawkwell fellowship, funded by Old Members in George's honour.

As one reads the books, it is impossible not to hear George's living voice: “Pausanias' inactivity was very far from masterly”; Darius “would do nothing common or mean” (poetic quotation or half-quotation was hallmark); translating a phrase of Herodotus, at the Persian court “there were many chaps, few real men”. There is a taste for the bold and, in his own word, the “wicked” opinion: there was never any need for Persia to fight the battles of Salamis or Plataea; there never was an Isthmus Wall in 479; the Greeks owed their deliverance to anyone but themselves. Many years of tutorial teaching leave their mark. One chapter of *The Greek Wars* for instance goes through all the possible explanations why Persian rule should have been so resented, and makes devastating criticisms of each in

turn, just as so many students had been put on the spot if they had dared to present any of those views. Equally searching questions are put to the narratives that the ancient authors offered, and most fall short: “One wonders indeed whether Herodotus himself had any experience of war.” “All in all, Ctesias remains a great disappointment.” “Xenophon is, in a word, muddled.” “All he [Isocrates] can offer is a spectacle of Panhellenic folly.” Even Thucydides does not escape unscathed, especially on military matters. One can almost feel each in turn writhing in embarrassment on the tutorial sofa.

My own memories of George are of course many, from the first words he said to me when I arrived late for a revision session (to be fair, Kybald House was not easy to find): “those who come late don't get any madeira”, and he poured the glass back into the bottle – the start of a beautiful friendship. He rang me a few hours after my fellowship interview with a brief, faux-gruff “you are successful”; for thirteen years we were tutorial colleagues, thoroughly amicable ones; for nearly fifty we have enjoyed conversations about rugby, Thucydides, and generally the way of the world, and by now the madeira or the burgundy did not stay in the bottle. I will miss him terribly.

George's sixty-nine years are not a large fraction of Univ's 750 and more, but they are not a small fraction either, and it is hard to think that any fellow in that history has been remembered with such affection by so many.

Professor Christopher Pelling, Honorary Fellow and Emeritus Professor; formerly Regius Professor of Greek, 2003-15, and McConnell Laing Fellow and Praelector in Classics at Univ 1975-2003.

Sir V S Naipaul

Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul (1950, English), Honorary Fellow of Univ, died on 11 August 2018 aged 85.



Sir Vidia, the winner of the 2001 Nobel prize for literature, is regarded by many as the greatest novelist of his time. His evocative prose spanned 29 books: non-fiction, short stories and novels.

Born in Chaguanas, on Trinidad's west coast, Sir Vidia was the second of the seven children of Seepersad and his wife, Droapatie (née Capildeo). His father worked as a journalist, working as a full-time reporter with the *Trinidad Guardian*. He was also a writer, self-publishing *Gurudeva and Other Indian Tales* in 1948, the year after Sir Vidia finished at Queen's Royal College.

At 17, Sir Vidia won a Trinidad Government scholarship, which allowed him to study at any higher education institution in the British Commonwealth. In 1950, Sir Vidia came to Univ to study

stories, but publisher André Deutsch agreed to publish a novel. *The Mystic Masseur*, published in 1955, would be the first of 12 novels. His time at Univ and in 1950s London inspired the character of Ralph Singh, who narrates *The Mimic Men* (1967).

Within months of *The Mimic Men* being published, his life was shaken by Britain's new immigration laws. He wrote to a friend about "a very special chaos" he felt coming to Britain, and reported feeling that "I could no longer stay here." In this period, he wrote *In a Free State*, a novel exploring dislocation and loneliness. This year it was added to the shortlist for the Golden Man Booker prize, a list of five of the best Man Booker prize winners of all time.

A House for Mr Bismar was his first masterpiece, gaining worldwide acclaim.

Muslim and a shopkeeper. As with many of his works, *A Bend in the River* explores the multiplicity of identities held by immigrants.

Patrick French wrote an authorised biography of Sir Vidia entitled *The World Is What It Is*. Yet, Sir Vidia is encapsulated best in his own words, as he said in his Nobel lecture, entitled *Two Worlds*: "I am the sum of my books."

Sir Vidia received almost every major literary award and recognition, including a knighthood in 1990. In 1996 he married Nadira. She survives him, along with their daughter, Maleeha, and his sisters Mira, Savi and Nalini.

Dr Robin Darwall-Smith, College Archivist, writes: "As with so many other aspects of his life, V S Naipaul had an ambiguous relationship with Univ, but two

“Sir Vidia is encapsulated best in his own words, as he said in his Nobel lecture, entitled *Two Worlds*: ‘I am the sum of my books.’”

English and become a writer. He obtained a second-class degree. His tutor, Peter Bayley, English Fellow and Praelector at Univ from 1949 to 1972, reportedly said years later that Naipaul had "not quite forgiven us for giving him a second-class degree."

Sir Vidia met his first wife Patricia Hale on the final night of an Oxford University Drama Society play, *Skipper Next to God* by Jan de Hartog. He moved to London after graduating, with Patricia staying in Moseley, Birmingham. He appeared on the BBC radio programmes *Caribbean Voices*, during which time he wrote *Miguel Street* sitting in the freelancers' room. Sir Vidia had difficulty finding a publisher for these short

It draws on elements from the life of Sir Vidia's father, following the story of Mohun Biswas, an Indo-Trinidadian who strives for success but mostly fails. *TIME* magazine included the novel in its "TIME 100 Best English-language Novels from 1923 to 2005". The novel was later adapted as a stage musical and two-part radio dramatisation.

Sir Vidia travelled widely to do research for his books, going back to his native Trinidad as well as India, British Guiana, Suriname, Martinique, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Jamaica. Nominated for the Man Booker prize in 1979, *A Bend in the River* is set in an unnamed African country and narrated by Salim, an ethnically Indian

major occasions stick in the mind. The first was in 1999, when as part of the College's 750th anniversary lecture series he gave a memorable talk reflecting on his life as a writer. The second was Naipaul's last visit to Univ, when in November 2015 he attended the memorial service of his old English tutor, Peter Bayley. He was now confined to a wheelchair, and Lady Naipaul said that his doctors had advised him not to come, but Naipaul was clearly determined to pay his respects to Peter's memory. At tea afterwards, Naipaul spoke warmly of Peter, remembering, as he put it, that Peter had been 'gentle' with him. So Naipaul made his peace with his old College in the end."

Sir Maurice Shock

Sir Maurice Shock died on 7 July 2018 aged 92. Sir Maurice was Politics Fellow at Univ from 1956-77, and Estates Bursar from 1958-73. He was elected an Honorary Fellow in 1985.



After serving with the Intelligence Corps from 1945-48, Sir Maurice read PPE at Balliol and was awarded a First. He then did postgraduate work at St Antony's. He was briefly a Lecturer at Christ Church and Trinity, before being elected Fellow and Praelector in Politics at Univ in 1956.

As a tutor, Sir Maurice helped strengthen Univ's fine reputation for the study of PPE, but as Estates Bursar, he transformed the appearance of the College. On our central site, Helen's Court, the Goodhart Building and the Mitchell Building were all created on his watch. He once reminisced to the Archivist about the origins of the Goodhart Building. The back of the Examination Schools was rather grim, and needed covering, and in front of it stood an antiques gallery, with

Oxford on which he oversaw the start of the building of Stavertonia. Now that the Univ North project is starting to take shape, we can be grateful to Sir Maurice for laying the foundations of the College's north Oxford estate.

Sir Maurice retained a lifelong affection for Master Goodhart, once describing him as a second father to him. When the Goodharts were living in the penthouse suite of the Goodhart Building in their later years, and finding it rather difficult to cook for themselves, having rarely had to do so, Sir Maurice and his wife would regularly bring them suppers.

Outside Univ, Sir Maurice played a significant role in University affairs. He was Treasurer of the Oxford Union from 1954-72, and he served on the Hebdomadal

“He transformed the appearance of the College. Helen's Court, the Goodhart Building and the Mitchell Building were all created on his watch.”

a workshop on the top. At a time when Arthur Goodhart was becoming frustrated at the slow progress in the plans to create Helen's Court, Sir Maurice remembered taking him to the top of the workshops, showing him the view from there, and suggesting that this could be a good site for a new building. The Master's imagination was caught, and that moment, Sir Maurice thought, was the germ of the Goodhart Building.

Elsewhere in Oxford, he took the difficult decision to sell the College's property to the north of the Old Parsonage Hotel (now the University's IT centre), and invest instead in some properties in north

Council from 1969-75, but perhaps his greatest contribution to Oxford was to serve on the Franks Commission of Inquiry into the University from 1963-6 in which he played a significant part.

Sir Maurice left Univ in 1977 on being appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester. However, he returned to Oxford in 1987, when he was elected Rector of Lincoln College. He was knighted in 1988. He retired in 1994. His wife Dorothy predeceased him in 1998, and he leaves a son and three daughters.

A fuller tribute to Sir Maurice will appear in this year's *Record*.



Fellows, Visiting Fellows and Lecturers

Admiral Sir James Eberle died on 17 May 2018 aged 90. From January to December 1971 he held a Defence Fellowship at Univ.

Jeanine Balhetchet died in September 2018. She was our French Language Lecturer from 1981-2003.

1940s

Patrick Benner (1942, PPE) died on 14 July 2018 aged 95.

Charles William David Harvey-Kelly (1942, Classics) died on 11 July 2015 aged 92.

Roy Storm (1944, Natural Sciences and then Agriculture) died on 24 June 2018 aged 91.

Derek Peter Francis Wheatley (1944, Law) died on 23 September 2018 aged 92.

Desmond Carteret Corner (1947, PPE), died on 2 May 2014 aged 88.

James Basil Damer (1948, PPE) died on 29 August 2017, aged 89.

Thomas Herdman McPherson (1948, Philosophy) died on 12 February 2017 aged 91.

James D'Albiac Pitcairn (1948, Modern Languages) died in August 2018 aged 90.

Eric Gerald Stanley (1948, English) died on 21 June 2018 aged 94.

1950s

Sir Adrian Christopher Swire (1952, History) died on 24 August 2018 aged 86.

Jack Arthur Bailey (1955, Geography) died on 14 July 2018 aged 88.

Richard Lindsay Law (1955, Law) died on 14 January 2018 aged 83.

Anthony Robert Cooper (1956, Law) died on 4 July 2018 aged 80.

William Marcus "Bill" Tydeman (1956, English) died on 2 November 2018 aged 83.

Andrew David Derry Hill (1957, PPE) died on 7 May 2018 aged 81.

Gerald Sylvain Marechal (1957, Law) died on 13 August 2018 aged 81.

Richard Hugh Moore (1957, History) died on 24 October 2017 aged 80.

Anthony Broderick Trembeth (1957, PPE) died on 11 July 2018 aged 81.

Sydney George Norris (1958, Classics) died on 27 November 2018 aged 81.

Arthur Greville Goad (1959, Law) died on 3 April 2018 aged 80.

1960s

Braham Sydney Murray (1961, English) died on 25 July 2018 aged 75.

Kevan Vincent Watts (1969, PPE) died on 10 November 2018 aged 67.

1970s

Martyn Kenneth White (1975, Biochemistry) died on 25 June 2018 aged 60.

1990s

Julie Ross (née Bramley) (1990, Experimental Psychology) died on 18 May 2018 aged 46.

Gervase Richard Markham (1997, Computation) died on 27 July 2018 aged 40.

You can read the full obituaries in the University College Record.

A walk around the quad

With Angela Carter, Univ's Resident Housekeeper at the Staverton Road Annexe.

How long have you been at Univ?

I'm currently Resident Housekeeper at Staverton Road. I started in February 2007 but I was a scout for several years before that. My Mum and stepdad, Sandra and Ian Williamson both lived in Univ, in Kybald House. They were Hall Manager and Caretaker respectively. My daughter grew up in the College being walked around by her grandfather and she started working in the College when she was 16 years old. My husband was also the Second Chef in College for many years.

What do you do?

I look after student accommodation and make sure it is clean and that the students are all comfortable. As we have kitchens up there I look at it as the halfway point between home and the real world.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

You get to know the students quite well. I've had some students come back to visit and say hello. It is lovely when you are remembered. I don't think you fully realise the impact you have on students until you are in the role.

Has anything about your role been particularly challenging?

The initial transition was a little difficult. I felt like I had gone from having one teenager daughter to nearly a hundred teenage kids. So, it was really quite challenging.

What is your proudest moment at Univ?

My proudest moment was getting the job I have now. I went up for a different job, which would have meant living in the flat my Mum and stepdad lived in. After the interview, I just knew I hadn't got it but then I thought that I wouldn't really want to live in the flat because it had no garden. Then they offered me the job at Staverton Road!

What tip would you give?

Check and double check and triple check because one little mistake can turn into a big one!

Do you have any advice for future students coming to live at Staverton Road?

My advice would be to enjoy living at Stavs. Enjoy your time there because you won't feel as if you're in the city centre or in the city. But keep your kitchens clean and tidy at all times, do your own washing up and don't leave cookers on!

What does Univ mean to you?

Univ to me is like a large family with lots of aunties, uncles and cousins. I have never worked anywhere else in my life where I have experienced this, and I think it is very special.

What makes Univ so unique?

I think it is the people, the characters, and what we aim for. We aim to give the students a really good experience and all we can hope is that they leave here feeling like they have had that experience and that we have done our job to the best of our ability.

I cannot think of anywhere else I would want to be other than here. I can't imagine working for a different college. We are the first and the first is always the best. None of the others can compete with what we have!



“

Univ to me is like a large family. I think it is very special.”

Skye McAlpine – interviewed on page 24 of *The Martlet* – has kindly shared with us one of the recipes from her new book, *A Table in Venice*.

Chocolate and Amaretti Custard

Crema al Cioccolato con Amaretti



This is that elusive treat, a recipe you can whip up at the last minute without making a trip to the shops for supplies. This doesn't, however, detract from how good it tastes. It is as chocolately as you would expect, but also beautifully light and airy.

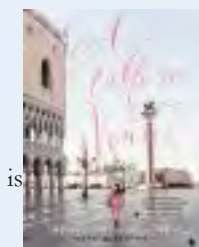
The custard is layered with a few broken amaretti biscuits, and the hint of sweet almond is particularly good with the dark chocolate. If you prefer, you could serve the custard plain, or with a crumbling of anything from shortbread to ginger biscuits on top.

For 4

25g plain flour
60g unsweetened cocoa powder
90g caster sugar
A generous pinch of salt
500ml whole milk
80g amaretti biscuits

Combine the flour, cocoa powder, sugar and salt in a heavy-based saucepan set over a medium heat. Stir in the milk and cook, stirring constantly, for about 5 minutes, until the mixture begins to thicken. When it starts to bubble, remove from the heat and let it cool for about 5 minutes; it will thicken a little more as it cools.

Crumble half the amaretti into 4 small cups, bowls or ramekins (I like to use teacups). Spoon the chocolate cream over them and leave to cool, then chill for 20-30 minutes. Crumble the remaining amaretti over the top before serving.



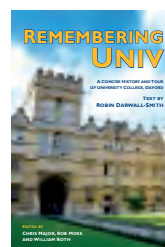
A Table in Venice: Recipes from my Home by Skye McAlpine (Bloomsbury, £26) out now
Photography © Skye McAlpine



Univ Quiz

Here are the correct answers to the quiz in the last issue of *The Martlet*. Thanks again to our Archivist, Dr Robin Darwall-Smith for setting the questions.

Q1: B, Q2: B, Q3: C, Q4: Dormer on south elevation of 90 High Street overlooking the Fellows' Garden, Q5: C, Q6: B, Q7: A, Q8: B, Q9: A.



We are pleased to announce the winner of the Univ Quiz is Alastair Lack (1964, History) who answered the most questions correctly. He receives a copy of *Remembering Univ*, by Dr Robin Darwall-Smith.

Perplexing Problem


Set by Thomas Povey, Professor of Engineering Science and a Tutorial Fellow at Univ.

Congratulations to Chris Hazell (2013, Physics), who solved the problem accurately. He also receives a copy of *Remembering Univ*, by Dr Robin Darwall-Smith.



Farewell Bob

Read an interview with Bob Maskell, outgoing Head Porter, who retired last September after 12 years of service to the College: bit.ly/univ0257



“The One remains, the many change and pass;
Heaven’s light forever shines, Earth’s shadows fly;
Life, like a dome of many-coloured glass,
Stains the white radiance of Eternity.”

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)
(Univ, 1810)

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.
BORN AUG. 4. 1792.
DIED JULY 8. 1822.

The Shelley Memorial at University College Oxford, given to the College by Jane Shelley, the poet's daughter-in-law.
Photograph by Ian Wallman.