



# THE MARTLET

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

ISSUE 12 | AUTUMN 2020

## BARONESS VALERIE AMOS

Univ's 55th known Master\*

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

#### CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

Inertial fusion energy: the solution to damaging greenhouse gas emissions?

#### MAKING HISTORY

Christian Cole, Alain Locke and Oscar Wilde at Oxford

#### OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS

Paul Chellgren (1966) celebrates 40 years at the helm of AFUCO



## From the Editor

Welcome to Issue 12 of *The Martlet*, the magazine for all members and friends of University College Oxford.

When we published the last issue, the College and the UK had just gone into lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. This issue of the magazine has been created with the Communications team working remotely, fuelled by the camaraderie offered by the Univ community.

Some of the content was commissioned before the pandemic, some articles reflect or comment directly on world events. There are also articles devoted to environmental themes – complementing this year's Univ Annual Seminar, which takes on the issue of climate change.

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 for copy-editing the articles, and Ariane, Justin Bowyer and Carys Dally for proofreading the magazine. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Development Office for the article suggestions and moral support.

I hope that you will enjoy everything that this issue has to offer. If you have any comments or news, please email [communications@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@univ.ox.ac.uk).

Kind regards,  
**Sara Dewsbery**  
Communications Officer

Front cover: Portrait of Baroness Amos by John Cairns

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*If you would like to share your views, please email: [communications@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@univ.ox.ac.uk) or write to us at the above address.*

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

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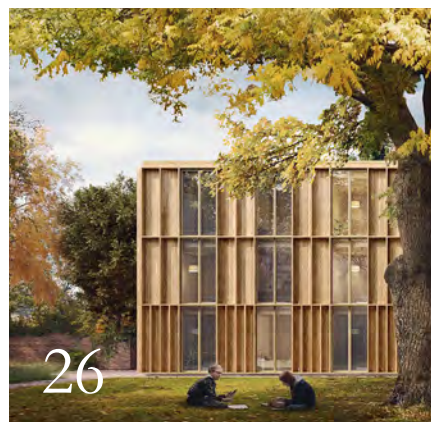
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**From little acorns**  
A nursery for Univ North



**Super natural**  
Creating a sustainable and biodiverse environment at Univ North

“

**The impact of realising inertial fusion energy will be transformative for humankind.”**

**Professor Peter Norreys**, Supernumerary Fellow in Physics

“

The more we can level the playing field and ensure that young people of all backgrounds have a high quality education, the greater their chance to access further opportunities in life.”

Calum Miller (1996, PPE)

## Features



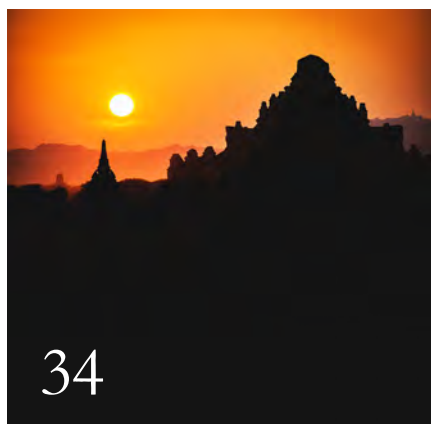
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Professor Peter Norreys, Supernumerary Fellow in Physics



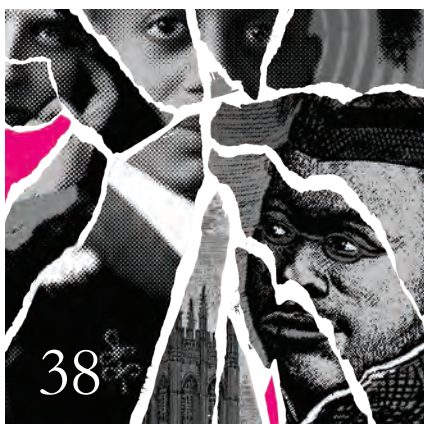
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# From the Master

Baroness Amos reflects on her first weeks at Univ



I am writing this the day after my formal swearing in as Master of the College. It was a moving albeit small, socially distanced ceremony with Lord Reed, High Steward of the University of Oxford and President of the Supreme Court, joining us virtually from London. Even before my swearing in I was feeling very settled at Univ. Starting a new job in the midst of a pandemic is not ideal and at times it has felt very odd but these unusual circumstances are having an impact on all of us.

When I first arrived College felt very empty without the students, despite the significant activity to finish building works, get new signage in place and ensure that we were ready to start term having put all our COVID-19 related safety arrangements in place.

We welcomed our Freshers on a rainy weekend two weeks ago and we are now at the end of the first week of Michaelmas Term. Most of our students are now in residence including more than 120 new undergraduates and 80 new graduates. College is more vibrant despite the constraints of social distancing. We marked Matriculation with an online address by the Vice Chancellor, followed by a lively afternoon tea here at Univ, and whilst we are unable to reintroduce Formal Hall at present, I will be hosting a series of dinners for our Freshers to give them a taste of the special Univ experience.

Lectures and large group teaching are online with tutorials being conducted face-to-face where possible or online where more appropriate. Students have told me how much they appreciate the opportunity to meet their tutors and engage in small group discussions, despite having to wear masks. These are very different times and although COVID-19

“These are very different times and although COVID-19 remains a major challenge, we are well prepared for a range of eventualities.”

remains a major challenge, we are well prepared for a range of eventualities.

Whilst COVID-19 related activity has dominated the agenda in the last few weeks other areas of work have continued. Following the Black Lives Matter protests earlier this year and the shining of a spotlight on the negative impact of racism on societies and institutions across the world, my predecessor Sir Ivor established a Working Party to consider what more Univ needed to do to address these issues. We are all very conscious of the profound human impact of racist and discriminatory behaviour. Governing Body has considered the recommendations in the report and agreed to the establishment of an Equality and Diversity Committee, Fellow for Anti-Racism, and Fellow for Women. I will report further on the steps we intend to take to ensure that Univ enhances its position as a leading educational institution, renowned not only for its global academic excellence, but also for its genuine diversity. The Univ Opportunity Programme, which has become a University-wide programme, is testament to Univ's commitment to be “proactive in eliminating discrimination” and providing an inclusive environment that promotes equality and values diversity.

I know that many of our Old Members have supported us in our work to build a more inclusive and diverse Univ.

I look forward to having the opportunity to meet more Old Members in person when we are able to host events again. In the meantime, stay safe and well.

Baroness Valerie Amos

# Unravelling the secrets of matter

How a new class of hybrid nanomaterials could transform medicine, energy, communications and the environment

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Electrons complete the circuit of the storage ring at Diamond Light Source with a speed equivalent to nearly seven and a half times around the Earth's equator in a single second.



“

Every time I depart on one of these ‘missions’ I feel the utter thrill of excitement coupled by the ever-present risk of failure and radiation.”



It is 3.30 am, time to change the sample. As soon as we start pumping liquid helium, everything has to work flawlessly. I pull out the five-feet long metal stick holding the radioactive sample. The Geiger counter is clicking loudly while I try to keep the radioactive material far from myself. Then, with my colleagues from the Multifunctional Materials & Composites Lab, we carefully place the new sample back into the tube of the cryostat. We quickly close the valves to create a vacuum and then – “beam on” – the neutron beam finally hits the new sample. Now, while the sample is being cooled to 10 Kelvin, (- 263 °C), we, too, can calm down as we await the emergent spectra to reveal the nature of our sample.

It was only my third week after commencing my DPhil in the Department of Engineering Science, and I already found myself in a week-long experiment in the accelerator-based neutron source. Since then, I have participated in and even led several beam time experiments in different particle accelerators and, still, every time I depart on one of these “missions” I feel the utter thrill of excitement coupled by the ever-present risk of failure and radiation. The challenging nature of such experiments is merged with an adrenaline boost that – with the help of yet another coffee – battles against little sleep as each hour of experiment is invaluable. In the mid-night excitement of the accelerator, we are observing phenomena that have never been explored before.

We are investigating a new class of hybrid nanomaterials called metal-organic frameworks. Since the choice of metal and organic building blocks allows a plethora of possible combinations, these multifunctional materials can be tailored to engineer desired characteristics. Additionally, the exceptional porosities of the frameworks offer the encapsulating of various guest molecules into the pores. Such host-guest systems yield unique properties – unthinkable in all other materials – which can be exploited to provide solutions for outstanding challenges in medicine, energy, communications, and the environment.

“

In the mid-night excitement of the accelerator, we are observing phenomena that have never been explored before.”



We explore how metal-organic frameworks can be used as carriers for anti-cancer drug molecules targeted to a specific part of the body. Or, again leveraging their porosity, we tailor metal-organic frameworks to sense tiny quantities of volatile organic compounds, such as acetone. These sensing interactions lead to a visible colour change, which enables us to further tune them towards developing medical devices for non-invasive diagnosis and therapy. But why, and how, do these nanomaterials interact? And how does the underlying “catch and release” mechanism work? To answer these questions, we use accelerators and nanoscale analytics combined with quantum mechanical calculations on supercomputers, shedding light on phenomena that were invisible to us until now.

Despite the strong focus on fundamental physics and chemistry, we always keep in mind engineering next-generation technical devices. I was lucky enough to be invited to present my findings to Members of Parliament

at Westminster during British Science Week, bridging the gap between science and real-world solutions. I am looking forward to exploring the mysteries of nanomaterials further, and am immensely grateful for the support of the Ashton Memorial Scholarship, which has made this fascinating journey possible.



**Annika Möslein** is a second year DPhil student in Engineering Science at the Multifunctional Materials & Composite (MMC) Laboratory at Oxford. Having joined the fourth year of MEng Engineering Science, she stayed in Oxford for a DPhil to pursue her two passions: science and sailing. She is an Ashton Scholar for Engineering, which is supported by the University and Old Members of University College, and has also won a Vincent's sports scholarship. When not in the lab, she can be found talking about women in STEM, books and space exploration, or, most likely, somewhere on the sea. On the same day she passed her transfer viva, Annika joined the development team of the OxVent project to contribute her engineering skills in response to the coronavirus outbreak. [See Website](#)

**Further reading:**

[bit.ly/3cxxNv0](https://bit.ly/3cxxNv0)

[acspubs.co/QqMZ50BoGHA](https://acspubs.co/QqMZ50BoGHA)

[eng.ox.ac.uk/tan](https://eng.ox.ac.uk/tan)



# Fellows' news

New appointments

## Univ's new Master



The Right Honourable The Baroness Amos CH PC has been appointed as the new Master

of University College Oxford. Her tenure commenced in September 2020, following Sir Ivor Crewe's retirement after 12 years in the role. Prior to taking up the Mastership, Baroness Amos was Director of SOAS University of London. Before that she served as Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator at the UN from 2010-2015, and held senior roles in government and the public sector. She has been a Labour Life Peer since 1997, and served in the Cabinet from 2003 to 2007 as Secretary of State for International Development and subsequently as Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council. She advised the Mandela Government on leadership and change management issues. She was UK High Commissioner to Australia.

## Visiting Fellows



**Dr Serena Baiesi** joins Univ as a Visiting Fellow in British Literature of the Romantic Period. Dr Baiesi is an Associate Professor

at the University of Bologna, Italy. Her research encompasses British Romantic, Victorian, colonial and Australian literature; eighteenth-century fiction; slavery and abolition in English history and literature; travel writing and gothic fiction.

## Tutorial Fellows



**Dr Niclas Moneke** has been elected as Schroder Family Fellow and Praelector in Economics. His research interests centre

on energy and environmental economics, development economics and international trade. His work focuses on how access to energy in low income countries affects economic development.

## Stipendiary Lecturers



**Dr Max Marcus** has been appointed as a Stipendiary Lecturer in Physical Chemistry. His principal research interests include: quantum dynamics in multipartite systems, quantum coherence and entanglement in chemical systems, spectroscopy of quantum effects, and properties of strongly coupled systems.



**Mr Adam Brzezinski** has been appointed as a Stipendiary Lecturer in Economics. He is currently a DPhil student in Economics. His fields of interest include political economy, economic history, applied macroeconomics and monetary economics. More recently, his research has encompassed the study of government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Dr Silvia Palano** has been appointed as a Stipendiary Lecturer in Economics. She teaches introductory and core courses in economics,

including macroeconomics, quantitative economics and labour economics.



**Mr Ioan Stanciu** has been appointed as a Stipendiary Lecturer in Pure Mathematics. He is finishing his DPhil in Pure Mathematics at Oxford. His research interests include: Iwasawa algebras, noncommutative algebra, Lie algebras, D-Modules and Representation Theory.

## Supernumerary Fellows



**Dr Laura Stevens** has been elected as Supernumerary Fellow in Climate and Earth Surface Processes. Dr Stevens is an Associate

Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at Oxford. Fields of interest are Greenland and Antarctic glaciology, geophysics, and polar oceanography and climate.



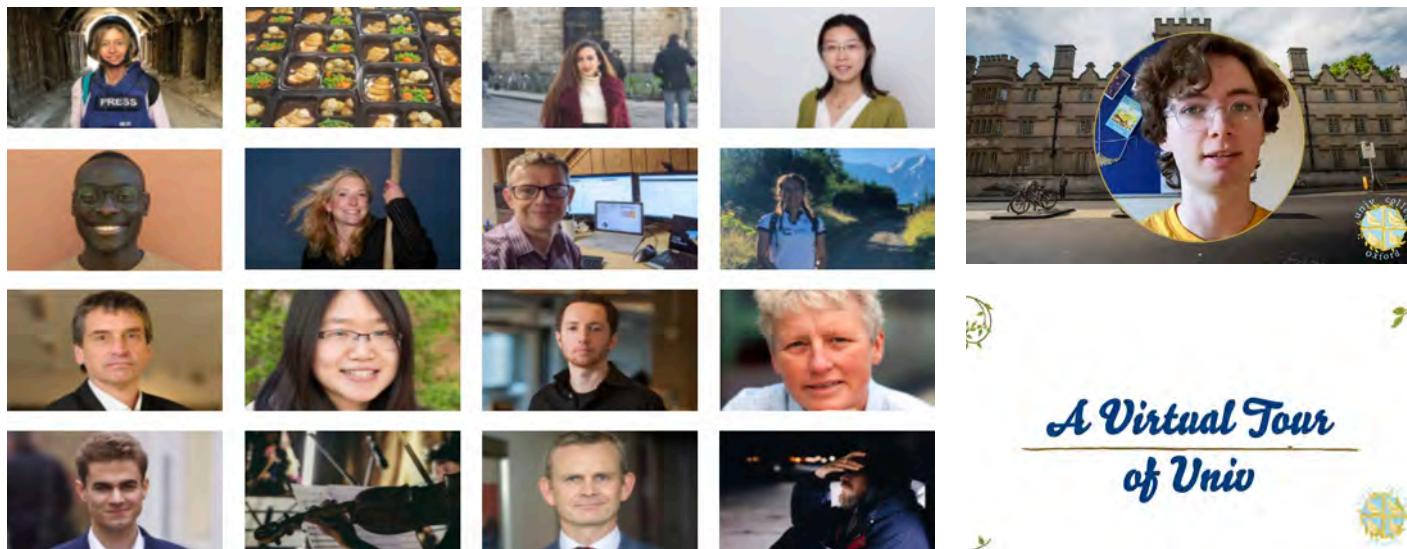
**Dr Nikolaos Kanellakis** has been appointed as a Stipendiary Lecturer in Pathology. He is based in the Nuffield Department

of Medicine. His research focuses on pleural malignancies and diseases.

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

# What's online

Univ North, Open Days and digital collaborations



Earlier this year we launched the University College North Oxford page on our website; intended to act as a hub for all-things “Univ North”, it was designed from scratch to highlight the breadth and depth of this ground-breaking project’s ambition. On it you will find all of the latest news, image galleries highlighting designs and plans, a wide range of video interviews and details of the naming opportunities available.

[Explore online](#)

However, it’s fair to say that not everything of a Univ digital nature has been quite as meticulously planned this year...

Remember back in January when we all thought Zoom was just an ice lolly? Well, the rapidly changing global situation throughout 2020 has certainly led to a lot of “thinking on our feet”, with much of our work being reactive or adaptive to the evolving picture.

We’ve published over 50 news items and features since April covering the incredible (and often incredibly selfless) efforts of our wider College community in the fight against COVID-19; everything from stories of cutting-edge research to extraordinary

charitable acts that have touched those most vulnerable during the time of crisis. If you’re not already bursting with pride you can read the stories online [here](#)

Throughout Trinity Term, with College effectively closed, we found new ways of maintaining both some sense of normality and, crucially, community. Thanks to a wonderfully collaborative effort from – in various combinations – Univ’s Choir, Music Society, numerous student helpers, our Director of Music, and the Chaplain we were able to publish weekly videos of our Evensong Services, create a virtual Ascension Day, enjoy a distanced *Ode to Joy* and reunite former Choir members for a beautiful rendition of Thomas Tallis’ stirring anthem *If ye love me*.

This year’s Open Days were similarly digital. Our fantastic Student Helpers were online to answer questions, we created and posted a range of videos introducing and exploring various aspects of College life and more than 1,000 prospective students took to our Virtual Tour (you can take it [here](#)). Working alongside Eleanor Chamings-Manley, Univ’s

Access and Schools Liaison Officer, we continue to explore new ways of extending our outreach offering – tools and resources not just for use during these extraordinary times, but ones we can take forward, rework and repurpose.

A final piece of digital comms of particular note for now is “Univ in the Master’s Garden: Looking to the future”. This was the last event for Sir Ivor Crewe as Master of Univ and the video presentations can be seen [here](#).

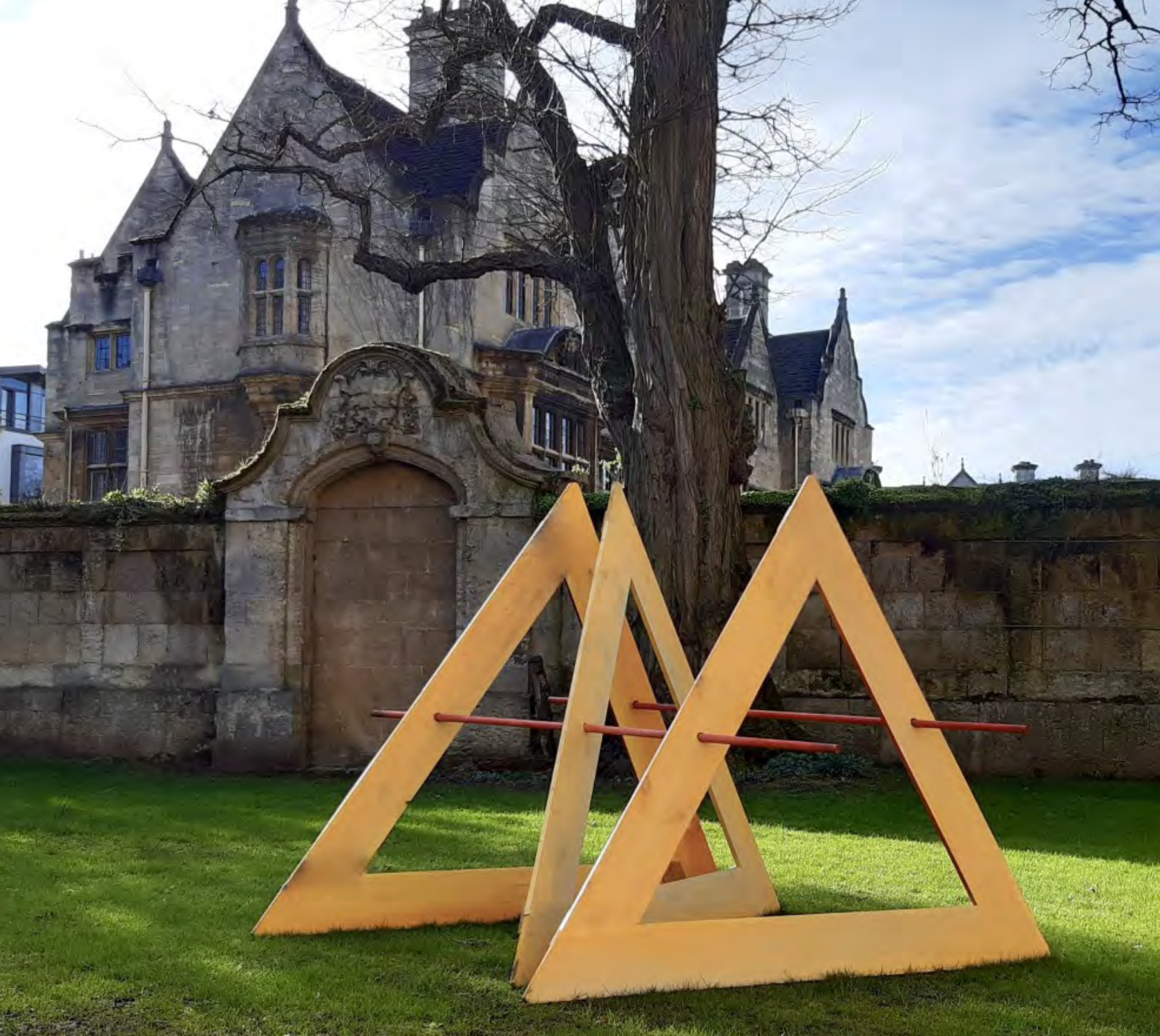
The challenges of the year thus far have been legion, but, as always with Univ, we have met them in a collaborative, innovative and robust fashion.

*Justin Bonnyer, Digital Communications Manager*

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- bit.ly/univ0250
- univ.ox.ac.uk





## My view of Univ

As Visitor in the Creative Arts I lived and worked in College. From my window overlooking Radcliffe Quad, I saw misty or expansive skies, colourful dawns tracing across honey coloured stone, blazing autumn leaves falling and the first greens of spring emerging. I watched gardeners endlessly tending grass, scouts and porters making their rounds, bustling students heading to lectures or lunch, calling up to windows or across to friends, academics hunkering through dousing rain or strolling through fresh breezes. Looking down on the Quad from my window, it appeared to be a blank canvas full of potential, just perfect for me to hatch artistic plans. In this space of crossings and interactions, I found creative inspiration in the serious endeavours and mischievous play of vibrant College life.

### **Melissa Pierce Murray**

Univ Visitor in the Creative Arts 2019-2020

[melissapmurray.com](http://melissapmurray.com)

Instagram [@melissapiercemurray](https://www.instagram.com/melissapiercemurray)



# College news

Univ North planning and the Humanities BAME Study Day



Rendered view of Terrace Pavilion looking north towards Staverton Road, Níall McLaughlin Architects Ltd

## Resolution to grant planning permission

Oxford City Council has passed a resolution to grant University College planning permission for its “Univ North”

development in north Oxford, the largest expansion of the College in over three centuries. The College is pleased to record this material milestone in developing its vision for Univ North and the value this will bring to the College for decades to come.


Univ North is proposed as a forward-looking, landscape-driven and multigenerational community that embraces the Fairfield Residential Home,

a long-standing assisted living facility, with the accommodation for undergraduates, postgraduates and Fellows, and a nursery. In addition, the site will house a small student café, a gym, ancillary study rooms, and a multipurpose common space for College events.

The project is designed by award-winning architect Níall McLaughlin and renowned landscape architect Kim Wilkie and places special emphasis on ecology and conservation. Their ambitious and transformative plans will rejuvenate historical orchards and gardens, increase biodiversity,

and create a pleasant and sustainable environment in which to live and study.

The proposed scheme, to be integrated with the existing accommodation at our Staverton Road Annexe, is the product of much work by our many consultants and advisors: the College is grateful to all of them. As well as Níall McLaughlin Architects Ltd and Kim Wilkie, Price & Myers, Max Fordham, Bidwells, FLAC, PB Associates and GS Ecology have contributed to the design.

More information about the plans can be viewed [here](#) 





### Virtual study day for BAME students

The College held a virtual Humanities Study Day on 27 July with Magdalen College and the University's English and History faculties for students with Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) heritage interested in humanities subjects.



This virtual event replaced the in-person Humanities Study Day for BAME students that the College was due to host in April. The original event had to be cancelled when the UK went into country-wide lockdown when all the University's face-to-face outreach had to be suspended.

On Monday 27 July, Eleanor Chamings-Manley, Univ's Access and Schools Liaison Officer, along with the other event organisers, welcomed Year 12 students who signed up for the original day to this virtual experience. This involved a choice

of lectures across Humanities subjects, admissions talks and a Q&A with current Oxford undergraduates. The day aimed to ensure potential applicants had all the information they required to make decisions about their subject and university options, and guidance in order to make a competitive application to Oxford.

This collaboratively-run study day was the final in a series of large subject study days run by the College. Each year between January and June the College's Access and Schools Liaison Officer runs five or six study days welcoming approximately 300 Year 12s from across the UK to experience taster lectures, admissions guidance and a taste of life in the College. Thankfully four of these study days had already run before lockdown was announced. This had included a History, Law and Politics day

specifically for Year 12s with Black African or Black Caribbean Heritage which took place on 18 February.

This virtual study day was just one example of how Univ's schools' outreach has had to move online. The College was also involved in the University of Oxford's virtual open days on 1 and 2 July and 18 September. Video content, student profiles, a virtual video tour and a chance to ask questions of staff and students were added to the Virtual Open Days page, which is still available [here](#) . The College has also developed its already substantial digital outreach available on its Staircase12 digital resource hub ([see here](#) ) and has been posting about resources available to students, particularly free resources available during lockdown, on Twitter.

# Our American friends

Paul Chellgren (1966, Economics) celebrates 40 years at the helm of AFUCO

The College has a network of more than 770 Univ members, past and present, living and working in the United States. These include many Rhodes and Marshall Scholars. Old Members are prominent in almost every walk of life: serving their respective professions and contributing crucial expertise across the country. The American Friends of University College Oxford (AFUCO) work closely with Old Members and the Development Office to accommodate the wishes of our US donors and to facilitate support for Univ and its students.

AFUCO has been actively fundraising for the College for more than 40 years, founded and directed by Mr Paul Chellgren,

Honorary and Foundation Fellow. Mr Chellgren is an American citizen, who came up to Univ in 1966 to read Economics as a postgraduate. He was Chairman and CEO of Ashland Inc, a global diversified energy and chemical company, until he retired in 2002. He is now an Operating Partner of Snow Phipps, a private equity firm with \$2.5 billion of assets under management.

Mr Chellgren is a leading benefactor of the College and, in addition to managing AFUCO, he created two Oxford-Chellgren Scholarships in Economics. He also gives to Chellgren Bursaries, Chellgren Travel Scholarships, and he is a member of the William of Durham Club.

## WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

In 1980/81, Paul Chellgren noticed a gap in Univ's fundraising in North America. Although the American Trust for Oxford University existed as an organisation comprised of one volunteer, no active solicitation for the College was taking place in the States. Coordinating with the then Vice-Master George Cawkwell and the Development Fellow Leslie Mitchell, a letter was sent out to a US mailing list comprising of 254 people in Spring 1981. Funds were then sent through the American Trust. Spring 1982 led to \$10,000 in donations from 69 Old Members. In the years following, 50-100 Old Members regularly responded. 1991 stands as a particularly impressive year, with \$67,000 raised.

In 1987, then Master Kingman Brewster, who had been President of Yale 1963-1977, suggested that Univ set up their own 501(c)3 corporation – similar to a Registered Charity in the UK, a 501(c)3 is a type of non-profit organisation in the US that is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code.

American Friends was thus set up as a Connecticut-based 501(c)3 (code 0210475) by Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts (now part of Pillsbury), who still act for the charity today. Winthrop kept all of American Friend's documents until 25 October, 1999, when they were all sent to Paul Chellgren. Univ was one of the first Oxford colleges to have a US based 501(c)3 entity to assist with American fundraising. Paul's work included setting up the entity, obtaining a letter from the IRS to permit it to raise tax-deductible funds, organising record-keeping and IRS reporting responsibilities, soliciting funds, arranging for proper recognition to donors, and keeping both the College and its American supporters aware of all that was done, providing total transparency to everyone.

The three original directors were Kingman Brewster, Bill Bernhard and Paul

Chellgren. Dan Coquillette was added for some time, but ceased involvement in 2015.

1998 was the first filing of a 990 (Internal Revenue Service form that provides the public with financial information about a non-profit organisation) by Kelley Galloway Smith Goolsby PLC, who still file AFUCO's accounts. AFUCO has been in a steady state since that time.





# IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL CHELLGREN



“Without Paul Chellgren and the effective fundraising that AFUCO has carried out, not one of our major fundraising campaigns would have reached its ambitious target. Our American donors have been crucial to our fundraising success as a College, with funds raised through AFUCO comprising between 10% and 50% of Univ’s philanthropic support in a given year. Overall, just short of £20,000,000 has come to the College through AFUCO since its inception. We have Paul to thank for this, and for his skilful cultivation and stewardship of our American supporters.”

**Sir Ivor Crewe**, Master 2008-2020



“I was appointed master of University College in 1998, a year before the College was due to launch a major fundraising initiative in celebration of the 750th anniversary of its endowment. At that time British academic institutions lagged behind the United States in soliciting financial support from alumni and yet the need for such support had become ever more apparent. Paul Chellgren’s achievement on behalf of the College over the 40 years spanning my Mastership and the years before and after has been immense and is eminently worthy of the highest recognition.”

**Lord Butler of Brockwell**, KG, GCB, CVO, PC (1957, Classics), Master 1998-2008 and Honorary Fellow



“For 40 years Paul has been a model of consistency. He has directed us to the big picture, while simultaneously managing all the details required of such an effort. I have been a part, or an object, of fund-raising for my school, my American college, and the law school I attended, for many years, and I am not aware of any individual volunteer at any of these places, which included Yale and Harvard, who has shown the dedication over so many years that Paul has shown at Univ.”

**William Bardel** (1961, History), Financial Consultant and Independent Director of Hudson City Bancorp, Inc.



“I am forever grateful to Paul Chellgren. It is hard to express in words how helpful and meaningful the Chellgren scholarship was to me as an overseas DPhil student. The scholarship and all his support reflect the caring Univ spirit so well.”

**Dr Burcu Hacibedel** (2000, Management), Senior Economist in the IMF’s Strategy, Policy and Review Department



“I don’t accuse Paul of venality. Paul supports many causes and people tempt him to support theirs, but he will resist. I recall a North American Reunion at which an Oxford Development Officer pursued Paul all day eventually finding him by “crashing” a reception. Paul politely listened to the Oxford “pitch”, explained Univ was his main charity, and the man left unsuccessful. Univ is also lucky to have a friend in Deborah Chellgren. Together, Paul and Deborah have been friends to Univ and many of us.”

**Sean Denniston** (1987, History), Transportation Industry Analyst at Federal Aviation Administration



“Paul Chellgren by his example and his polite but steadfast commitment to Univ over so many years inspired me to add my support to what is clearly a most worthwhile cause. He did all this while for much of the time running an important major corporation here in the United States. His leadership role for Univ is something few Oxford colleges could have seen matched or emulated. We are indeed all very fortunate, and my thanks to him and congratulations on a job very well done.”

**Robert Kibble** (1962, Chemistry), Co-founder and Managing Partner of the venture capital firm Mission Ventures

## The future

Jim and Ruth Shannon will be taking over the management of AFUCO next year. You can read an interview with them on page 44.

## Further reading

To find out more about tax-efficient giving from the USA via AFUCO, and international giving in general, please [see here](#)

# Master's scholarships recipients

AFUCO supports the Master's Scholarships for Travel to the United States and Canada. We asked some of the former recipients to describe what receiving the scholarship meant to them.

## Kathryn Carlson (2015, English)



"The Master's Scholarship allowed me to undertake travel on a scale which would otherwise never have been possible. Experiences on my five-week trip around the US ranged from visits to LA film studios and Harvard University to cornhole games in tiny Maine bars and lobster-like sunburn in

Provincetown. Thanks to the network of contacts provided by the Master, I met a diverse and fascinating group of Univ alumni across the US. I'm incredibly grateful for the generosity of the scholarship and of my hosts in the US, as the trip was one of the highlights from my Univ years.

"I graduated from Univ two years ago and have since lived in London, Florence and Paris working in journalism and communications. I'm now based in Brussels working as a reporter for a B2B publication focused on the chemicals industry. The photo is of me reporting for Reuters from the Elysée in Paris."

## Alexandra Wilson (2013, PPE)



"The travel scholarship changed my entire university experience. Oxford can be daunting in your late teenage years. I was interested in US politics, particularly race relations in the US and the Master's Scholarship gave me an opportunity to explore my interests in a way I would not

have otherwise been able to do. It gave me the confidence to pursue my academic interests but also to follow that up with my career in law. It's no exaggeration to say that the scholarship had a huge impact on my life and I am very grateful.

"I am a barrister specialising in criminal and family law. I published my first book: *In Black and White: A Young Barrister's Story of Race and Class in a Broken Justice System* in August 2020."

## Thomas Shorthall (2015, PPE)



"I was over the moon when I received a travel scholarship in 2017 and I spent the whole summer vacation travelling and working in the US. I couldn't believe the generosity of the Univ Old Members I met who not only let me stay in their

homes but also made every effort to introduce me to their localities and communities. The opportunity to travel helped hugely with my studies and gave me great memories of America so I will definitely return again for another long visit.

"Since graduating with a degree in PPE in 2018, I have returned from Oxford to Ireland where I work at a business consultancy called Teneo."

## Alex Haseler (2014, Law)



"The Master's Travel Scholarship gave me the opportunity to visit and explore both coasts of the US and meet amazing people along the way. I was blown away by the consistent hospitality and generosity of Univ Old Members and their families in welcoming me into their homes and lives. Without

the scholarship and support of Old Members, I wouldn't have been able to visit the US, so I am incredibly grateful to all those who made my trip possible.

"I am now working as a secondary Geography teacher in Gloucestershire."



# Event News

Fond farewells and a look to the future

Univ in numbers


 7,500+

The number of followers Univ has on Twitter

 9,000+

The number of Univ Instagram followers

## William of Durham Annual Recognition Day

The first virtual William of Durham Day took place on 23 May 2020. This is an occasion at which we recognise those members of Univ who have pledged a legacy to the College, and those who are considering this special form of giving. Professor Sarah Harper CBE, Supernumerary Fellow in Gerontology, talked about “Building new communities which unite rather than divide generations” and Professor Peter Simmonds, Supernumerary Fellow in Medicine, spoke on “SARS coronavirus 2 – is it really going away and could it come back?”. Video highlights are available to watch [here](#) 




## Univ in the Master's Garden

More than 200 people joined the “Looking to the future” virtual event on Saturday 18 July 2020, at which members of the College looked to the future post-COVID-19 to tackle some of the challenges facing Univ, Oxford and the wider world.


Panel members were: Dr Andrew Bell (1993, History), Senior Tutor; Professor Gideon Henderson, Senior Research Fellow in Geology and Chief Scientific Adviser at the UK Government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra); Professor Karen O'Brien (1983, English), Professorial Fellow and Head of the Humanities Division at Oxford, Professor Naj

Rahman (1994, Medicine), Supernumerary Fellow and Clinical Tutor in Medicine, Professor of Respiratory Medicine and Director of the Oxford Respiratory Trials Unit; Dr Alexander Sturgis (1982, History), Director of the Ashmolean Museum and Professor Ngaire Woods, Senior Research Fellow and Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government.

The event was hosted by Professor Peter Jeppard, Vice Master, Professorial Fellow and Herbert Dunhill Professor of Neuroimaging, and Sir Ivor Crewe chaired the panel discussion.

You can watch a video or listen to a podcast of the event [here](#) 

## Univ North – meet the architects

The virtual event on 9 September presented an opportunity to find out more about the College's Univ North development from Niall McLaughlin, Architect, and Kim Wilkie, Landscape Architect. Watch the video or download a podcast [here](#) 

## Dates for your diary

**Wednesday 25 November 2020**

16th Univ Annual Seminar – virtual

**Wednesday 2 December 2020**

Young Univ Conversations – virtual

**Tuesday 12 January 2021**

Univ North: Life at Stays – virtual

**Saturday 20 February 2021**

Donor Day – virtual

**Sunday 21 March 2021**

1970 Golden Anniversary Reunion

**Thursday 25 March 2021**

Univ in the Arts – virtual

**Saturday 1 May 2021**

Brian Loughman Memorial Service

**Saturday 8 May 2021**


Roy Park Memorial Dinner

**Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 July 2021**

Celebratory events in College to thank Sir Ivor and Lady Crewe

## Rescheduled or cancelled events

The Class of 1960 luncheon has been moved to 12 September 2021, the 1988-1992 Gaudy moved to 25 September 2021 and the 1993-1996 Gaudy moved to 19 March 2022. The New York Reception has been postponed. The 2021 London Dinner has been cancelled.

Events may be subject to change due to COVID-19. Please check the [website for updates](#) 

# A UNIV CONVERSATION

Facilitated by Ariane Laurent-Smith, Communications Assistant, September 2020.



**Dr Caroline Campbell** (1991, History) has been Director of Collections and Research at the National Gallery, London since 2018. Previously she worked as a curator at the Ashmolean Museum, the Courtauld Gallery and the National Gallery, where she was the Jacob Rothschild Head of the Curatorial Department.

Her exhibitions and books include *Leonardo: Experience a Masterpiece* (2019), *Bellini and Mantegna* (2018), *Art in Dialogue: Duccio/Caro* (2015) *Making Colour* (2014), *Peter Lely: A Lyrical Vision* (2012), *Love and Marriage in Renaissance Florence* (2009), *Temptation in Eden: Lucas Cranach's Adam and Eve* (2007) and *Bellini and the East* (2005). She is a Trustee of the Association for Art History and the City and Guilds of London Art School.

Born and raised in Northern Ireland, Caroline read Modern History at Univ, and studied subsequently at the Courtauld Institute of Art. She lives in South-East London with her husband, the architectural historian John Goodall, and their two children.

**Dr Alexander Sturgis** (1982, History) has been Director of the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology since 2014, and was previously the Director of the Holburne Museum, Bath. Whilst at the Holburne Dr Sturgis oversaw a renovation of the Museum that included a £13 million extension. Before 2005, Dr Sturgis worked at the National Gallery, London, for 15 years, in various posts including Exhibitions and Programmes Curator from 1999–2005.

His exhibitions and books include *Jeff Koons: At the Ashmolean* (2019), *Presence: the art of portrait sculpture* (Holburne Museum, 2012), *A Closer Look: Faces* (2009, National Gallery Publications), *Rebels and Martyrs: The Image of the Artist in the Nineteenth Century* (2006, National Gallery Publications) and the children's books *Dan's angel: a detective's guide to the language of painting*, illustrated by Lauren Child (2003) and *Magic in Art* (2003).

Dr Sturgis is an alumnus of Univ and the Courtauld Institute of Art, London.



### How do you go about reopening museums in these strange times?

Campbell: Visitors to the National Gallery are mostly tourists, so we're going to have to work with our hyper local audience at least until a vaccine is found. Even then I don't think travel is going to start back up to London to the same extent. It's going to be interesting to see how the city develops, especially with Brexit. It's a moment for being strong about what we are at the National Gallery.

Xa: At the moment because of social distancing we're having to restrict. We know the population of Oxford and we have a million visitors a year. So, our visitors are clearly not just from Oxford and will never be solely from Oxford. The difficulty for museums is that funding has been reducing for decades. Suddenly, the whole business model driven by big loan exhibitions looks very precarious. It's how we bring both new audiences in and old audiences back. It's fantastic that we managed to hold onto Rembrandt but it's going to lose a huge amount of money.

### Do we need to consider different ways of doing exhibitions?

Caroline: Yes. The beauty of an exhibition is that it provides that focus: the sense that there needs to be a reason you have to come to a museum now rather than in two years' time. There have been all sorts of ideas about how permanent collections can be used to do that, which saves money. So far, unfortunately, none of them have been tremendously successful.

Xa: We're hearing from our visitors to Rembrandt that they're loving that they can go without scrums of people. I think the need to get as many visitors in shows as possible to make them economically viable can make the experience unrewarding, but I am worried about the idea that the empty museum is the perfect museum. The current visitors are inevitably loyal, regular visitors. We need to remember that that is not the only constituency we serve.

Caroline: Absolutely. Because if we do just that it's going to also increase elitism. The perfect thing about museums ought to be that combination of objects and people. We're all enjoying seeing exhibitions without hordes of people. But museums are places for people.



### How are you approaching virtual experiences?

Xa: The digital seems to be the answer to all the challenges that museums face: accessibility of collections and how we interpret collections on-site to provide what every visitor wants in relation to interpreting the object. But, try to find a museum that has succeeded doing that! It's not about using the tools to replicate an experience but about doing something completely different.

Caroline: I don't think we can ever replace the physical sense of being with something. For some reason, it makes the hair on the back of your neck stand up. You can experience a lot from digital. But I think we're kidding ourselves if we think it is the same. Museums have got to be doing both. One thing that really does excite me about the digital is that it can help the National Gallery do more outside of London. The National Gallery can, should and will be showing its collection more outside London, so that it really begins to seem truly a national gallery, not just a national gallery if you happen to visit Trafalgar Square.

### How do we go about putting collections online?

Xa: This is a great and daunting challenge for those of us with huge collections (unlike the National Gallery which only has a couple of thousand paintings compared to the Ashmolean's million or so objects). Every great museum is also a research institution and a teaching institution and quite rightly is expected to make its collections available online, but we are being asked to create entirely new museums in the digital sphere without additional resources.

Caroline: The National Gallery has a small collection but the complexity of the information it holds is unbelievable. I'm working on a programme to make that information, which has been kept for 200 years in hundreds of sources, accessible to people and connected to our partner museums. We have to democratise our collections. Letting go is a powerful thing.

### How do curators feel about letting go?

Xa: There is big excitement in certain quarters and less in others. The Ashmolean has one of the world's great coin collections. For the past few years, the coin collections of the world have been linking their data and making it openly available, so that others can mine it in exciting ways to learn about the movement of people, money, goods and, even, ideas.

Caroline: There is the most resistance to linked open data in fine art because it is the most financially valuable part of most collections. Museums make money through licensing. If we're thinking about finding ways in which we can still raise income when our whole model is changing, it is difficult to give up licensing as well..

### How do you find a balance?

Xa: I feel strongly that the collections are not ours but belong to the public. But, in the absence of other ways of financing ourselves, which institution would wilfully cut off an arm? The institutions that made their collections freely available have done so thanks to huge funding. A balance needs to be struck.

Caroline: In a sense, we should be celebrating the fact that people love objects so much that they want to reproduce them. After all, imitation is the most sincere form of flattery. Ideally, we wouldn't need income from licencing. But if we can't bring in the money to support our work, where can we go?

### How can we broaden audiences?

Caroline: One of my most powerful experiences of being a curator was working with Hull for three years on a 13th century Italian painting they bought to celebrate being named the UK Capital of Culture, which interacted a lot with schools. We spent a lot of last year developing a touring model for one of our most important recent acquisitions: Artemesia Gentileschi's *Portrait of Saint Catherine*. It didn't go to many places, but we worked with the places (a doctor's surgery, a girl's school, a prison, and a women's library) for a long time.

Xa: The Ashmolean is very focused on introducing different voices and challenging Eurocentrism. We are working a lot now with community ambassadors who help us think about our collections from completely different perspectives and in completely different ways. These are collections for use in the ways that are most useful to the public that we serve. All of us who work in museums do so because at some point in our lives we have been inspired if not transformed by an encounter with an object or work of art in a museum. It is a fundamental duty for those of us who work in museums to open that door for people who are not naturally going to be brought into museums. Unless that door is opened, people aren't going to be able to get through it.



### What was your moment?

Xa: I'm ashamed to say it was with a Renoir painting as a child.

Caroline: Don't be ashamed! I think mine was going to Edinburgh as a teenager in the National Gallery of Scotland. I was completely dazzled by the two Titian "poesie." I watched as the pictures changed with the light and they suddenly seemed like living things. This year we gathered the Titian "poesie" together in the National Gallery for the first time since the 16th century. Collections aren't static. They're dynamic!

## Hidden Florence

**Professor Fabrizio Nevola** (1989, History and Modern Languages), Chair in Art History and Visual Culture at the University of Exeter, created a *Hidden Florence* app in 2014 which we reported on in *The Martlet*. This led to a collaboration with the National Gallery (including Dr Caroline Campbell), to create the Hidden Florence 3D app – which gives the viewer an opportunity to experience the fourteenth-century church of San Pier Maggiore in Florence, while viewing its original altarpiece in the National Gallery, London. See [nationalgallery.org.uk/visiting/apps](https://nationalgallery.org.uk/visiting/apps)

Visit the *Young Rembrandt* exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum online at: [ashmolean.org/youngrembrandtonline](https://ashmolean.org/youngrembrandtonline)

Enjoy highlights from The National Gallery at: [nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/must-sees](https://nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/must-sees)



# Seeing is believing

“It is during our darkest moments that we must try to see the light.”

**M**y name is Ping-Luen Ho. I was born and raised in Taiwan. My interest in science began when my chemistry teachers set a project to look for a solution to air pollution. I realised that science is not about getting school credit or winning awards. It's the joy of discovery that is most rewarding.

I fell in love with scientific research and thus became a DPhil student in 2018, co-supervised by Professor Edman Tsang and Professor Peter Nellist. My research explores the topic of “Seeing is Believing” – who knows what surprises a good look at the real thing will yield? A microscope is an essential tool in revealing the “real things”; the many atoms that compose all substances in the world. However, the irony is that when we “see” these atoms with electrons, the electrons are simultaneously inflicting damage on the material. So, the question is “How do we use the minimum number of electrons to extract the information we want from a sample?” During my DPhil, I intend to find a good answer to that question.

The University also provides an extraordinary platform for promoting citizen consciousness and critical thinking. Last year I was elected as the President of the Oxford University Taiwanese Student Society (OUTSS). This year I joined the WCR Committee as Ethnic Minorities and Racial Equality Officer. Rather than holding in-person debates and dinners, we

encountered an unprecedented crisis in the form of COVID-19. The Committee has been helping students affected by the pandemic in many ways, from delivering masks and medicine to taking people to the airport, to providing welfare checks alongside the College's welfare team.

The Black Lives Matter demonstrations for racial justice articulate this new and unstoppable urgency. That sentiment was never likely to be postponed by demands for physical distancing. The WCR Committee have been collaborating with the JCR and the SU on College-wide awareness and policy campaigns on racial equality and justice.

During the pandemic, our laboratory has been closed, so we cannot do experiments. Working from home relies on previous data, so I'm developing programmes to analyse complex variables. It is clear that emerging from this crisis will be a slow and protracted process, requiring patience and planning. International students now have many questions about their course, their health, their safety and their ability to continue working towards an Oxford degree.

In fact, the unsolved scientific problems are the same as the challenges in our lives that are so often accompanied by fear. It is during our darkest moments that we must try to see the light.

*Ping-Luen Baron Ho (2018, DPhil Chemistry)  
Swire Scholar*

## The Swire Scholarship

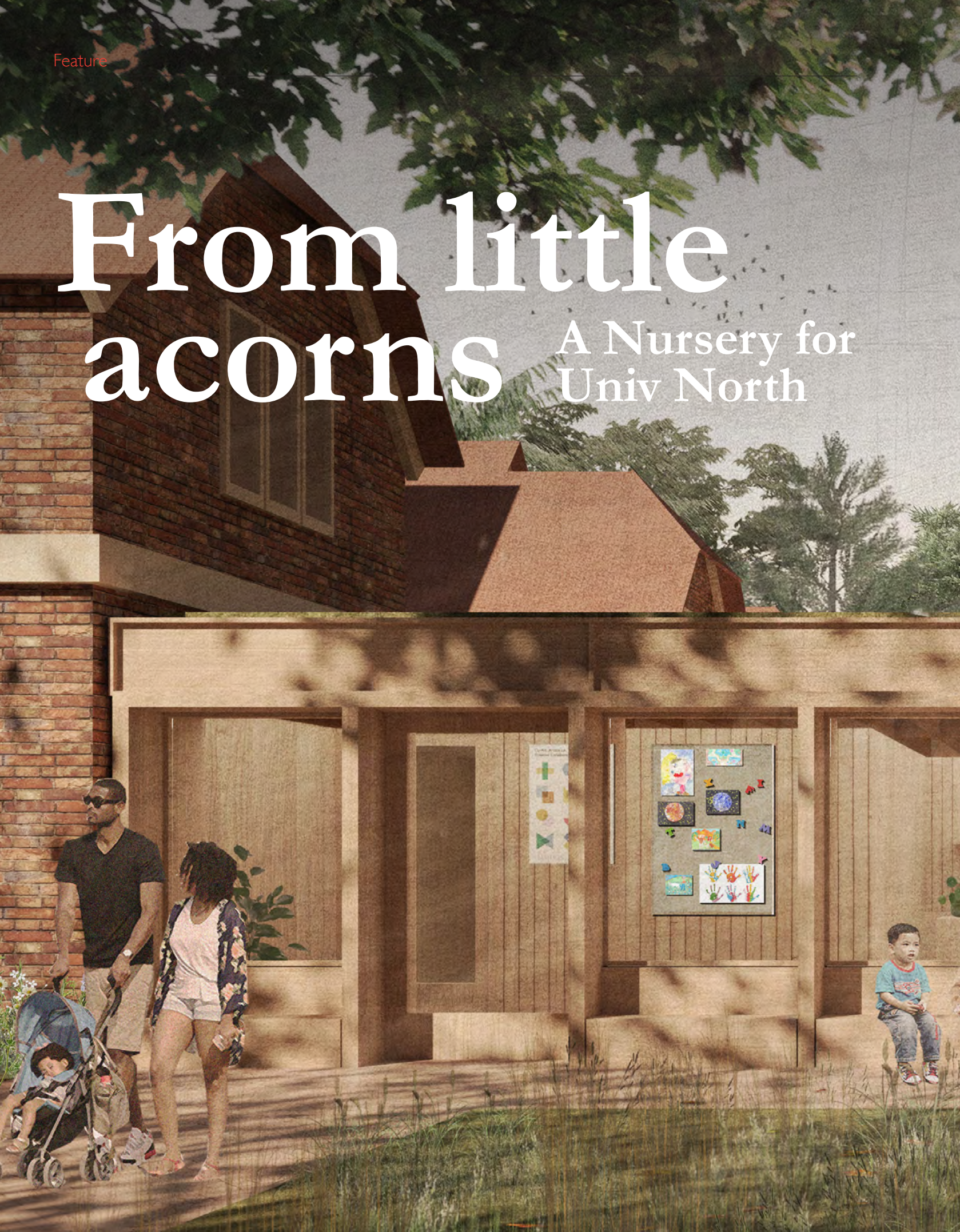
The Swire family, many of whom studied at Univ, are longstanding supporters of the College. The Swire Charitable Trust has, since the 1980s, offered fully-funded scholarships for undergraduates and postgraduates, from Hong Kong and Taiwan, respectively. These scholarships are a cornerstone in promoting wide-reaching and international access to Univ's world-leading research and study. Many Swire scholars go on to be pioneers in their academic fields or innovators in business, technology and the arts.



Feature

# From little acorns

A Nursery for  
Univ North





**UNIV** North will support students, staff, and academics for generations to come. A central aspect of this is providing childcare and family support.

Since the earliest days of planning for a new Univ community in North Oxford, the Univ North Working Party was keen to include a nursery on the site. Four years down the line, while details and ideas have changed, the vision remains much the same: providing wrap-around services and facilities for the whole community.



Rendered view of south facing entrance lobby and pitched nursery playrooms to the east, Niall McLaughlin Architects Ltd



To ensure that this key aspect of the development was supported and fulfilled, a small working party of College staff and Old Members was assembled:

- Angela Unsworth MBE, Domestic Bursar and Chair
- Revd Dr Andrew Gregory, Chaplain and Welfare Fellow
- Caroline Marriage (1991, English), Old Member
- Dr Ian Owen (1971, Physics), Old Member
- Professor Jacob Rowbottom, Stowell Tutorial Fellow in Law
- Dr Ben Jackson, Leslie Mitchell Tutorial Fellow in History and Development Advisor
- Dr Polly Jones, Schrecker-Barbour Tutorial Fellow in Slavonic and East European Studies
- Professor Sophocles Mavroeidism, Tutorial Fellow in Economics
- Jo Mason, Head of Childcare Services, University of Oxford



“When we set out on the journey to Univ North we had one uniting vision; to create a community worthy of the name, which would complement the main site yet offer something that we couldn’t on the High. There are many defining features of our proposed Univ North which live up to the vision, but none more so than the nursery. I, and we, are indebted to the Old Members on our nursery group who have so helped shape our thoughts into reality.”

**Angela Unsworth MBE**, Domestic Bursar and Fellow



“The family friendly environment and the people of Univ provided the most wonderful backdrop to our studies while living at Staverton. It was the most memorable time as we obtained two DPhils and a Staverton Thesis baby. Staverton was our second home.”

**Professor Chien-Jung Lo** (2003, Physics), Professor in the Department of Physics, National Central University, Taiwan and **Dr Ming-Hua Chang** (2004, Physics)



“Oxford provides more nursery places for the children of staff and students than most Russell Group Universities, however, demand is great. High quality Early Years is a vital part of providing a solid foundation for childhood development and the new nursery will be a

welcome addition to the childcare provision at the University.”  
**Jo Mason**, Head of Childcare Services for the University



“The Univ North nursery is an exciting prospect and will be a much-needed new pillar of the College community. It will also help the College to attract and support graduate students, early career researchers and visiting fellows who have families and find access to childcare a serious barrier to pursuing their research at Univ.”

**Dr Ben Jackson**, Leslie Mitchell Tutorial Fellow in Modern History



“Univ’s new nursery will bring real, lasting benefit to the College and wider community. With its cutting-edge design and beautiful location in leafy North Oxford, Univ nursery will be one of the most exciting additions to the city’s childcare provision in many years.”

**Dr Polly Jones**, Schrecker-Barbour Tutorial Fellow in Slavonic and East European Studies

Together they scoped the required facilities and worked through the proposed designs, contributing to a vision of Univ’s needs now and into the future. The final plans informed the Univ North Working Party and Governing Body on early years provision and championed the inclusion of these most vital of facilities within the heart of the new development. The nursery will provide space for 54 children, from the age of six months until primary school.

Designing a nursery is much like any architectural design: a balance of functionality and aesthetics. The new

nursery building will be in keeping with the other site buildings, accessible and eco-friendly. It will also provide all the facilities needed to offer a fun, safe, and exciting space for the children. There will be a beautiful outdoor garden space, first-rate cooking and learning facilities.

If staff, students, and academics are supported in their personal lives, they will be able to focus on and excel in their professional lives. Univ North will provide services and support that are second to none, and one of these most vital of services is childcare.



# SUPER NATURAL

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE AND BIODIVERSE ENVIRONMENT AT UNIV NORTH

Head and view of the Lyric Pavilion viewed from the Pagoda Lawn, Neil Melancon Architects



Rendered view of the entrance from Banbury Road showing existing cedars in the foreground and proposed new orchard planting, Niall McLaughlin Architects Ltd



**T**he plans for University College, North Oxford have deliberately been developed with biodiversity, sustainability, and the surrounding human and natural environment in mind.

The development will result in seven new three-storey buildings, internal and external alterations to Fairfield House and Garden House, demolition of the more recent extensions to Redcliffe-Maud House, new footpaths and pedestrian access from Banbury Road, alongside comprehensive landscaping and tree planting.

The buildings have been designed to be as energy efficient as possible, reducing carbon emissions and protecting the climate for the future. A multi-faceted approach has been taken to ensure this, including:

- A fabric-first design with high levels of insulation, inherent sealing, and draught exclusion
- High-quality windows with generous opening for good natural light and ventilation
- Glazing areas considered to avoid overheating
- Air source heat pump for hot water
- Heat recovery ventilation for fresh air
- Cross-laminated Timber (CLT) for construction, rather than high-carbon concrete or steel







Left: Landscape sketch by Kim Wilkie

Below: Aerial view of the Staverton Road site



Rendered interior view of the student café looking east towards Walnut Lawn with day-to-day seating arrangement, Níall McLaughlin Architects Ltd

Through consultation with the council, stakeholders, and local residents, we have designed our buildings to reflect and complement local architectural heritage. We will be retaining the Edwardian and Victorian elements of the site, whilst replacing the more modern elements with new and better-designed buildings. Our two pavilions will be made entirely from sustainably sourced timber, with basements allowing for natural ventilation. Through a variety of architectural, technological, and design innovations, we have also reduced the proposal's carbon emissions by 40%.

The scheme has been designed from the ground up to preserve and enhance local wildlife and biodiversity. All significant and high-quality trees across the site will be retained. The proposal seeks to minimise tree loss with substantial re-planting to conserve and enhance the character of the site as a “leafy garden suburb”. Indeed, through the preservation of trees and the planting of new ones, we will improve canopy

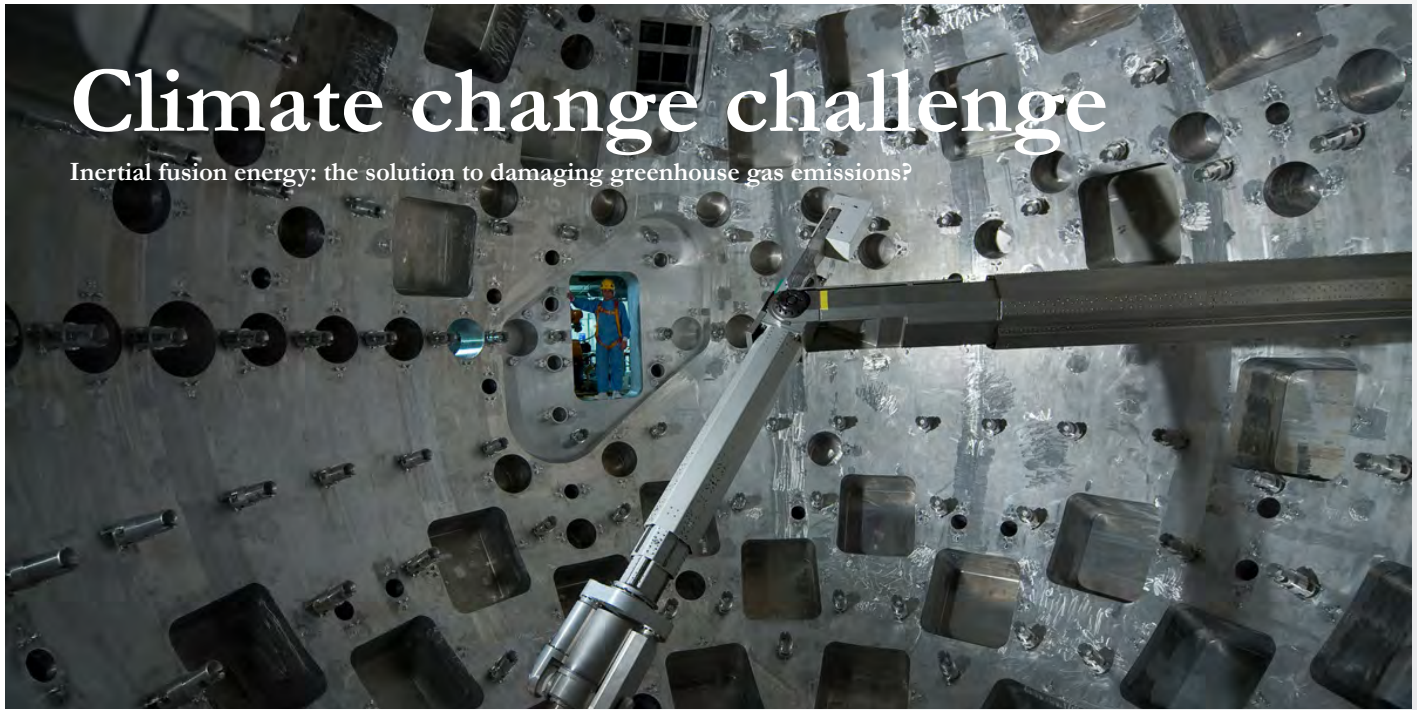
cover by up to 30% on the site over time. Largely native species, the mix of new trees will augment the abundance of associated fauna that the site will be able to support while concurrently enriching the aesthetic qualities of the site in support of the North Oxford Conservation Area.

New garden spaces, wildflower meadow planting, a green roof on part of the nursery, and a new traditional orchard will help to deliver a 16.77% increase in biodiversity, far above policy requirements. We will also be introducing beehives in the orchards, integrated bird and bat boxes, bird and bat bricks, bat tiles, and hedgehog houses, discreetly placed where they will not be disturbed. Once built, these green spaces will be maintained by the College's Head of Grounds Maintenance and the grounds team. To tie Univ North to the main site, the College is also looking to purchase an electric service van to run between the High Street and north Oxford.



# Climate change challenge

Inertial fusion energy: the solution to damaging greenhouse gas emissions?



Peter Norreys, Univ Supernumerary Fellow in Physics, is Professor of Inertial Fusion Science in Oxford University's Department of Physics. Last April, he chaired the International Conference on High Energy Density Science in Univ on behalf of the Institute of Physics attended by over 120 scientists. In March 2020, he chaired a Hooke discussion meeting in the Royal Society that brought together leading fusion scientists to discuss the future of inertial fusion energy in Europe, preparing a roadmap for a European demonstration reactor and accelerating the development of this potentially "transformative" technology.

In January 2019, Professor Norreys was awarded an Enabling Research grant from EUROfusion, part of EURATOM. The consortium comprises fifteen laboratories in nine nations, including the United Kingdom. Overall, the project has enabled increased co-operation and co-ordination of Inertial Fusion Energy activities using high power laser facilities across the European Union. The specific aim – to prepare for experiments on the PETAL/LMJ facility in Bordeaux, France – has provided a focus for this concerted effort.

In this article, Professor Norreys explains how inertial fusion energy is moving closer to realisation as a source of nuclear power and why it has the potential to make a big impact in efforts to combat climate change.

## How does inertial fusion energy work?

Inertial fusion energy involves the compression of matter to ultra-high densities (300–1,000 gcm<sup>3</sup>) and temperatures (greater than 50,000,000 °C) over a very short period of time. This is done by irradiating and imploding a small spherical shell containing isotopes of hydrogen (deuterium and tritium), either directly using intense laser beams or by first converting the laser energy to soft X-rays. Once these density and temperature conditions are met, then the hydrogen-like ions have sufficient kinetic energy to overcome the repulsive barrier associated with their positive electric charges and for strong nuclear force to fuse these isotopes into helium ions.

As the rest mass of the fusion products (a helium nucleus and a neutron) is less than the combined masses of the deuterium and tritium ions (remember that energy equals mass multiplied by the square of the speed of light, i.e.  $E = mc^2$ ), this results in a massive release of energy for each fusion event. If a sufficient number of these fusion reactions occur, then more energy can be generated than was used to drive the compression in the first place. It should be possible to capture that energy so that it can be turned into heat in order to drive a steam turbine for electricity generation.

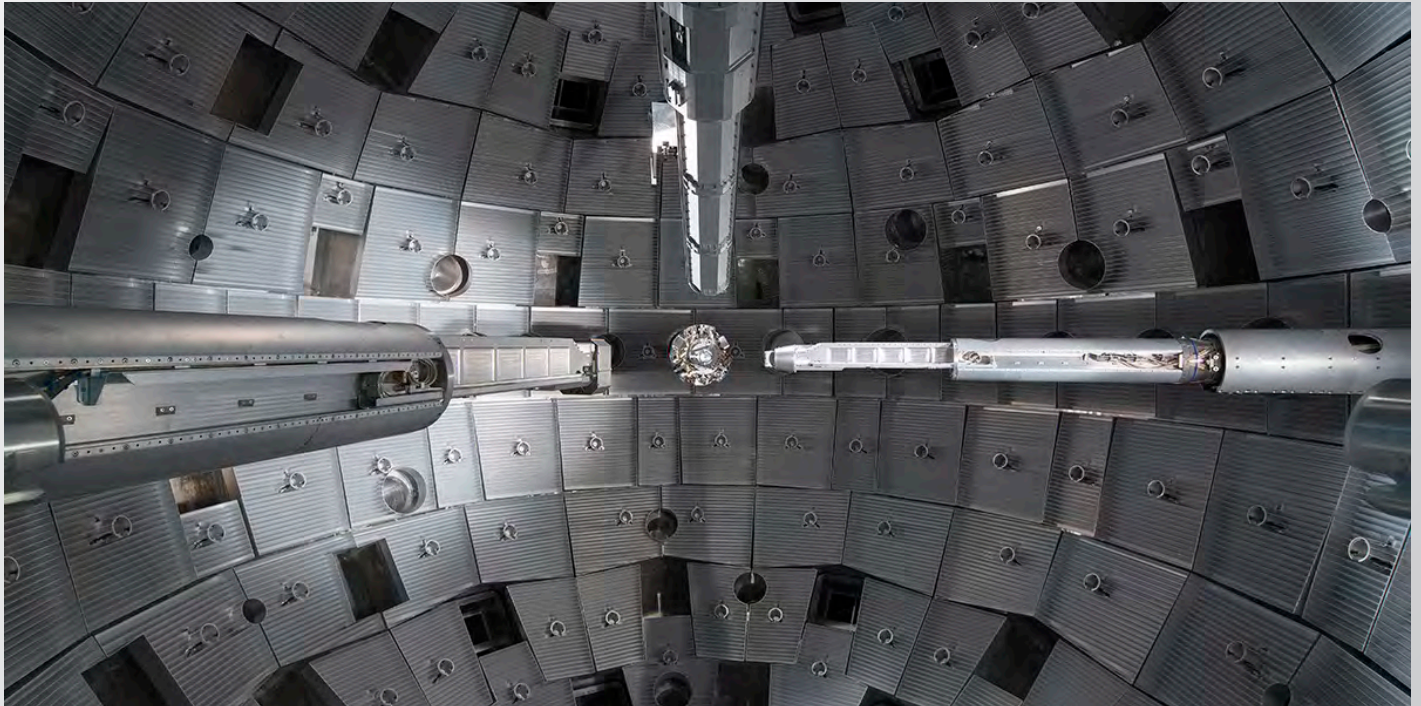
The scientific and technological progress in inertial confinement fusion research has been immense over the past two decades, especially in areas related to the assembly and understanding of the high-energy density conditions in the compressed fuel, as well as the critical technologies required for inertial fusion energy applications. These include high-repetition rate lasers, heavy ion beam drivers, pulsed power system and cryogenic target assembly and qualification.

## How does inertial fusion tie in with the broader area of nuclear fusion?

All approaches to nuclear fusion must satisfy the Lawson criteria, which states that the product of the density, temperature and confinement time of the fusion fuel must exceed a set parameter for there to be net energy gain. Consequently, all fusion devices must prevent the fusion fuel from coming into contact with the surrounding reactor vessel in order to maintain the required ultra-high temperature.

One way to isolate the fusion fuel is to confine it at low densities over relatively long time-scales using strong magnetic fields. This research is now underway at the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy with experiments at the Joint European Torus (JET), the spherical tokamak MAST at Culham and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) in France.





The inertial confinement fusion approach is to assemble the fusion fuel at ultra-high densities and to generate a spark that generates a fusion burn-wave that propagates through the fuel. This is done by converting the kinetic energy of the implosion to thermal energy at the stagnation time. Devices that have studied this approach include the National Ignition Facility at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in the USA, and the Laser Megajoule facility in France. Inertial fusion energy (the energy application of inertial confinement fusion research) requires repeated injection of fusion pellets and the deployment of high repetition rate drivers, at the 5–10 Hz rate.

#### **What impact could this technology have?**

The impact of realising inertial fusion energy will be transformative for humankind. There are no long-lived radioactive by-products, provided that careful selection of the reactor chamber materials is made. An inertial fusion energy reactor is compatible with the existing electricity infrastructure distribution and generation grid. The process is inherently safe, each nation can have security of supply, and the fusion fuels are abundant and will satisfy humankind's needs for millennia to come.

Investment in the photonics industry will also generate many new spin-offs and highly skilled jobs. It promises substantial improvements to thermal neutron source brightness, thereby revolutionising neutron scattering for applications across the natural sciences, from biochemistry to life sciences. Most importantly, it promises no greenhouse gas emissions and allows us to envisage strategies for minimising the worst effects of climate change, while still bringing the remainder of the world's population out of absolute poverty.

#### **How close are we to achieving this?**

Inertial confinement fusion arose out of the nuclear stockpile stewardship programmes in the US and UK. The concept rests upon the results of classified experiments performed under the limited UK test programme and the US Halite-Centurion programme, as well as the data that has been obtained from the National Ignition Facility. So while it is true that ignition has not been achieved so far, it is now arguable that sufficient progress has been made in understanding laser-driven burning plasmas to begin to contemplate what the next facilities might look like.

Given the urgency of the threats facing humankind from climate change, as highlighted by Sir David Attenborough in his December 2018 speech to the UN

Conference on Climate Change in Poland, such a facility should aim for net energy out or even move towards high gain. The advantages of a funded inertial fusion energy research programme are that the technologies in laser and ion beam drivers, target manufacture and reactor chamber lifetimes can all be decoupled. So while it is difficult to predict the future and state how close we are to realising inertial fusion energy, I am confident that present and next-generation scientists in our universities, national laboratories and industry are up to the challenge and are capable of real delivery. Given the significant challenges in developing fusion reactors and associated technologies, it is likely that these may replace fission reactors from the middle of the century onwards.

If the UK government were to embark on a concerted bilateral effort with the EU, Asia and the US, then we could realise this dream relatively quickly. We in Univ are taking the lead in co-ordinating the European effort and in doing so are doing our duty to secure the future of humankind.

*This article was prepared with the help of Stuart Gillespie, Head of Research, Impact & Innovation Communications in Oxford's Public Affairs Directory*



# WIDENING PARTICIPATION

## AN OLD MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE

**Annie Tse** (1984, Law) practised as a corporate finance lawyer with leading law firms in London and Hong Kong. Since retiring from her legal career, she pursued further studies and was awarded MA degrees in Russian Studies and Comparative Literature by UCL. Annie is a trustee of Univ Old Members' Trust and a member of the Student Support and Access Committee. She and her husband **Terence Tsang** (1983, Engineering) were among the first supporters in the realisation of Univ's Opportunity Programme. She also volunteers with The Access Project, a charity which provides mentoring and tutoring to students from a widening participation background.

### What is the role of Univ's Student Support and Access Committee and what have been your highlights as a member?

The Student Support and Access Committee is part of the Old Members Trust, which offers means-tested bursaries to undergraduate students. Together with financial support available at University level, it is hoped that all students, regardless of background, can make the most of their time at Oxford. The Committee also supports the College in its outreach work. To me, the success of the Opportunity Programme was a breakthrough moment. Other access initiatives include Staircase 12, summer schools and study days – these are often supported by Univ student volunteers. As an Old

Member, it is great to see how the College is guided not only by goodwill, but also by its commitment and professional experience to deliver results on access.

### How did you first hear about the Opportunity Programme?

Terence and I first heard about what would become the Opportunity Programme from Sir Ivor in 2016 when there were some negative reports in the press on Oxford's widening participation statistics. The College responded pro-actively and I was impressed by the boldness of the scheme; in particular, the addition of 10% of undergraduate places per year for students from a widening participation background. The idea of a bridging programme also



appealed to me. Through my work as a tutor at The Access Project, I can see how a short intensive period of individualised guidance can make a difference for promising students. Terence and I are delighted to support the Opportunity Programme from its inception and see how it has developed over the past few years. The fact that the University has adopted it as a model for Opportunity Oxford speaks for itself.

### How did you become involved with The Access Project and what is your role?

I started volunteering with The Access Project partly due to my involvement with the Student Support and Access Committee. I was initially at a loss on what I could contribute as my interaction with young people was rather limited. I felt

I could get some experience through volunteering as a tutor for students from a widening participation background. I tutor English, which was my favourite subject in school. In recent years, I am more involved in mentoring law applicants and helping them with admission tests and interviews. I also adjudicate a Year 10 Reading Challenge competition which encourages students to read around their intended university subjects. I enjoy reading the students' entries and I always give them individual feedback. The best part is making recommendations on what they might enjoy reading next.



### What are the challenges of being a volunteer tutor?

Not being trained as a teacher means it takes me a long time preparing for a tutorial. I re-read the texts carefully, reminding myself that my personal (possibly wrong) response should not feature anywhere except in my MA dissertations. The COVID-19 crisis means that I have to enter the brave new world of Zoom. Before the admission test seminar for my students this year, a young person warned me that my credibility would disappear if I struggled like a tech dinosaur. Thankfully I got some practice in an Old Members' Trust Zoom meeting, where I rendered myself voiceless by pressing an innocent-looking button. It would have been disastrous had I made the same mistake in front of my students.

### Are there students from The Access Project you remember particularly well?

Applying to universities in the autumn term can be very stressful. Some of my students who make it to the interview rounds can feel a bit intimidated. I try to help by giving them a mock interview. I always choose a car theft case – hoping that they will focus more on the legal principles if

the facts are not too interesting. I was once pleasantly surprised that after being “tormented” for thirty minutes by the distinction between releasing the handbrake and driving the car away, my student’s question for me at the end was still on car theft. I felt his passion for the subject was beyond dispute; he is now reading law at Univ. For many law applicants, the Oxbridge interview is their first opportunity to discuss legal issues with an expert. I always encourage my students to treat the interview as a masterclass – plus a sleepover in a college! There is so much potential for the interview to be a positive and inspiring experience, regardless of the outcome.

### What brought you to Univ?

Coming to Univ was nothing short of serendipity. When I came up in 1984, there was no certainty I could finance my studies, not even for the first year. My parents made some exceptional sacrifices, in the belief that Oxford was their best possible gift for me. I also had an amazing teacher at the United World College of the Atlantic – Ian Wilson (1970, History) who encouraged me to apply to Univ. Ian was brought to Univ by his History teacher, also an Old Member; there is a lineage of inspiring teachers in our

“

I would not have made it to Univ without being given the benefit of the doubt. So many people helped me in my journey to Univ; I also hope I can support others getting into the universities they aspire to.”

journeys. Finally, I am indebted to my “fairy godmother” – the tutor (identity unknown) who marked one of my entrance papers. The question was on 19th century authors. I made the fatal mistake that this covered all years beginning with “19” as I launched into Samuel Beckett and Harold Pinter. I would not have made it to Univ without being given the benefit of the doubt. So many people helped me in my journey to Univ; I also hope I can support others getting into the universities they aspire to.

### What do you value most about your undergraduate experience at Univ?

My experience at Univ was so positive that I see learning as a life-long journey. Doctors prescribe at least twenty minutes of exercise each day; the mind probably needs more. I still remember coming out of my tutorials, realising the more I put in, the more I got out. The reverse was also true. The tutorial system is valuable because the student always takes charge of the learning process. In a year when public exams were cancelled and many students felt they did not get

proper recognition, I hope the process of learning has been intrinsically valuable for them. This is something which the pandemic cannot take away.

### Which aspects of the Univ North development do you find most inspiring?

Much as I rhapsodise over my undergraduate days, academic institutions evolve and grow with time. Whenever I come back to College, I see it changing for the better – the Opportunity Programme is an example. Univ North will provide the College with the foundation to embrace new causes and meet new challenges – some of which we cannot even begin to imagine now. The inter-generational aspect of the design, with a nursery and retirement home on site, will enable the College to reach out to its wider community even more. Terence and I look forward to supporting this project through the Young Univ Matched Giving Scheme. For Old Members like us who left the College such a long time ago, seeing how the young alumni community supports the College always inspires us to play our part.

“

As an Old Member, it is great to see how the College is guided not only by goodwill, but also by its commitment and professional experience to deliver results on access.”

# UNIV AND THE CORONAVIRUS

As early as January, Univ academics were turning their attention towards COVID-19 research. Over the past six months, academics, students, alumni and staff have all made outstanding contributions to research, community organising, data gathering and in hospitals. On these pages you will find a small fraction of the contributions that Univites have made so far to combatting the pandemic.

Longer articles are available to read on the College website [🔗](#)

## VIRAL RESEARCH



**Professor Tao Dong's**, Supernumerary Fellow in Medicine and Professor of Immunology, research group is analysing immune markers in

patients to see if we can identify markers that predict how a patient is going to respond, and also to identify targets for drugs to make things better.



**Professor Peijun Zhang**, Supernumerary Fellow in Medicine and Professor of Structural Biology, is using state-of-the-art cryoEM

methods to try to resolve the structure of native intact SARS-CoV-2 virus particles in chest x-rays and CT scans, providing essential structural information that will help in the fight against COVID-19.



**Professor Peter J McHugh**, Supernumerary Fellow in Biochemistry and Professor of Molecular Oncology, is working to tackle

the purification, structure-activity and inhibition of the two nucleases encoded in COVID-19.



**Rebecca (Becca) te Water Naude** (2015, BM BCh Medicine – Clinical) has been working in the Oxford Vaccine Group, which is leading efforts in the UK to produce a vaccine against SARS-CoV-2.



As a DPhil student based at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, **Zixi (Tracy) Yin** (2018, DPhil Medical Sciences) is working on the factors that regulate the expression level of the main viral entry receptor for SARS-CoV-2.

## COMMUNITY



**Connie Bostock** (2018, PPE) has been collecting data for Oxford Mutual Aid on everything from supermarket

opening times to a bank of homeschooling resources for parents.



**Hannah Farley** (2012, DPhil Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics), Junior Dean, has also been volunteering with Oxford Mutual Aid, including

shopping and prescription deliveries as well as manning their helpline.



As a trustee of the Good Faith Foundation, **Josh Richards** (2013, History and Politics) has been able to support the team behind YourNeighbour.org,

a capacity-building organisation supporting a network of over 1,000 churches to be good neighbours in the COVID-19 crisis.



## OTHER RESEARCH



**Dr Kenneth S Campbell** (1990, Physics) is the Director of the COVID-19 Research Registry and Specimen Bank in Kentucky and has also been researching how COVID-19 affects cardiac function.



**Dr Keith Dorrington**, Tutorial Fellow in Physiology & Medicine, has been collaborating with senior colleagues in Oxford to obtain funding and ethical permission to set up a trial of almitrine in COVID-19 patients.



**Mike Fischer** CBE (1968, Physics), has founded the COVID-19 Volunteer Testing Network and donated £1 million to the initiative. - directs Systems Biology Laboratory UK, an independent non-profit medical research laboratory in Oxfordshire.



**Professor Trisha Greenhalgh** OBE (1980, Medicine), Professor of Primary Care Health Sciences at Oxford University, has been researching the importance of comprehensive PPE provision for health workers and mask-wearing for the general public.



**Professor Peter Jezzard**, Vice Master, Professorial Fellow and Herbert Dunhill Professor of Neuroimaging, is involved in a COVID-19 multi-organ imaging project that examines the acute and longer-term effects of COVID-19.



**Dr Steven Phipps** (1990, Physics), Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies at the University of Tasmania, recently published a paper on the mathematical modelling of COVID infection rates.



**Annika Möslin** (2018, DPhil Engineering), Ashton Scholar, joined the OxVent project to contribute her engineering skills in developing a rapidly deployable ventilator.

## HEALTHCARE



**Dr Chris Chew** is a consultant physician in Infectious Diseases and Respiratory Medicine at Redcliffe Hospital in Queensland, Australia and the author of a study looking at physician workloads.



**Dr Beth Hamilton** (2018, DPhil Population Health) is working locum shifts in the Acute General Medicine Unit in the Oxford Trust Hospitals. She has also been involved in the early stages of setting up a COVID-19 treatment trial.



**Professor Najib Rahman** (1994, Medicine), Supernumerary Fellow, Professor of Respiratory Medicine and Director of the Oxford Respiratory Trials Unit, sits on two committees (one national and one local) that try to prioritise what studies should be done in COVID-19. He also runs a respiratory HDU in Oxford.



**Dr Sanskrithi Sravanam** (2017, BA Neurosciences; 2020, MBChB) returned from her elective in Malaysia to work in the John Radcliffe Hospital on the wards as a doctor and in research with COVID-Surg. COVID-Surg is an international, real-world data sharing initiative set up by a group of frontline surgeons and anaesthetists to rapidly deliver studies on COVID-19.



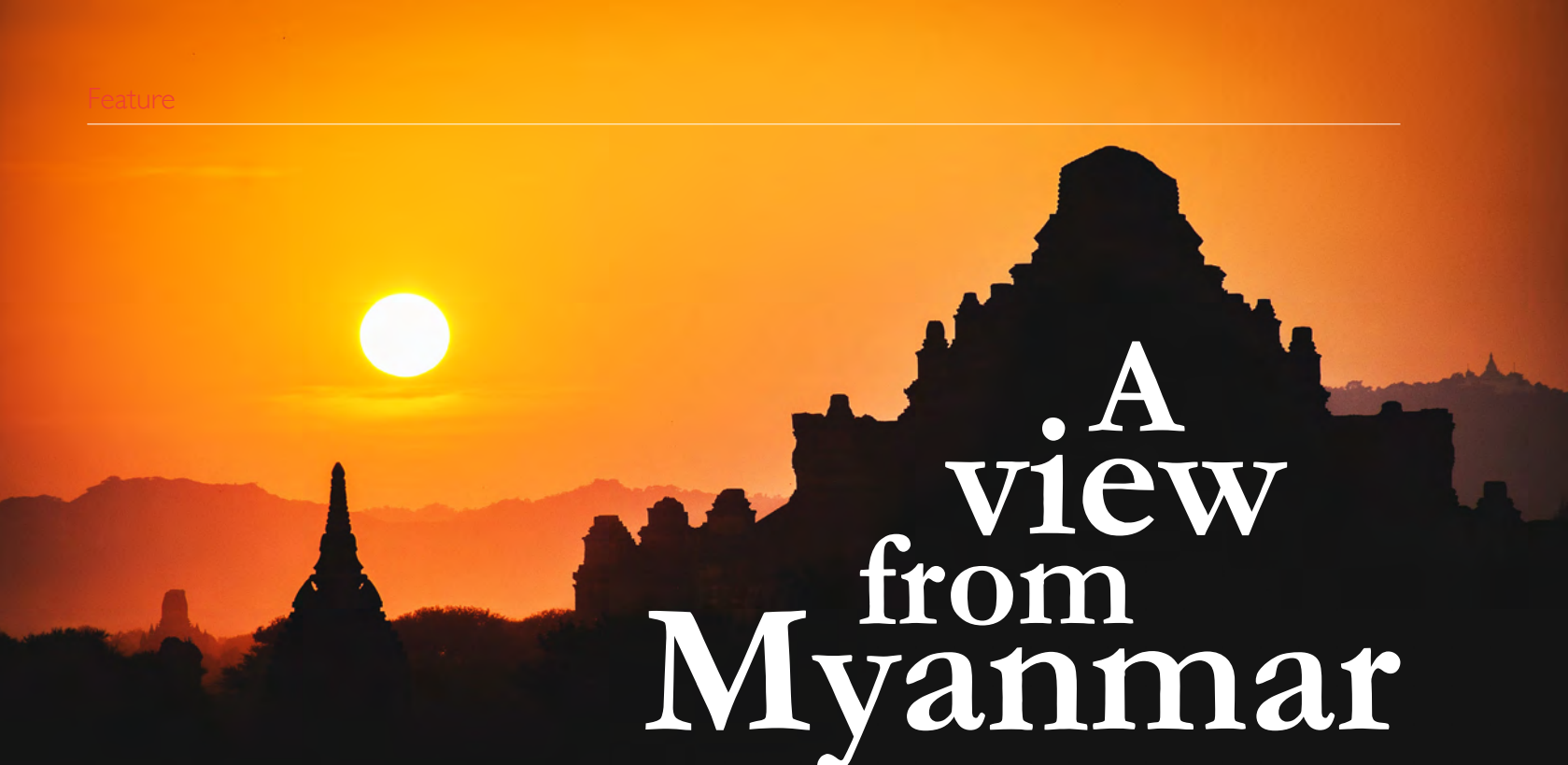
**Dr Mark O'Neill** (1992, DPhil Physiological Sciences), is a consultant cardiologist at St Thomas' Hospital in London and part of the tactical response team for the cardiovascular division. Alongside his colleagues, within weeks he retrained for deployment to critical care via Zoom sessions and began work in the critical care units.



**Dr Bronwyn Gavine** (2018, DPhil Clinical Neurosciences) is training healthcare workers redeployed to intensive care and newly graduated medical students at the Oxford Simulation, Training and Research (OxSTaR) centre.



**Kimberly Hartz Foster** (1992, MSc Management) is Chief Executive Officer of Washington Hospital Healthcare System. She has been managing a 415-bed independent, community hospital throughout the pandemic.



# A view from Myanmar

In the great, red brick hospital in the centre of Yangon, staff have hauled cylinders of oxygen upstairs by hand for years. You can see where the near disasters have chipped off shards of stone.

Now, with COVID-19, oxygen is more than ever life for patients on the floors above. And the old ways, with their familiar dangers, become today's problems.

Except that we are far away. The charities I run, many with the long-term support of UK Aid, have had to leave, ordered home. COVID-19 makes neighbours into strangers again, and the safeties that our insurers had taken for granted – flights out, medical evacuations – are not there anymore. The last planes were full of aid workers, watching Myanmar shrink as we flew into the pandemic at home. It is one of the many dreadful ironies of these last months that it has proved to be more dangerous in London than Yangon.

So what to do? Looking back at my notes from March, I recall paralysis, the unknown and the unplanned. This found expression in endless, aimless online meetings convened by the UN and others. These are still happening, though more languidly.

And there we might have stayed, I think, numbed by the shock of distance – but for friendship.

I have been running charities in Myanmar for a decade. That is a long time in a sector where job churn is relentless,

and unfailingly to the detriment of those whom overseas aid seeks to help. But the bonds made over that time gave us a way to carry on.

Slowly, tentatively, we found ways of working across continents and time zones, forms of conversation that could plan and fix and build. The 5.30am call remains the norm. Doctors and professors comment that we become more unkempt with each Zoom call.

Some parts of the charities' work have improved. We have done more for healthcare in these last months, and with less money, than ever before. In need, our Myanmar partners did not let us stay remote. Exhausted doctors across the UK spend their early mornings training colleagues in the intricacies of ICU. In the evening, I join the Californian team who are training ambulance medics in how to keep people alive.

The same proved true, with more challenges, in education. The pivot to digital learning is not easy, but in a country where education is the means to make a different future possible, we are perhaps more confident now that fewer children will be left behind. We have had more applications this year than ever for our international scholarships – this year the young people of Myanmar want to study epidemiology and economics.

Some things, of course, are harder. In the refugee camps, COVID-19 is

the ultimate nightmare, and access to information about the real situations there is thin. We need to be back. But, again, there was only a choice between abandonment and finding other ways to work. Gone were the helicopter rides and meetings on the ground. Instead, a way of building durable solutions for the people locked in hopelessness, perhaps starting a little more with them and less with us.

Today, the first British Airways plane for months is landing where I live. Tremulously, the world is reconnecting. No doubt there will soon be flights and I will be on them – the familiar dark across Central Asia, sleepless dawns in Bangkok Airport. Then we will return, no doubt, to some old ways. COVID-19 will have changed some of the ways we work. But I will go back because the bonds of connection did endure the gap and, renewed, can be stronger for the next time.

And the oxygen pipes designed continents away, surveyed remotely and fitted by smart Myanmar engineers on smartphones? They work well. The sick can breathe.

**Dr Michael Marett-Crosby** (1987, *History*) is a Trustee of Prospect Burma, The Rangoon General Hospital Reinvigoration Charitable Trust, the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, and the Irrawaddy Policy Exchange. He frequently travels to Myanmar to advance health and education projects in the country and to support the implementation of the late Dr Kofi Annan's Rakbina Advisory Commission.





During the Easter Vacation in 2019, I spent a week on Lesbos, Greece, volunteering at Camp Moria. Part of my travel expenses were covered by the College's Undergraduate Travel Grant. Camp Moria has been described in news headlines as "hell on earth" and the "worst refugee camp in the world". Today, approximately 14,000 refugees of over 30 nationalities are stranded in this camp.

The volunteering team was formed by Agape Student Life and Global Aid Network (GAIN), and our tasks comprised of guarding security gates, arranging activities for the young people, distributing medical appointment tickets, assisting with census-taking and cleaning vacated accommodation.

When we first entered the camp, I was prepared to see the squalor and chaos that had been presented to me by the media. However, I was pleasantly surprised – the streets were clean, wifi abounded, and many ISO boxes were used for accommodation. In fact, the intimidating gates surrounding the camp were not meant to keep the refugees inside the camp; rather, they were to protect them from harm. The refugees were free to roam the island and seek employment. Of course, my expectations were only exceeded because I had pegged them to a standard of what a refugee camp would look like. By all human standards, the conditions are and should be unacceptable.

Over the next week, I realised that more insidious horrors lay under this veneer. One of my duties had been to guard

the gates at the unaccompanied minor boys' accommodation. I spent a lot of time talking to the boys, aged between 14 and 17, joking around and telling stories. However, I gradually noticed that many of them had fresh cuts on their wrists. I later found out from a long-term volunteer that approximately half of the boys routinely self-harmed due to trauma. All the boys had arrived on Lesbos alone. Many travelled thousands of miles across Central Asia to Turkey, before taking the life-threatening boat ride to Lesbos – with just a few bags in hand and the clothes on their back. Between January and April of 2019, over 60 people had died while at sea, half of them children. In conversation, one of the boys casually revealed to me that his father had been killed by the Taliban. I couldn't respond; I just did not know what to say. Indeed, there is a real and urgent crisis of mental health on the island, but there are isn't enough support to treat all those in need fully.

However, throughout the process, I also saw moments of hope and love. A moment that really touched me was when a refugee invited us into his tent for some food. The tent was no bigger than a few square metres, but what struck me was how beautifully decorated it was. Blankets upon blankets of colourful crochet draped across the space, hanging from floor to ceiling. Our host revealed that he had crocheted all the pieces himself and had even started teaching other refugees the skill as well. I was uplifted by his willingness to foster a sense of community even during such

tumultuous times. At the end of our short meal, our host insisted on gifting us one of his handmade creations, which took a month to complete. I was touched by the act of generosity; we genuinely hadn't done that much. Feeling somewhat undeserving, we accepted the gift.

As a volunteer, I had no misapprehensions about my role – I knew that I was simply a small cog in this global crisis; I was not there to save anyone. Nonetheless, this made me immensely frustrated. I was angry and indignant for the refugees who had to live their lives in a constant state of limbo. However, I eventually realised that my biggest value-add was in listening to the refugees' stories, showing that the world still cared for them, and sharing their stories with others as well.

I felt hope when I found out that 12 minors had been transferred to Luxembourg; sadness, when I heard about the rising tensions between the locals and refugees; fear, when two refugees tested positive for COVID-19. Now, more than ever, real and concrete institutional assistance is necessary. I urge you to read more about this crisis, and I hope that we will soon create a tapestry of support in light of our shared humanity.

*Eliza Chee (2017, Lam)*

In September 2020, fires destroyed the entire camp, leaving nearly 13,000 people without shelter. Read more on the UNHCR (The UN Refugee Agency) website: [unhcr.org](https://www.unhcr.org)





## MUSIC TO INSPIRE, REGENERATE AND CONNECT

Oxford University Orchestra Japan Charity Tour, March 2019

Oxford University Orchestra, including Dr Sarah Jenkinson (Lecturer in Organic Chemistry) and Rosie von Spreckelsen (2016, Classics), toured Japan in March 2019.

Our partnership with Orchestra MOTIF allowed our musicians to come together with Tokyo-based student and professional musicians, and to get to know them. We spent many enjoyable hours perfecting our repertoire and performed a sold-out concert in Keio University's beautiful concert hall, which was met with a standing ovation!

One of the most poignant international responses to the Fukushima disaster eight years ago was the performance of *Song for Japan* by brass groups across the world, to show solidarity for those in Japan at the time. Alex East's arrangement for brass nonet brought many audience members to tears. The committee's time in Tokyo was topped off with an invitation to dinner at the British Embassy by the Ambassador and the University of Oxford Japan Office – it was a privilege to meet and

perform for Chancellor Lord Patten, Vice-Chancellor Louise Richardson as well as the Ambassador himself.

For the outreach part of our tour we were invited to take part in El Sistema Japan's annual Children's Music Festival Weekend in Soma City, in Fukushima. We performed with the Soma Children's Orchestra and Chorus. There were over 200 performers on the stage. We came away feeling inspired by the determination of the children, and the enthusiasm of the audience. It was a delight to celebrate our respective cultures through our mixed repertoire of Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance No. 1* and *Soma Bon-Uta*, a local folk song.

A translated quote from Soma:

"Even though we cannot fully communicate in the same language, music transcends the border and we can communicate together."

On our final day we visited the tsunami monument, learning about the tragic effects of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. We then went to the Minamisoma Solar Agripark, where we met children involved in the *Asubito Fukushima* programme. This

organisation was set up in the wake of the disaster, encouraging young people in environmental, educational and community initiatives. We were left amazed by the level of passion and innovation of the teenagers we met. We introduced the local schoolchildren to the instruments, gave them the chance to conduct us, and played together with the Minamisoma Junior Chorus Ensemble. It was a fitting ending to our tour which perfectly captured the values we aimed to promote in our cultural exchange and outreach work: music to inspire, regenerate and connect.

Thank you to University College and everyone who supported this tour; it could not have happened without you.

OOU has been invited to be the UK representative orchestra at the Beethoven International Youth Exchange Festival in Bonn in June 2021. We will be partnering with MIGRApolis, an organisation set up to help migrants adapt to life in Germany. For more information on the tour and how to support us please visit our website at [ouo.oums.org](http://ouo.oums.org) or contact us at [ouofriends@gmail.com](mailto:ouofriends@gmail.com).





Opposite: OUO and Orchestra MOTIF with conductor Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey in Fujiyama Memorial Hall, Keio University, Tokyo

Clockwise from top left: OUO and Orchestra MOTIF players with the Soma Children's Orchestra and chorus at the Soma Children's Music Festival concert in Soma city, Fukushima; OUO member and Soma Children's Orchestra member in traditional Samurai headdress and tunic; OUO and Orchestra MOTIF members with the students of Asubito Fukushima (including Rosie von Spreckelsen 2nd from right); OUO quartet (Violetta Suvini, Shun Hioki, Annabel Bainbridge and Sarah Jenkinson) playing at the British Embassy in Tokyo; The OUO Tour Committee with the Director of the British Council in Japan Matt Burney (left to right: Moeko Hayashi, Sarah Jenkinson, Poppy Miller, Violetta Suvini, Matt Burney, Shun Hioki and Bradley Young)



# MAKING HISTORY

Christian  
Cole,  
Alain Locke  
& Oscar Wilde  
at Oxford

An exhibition & series of  
events curated by  
**Elizabeth Adams &  
Michèle  
Mendelssohn**

Based on  
*Making Oscar Wilde*  
by Michèle  
Mendelssohn

**09 MAY -  
21 OCTOBER**



 **MAGDALEN COLLEGE**  
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**#MAKINGHISTORYOXFORD**



“

In addressing the historical under-representation of the experiences of minority groups, *Making History* stimulated important conversations about the continued relevance of diversity and inclusion in Oxford.”

Christian Cole, Alain Locke and Oscar Wilde at Oxford

# MAKING HISTORY

“It was great to reflect on the progress made and not made here at Oxford, and the inspiration we can draw on from the sacrifices of these early history-makers.” This feedback, from a visitor to the exhibition *Making History: Christian Cole, Alain Locke, and Oscar Wilde at Oxford*, is particularly relevant with the current global focus on equality and diversity.

Christian Cole, Alain Locke, and Oscar Wilde, members of University, Hertford, and Magdalen Colleges respectively, were trailblazers. Christian Cole, from Sierra Leone, was the first Black African to take a degree from Oxford; Alain Locke, from Pennsylvania, was the first African American Rhodes Scholar; and Oscar Wilde, the famous Irish dandy and playwright jailed for his sexuality. By drawing this trio together, *Making History* told the surprising shared history of three of Oxford's LGBTQ+ and Black students.

*Making History* was a collaboration between Professor Michèle Mendelssohn of Mansfield College, and the Librarians of Univ and Magdalen College. Running from May to October 2019 in Magdalen College's New Library, *Making History* was a cross-collegiate project, hosted by Univ, Rhodes House, and Magdalen and Hertford Colleges. The accompanying events included free workshops, Black Oxford walking tours and gala lectures with Oscar Wilde's grandson, Merlin Holland, *Black Oxford* author Pamela Roberts, and Rhodes Scholar Donald Brown.

With strong connections with two of the trailblazers, Univ's Special Collections featured in the exhibition. Christian Cole, though a non-collegiate student while taking his degree, became a member of Univ in 1877 before being called to the Bar in 1883. On display at the exhibition were a rare example of Cole's pamphlet *Reflections on the Zulu War* as well as some of the Library borrowing books, which demonstrated Cole's early interest in such works as Pater's *Studies in the history of the Renaissance* and Trevelyan's biography of the British imperialist Lord Macaulay. Oscar Wilde was a Magdalen man and his connection with Univ came many years after his time in Oxford. From the Robert Ross Memorial Collection, *Making History* showed some early journal publications in which Wilde's early poems first appeared.

In addressing the historical under-representation of the experiences of minority groups, *Making History* stimulated important conversations about the continued relevance of diversity and inclusion in Oxford. A recently launched website continues the conversation, with Oxford students and academics responding to the issues raised. *Making History* was shortlisted in the Promoting Awareness category of the Vice Chancellor's Diversity Awards in 2020. To read more, search the Treasures section of Univ's website, or visit the *Making History* website: [makinghistory.magd.ox.ac.uk](http://makinghistory.magd.ox.ac.uk)

Elizabeth Adams, College Librarian



# Sports & societies



## UCBC

It would be fair to say that in the past year college rowing in Oxford has been struck by a pretty unlikely number of difficulties, forcing UCBC to face a completely new set of challenges. It would be also fair to say that the club tackled these unfortunate circumstances with an impressive amount of commitment and hard work, both from the athletes and the committee.

We finished off Michaelmas term on a slightly disheartening note, due to the cancellation of the Christ Church regatta. Feeling extremely hungry for some racing, all the rowers were awaiting Torpids with even more excitement than normal. We had a strong squad of novices, who carried on training from the previous term, and joined our seniors to form crews for the upcoming bumps season. Unfortunately, the red flag once again stood in our way, which forced us to put our creative hats on and come up with a contingency training plan.

Our first boats had a unique opportunity to train on the Redgrave Pinset Rowing Lake



over a few weekends. This amazing facility, located in the picturesque surroundings just next to the Caversham village, is the home of GB Rowing. W1 and M1 also did some weekend outings on Dorney Lake, the 2012 Olympic venue. Our squad managed to make great progress, and it was a hugely enjoyable experience for both rowers and coxes. Both crews also had a chance to gain some valuable racing experience taking part in the Head of the Severn.

Our lower boats showed a fantastic commitment to land training and impressive readiness to use the few weather windows later in the term to get some precious water time. The club remained a vibrant social space, allowing people to motivate each other to train in these unfortunate circumstances. At the same time, we were watching the river levels with a sinking heart, realising that, despite multiple contingency plans, running Torpids was just not possible. Nevertheless, even though we did not have a chance to participate in bumps this Hilary, the term did not go to waste, and allowed us to build a platform we will be able to work on next year. The end of term celebratory Torpids

dinner was very popular, and showed that the spirit in the club is still running high.

It goes without saying that we were all eagerly awaiting Trinity term, hoping that the river levels would finally go down; nobody could have imagined how diametrically different the rest of the year would look. Although the introduction of lockdown made it impossible to carry on with any form of crew training, our fantastic coaches came up with a whole set of home exercises, and we can proudly say that even a pandemic was not an excuse to stop working out! And, since the restrictions started to lift at the beginning of the summer, we are slowly coming back to some actual water training.

Rowing this year might have been a bit of a bumpy ride, but at the same time we learnt many new skills and were pushed to use solutions that we might have never thought about. Thanks to the huge commitment and determination of our athletes, we are ready to come back stronger next year, and face new challenges, whatever they may be.

*Nina Handżewniak (2015, Medicine), Boat Club President*





### Univ Pool Society

2019-20 was another great year for Univ pool. The Univ pool team recruited plenty of new members and performed strongly in the college competitions, comfortably staying in the top division of the college pool league and reaching the semi-final of Cuppers, where they suffered a narrow 7-5 defeat to Division 1 champions St Catz.



Since the event was first held last year, the main event on the calendar for the Pool Society has been the Univ Pool Tournament and it was a huge success again this year. In total, 32 competitors took part, including people of all abilities and both students and staff members alike. After a random draw took place, the tournament followed a knockout format and ran throughout weeks 6-7 of Hilary term in the bar until two players were left standing and contested the final. Matches lasted around half an hour and took place every day in the bar 7-11pm over the two-week period. Many people joined us in the bar and plenty of others tuned into the livestream on Facebook to

watch the drama unfold. The tournament was packed with high quality pool and the tension increased with each passing round, as the competition headed towards a thrilling climax. In the end, it was Univ bar manager Nirmal Pillai who emerged from a tough half of the draw to edge a nail-biting

final 4-3 and become Univ Pool Champion 2020. It was an epic match, which only reached its conclusion in the early hours of the morning.

*James Cartlidge, (2015, Engineering), Univ Pool Captain*







### Univ Arts Soc

This year Art Soc were fortunate enough to have Melissa Pierce Murray, Visitor in the Creative Arts 2019-20, who provided so much of her time, ideas, and materials. We are grateful for the dedication and guidance she has given us.



Our weekly sessions were a great environment where we could relax, snack, and create art in a friendly environment. The stencilling and collage workshops were great for making art in a relaxed and free-flowing form; one of the main aims of Art Soc has been to make art more appealing and break down the assumptions that art has to be formal and structured. Separate to these sessions, life drawing was also held weekly.

With the appeal of being a drop-in and no-commitment-required society, Art Soc has been brilliant in attracting members of College to come together, wind down, and express their creativity outside of their subjects. The society has also been popular with STEM students which has been encouraging to see. One of our projects was to decorate the walls of the College Bar. One mural included physics equations and lecture notes, while the other included imagery of the gorgon Medusa from the Temple of Artemis.

In Trinity term we had to find a way to continue Arts at Univ virtually. Life drawing was a huge success. We aimed to use a different model each week, professional

models and students, to promote a diverse and comfortable atmosphere surrounding the study of the human body. Melissa also held Zoom parties from her own studio where she discussed themes and materials, demonstrated different studio skills, and gave ideas on how we could try them at home. Among the things she displayed were woodcarving, sculpting, casting, and welding.

Open mic nights have also been a popular outlet for the Arts throughout the year, often attracting a large portion of the College community. In Hilary term these evenings were hosted in the College Bar, often accompanied by an area for art activities. Performances often comprised of songs or poems, some of which were composed by students themselves. They were a great outlet for musicians and poets

to try their own material in a friendly and familiar environment. On occasion, we were treated to Melissa creating live sculptures while instruments were played, seeing how the music inspired the form and shape of her structures.

We hope to continue an interactive Arts scene at Univ whether it is online or in-person, and we would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the Arts and kept the creativity in Univ. A special thanks should go to Melissa who was the inspiration behind many of the activities this year; it's been fabulous to have her here at Univ.

*Ayesha Riaz (2019, Egyptology) and Theone Ellis (2019, Physics)*







## UCMS

2020 sees the 90th anniversary of University College Music Society, and as such many events had been planned for both Hilary and Trinity term, aiming to showcase and accommodate the wide range of musical interests across the whole College community.

Hilary term was once again a busy term for the society; Master's Lodgings concerts and Open Mic nights in the bar continued, with performances ranging from classical violin duets to rappers and poets. It was exciting to see the ever-increasing representation of the WCR and SCR in Univ's music scene.



A particular highlight of Hilary term was the UCMS ensemble concert, which saw the first performance of the newly re-formed Univ Orchestra. The ensemble concert also saw a performance of Mozart's *String Quartet No. 19 (Dissonance)* by the Ozymandias Quartet.

Alongside events organised by UCMS, Univ's music scene has enriched by concerts from the Martlet Ensemble. A performance of Mozart's *Flute and Harp Concerto*, as well as Sphor's *Octet*, saw student perform alongside professionals in a concert directed by Giles Underwood. Hilary Term ended with the annual UCMS dinner, where we were honoured to welcome Lady Crewe as our guest speaker in her final year, and what turned out to be the final in-person Master's Lodgings concert of the year.

Remote Trinity term meant that UCMS had to adapt to the times. Our new Open Mic Night reps worked hard to run a series of virtual Open Mic Nights via Zoom. Having been inspired by the weekly virtual choir evensong, the idea for a virtual UCMS orchestra came about. The aim of the project was to involve the whole College community and over 30 submissions were received from current students, staff and Old Members alike. After a few days of editing, the final performance of *Ode to Joy* was finished.

Trinity term ended with a very special Master's Lodgings concert held via Zoom. Occurring exactly 90 years (to the day) after the very first Master's Lodgings, there was a combination of pre-recorded and live performances for people to listen to. It also marked the Master and Lady Crewe's final Master's Lodgings concert and UCMS event. UCMS would like to thank them both for their continued support over the years, and in particular Lady Crewe's unwavering support, guidance, and time that she has given to the society to allow us to flourish. We are particularly excited to welcome her as our inaugural patron.

Whilst Trinity term was not as expected, the year so far has been an exciting one for UCMS, and we look forward to more performances, whether live or virtual, in the coming terms.

*Sarah Chapman (2018, MChem), UCMS President*





# Leading questions

James Shannon (1984, MPhil Politics) was a partner in an international engineering and construction firm (Bechtel Group, Inc), a partner in an international law firm (Kirkland & Ellis, LLP) and a partner in an international venture capital fund (SoftBank Emerging Markets). He also founded and grew an environmental paint company, which he sold to a publicly-traded paint company (RPM, Inc.). Mr Shannon is a graduate of Berkeley, Oxford and Harvard Law School.

Ruth Shannon (1985, MSc Computer Science) was a Senior Research Analyst with a management consultancy firm (The MAC Group). Staying home to raise four children, she spent much of her time volunteering in their schools and in her community, helping to raise money to combat homelessness and aid in suicide prevention. She became a certified Master Gardener in 2013 and is continuing to pursue her interests in art and gardening. Originally from South Africa, she completed her BSc at Cape Town University.

They live in Hillsborough, California and Ketchum, Idaho. One of their children, Catherine Shannon (2013, MSt Classical Archaeology), was a graduate student at Univ. Together, Ruth and Catherine are believed to be the first mother-daughter graduate students in Univ's history.

Jim and Ruth Shannon will be taking over the management of the American Friends of University College Oxford (AFUCO) from Paul Chellgren (1966), Honorary Fellow, next year, after he steps down after more than 40 years in the role.

## What brought you to Univ?

Ruth: My grandfather and father were Rhodes Scholars at Oxford. They both spoke passionately about their time there, and I was always determined to follow their lead for as long as I can remember. I had a friend from Cape Town, Neil Macdonald (1984, MSc Management), who told me that Univ was the best college at Oxford – and he was right!

Jim: I graduated early from Berkeley specifically to come to Univ to study with some of the best moral and legal philosophers in the world. Univ then had on its faculty H.L.A. Hart (retired), Ronald Dworkin, John Finnis, David Wiggins and John McDowell, to name only a few of its many great philosophers.

## Of which professional achievements are you most proud, and why?

Jim and Ruth: We respect each other's professional work, but we are much prouder of the family we have raised than of any professional achievements. We suppose that's true of most Univ Old Members in their own lives, too. There's no worldly glory in day-to-day family life – but it is good-in-itself, as some philosophers would say, and beyond reward.

## How are you spending your retirement?

Ruth: We have always been involved with our community, local charities and South African causes. We've focused on homelessness, hunger, sustainability and education issues, and that involvement has grown since Jim retired and our kids have left home. We live in the San Francisco Bay Area, a beautiful place but also one where, scandalously, hunger, homelessness and mental illness have skyrocketed. The pandemic has worsened the crisis. I'm currently working on a project to encourage homeowners in our community to install veggie beds in their backyards dedicated to growing produce for those who are food insecure. With our children grown, we have also been freed to explore the world. We have hiked extensively in the Western United States, the Dolomites and the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Our planned trip to hike Machu Picchu this past April was scuttled by the pandemic, but we will hike to those Incan ruins one day.

Jim: In addition to our charitable work, I have been focused on philosophy, hiking and fly-fishing (not always in that order). I'm writing a book entitled *Understanding and Wholeheartedness*, the seeds of which were planted during my graduate studies at

Oxford and which somehow continued to grow during my varied legal and business career. I have worked on the book as a Visiting Scholar at Berkeley's Philosophy Department and as the H.L.A. Hart Fellow in Law at Univ in 2017-18. I hope to put my efforts to some use, by teaching a philosophy course at San Quentin State Prison, when its prison university program resumes after the pandemic.

## What do you remember about your first week at Univ?

We both vividly remember Ruth's first week at Univ, when Jim was beginning his second year, because it so happily and totally changed our lives: we met one evening in 0th week outside Univ's beer cellar – an unlikely place for a life-long romance to begin, and yet it did. We have been together ever since, raising a family and sharing our lives together.

## What are your most treasured memories of Univ?

We both treasure our time with the late, great George Cawkwell. George and Ruth's father, Rex, fought in WWII, came to Oxford together and were good friends. George befriended Jim in his first year, inviting him to his Bentham Society dinners, which always promised glittering conversation with some



of Oxford's best minds. George reached out to Ruth upon her arrival at Univ, inviting her often to tea. And he did the same with our daughter, Catherine, who shared meals (and some whisky) with George and friends in his home. George's gentle kindness touched three generations of our family.

**Why do you support Univ, and why would you encourage others to do the same?**

Everything we have done since leaving Univ finds some roots in our experience there. Our relationship started there. Our intellectual interests were deepened and shaped there. Our parochial outlooks on the world were challenged and broadened there. We are confident that many Old Members share similar experiences. We all should nourish such roots, in gratitude for what we were given and in solidarity with those who will come after us.

“

Everything we have done since leaving Univ finds some roots in our experience there... We all should nourish such roots, in gratitude for what we were given and in solidarity with those who will come after us.”

**What will your role be as managers of AFUCO?**

We will carry on the traditions and practices of AFUCO, which, as an independent charitable entity organized under US law, allows US taxpayers to make tax-deductible donations to Univ. We hope to build on Paul Chellgren's great work in founding

and guiding AFUCO for 40 years. We hope to make it even more accessible to Univ Old Members in America and to grow its donor base to support Univ during these challenging times for public universities.

**Describe Univ in three words:**

Welcoming, invigorating, life-changing





# Announcements

Thank you to everyone who sent us their news. If you have news you would like to submit for consideration for the next issue of *The Martlet*, please email [communications@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@univ.ox.ac.uk) by Friday 27 November 2020.

## 1950s

An exhibition of oil paintings and oil pastel drawings by **Nick Schlee** (1952, English), *Venice Observed*, took place in August at Gallery 8 in London.

## 1960s

**Professor Robert Reich** (1968, PPE), former Secretary of Labor for President Bill Clinton (1968, Politics), discussed his new book, *The System*, on 28 July as part of *The Guardian Live*.

**Robin Allen QC** (1969, PPE) published a report, "Regulating for an Equal AI: A New Role for Equality Bodies", in June 2020.

## 1970s

**Jeremy Finnis** (1974, Plant Sciences) was made a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex. He has also been elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology and the Royal Agricultural Society. Any Univ member will get a 20% discount if they wish to holiday on his Scottish Estate ([dellestate.com](http://dellestate.com)).

**Andy Tucker** (1974, Modern Languages), former Ambassador for the British Embassy in Azerbaijan, became series champion of the Channel 4 quiz *15toOne* in June 2019, recorded while convalescing from a craniotomy to clip a brain aneurysm.

**Stephen Moss** (1975, Psychology) had a peer reviewed paper published in the journal *Action Learning: Research and Practice*, Volume 17, Issue 1: "Exploring the challenges of system leadership in the voluntary and community sector."

## 1980s

**Armando Iannucci, OBE** (1982, English) directed the feature film, *The Personal History of David Copperfield*, as well as creating, writing and executive producing a new TV series, *Avenue 5*.

**Professor Anand Menon** (1984, History and Modern Languages), Professor at King's College London, hosted episodes of the *Brexit Breakdown Podcast*, produced by UK in a Changing Europe, of which he is Director.

**Luke Harding** (1987, English), foreign correspondent for *The Guardian* took part in a conversation, "How Russia is Remaking the West" on 22 July as part of *The Guardian Live*.

## 1990s

**Helen Rumbelow's** (1991, English) column in *The Times* on 16 March included a visit to the Ashmolean Museum's exhibition, *Young Rembrandt*.

Commotio, the choir co-founded and conducted by **Matthew Berry** (1995, Music), released a new CD of music by Francis Pott: *At First Light, Word*.

**Edward Hieatt** (1998, Mathematics), an SVP at VMware, Inc, managed the software development team who were engaged by NHSX to build a proximity tracing system.

Writer and translator **Jennifer Wong** (1998, English) published her third collection of poems, 回家 *Letters Home*. One of the poems was recommended in this year's *Forward* anthology.

**Judge Róbert R Spanó** (1999, MJur Law) was elected President of the European Court of Human Rights in May 2020.

## 2000s

**Nigel Holmes** (2000, PPE) was appointed (British) Deputy High Commissioner to Cameroon, for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in April.

**Dr Ahmed-Ramadan Sadek** (2001, DPhil Physiology) was appointed Consultant Neurosurgeon and Complex Spinal Surgeon at Queens Hospital and the Cromwell Hospital in London.

*Sunday Times* columnist and cookery author **Skye McAlpine** (2003, Classics) took part in *Good Housekeeping* magazine's virtual Big Summer Book Day on 26 July.

**Dr Nariman Skakov** (2004, DPhil & MPhil Modern Languages) joined the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures at Harvard as Associate Professor on 1 July.

**Carys Roberts** (2008, PPE), Director of the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), published a report, "The COVID shift: Working time in manufacturing, engineering, shipbuilding and aerospace."

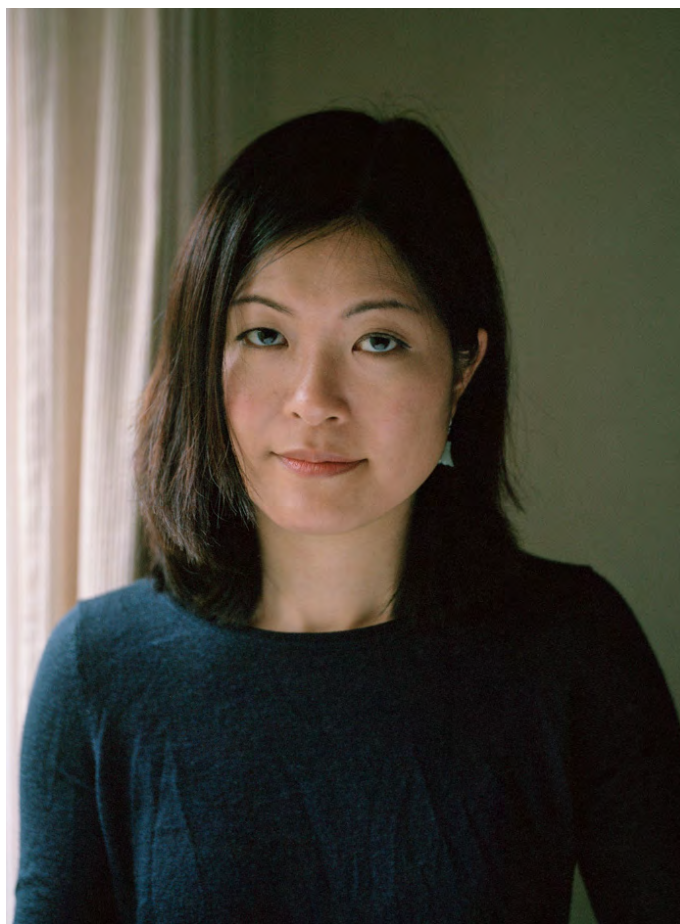
## 2010s

**Hafsteinn Kristjansson** (2011, Law) wrote an article for *Verfassungblog's* online symposium on COVID-19 and States of Emergency.

**Corinne Stuart** (2011, MEng Engineering Science) was awarded a one-year research fellowship with the South West Creative Technology Network (SWCTN), researching "the environmental impact of data usage and who should take ownership of the effects it has."

**Dr Claas Kirchhelle** (2012, DPhil History) secured a Wellcome Trust University Award with University College Dublin, where he started in January.





Photos, clockwise from top left: Jennifer Wong (photo by Tereza Cervenova), Nigel Holmes (photo by John Cairns, from the Young Univ Gallery), Robert Reich, Corinne Stuart (photo by John Cairns, from the Young Univ Gallery)



# Books



**Dr Sandeep Banerjee** (2000, English), Associate Professor of English at McGill University, Canada, has published his first monograph: *Space, Utopia and Indian Decolonization: Literary Pre-figurations of the Postcolony*.

**Elizabeth Garner** (1994, English) is currently working on her debut collection of folk tales, *Lost & Found*.

*Dark Mirror: Edward Snowden and the American Surveillance State* is the latest book by **Barton Gellman** (1982, Politics), three-time Pulitzer Prize winner and author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Angler*.

**Simon Gladdish** (1975, Modern Languages and Philosophy) published *Laptop Poems*, a collection of original poems and sonnets.

**Dr Andrew Hobbs** (1979, PPP) has published his first academic book, *A Fleet Street in Every Town: The Provincial Press in England, 1855-1900* (Open Book Publishers, 2018). As a result, Dr Hobbs has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

**Adil Jussawalla's** (1960, English) fifth book of poems, *Shorelines*, was published by Poetrywala in February 2020.

**Colin Lang** (1953, PPE) published *Divided We Stand: a journey with Judge Israel Finestein QC*. The late Israel Finestein was an outstanding lawyer, historian and lay leader of the British Jewish community.

**Skye McAlpine** (2003, Classics), published *A Table for Friends: The Art of Cooking for Two or Twenty*, in July.

*His Secret Family* is the latest novel by **Ali Mercer** (1991, English), the follow-up to *Lost Daughter*.

In *A State of Freedom* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2019), **Neel Mukherjee** (1992, English) wrests open the issues of displacement and migration.

Curator and writer **Sandy Nairne CBE** (1971, History), Honorary Fellow, published *The Coincidence of Novembers*, the assembled writings of his late father, **Sir Patrick Nairne** (1940, Classics and History), one of the most admired British civil servants

of the twentieth century, and a former Honorary Fellow of the College. The book includes an account of Sir Patrick's time at Univ after WWII.

In his latest book, *The System*, **Professor Robert Reich** (1968, PPE) shows how wealth and power have interacted to install an elite oligarchy, eviscerate the middle class, and undermine democracy.

**Professor Robert I Rotberg** (1957, History), a recognised authority on governance and international relations, published *Anticorruption: a guide for citizens and politicians* (MIT Press, July 2020).

**Roz Savage, MBE** (1986, Law) published, *The Gifts of Solitude*, drawing on her ocean experiences to offer advice on how to survive, and even thrive, in lockdown. Roz was the first woman to row solo across three oceans: the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian. She spent cumulatively over 500 days of her life at sea in a 23-foot rowboat.

**Dr Nick Smith** (1976, Education and English) published *More Bridge Literature*, which takes the form of a set of parodies of well-known works of English literature.

**Alexandra Wilson** (2013, PPE) published her first book in August 2020: *In Black and White: A Young Barrister's Story of Race and Class in a Broken Justice System*.

*Letters Home* 回家, **Jennifer Wong's** (1998, English) remarkable and vivid third collection of poems, unravels the complexities of being between nations, languages and cultures.

**Professor Matthew Woodcock** (1995, English), Professor of Medieval and Early Modern Literature at the University of East Anglia, co-edited and published *Early Modern Military Identities, 1560-1639: Reality and Representation* (Boydell & Brewer, 2019).



# Buildings and their benefactors

## A bequest for Univ North

Every building project at Univ has to start with the awkward question: how do we pay for it? Back in 1610 we wanted to replace our medieval quadrangle, but, due to lack of funds, nothing could be done for twenty years.

At a time, therefore, when planning for Univ North is in earnest, we should record a significant gift towards this latest project from an Old Member, David Booth, who died last year. David bequeathed a gift of shares currently estimated to be in excess of £5 million, and, in consultation with his family, this bequest will be put towards Univ North. His bequest offers a chance both to think about David himself and his remarkable Univ family, and some other major benefactors towards our buildings.

So who was David Booth? Last year's University College *Record* includes a tribute by his brother Richard from which this account is drawn. After an adventurous childhood, during which he, his mother and brother were evacuated to Jamaica during the Second World War, David followed his relatives by coming up to Univ in 1950. Here he read Physics, carrying out postgraduate research under the legendary Lord Cherwell.



On leaving Oxford, David worked in the nuclear industry, and was later appointed a Principal Inspector of Nuclear Installations. As Richard put it, "Inspectors must be even cleverer and more rigorous than those they regulate." This work, by all accounts, suited David perfectly.

Outside work, David enjoyed tennis and gardening. However, he was also a keen genealogist, and astonished his family by discovering among their ancestors a Mohican chief, Alfred the Great, and seven saints. David retired early and then married in Univ Chapel his lifelong friend Rosemary Schwerdt. Richard remembers their marriage as a "brilliant success", and her death in 2018 as a sad loss.

David's links with Univ, then, were lifelong, but they are also unthinkable without knowing that he is one of at least ten members of his family to have come here.

The first Booth was David's grandfather Charles (1868-1938), who came up in 1887 to read History. Notes by David suggest that Charles chose Univ because his family were close to our future Master, Reginald Macan. The Booths came from Liverpool, and Charles's father, Alfred (1834-1914) founded Alfred Booth & Co., Ltd, and the Booth Steamship Co, Ltd. He founded the firm with his brother Charles (1840-1916) of *Life and Labour in London* fame. As well as shipping, the Booths were key players in the leather manufacturing trade.





Charles worked in his father's business, mainly on the shipping side. However, he also served as Chairman of the Midland Railway, and Chairman of the Bank of Liverpool. He was a noted philanthropist and supported many good causes.

Charles Booth had five sons, of whom one, John (1903-94), joined the Navy, but the other four, namely Henry (1920, Chemistry), Alfred (1924, PPE), Charles (1928, Geology) and Thomas (1932, Chemistry), went to Univ. Obituaries for them can be found in old *Records*, and they reveal tales of success but also tragedy.

The oldest son, Henry (1901-84), worked first in the family leather trading business before setting up his own business later taken over by Vestey's. His career was spent mainly in Abingdon, where he served as Mayor in 1949-50. He was also a keen mountaineer. The second son Alfred (1906-32) also worked at Abingdon

in the family's leather business, but died suddenly of polio on Madeira aged only 26. An affectionate obituary by Henry recalls Alfred's engineering skills – not least how, on a driving holiday, Alfred, helped by the blacksmith in a Czechoslovakian village, constructed a new steering gear for his car. The third son, Charles (1910-95), worked first for the Booth Steamship Company, and then for a company manufacturing industrial honeycomb. Outside work, he supported the Scouts, and St John's Ambulance, and left money to Manchester College to establish scholarships to train Unitarian ministers. The youngest brother Thomas (1914-41) joined the Royal Artillery in 1939, and was evacuated from Dunkirk. He died in November 1941 of stomach cancer, but College Office cards record that his illness was "accelerated by war service", and he is on our Second World War Memorial.

Two of Henry's sons came up to Univ, namely David himself and his older brother Michael (1945, Chemistry). Michael (1927-97) joined the chemical industry, but, as a founding member of the revived Univ Players, took a keen interest in the theatre. Sadly, Michael suffered a major stroke in 1977, and had to retire early.

When David himself came up to Univ, he was joined by his cousin Jeremy (1930-2020), son of John Booth (1950, French). Jeremy joined the family firm, becoming a Director in 1963, but in 1972 left the firm to become a schoolmaster. Meanwhile, another Univ member, namely Neil Huxter, a Bishop's Rhodes Scholar (1955, English), joined David's family when he married Angela, David's sister. The most recent descendant of Charles Booth is a granddaughter of Jeremy, namely Cecilia Bailey, who came up in 2016.

Looking at a whole family like this offers a fascinating glimpse into the different paths which a middle-class professional family could follow – but also how sadness could come to it in many forms.

David's contribution towards Univ North is the latest of a long series of major donations towards College building projects and needs setting in context. Even in the fifteenth century, various small donations helped Univ build its first quadrangle. However, the first really major donation for a building project came in 1631. An Old Member, Sir Simon Bennet (1602), died that year, leaving the College a large tract of wood in Northamptonshire. Bennet's bequest was carefully planned: he asked that the College first cut down the woodland, selling the timber to pay for a new quadrangle, and then convert the cleared area into farmland, to be leased out to fund new Fellowships and Scholarships. Work started on a grand new quadrangle in 1634, and Bennet's gift paid for about half of it, before war ended work for over twenty years.

John Radcliffe (1666) was another Old Member who remembered the College in his will. A Yorkshireman of modest means, Radcliffe became an extremely successful society doctor in London. Apart from his skill in diagnosis and in healing people, he was famous for his lively bedside manner. He thus acquired a great fortune, but always hinted that he would remember his old College. Some of his money, of



course, went to the university, to create the Radcliffe Camera, Infirmary, and Observatory, but Radcliffe was true to his word: as well as endowing here two new medical Fellowships, he bequeathed £5,000 to build a second quadrangle. Radcliffe had strong views on how his money should be used, insisting in his will that his new quad be “answerable to the front already built”. Perhaps this was rather interventionist advice, but by 1719 Univ had a brand new quadrangle ready for use, and it has always been a popular space for Univ members.

The third great building benefactor to Univ was Arthur Goodhart (1891-1978), who will be well remembered by several readers as our first American (and Jewish) Master from 1951-63. Goodhart stands apart from David Booth, Simon Bennet, and John Radcliffe, in having been a Fellow and Master, not an undergraduate. Also, he inherited his money from banking, being a member of the great Lehman banking family. Goodhart’s philanthropic instincts, however, were no less strong. First of all he paid for the creation of the Alington Room in 1956, and then donated, or raised, the money for the Goodhart Building, completed in 1962. We should also not forget his sister, Helen Altschul, who paid for Helen’s Court.

These are some of the major benefactors to College building projects. However, many building projects have depended as much on lots of little donations as a few large ones. The east range of Main Quad is a case in point, as is the refurbishment of the Hall in 1904, to say nothing of Stavertonia. However, one project which stands out is the completion of the Hall in 1656/7.

The outbreak of civil war in 1642 left the Chapel and Hall of our new quadrangle as bare unroofed walls, but in the 1650s our then Master, Francis Johnson, and the Fellows planned to finish the Hall. This was a terrible time to raise money. Univ had been strongly Royalist in the 1640s, and our then Master and several Fellows had been expelled by the Parliamentarians. Most Old Members therefore considered Johnson and his Fellows mere intruders – and just five Old Members supported the project. Instead the Fellows had to call upon local tradesmen, London Aldermen, and the like. They also called on a house next to the College occupied by a nobleman with an




interest in natural philosophy, who agreed to give them £10 (this being the great Robert Boyle’s only link with the College).

Thus Johnson and the Fellows raised the money for the Hall in the end – perhaps the most heroic fundraising project in our history. One hopes that all future fundraising projects will be easier – but no less successful.

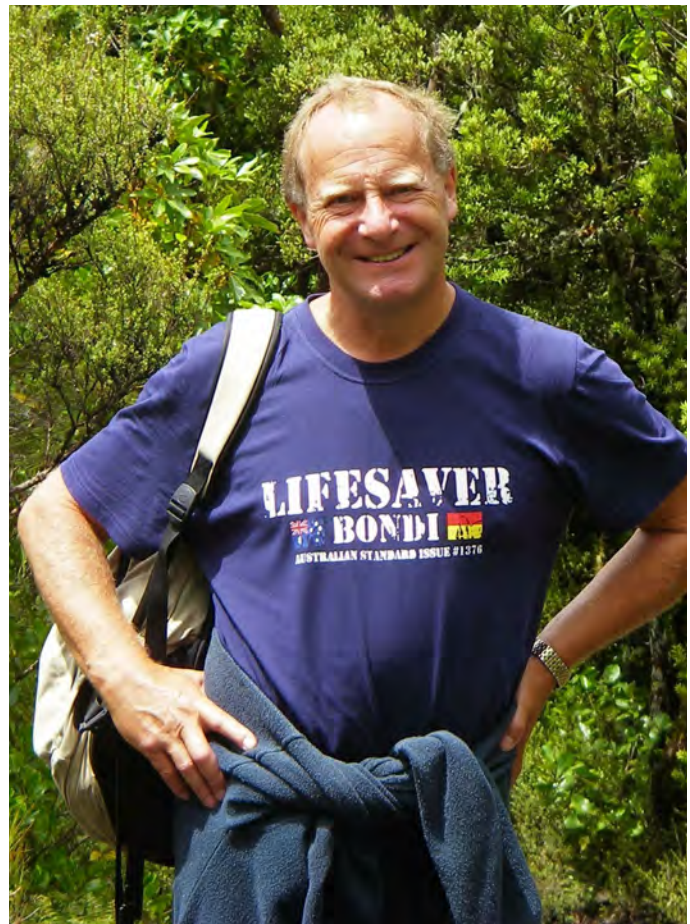
*Dr Robin Darwall-Smith (1982, Classics),  
College Archivist*

I am very grateful to Neil and Angela Huxter for their assistance in writing this article, and for providing photographs of David and his family.

If you would like to discuss legacy giving, please telephone the Development Office on 01865 276958, email Martha Cass – [Martha.Cass@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Martha.Cass@univ.ox.ac.uk) or visit [the website](#) 

The College would like to note that this has been an extraordinary year for bequests from other Old Members and friends as well. We would particularly like to thank Margaret Allen, George Cawkwell, Michael J Leppard (1956, Theology and Education), Brian Loughman, Neville Wills (1948, Social Studies), and Pamela Wolstenholme, all of whom have given substantial bequests this academic year, along with many donors of modest legacies from the Univ community. The College is grateful to all Old Members and friends of the College who have remembered Univ in their wills.







# In memoriam



## Former lecturers

**Edward Alan Bevan** died on 26 June 2015 aged 89. He was our Lecturer in Botany in 1963-4, and later became Professor of Botany at Queen Mary University of London.

**Christopher John Reuel Tolkien** died on 16 January 2020 aged 95. Best known for his extensive editions of his father's unpublished writings, especially on Middle Earth, Christopher Tolkien was our Lecturer in English in 1959-64.

## 1940s

**Michael Granville Bradley** (1946, PPE) died on 11 June 2020 aged 91.

**Francis Peter Edmund Gardner** (1947, Chemistry) died on 20 December 2019 aged 91.

**The Rev. Canon Alan Harold Frank Luff** (1947, Classics and Theology) died on 16 April 2020 aged 91.

**Sir Robert Christie Stewart** (1948, Agriculture and Forest Science) died on 26 September 2019 aged 93.

**Richard James "Jim" Cook** (1949, Chemistry) died on 9 January 2020 aged 88.

**John Harold Fawcett CMG** (1949, Classics) died on 14 December 2019 aged 90.



## 1950s

**John David Blagden** (1950, History) died in March 2020 aged 90.

**John Hefford** (1950, History) died on 1 July 2020 aged 89.

**Walter Bres Morley** (1950, Modern Languages) died on 11 November 2019 aged 88.

**John Joseph Houlst** (1951, Law) died early in 2020 aged 90.

**Brian Anthony Martelli** (1951, Classics) died on 16 February 2020 aged 86.

**The Revd. David John Reading Moseley** (1951, Maths) died on 26 February 2020 aged 89.

**James Bruxner** (1952, History) died on 21 January 2020 aged 87.

**Anthony John Cooper** (1954, History and Dip Ed) died on 4 August 2019 aged 84.

**David Hume Bayley** (1955, PPE), died on 10 May 2020 aged 87.

**Michael John Leppard** (1956, Theology and Dip. Ed.) died on 10 September 2019 aged 81.

**Thomas David Neville** (1956, Geography) died on 4 April 2020 aged 86.



**Terence "Terry" John Harris** (1958, Modern Languages) died on 9 July 2020 aged 80.

**Robert Napier Stober** (1958, Classics) died on 23 April 2020 aged 81.

## 1960s

**Terence Donald Bamford** (1960, Law) died on 9 February 2020 aged 77.

**Sir John Ridley Pattison** (1960, Medicine) died on 18 March 2020 aged 77.

**Peter David Cook** (1962, History) died in November 2019 aged 75 or 76.

**Jeremy Richard Bridgeland** (1967, Chemistry and Dip Ed) died on 14 May 2020 aged 71.

## 1970s

**David Vaughan** (1974, Physics) died on 2 April 2020 aged 63.

## Former staff

As the magazine was going to press, we received the very sad news that Sandra Williamson had died. Sandra, and her husband Ian (who died in 2012), worked at Univ from 1985 until they retired in 2006. There are many Old Members who will remember them very fondly. We hope to include a full tribute in next year's *Record*.



# A walk around the Quad

Calum Miller (1996, PPE), Supernumerary Fellow, is Chief Operating Officer and Associate Dean of Administration of the Blavatnik School of Government. He is also the Co-Director of Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE). He previously served as Principal Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary and head of the UK Civil Service (2009-10) and to the Deputy Prime Minister (2010-12). Calum is a member of the Univ North Working Party and a former trustee of the Univ Old Members' Trust. He lives in Oxfordshire with his wife Dr Sophie Miller (1995, Psychology) and four children.

## **Could you describe your route from Univ, through the civil service, to Number 10?**

On leaving Univ, I joined the Treasury through the European Fast Stream. I spent eight years there, working on international economic issues, including two years of study leave, during which I was a research associate of the Global Economic Governance programme at Univ. In 2009, while I was at DFID, I was recruited by Sir Gus O'Donnell (then Cabinet Secretary) to lead his office, supporting him in the build-up to the 2010 General Election. When it took place and the Coalition was formed, I was asked to set up the team to support Nick Clegg. I ended up staying, serving for over two years as his Principal Private Secretary.

## **Was there an area of government responsibility that you found particularly interesting?**

I remain fascinated by how we can achieve better outcomes for citizens through international economic relations. I studied international relations and international economics in PPE and again in my MPhil. I found the process of negotiating debt rescheduling as the UK's delegate to the Paris Club of sovereign creditors fascinating. I remain proud of my role in setting up new funds to address climate change at the World Bank and in creating the world's first advanced market commitment: an instrument which successfully drew R&D towards a vaccine for pneumococcus, which kills millions in the developing world.

## **You recently said that "We need a new generation of leaders committed to their communities, to furthering justice and to tackling poverty." Do you have any experience of different styles of leadership and which did you feel was most effective?**

I've been privileged to work closely with a series of leaders and have learnt from them all. One distinction is between those who are motivated by ideas and those who are driven by outcomes. Then there are those who are skilled listeners and those whose default is to broadcast. Finally, there are those who radiate energy and optimism and empower you to give your best (and a few who don't!).

## **Do you think people have an idea of what a leader should look like?**

The debate about the statues we venerate in public spaces has reminded us of the narrow spectrum of people who have been

recognised as leaders in British history. The same debate, I think, has shown how perceptions of who a leader is are changing. We live in a less hierarchical age. Exercising leadership is harder today because less authority is granted by position; it has to be earned and sustained. At the same time, more people have the possibility to become leaders and our understanding of the role is broader and more inclusive.

## **What are the key drivers for elevating people out of poverty?**

Most poverty is structural. Children born into disadvantage have fewer life chances than their richer counterparts. So the response needs to be structural. Education lies at the heart of this. The more we can level the playing field and ensure that young people of all backgrounds have a high quality education, the greater their chance to access further opportunities in life. The best educators inspire their pupils to do things they never believed possible. Education can't sweep all other barriers before it and some of the effects of poverty require urgent intervention to allow meaningful education to start, but it is still a critical starting point.

## **There is an overlap between the influence of nation states and large corporations in the modern world. Do you feel there is a need for improved leadership within business as well as in politics?**

The interplay between commerce and government is not new. Think of the merchant city states of Renaissance Italy or the role of major US banking houses in negotiating reparations at Versailles. Following the Global Financial Crisis, there has been a renewed focus on the role that business plays in society. The idea that corporations' sole function is maximising shareholder value has been debunked. In the contexts of huge government financial support during the pandemic, the climate emergency and growing inequality, there is a need to re-cast the social contract between large corporations and the state. That requires foresightful leadership by leaders in business and politics.

## **The Blavatnik School moved into the new BSG Building in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter in 2015. What can you take from your experience of being involved in the construction of this major capital project to the Univ North Working Party?**

The main lesson I took was around relationships and



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The more we can level the playing field and ensure that young people of all backgrounds have a high quality education, the greater their chance to access further opportunities in life.”



participation in the process. When it is done well, the creation of new buildings – or landscapes – is a deeply human exercise through which we shape our surroundings, the better that they can shape us and our successors. So there is a technical side to these projects but the way that those affected are consulted is core to their success. The College is lucky to have Fellows leading the project who understand this and have been engaging with the community from the start.

**What prompted you to get involved as a school governor?**

I first got involved as a parent who wanted to help my kids' school flourish. Ten years and two schools later, I am still involved. It's rewarding to be able to make a positive contribution and a privilege to work with some amazing teachers. It's a little-known fact that education in the UK rests heavily on the work of thousands of volunteer governors.

**What are your most treasured memories of Univ?**

I've happy memories of learning, partying and playing sports (winning rugby Cuppers was a particular highlight). But the most special memories are of people who, though we might not have known it at the time, changed my life: my wife, life-long friends,

and tutors and Fellows whose inspiration, guidance and advice set me on a path and who have helped me navigate it since.

**What is your favourite part of the College?**

I love entering Radcliffe Quad on an early summer's morning. After the enclosed formality of Main Quad, the angled path and its open side to the Master's Garden and Lodgings is refreshing. If there is sunshine and wisteria blossom, so much the better.

**What do you find most inspiring about the Univ North development?**

The unique chance to imagine – and realise – a new environment for the College community that will deepen and enhance what already exists.

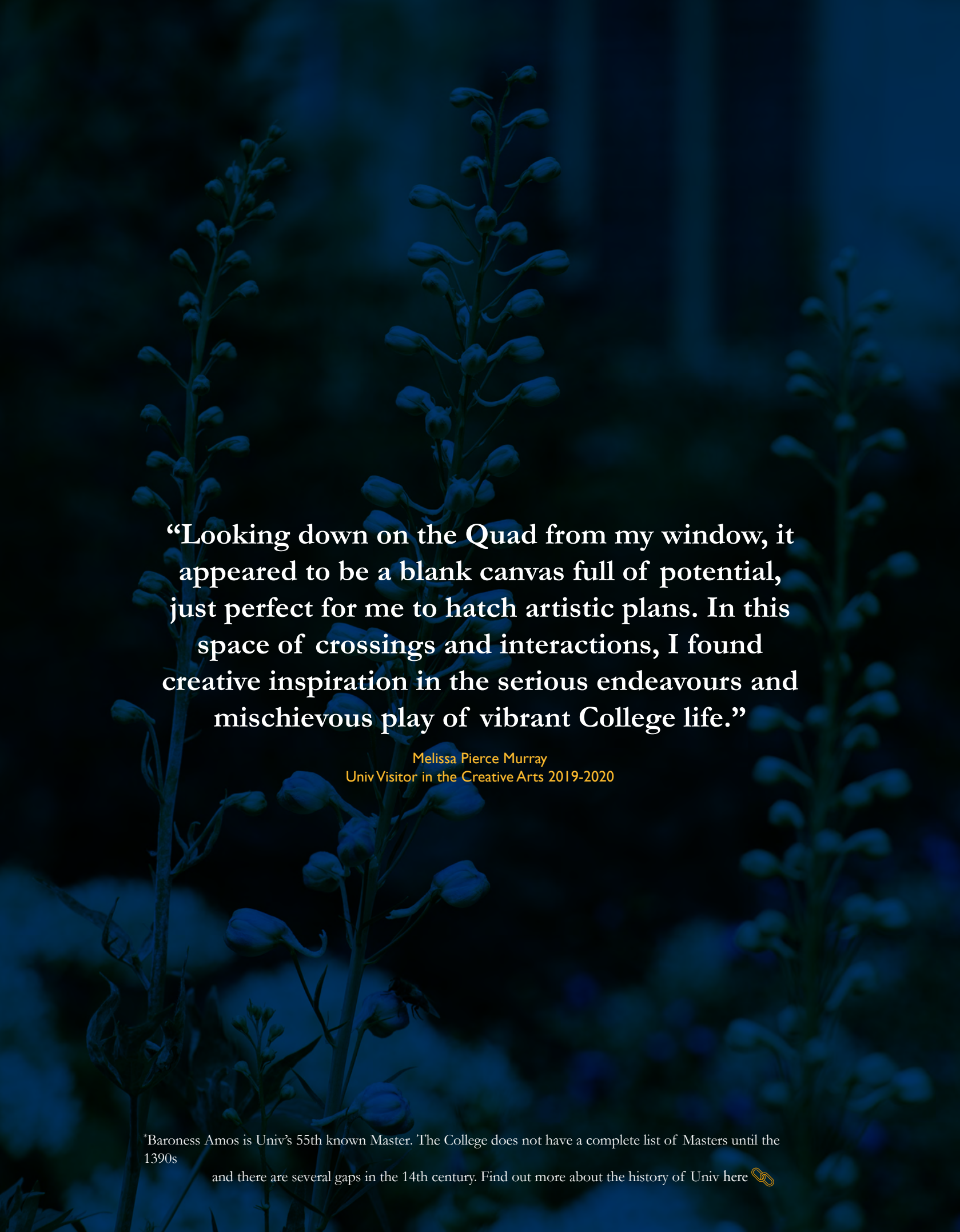
**Why do you support Univ, and why would you encourage others to do the same?**

So that others can benefit from the same, transformative educational experience that I had.

**Univ in three words:**

Inspiring, supportive, fun.





**“Looking down on the Quad from my window, it appeared to be a blank canvas full of potential, just perfect for me to hatch artistic plans. In this space of crossings and interactions, I found creative inspiration in the serious endeavours and mischievous play of vibrant College life.”**

Melissa Pierce Murray  
Univ Visitor in the Creative Arts 2019-2020

\*Baroness Amos is Univ's 55th known Master. The College does not have a complete list of Masters until the 1390s

and there are several gaps in the 14th century. Find out more about the history of Univ [here](#) 