



THE MARTLET

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

ISSUE 13 | 2021

MODERN GREATS

Shazia Azim (1993) reflects on
100 years of PPE at Oxford

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

MEET THE MASTER

Baroness Amos in conversation

THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS

Univ entrepreneurs

FEEDING MIND AND BODY

Experimental science in lockdown

From the Editor

Welcome to Issue 13 of *The Martlet*, the annual magazine for all members and friends of University College, Oxford. I would like to thank the Old Members, students, Fellows and staff who contributed to this issue. Particular thanks to my colleagues Dr Robin Darwall-Smith, Ariane Laurent-Smith and Justin Bowyer. If you have any comments or news, please email communications@univ.ox.ac.uk.

Sara Dewsbery

Communications Officer

Cover photograph by Matt Grayson

University College, Oxford, OX1 4BH

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

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Baroness Amos in conversation



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Unearthing and reassembling religious papyri and linen objects in US libraries

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Education opens up opportunities regardless of who you are.”

Baroness Valerie Amos, Master

“

The most meaningful contributions are the ones where we have an opportunity to make a difference for someone else.”

Dr Christian E Mammen (1993, Law)

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Clare Bayley

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2020-2021



The secret of my success

Univ's digital entrepreneurs



The birth of the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway

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From the Master

Baroness Amos looks forward to Trinity Term



It has been a challenging few months for all of us as we have grappled with the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, personally and professionally. How leaders and governments have dealt with the consequences has shaped our day-to-day lives and relationships with family, friends and colleagues. From the point early last year when the virus really took hold, a lot of lessons have been learnt and progress made. I hope that the modest shoots of recovery we are beginning to see in some parts of the world will eventually result in a more stable future for all of us. However, the news coming out of India is extremely worrying and it is heart-breaking to see family members and friends pleading for help for those who are desperately ill. We must remain vigilant but there is also hope out there. I was privileged to be part of a discussion with the Director General of the World Health Organisation last week. He emphasised the importance of vaccine equity to assist all countries in dealing with the virus. We are all very proud of the role our colleagues in Oxford have played in the development of the Astra Zeneca vaccine.

Turning closer to home. Here at Univ, we were extremely disappointed to spend the whole of Hilary Term under lockdown. As you can imagine College was extremely quiet although our DPhil students, those on specific courses requiring access to labs and students qualifying for exemptions under the government's regulations, were able to return.

To help us manage our responsibilities to students and staff, most undergraduate students were housed in Stavs and Goodhart to facilitate access to kitchens and other facilities. The library remained open with reduced hours. Many staff have been working from home or have been on furlough since the start of the pandemic.

We are now looking forward to the start of Trinity Term. We expect the majority of our finalists to be back in residence (many are already here) and are looking forward to further news

“From the point early last year when the virus really took hold, a lot of lessons have been learnt and progress made.”

from the Government which would allow all of our students to return. With the UK vaccination roll-out running ahead of schedule in some parts of the country and the roadmap for ease of lockdown conditions running to schedule in England, the mood is positive, although we recognise that we cannot be complacent. We continue to operate under “COVID-secure conditions” including social distancing.

We have been very conscious of the emotional toll that lack of social engagement has had on some of our students and staff. During Hilary Term I had the opportunity to speak to many of our students via virtual coffee mornings and subject group meetings and tutors have also given additional support to students. Regular staff newsletters have kept us in touch with each other as well as virtual social events organised by groups of staff and the SCR Chair.

We have also maintained contact with alumni and friends of Univ through a range of virtual events and the Global Conversations series, which got off to an excellent start with the conversation on China and the USA. The follow-up event considered “fake news” and its impact on our lives.

As we deal with the ongoing impact of the pandemic our work in other key areas of College life continues. A review of Univ North to consider whether the pandemic had had such a significant impact on higher education that the College needed to alter its plans was undertaken. The review group concluded that “nothing has happened to undermine the fundamental case for the Univ North project” so our plans continue. We have had huge support from Old Members for this project. Thank you.

We are all looking forward to a more relaxed summer. I hope you are too.

Valerie Amos

Fellows' news

Recognition of distinction and new appointments

Five Univ Fellows were awarded the title of Professor in the University's latest Recognition of Distinction exercise:



William Allan, McConnell Laing Fellow and Praelector in Greek and Latin Language and Literature, was awarded the title of

Professor of Greek. Professor Allan was born and raised in Fife, Scotland. He studied Classics at Edinburgh University and taught at Harvard University before coming to Univ. He is particularly interested in the literature and intellectual history of archaic and classical Greece. Publications include *Greek Elegy and Iambus: A Selection (Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics)* (2019).



Polly Jones, Schrecker-Barbour Fellow in Slavonic and East-European Studies and Praelector in Russian, was awarded the title of

Professor of Russian. Professor Jones researches 20th century Russian literature and culture. She acted as consultant to Armando Iannucci's (1982, English) film *The Death of Stalin*. Publications include *Revolution Rekindled: The Writers and Readers of Late Soviet Biography* (2019) and *Myth, Memory, Trauma: Rethinking the Stalinist Past in the Soviet Union* (2013).



Joe Moshenska, Beaverbrook and Bouverie Fellow and Praelector in English was awarded the title of Professor of

English Literature. Professor Moshenska has worked on a number of documentaries for BBC Radio. He is the author of *Iconoclasm as Child's Play* (2019) and *A Stain in the Blood: The Remarkable Voyage of Sir Kenelm Digby* (2017), which was shortlisted for the James Tait Black Prize for Biography and the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography.



Michael Barnes, Fellow and Praelector in Physics, was awarded the title of Professor of Physics. His research, aimed primarily at

understanding the often chaotic behaviour of magnetised plasma, has led to new insights into the confinement of fusion plasmas and into the nature of thermal equilibrium in astrophysical accretion disks.



Catherine Holmes, A D M Cox Old Members' Fellow and Praelector in Medieval History, was awarded the title of

Professor of Medieval History. In her research, Professor Holmes seeks to integrate the specialist field of Byzantine studies with the study of the history and culture of other regions of the medieval world. Publications include *The Global Middle Ages*, ed. with Naomi Standen (2018), which was named by *The Spectator* as one of their books of the year in 2019.

New Appointments

Supernumerary Fellows



Professor Jon Blundy FRS (1980, Geology) has been appointed as a Supernumerary Fellow. Professor Blundy returns to Oxford as a Royal Society Research Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences. His research concerns the generation, movement and evolution of magma within the Earth.

Stipendiary Lecturers



Dr Alex Lloyd has been appointed Stipendiary Lecturer in German. Dr Lloyd's main research interests are in twentieth-

century literature and film, particularly cultural memory, depictions of children and childhood, and visual culture. She is currently running a project on the White Rose resistance movement.



Dr Nicholas Talbot has been appointed Stipendiary Lecturer in Medicine. Dr Talbot's research interests include

cardiovascular and respiratory responses to low oxygen levels (hypoxia), the interaction of systemic iron and oxygen homeostasis, and non-invasive assessment of lung function.



Crescente Molina has been appointed Research Associate in Law. Mr Molina's research is in normative ethics and the philosophy of law. His doctoral dissertation explores the normativity of promises.

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

Feeding mind and body

What does an experimental scientist do over lockdown?



Like most colleagues there is a continual run of meetings, classes and tutorials making us slaves to the tyranny of Zoom, Teams and the like. Through all of this, however, those of us dedicated to hands on experiments have still managed to keep up with our research and teaching in the laboratories. In my own case I've been helping research students to align spectrometers, connect up samples and set up chemical processes. My research group has been developing some new transparent conducting layers made with carbon nanotubes which we recently patented and are hoping to license to companies soon.

I run two large laboratories for the 2nd and 3rd year undergraduates and we are determined that the Oxford course should still prepare our students to measure things and interpret what they find. COVID-19 restrictions have meant that very few students could do this in person and so most have had to do it remotely. I spent much of August and September being filmed doing the experiments myself and collecting typical data sets (i.e. the best, because I know what I am doing and had time and help to make sure that it really was done perfectly!). Then came new instructions for how to make the most of the data. With a team of 12 demonstrators to give one-to-one guidance we have delivered almost a complete year of practical courses with what feels like a good approximation to proper experimental work. Several of the working practices we have introduced have been significant improvements and will carry on in future.

What about life away from the lab? My big project this year was to help Oxford become a bit more self-sufficient in food production. This is a grandiose way to say that I am an allotment holder on Port Meadow. We all need water to grow our fruit and vegetables, and with

“

With a team of 12 demonstrators to give one-to-one guidance we have delivered almost a complete year of practical courses.”



global warming we need more of it. This summer's plan was to deliver water on tap to all the 160 plots and use some basic physics to make it work. In September 2019 we had drilled a borehole into the river Thames basin. As the first lockdown began to ease I installed a waterpump powered by some large solar panels to pump water up to a raised storage tank. With a group of ploholders we built a water distribution network with over 1km of large and small bore pipes distributing water to 30 troughs and taps. I spent a lot of time practicing my basic plumbing skills but it was a delight to get out in the sunshine and do something practical. As a result, everyone can connect

up a hosepipe to a tap within 20m of their plot to deliver water to grow the perfect strawberries, sweetcorn, asparagus and other delights. Lots of people contributed to this, digging, plumbing, lifting and generally sorting things out, but ultimately it was my design with the layout designed for optimum efficiency. As we were nearing completion Judy, my wife, asked what if after all of the effort and expense, it doesn't work. I just looked at her quizzically and said of course it will, I've done the maths.

Professor Robin Nicholas, Tutorial Fellow and Praelector in Physics, Professor of Physics and Financial Advisor

Our 3 ton water storage tank being lifted onto a carefully camouflaged shipping container. In the foreground the blue pipe comes up from our borehole and next to it is one of the galvanised water troughs.

Univ online

Top ranking, new strands and magic numbers

300+

The number of news items and features published on the College's website in 2020 – 20% more than for 2019



Maybe it seems strange for a writer-at-heart, but I love numbers – big numbers, small numbers, dance numbers and prime numbers (which are delivered free the next day by Amazon).

Despite the great Dr Seuss once writing “You have to be odd to be number one” that’s where – with a perfect 10 out of 10 score – the eminently kind and wise people at *The Oxford Student* recently put Univ in their Definitive College Website Ranking.

So, in an overly-strained effort to continue this numbers theme, let’s look at some of Univ’s digital digits...

310 is the number of news items and features we published in 2020; everything from College and Alumni news to Treasures, Univ North updates, and Profiles. Of the latter we covered 33 members of our wonderful (and wonderfully diverse) Univ extended community. This year we’re publishing a new one weekly so you will be able to explore more than 100 by around October this year.

Our Virtual Open Day content was visited 2,500 times by prospective students and curious parents, carers and teachers last year, with more than 21,000 visits to our Staircase12 outreach pages. Whilst, in



December, our choir brightened more than 3,700 people’s days thanks to our Choral Advent Calendar.

Three – the magic number according to De La Soul – is how many new strands to our news and features we have added so far this year. Firstly, our monthly My Univ series features members of our extended family sharing their favourite thing about, or memories of, College. Next, Young Univ Stories invites recent OMs to share the story of their path to, through and beyond Oxford. Finally, there’s the Interview Archives in which we highlight audio and video interviews with and profiles on a wide range of our Alumni.

Turning to social media: We posted and tweeted 2,611 times last year reaching our combined Facebook, Twitter and Instagram audience of 41,542 people across the world. Thank you all for the 52,562 likes, shares and comments. Be sure to join us



for all the latest news, updates and event notifications plus a whole bunch of things that “just look pretty”.

Thank you to everyone that has helped make all of this possible and to all whose fantastic achievements, within College and far beyond, make reporting on all of this such a constant source of joy and inspiration.

You are number one (but not in the least odd).

Justin Bonnyer, Digital Communications Manager

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My view of Univ

545 miles south-east of Oxford lies a view that is just as much a part of Univ as any within the ring road. You know you're somewhere really special, looking out from the upper floor of the Chalet des Anglais, through the higher boughs of the alpine trees to the peaks of the Aravis range. Generations of Univ members have shared this view, away from the trappings of modern life, on a week spent reading, hiking, and learning the joys of mountain life. It may be far removed from the hustle and bustle of Oxford life, but there's still something uniquely Univ about it.

Jack Matthews (2011, Geology) is an Honorary Associate at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and is one of the Univ trustees to the Trust that runs the Chalet des Anglais.

College news

Equality and diversity, an Honorary Fellowship and Saint Oscar

Equality and diversity

Univ has appointed two Fellows to lead our work on equality and diversity, and has created a new Committee to support the College's work on these issues. Dr Rajendra Chitnis, Supernumerary Fellow, has been appointed the Fellow for Anti-Racism and Professor Tamsin Mather, Supernumerary Fellow, has been appointed the Fellow for Women.

These appointments are among the recommendations of a College working party on racism and anti-racism, made up of students and staff, which met in the summer vacation of 2020. The remit of the new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDIC) is to consider, recommend and support concrete and effective steps by which Univ may better address issues of racism, anti-racism, equality and diversity. The Committee is chaired by the Master.



Honorary Fellowship

Sir Ivor Crewe has been appointed an Honorary Fellow of Univ, having served as Master of the College from 2008-2020. During his period as Master he initiated the College's Opportunity Scheme, greatly expanded the number of graduate studentships and instigated Univ North, the College's most ambitious development project since the 18th century. Upon Sir Ivor's retirement, Baroness Valerie Amos was appointed Master.

Before becoming Master of Univ, Sir Ivor was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Essex from 1995 to 2007 where he had been the founding Director of its Institute of Social and Economic Research. He has been actively engaged for many years in influencing national higher education policy; he was President of Universities UK from 2003 to 2005 and was part of the Government's Post-18 Education Review Panel in 2018-19. He was also President of the Academy of Social Sciences until 2020.

Sir Ivor has also written several books on British politics, particularly on elections. In 2013 he published *The Blunders of our*



Governments with Anthony King, a study of major failures of domestic public policy in modern Britain. While at Univ Sir Ivor provided live, insightful and incisive commentary for many elections, a tradition that Baroness Amos has continued with the recent US Election Breakfast Conversation.

Professor Peter Jezzard, Vice-Master and


Herbert Dunhill Professor of Neuroimaging, said, "I am delighted that the College has bestowed on Sir Ivor the award of an Honorary Fellowship, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the leadership of the College during the twelve years of his Mastership. It is wonderful to know that he will continue his close association with the College via this new link."

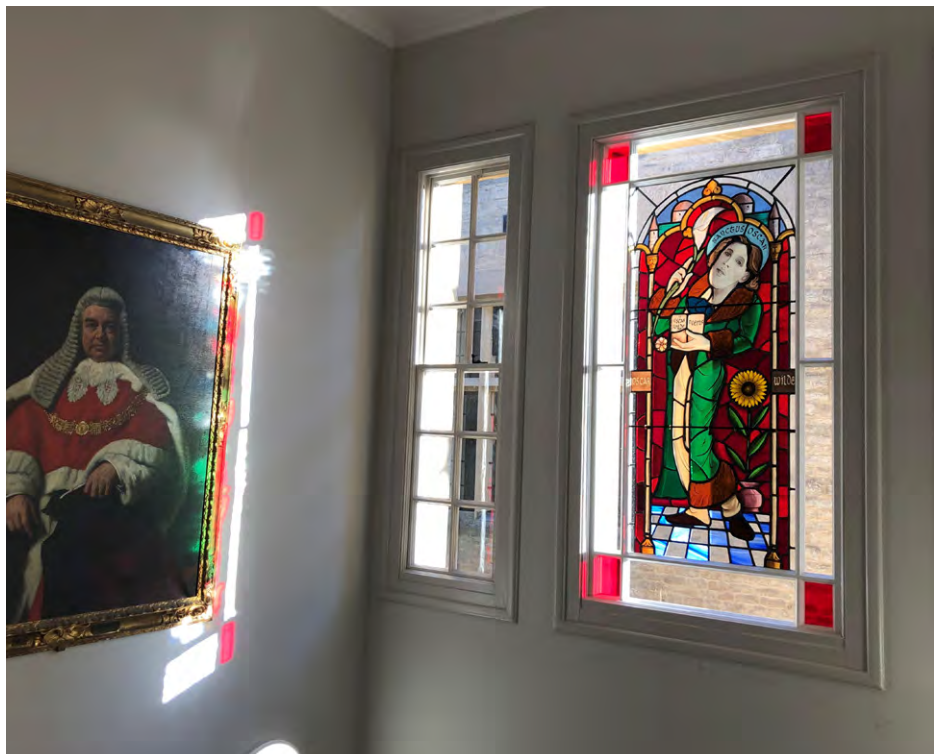
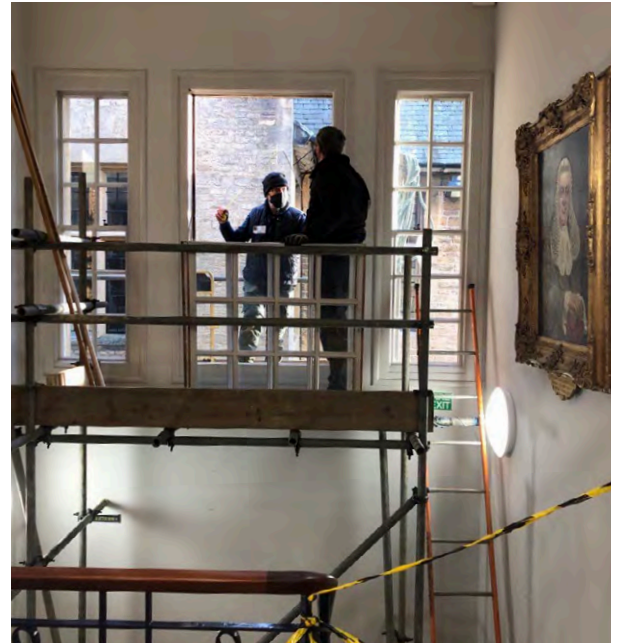
Saint Oscar

In January, Univ's latest portrait was installed on the staircase leading up to the New Library in 10 Merton Street. The east-facing location was chosen carefully as the portrait is a stained glass window depicting Oscar Wilde. Michael Seeney, a Wilde scholar and collector, very generously donated the window to the College. In 2018 the Univ Library sent out a Christmas card featuring an item from the Robert Ross Memorial Collection (RRMC).

The design was one of many wonders found by Emily Green in the boxes of "miscellanea" in the RRMC. Painted onto a piece of card was an unsigned design for a window showing Wilde in the guise of "Saint Oscar". Many people admired the image, but we were delighted when Michael Seeney offered to have the design made into a window. A local company, Artistic Leaded Glass Co Ltd, took on the project. Some of the pieces were painted by a specialist glass-painter, and then fired at a high temperature to meld together the glass and colour. By early January 2021, all 200-odd pieces were joined together using strips of lead. The finished "Saint Oscar" was installed in the second week of January.

Wilde is dressed, here, in a fur-collared coat reminiscent of the one he wore when photographed by Napoleon Sarony in 1882. Self referentially, Wilde holds a book of his own poetry in one hand and a lily in the other. Both the lily and the sunflower, potted at his feet, are emblems of the Aesthetic Movement to which Wilde belonged.

A generous donation to the College, the window demonstrates not only the enduring interest in Oscar Wilde but also the importance of Univ's collection of Wilde's works. You can read more about the Robert Ross Memorial Collection [here](#) 



Event News

Conversations, careers and class reunions

Univ in numbers

1,680+

The number of attendees at our virtual events since May 2020

♥ 52,562

The number of likes, shares and comments on our social media in 2020

November

16th Univ Annual Seminar – The Green Agenda: Will COVID-19 Help or Hinder?

Professor Gideon Henderson, Senior Research Fellow in Earth Sciences and Chief Scientific Advisor at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) chaired the panel: Dr Samantha Burgess, Sam Cornish (2012), Dr Arunabha Ghosh, Dr Tara Shirvani (2009) and Sam Swire (1999). [Listen here.](#)



December

Young Univ Conversations & Careers Panel

Baroness Amos spoke to Lucy Fisher (2007), deputy political editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, followed by a panel discussion on careers chaired by Minesh Shah (2004). Panellists were Jonathan Black, John Crompton (1981), Sian Fisher (1981), William Reeve (1991) and Alexandra Wilson (2013). [Listen here.](#)

February

Global Conversations: Superpowers

Professor Rana Mitter OBE, Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China, and Professor Adam Smith, Edward Orsborn Professor of US Politics & Political History and the Director of the Rothermere American Institute, discussed China and the USA. The event was chaired by Baroness Amos. [Listen here.](#)

January

Univ North: Life at Stavs

Dr Ian Owen (1971), Sara George (1993) and current student Beth MacNamara (2017), compared their experiences of life at Stavs and discussed the opportunities offered by the Univ North development. Baroness Amos introduced the event and Dr Robin Darwall-Smith (1982) presented a history of the site. [Listen here.](#)

March

Univ in the Arts: Russia – Life in the Shadow State

Guest speakers were *The Guardian* foreign correspondent Luke Harding (1987), author of the best-selling exposé *Shadow State* and *Collusion*, and expert political commentator Philippa Thomas (1984), presenter and correspondent for BBC World News.

Dates for your diary

Thursday, 6 May 2021

Global Conversations from Univ

Saturday, 22 May 2021

William of Durham event

Thursday, 10 June 2021

Univ in the Arts: Armando Iannucci

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 July 2021

Celebratory events in College to thank Sir Ivor and Lady Crewe

Saturday, 16 October 2021

Old Members' Football Day

Thursday, 11 November 2021

USPGA (Golf) Autumn Meeting

Saturday, 26 March 2022

1970, 1971 and 1972 Golden Anniversary reunion

Saturday, 19 March 2022

1988-1992 Gaudy

Saturday, 24 September 2022

1993-1996 Gaudy

Events may be subject to change.

Please check for updates [here.](#)

April

Global Conversations: Fake News

Sagarika Ghose, Indian columnist and former BBC World Anchor, Nick Robinson (1983), presenter of BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme and Professor Jacob Rowbottom, Stowell Tutorial Fellow in Law, discussed the extent to which fake news has affected the global media. The discussion was chaired by Baroness Amos.

Development News

Univ Donor Day 2021



Univ Donor Day

The first Univ Virtual Donor Day took place on 20 February. Featuring talks, presentations, conversations, and a chance to meet students and Fellows, the Donor Day was dedicated to showcasing the impact of philanthropy and recognising the generosity of all those who have made a gift to the College.

Old Members and friends of the College from across the world took part, from as far afield as Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany and the United States. We would like to thank everyone who joined us online on the day and all those who contributed to making it a success.

The programme included a College update from the Master and Professor Caroline Terquem, Dean of Graduates; a Univ North Q&A with Angela Unsworth MBE, Domestic Bursar, and Dr Andrew Grant (1977), Finance Bursar; a talk from Dr Robin Darwall-Smith (1982), College Archivist, on the history of legacy giving to Univ; an update on the Boat Club; an update on Univ's Opportunity Programme and access schemes with Dr Andrew Bell (1993), Senior Tutor; an update on student life with Judy Sayers (2019) and Dagmawi Yosief (2019), the WCR and JCR presidents; and an update on the Arts at Univ, with Clare Bayley, Visitor in the Creative Arts, Caterina Tucker (2018), and Roshan Karthikappallil (2018).

Comments from attendees:

"It was particularly good to hear from the President of the JCR and the WCR. Thank you also for the work you are doing for the College, especially in these extraordinary times."

"Well done everyone for a kind and generous effort and giving up your time, and for thinking of your supportive donors. Very good to find the DOC still very much alive and kicking in spite of all the taxing challenges of the last year or more."

"I certainly enjoyed the afternoon and listening to the very bright students. Congratulations and thanks to all involved!"

"I really enjoyed Donor Day and the ability to dip in and out of sessions!"



MEET THE MASTER

BARONESS VALERIE AMOS IN CONVERSATION

In January 2021 Dag Yosief, JCR President, and Judy Sayers, WCR President, met with Baroness Amos to discuss her first term in office and her thoughts about the future.



How have you found your first term as Master of Univ?

It has of course been a bit odd and challenging at times – it’s certainly unusual starting a new job during a pandemic! Initially our focus was on preparing for Michaelmas within the constraints of government guidance. We wanted to welcome students back and to foster a continued sense of community. I knew how hard it was going to be for our freshers, returners and staff. Despite all that, I am pleased with what we were able to do. I feel that I settled in very quickly – there is something about facing a challenge that brings people together.

How has being Master of Univ compared to the previous leadership roles that you have held, most recently as Dean of SOAS?

Being a Master of a College is about convening and uniting people. We have Fellows who are trustees and a governing body that make final decisions, so the role is less directive than my role was at SOAS. I think, however, that there are experiences, most particularly from my time as Leader of the House of Lords, which I can bring to being Master at Univ.

Univ has a very quiet, progressive gene: it does not shout about its achievements. It has been able to make significant change in this way – for example, the Opportunity programme, now Opportunity Oxford, started at Univ. The fact that Univ is unafraid of change and is interested in trialling ideas, and sharing them really attracted me to the College. I would be interested to know if you both agree?

Judy: Very much so. I think that is one of Univ’s best characteristics – the College is not ostentatious, but is an ambitious and forward-looking community that stands strongly for what it believes in. Univ quietly gets things done to a very high level.

Dag: One thing that stood out for me over the past year, is that there is a real sense of shared organisational goals and a long-term view for the College. Opportunity Oxford is born out of a clear sense that it wants to be a fair and meritocratic place of learning. Our shared idea of what we want to be, makes Univ a very rewarding place to be.

“
There is something about facing a
challenge that brings people together.”

“

The fact that Univ is unafraid of change and is interested in trialling ideas, and sharing them really attracted me to the College.”

Looking back over the past few months, do you feel that universities could have responded to the pandemic more effectively?

I would frame that by saying that there is something really special about being in a place where so much relevant work has been going on. I haven't been involved in any way, so I cannot take any credit for what's been achieved! But I feel incredibly proud when I hear reports of the vaccine effort, because it speaks to the power of research and the exchange of knowledge.

It has been difficult to communicate consistently, to provide the long term messages that would give students a sense of safety and security. This is partly because government guidance changes so quickly, creating a degree of uncertainty apart from the College or University response. I would be interested to hear your thoughts, though, on our pandemic response.

Dag: The distinct memory I have from March, was when within the space of a week, most of us went from not knowing what coronaviruses were, to having to deal quickly with the complete overhaul of our day-to-day lives. The same is true for College staff, who have been doing their best to try to accommodate many of the difficulties that have arisen.

Judy: One of the things that particularly struck me in March as WCR President was that up to that point, I had found the running of College to be a well-oiled machine. As a very old institution, a lot of systems run smoothly from year to year, with routine checks and balances in place. Then along came the pandemic and suddenly we were collectively pole-vaulted into the position of having to go back to the drawing board and to rethink the patterns of Higher Education. I think the College has done a very good job at working with students for students.

Valerie: It has been a testing period, but I think it has opened up opportunities that we're going to benefit from going forward. In the longer term I think it will be positive for the College. It will shape our thinking, for example, on how we integrate the High Street and Univ North sites to create different kinds of college communities – which is potentially very exciting.

What benefits do you foresee moving forwards from this experience?

I think it will change the balance of lectures and tutorials delivered in an online, face-to-face or hybrid way long term. It will also affect the kind of spaces we need. In the context of the University of Oxford having both Departmental and Collegiate University settings, how we create spaces that facilitate greater working across groups of people and across generations is an area to be developed. We've had small groups reviewing Univ North recently, because we thought it really important to review what we have planned in the context of our pandemic response and the positive lessons from that. There are people who suggest that this period represents the end of Higher Education as we know it, and that future students will not want to go away to University, but I don't agree. Instead, I think that what it does is it opens up opportunities to work in a different way, to connect globally and to incorporate technology fully into education.

Prior to your time as Director of SOAS you worked in senior capacities at the UN, in Government and as Leader of the House of Lords. What made you choose to jump across to Higher Education?

Education has always been a big part of my family. Both my parents were teachers at some point in their career, my maternal grandfather was a teacher, my sister started her career as a teacher, I have a nephew who's a teacher. My family firmly believes that education opens up opportunities regardless of who you are, which I very much agree with.

In terms of making the shift, a few themes have really guided my career. In particular, I've focused on the question of how to create fairer societies. Moreover, questions centring around social justice and human rights are themes that have been at the heart of what I like to work on. When I moved to SOAS, I came from the UN, where I had seen some terrible situations across the world, and had worked for example with displaced people and refugees. It fostered a real belief that some of the solutions rested with our young people: with the way that they saw their futures; the way in which they engaged with issues globally; the kinds of problems that they wanted to work on. Although

it seemed to some like an odd transition, it was a very natural transition to me. By connecting people from different parts of the world, and by working across different kinds of disciplines, I believe that you can find innovative solutions to some of those global challenges.

What do you hope to achieve during your time as Master?

What happens with Univ over the next few years is not just about me. When I was being interviewed for this role I was especially attracted by Univ's ethos and where the College wants to go. I think that there is a collective agenda that we want to work on together, starting with the Opportunity Programme and the work done last summer through establishing a working party to look at issues around race as a result of the Black Lives Matter movement and the Rhodes Must Fall campaign. Pointing to particular areas of interest that I have, there are many issues around the environment and climate change, which are important both in terms of the work of several College Fellows, and also are central concerns of some of our students. We can do a lot more work, linked to our Fellows' research and to the Univ North development, which speaks to the measured growth of the College.



40 Years of Women at Univ Garden Party 2019, photo Philippa James

“

By connecting people from different parts of the world, and by working across different kinds of disciplines, I believe that you can find innovative solutions to global challenges.”

Why did you feel that it was important to speak out in support of the Oxford Rhodes Must Fall campaign over the summer?

I have spent many years campaigning on issues of racial justice in the UK, and have sat on many committees addressing these issues. This has always been a part not just of my working life, but a real passion of mine. Twelve years ago, my sister and I set up a small charity to look at how best to support young black men of talent to get to University and attain good jobs despite the discrimination they face. We now also take young women. In reviewing my work, I felt very strongly that whilst the UK had made some progress, and you can point to the progress that we have made, that progress had been slow. In the midst of this, discussions began regarding who as a society we revere, and who we put up on a plinth. I definitely do not think that we should pull down every single statue; I think public figures are full of light and shade and very few of them don't have something in their history that we would query or question. I do feel, though, that there are a small number of figures for whom what they have done is so appalling that they have no right to be on a plinth. Whilst I think the work that the Rhodes Trust does in providing graduate scholarships is really positive, I think the figure of Rhodes himself, how he behaved and how he secured his fortune should not be on a pedestal.

Turning finally to a few light-hearted questions about what you do in your free time – it would be great to hear what you do outside of work to let your hair down.

Regarding my free time in the pre-COVID-19 era: I love music – jazz in particular – but I would listen to pretty much anything! I love going to concerts and I love dancing. I love spending time with close friends and family. I don't cook very often but I do enjoy cooking, and I think going out to eat or having friends over is such a wonderful thing to be able to do! I enjoy reading, theatre and cinema – so really, lots of things that have become difficult because of the pandemic.

I am looking forward to welcoming students, staff and others to group discussions and dinner parties in the Lodgings when life returns to normal!

What have you watched during the lockdown period?

I'm currently watching *Lupin* on Netflix, and previously I watched *The Crown* in about two sittings! Like everybody else I've been watching *Bridgerton*, also in about two sittings. Admittedly, I've re-watched the famous *Pride and Prejudice* series for about the nine-hundredth time.

Any books that you've especially enjoyed?

I'm currently reading a book about the Haitian revolution called *Black Spartacus*; I have a real interest in Toussaint Louverture, and this is a very good recent book that's come out about him.

Finally, if you had to choose a desert island disc, what would it be?

I would have to pick Marvin Gaye's *What's going on?*: it's great, and it's also a bit of a cheat because the album tracks run into each other without breaks, so I could probably get an entire album for one track! *What's going on?* speaks to now as well as speaking to the past; I love it!

OF PARTS & PIECES

Unearthing and reassembling religious papyrus and linen objects in US libraries



Dr Ann-Katrin Gill
Lady Wallis Budge Junior
Research Fellow in
Egyptology

Everyone knows about and appreciates the importance of excavations in Egypt designed to unearth what still lies hidden beneath the sand. Only too often, however, we forget about the objects that were removed from the depths of Egypt more than a century ago, those that still lie forgotten in museums and other collections. Some are well-reputed for housing artefacts. But in addition, there are objects in repositories which are not known for possessing any ancient Egyptian antiquities and hence their hidden treasures have never been further investigated. Library collections in the United States, in particular, are a treasure trove of such forgotten gems. The project I am currently working on involves the study of ancient Egyptian religious papyri and mummy bandages in such lesser-known collections. Its intention is to provide us with a clear and comprehensive picture of which US libraries have papyrus and linen objects inscribed with ancient Egyptian religious texts and which do not, what exactly this material is, and whether there are pieces of the same objects in other collections. My little contribution here shall also serve as a thank you to all those who have kindly replied to my enquiries and provided me with valuable information about their holdings.

The ancient Egyptian artefact which highlighted the urgency for such a project that aims at finding and documenting papyrus and linen documents in US libraries

is the so-called Hood-Hearst Papyrus (around 300 BCE). Its history is a classic example of the fate unfortunately suffered by many documents. In the financially unstable times of the 1940s, it was cut into smaller pieces which were then sold off individually. In an earlier contribution to the news of University College, I have already presented my search for the missing pieces of the Hood-Hearst Papyrus ([see website](#)). So far, a total of 15 fragments have been recovered, which comprises about half of the original document.

However, there are many more manuscripts that have suffered a similar fate to the Hood-Hearst Papyrus. I have been able to bring to light a number of missing pieces of well-known papyri and mummy bandages, but there are other objects whose existence has been entirely forgotten. Here, I would like to showcase another such roll, that had suffered an even sadder fate than the Hood-Hearst Papyrus.

This is the Book of the Dead of a man called Amenemhat. Originally deposited in his tomb, the papyrus contains a collection of various spells that were of prime importance for the otherworldly existence of its owner and intended to provide the deceased with the necessary knowledge to weather the numerous dangers on his journey through the afterlife. Amenemhat, whose name means “Amun is at the forefront”, held the rank of overseer of the works of the god Amun at Thebes, and lived in the New Kingdom, around 1550–1069 BCE. The name of his mother

was Satamen, “daughter of Amun”, and that of his father Amenmose, “Amun is born”. This is the information we can gather about Amenemhat from the papyrus itself, despite the poor condition in which his Book of the Dead is nowadays. First, the manuscript was exposed to fire and burnt considerably at some point in its recent history. Then it was cut up into small pieces in order to be used for the “Pages from the Past: Original leaves from Rare Books and Manuscripts” series, a set of portfolios assembled from a number of historical documents, by The Foliophiles, Inc. (T.F.I.), an association of rare book dealers based in New York, active from 1925 to 1968. The set of portfolios was intended to serve as teaching materials and was offered to academic libraries for an affordable price. The particular set including the fragments from the papyrus of Amenemhat was sold in 1964, as the standardised card that was bound with each of the pieces proves. Like the cards accompanying the individual pieces of the Hood-Hearst Papyrus, these too provide a short description of the object. However, very often they are far from correct as the example shown here proves. So far, a total of 19 pieces of this manuscript has been identified. Nevertheless, many more are still missing, just waiting to be found. By means of a digital reconstruction, these fragments will be united virtually, so that Amenemhat’s guidebook through the perils of the netherworld will be of assistance to him once more.



FROM EGYPTIAN PAPYRUS, 800 B. C., a portion of the Book of the Dead with hieroglyphics. This book was one of the few where extensive hieroglyphic writing was used. Hieratic writing, more easily adapted to papyrus was mainly used in this period. This fragment is particularly notable for the clarity of the figures. The ink, retaining its color many thousands of years is a simple lampblack, or charcoal, with water and an adhesive added. Indeed, the papyrus, although probably harshly used many times, shows the stamina that first attracted the earliest seekers after quality.

© 1964. T.F.I.

Top: Proposed reconstruction of the pieces from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (left © Special Collections, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Libraries) and Ohio University (right © Mahn Center for Archives & Special Collections, Ohio University Libraries), preserving Book of the Dead Spells 7 – 102 – 38A – 27. The illustration of Spell 102 is split in the middle.

Left: © Queens College Special Collections and Archives (Queens, New York)

Below left: Piece from Western Michigan University preserving Book of the Dead Spell 77 (© University Libraries, Western Michigan University)

Below right: Piece from Queens College, New York, preserving Book of the Dead Spell 85 (© Queens College Special Collections and Archives (Queens, New York))



“

We forget about the objects that were removed from the depths of Egypt more than a century ago, those that still lie forgotten in museums and other collections.”



Clare Bayley

Meet Univ's Visitor in the Creative Arts 2020-2021

As the third Visitor in the Creative Arts I am benefitting from the brilliant example set by my predecessors, Amanda Brookfield and Melissa Pierce Murray, who have ensured that students and staff are welcoming, interested in what I'm doing and eager to take part. On the other hand, I arrived at Univ in the midst of the pandemic, just as the second spike approached, and lockdown loomed.

My original plans included writing a new English version of George Sand's unperformed 1839 play *Gabriel*: a swashbuckling, cross-dressing, Shakespearean romp, which tells the story of the young nobleman Gabriel – a brilliant swordsman, scholar, poet and horseman – who discovers on his 18th birthday that he is in fact a woman. He's been brought up as a man to ensure that his title doesn't fall to his cousin Astolphe, a dissolute gambler. I was hoping to run workshops, playreadings and rehearsals to explore some of the questions around gender roles, gender identity and the Globe style of performing theatre.

All these events involved bringing people together in rooms. Theatre is about connection, license, transgression – none of which are COVID-secure.

Luckily, theatre is also about imagination, empathy and creative improvisation in the face of obstacles – all of which are not only possible, but more necessary than ever in difficult times. Thanks to rigorous and practical advice from Angela Unsworth, Domestic Bursar, acting as COVID-19 advisor, I've still been able to run writing workshops and play readings, to help students escape from grim reality into worlds of their own imaginative making. Despite the masks, the two metre distances, the strict limits on the number of people allowed in a room, we've come together to share ideas, create new realities and have a laugh in the process.

I've encouraged everyone to keep their own diaries of this plague year – our lived experience needs to be recorded. Writing it down will bring some order to the confusion, perhaps make us understand it more and fear it less. It's also brilliant material for writers.

In lockdown, I may have missed out on Univ's famed feasting, but the 17th century buildings, the chiming bells, the stone fireplaces and wood-panelled rooms have been the perfect setting in which to imagine Gabriel's adventures unfolding. Now, thanks to the Oxford vaccine, there is hope that the spring will make possible what we've all been missing for so long: live theatre.

“

I've still been able to run writing workshops and play readings, to help students escape from grim reality into worlds of their own imaginative making.”



THE SECRET OF MY. SUCCESS

UNIV'S DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURS

In the first of a new series for *The Martlet*, we invite entrepreneurs to talk about what inspires them and how they got started on their entrepreneurial journey.



Alan Jay (1980, Engineering) describes himself as an “Internet entrepreneur, technology guru, occasional filmmaker and kitesurfer.” With a background in finance and technology, developing publications and communities has been a core thread through his professional career. His first company PC User Group provided a forum for people to discuss the then new concept of IBM personal computers. This led to offering internet email (1987).

In the early 90s being one of the few people on the internet and having a love of

movies from his time at Univ, he became involved in rec.arts.movies and what was to become IMDb (1996). He was a cofounder of IMDb.com building it into a business before selling it to Jeff Bezos at Amazon in 1998. Since then he has gone on to develop Digital Spy, a UK based entertainment news site which was sold to Lagadere in 2008, and now runs Sports Mole, a sports news site which he founded with Neil Wilkes, the editor of Digital Spy.

He has also produced a number of feature films and documentaries. He is a keen kitesurfer and one of the organisers at the London Kitesurfing Association.

“My time at Univ and at the University was very important to me. The things that I have become interested in over time have been driven by my love of and interest in technology and computers, although that was not what I was doing for my degree. There were no computers, for undergraduates, in engineering at the time, although I was part of the microcomputer society. We managed to find some computers in the Physics Department which we were allowed to use on special occasions!

“When I left Univ I had a summer job working for a TV production company as a runner, however I ended up writing the specification for a computer booking system for them. I then went and did accountancy for two years and in the first summer I ended up writing a database for the firm’s training department to track the trainee accountants’ performance. While training to be an accountant I was involved with a

computer user group and one day the person running the club offered me a job writing about computers for a newsletter. By 1985 we had 5,000 subscribers to the newsletter, and started offering internet email in 1987.

“We were at the forefront of the commercial Internet in the UK. The first two people to have commercial internet service were my company and one other, Demon Internet. Because of that I came across something which was later to become IMDb, the Internet Movie Database. We built a database on a Unix machine that I happened to have in my office that was connected to the Internet, so you could send an email to us and it would send back the cast list of a film or a person’s filmography. Very shortly afterwards the world wide web happened and the first graphical browser, and someone else created a website for the database. We spent six months trying to

work out how to turn it into a company, which was a relatively tricky thing because there were twenty people involved in the project on five continents.

“We sold the company two years later to Amazon. In those two years we began to realise how ingrained IMDb was in the film industry. We would get invited to meetings with high level people at studios who either wanted to praise how IMDb made their lives easier or complain that their A list Directors didn’t like the synopsis for their new movie (which wasn’t yet finished).

“After IMDb I came across a group of people who had a forum, but who were complaining that they didn’t have enough money to run it, so I gave them a hand up. Over time we turned that into a business, which we sold four or five years later – this was Digital Spy.

“You need very little resource these days to start something. My advice to aspiring



Web: app.thestorygraph.com

Twitter: [@thestorygraph](https://twitter.com/thestorygraph)

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

entrepreneurs is that if you want to do something, go and try it, go and do it. If you can avoid taking external investment, it gives you control. I've been very lucky. At the time I got involved with IMDb I already had a business that was making some money. That meant that I could bootstrap a second business effectively off the back of the fact that I already had the infrastructure in place to support it.

"My current business has been virtual ever since we set it up. Keeping overheads as low as possible has always been my thing. Nowadays, with Amazon AWS, instead of a machine your database or content appears by magic, plus you only pay for the hours you use.

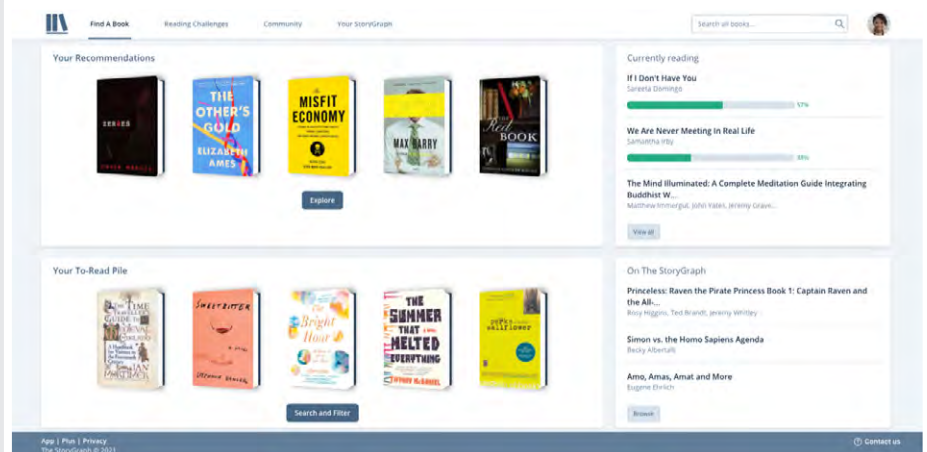
"If you can do something you enjoy, that is worth a huge amount. If it will pay you enough to afford to live in the style to which you want to become accustomed, even better!"

Nadia Odunayo (2010, PPE) is the Founder and CEO of the book tracking and recommendations hub, The StoryGraph. Billed as an alternative to Goodreads, they recently launched out of beta: app.thestorygraph.com. She was previously the Co-Founder/Director of Ignition Works, a software consulting company. Prior to that she was a Software Engineer at Pivotal Labs, working as a consultant on apps and websites for startups, and she also worked on Pivotal's Platform-as-a-Service, Cloud Foundry.

"My experience at Univ, and Oxford in general, is part of what gave me the desire and confidence to approach entrepreneurial ventures.

After all, it was while at Univ that I started, alongside fellow Univite Andrea Jansson, the first version of The StoryGraph, which was an online creative e-writing publication. I was surrounded by a whole range of creative and inspiring people and I had a wonderful support network and community around me.

"I've always been interested in books and reading, and The StoryGraph, as it exists now, was born out of a small side project that helped you to create, track, and share your own personal reading lists. It was intended to be a companion app to something like Goodreads, but through continual customer research and user feedback it has evolved into something a lot bigger!"





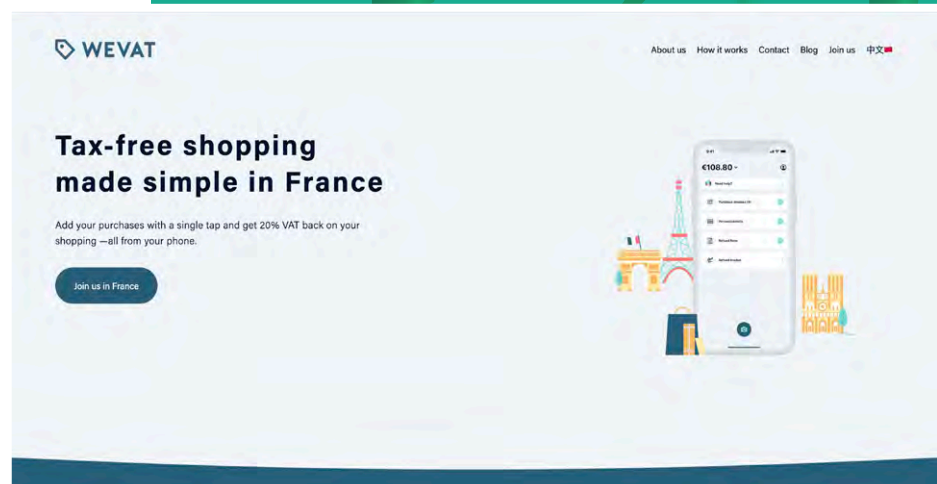
Web: wevat.com
Twitter: @WevatApp
Facebook: wevat

Raphael Chow (2010, MBiochem Biochemistry) is CEO and Co-founder of Wevat, a tech startup based in London that is helping tourists visiting Europe to claim a tax refund on shopping. Prior to co-founding Wevat, Raphael worked as a Strategy Consultant at Monitor Deloitte. Having raised nearly £4m in funding from angel investors and VC funds, Raphael knows how challenging the life of an entrepreneur can be. He's passionate about helping other founders and founders-to-be, and in his spare time also runs a community called "Nest" to support Chinese diaspora founders in the hope of enriching diversity in the London startup scene.

"Univ's warm, collegiate atmosphere really helped me push my boundaries

to beyond my degree, and kindled an insatiable curiosity for things across many disciplines. The countless fun, intellectual chats over formal or informal hall broke down barriers about who I thought I had to become, and really inspired me to look beyond my discipline.

"I founded Wevat out of a desire to help people around me through a frustratingly cumbersome journey: getting tax refunds on shopping. Every year, millions of tourists visiting the UK and Europe have to ask the shop for a tax refund form every time they make a purchase, manually fill in the forms, and queue at the airport for a customs stamp. The two hour queues at Heathrow Airport were a testament to the fact that something needed to change."



Raphael has been named in the Forbes 30 under 30 list for 2021, selected from thousands of international nominations.



Dr Elina Naydenova (2017, DPhil Biomedical Engineering) is the founder and CEO of Feebris, a London-based healthtech startup. Feebris is an award-winning company who have developed the next-generation of AI-powered remote patient monitoring technology. Their products allow any user to become part of a powerful decentralised health system; capturing clinical-grade health measurements and triaging health concerns accurately and effectively to clinicians. Their systems enable early detection, saving valuable clinical time and resources.

Web: feebris.com

Twitter: [@feebris](https://twitter.com/feebris)

Linkedin: [feebris](https://www.linkedin.com/company/feebris)

In 2019, the company successfully secured £1.1 million seed funding, in collaboration with investment network 24 Haymarket and Innovate UK. Since then, Feebris has been used by carers in care homes across the UK to deliver thousands of health check-ups during the pandemic, helping GPs monitor elderly people remotely and identify complications early.

The technology has a similar application in global health, with community healthcare workers in India using the Feebris kit to detect life-threatening conditions in young children.

In 2020, Feebris-Care-City Partnership was selected as the winner of the Techforce19 challenge offering a digital solution to help vulnerable people isolated by COVID-19. Feebris also won an award for Best Investment in Disruptive Technology from UKBAA in 2019.

“During my time at Univ, I had the amazing opportunity to not only develop a powerful technical skillset as part of my DPhil but to also experience business and public health domain that were formative for my professional development. Working with the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Said Business School, I researched social innovators in healthcare delivering ground-breaking transformation to health systems around the globe.

“As part of my DPhil programme, I interned at the World Health Organisation, where I first discovered my passion for correcting a public health wrong – the fact that pneumonia continues to be the number one killer of children under five. I also attended numerous training programmes in business, innovation and public speaking. The Oxford community is a unique blending pot of multi-disciplinary innovation, international perspectives and opportunities for growth. Today, I try to create a similarly vibrant environment in my start-up, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds to collaborate on tackling some of the biggest challenges in healthcare.”



Community worker /
Health Assistant /
Care-giver



AI-powered
mobile app + IoT
medical sensors



Web portal for
clinical decision
support




Doctor

A Univ conversation with Allan Blaza

(1943, Modern History)

Allan Blaza came up twice to Univ, first in 1943 for the RAF short course, then to read History after the Second World War. He attended Normanton Grammar School (now Outwood Academy, Freeston) in West Yorkshire. He was the recipient of the first Oxford hospital administration bursary before leaving the NHS and opening the first branch of the Leicester Permanent building society in Oxford. He is a retired partner of Abson Blaza Associates. He was also President and founding member of Pontefract Civic Society, a registered charity promoting and supporting the well-being of Pontefract in all its aspects, and Chairman of Normanton Freeston Foundation, which supports Outwood Academy, Freeston. His wife, Shirley, was the first radiographer of the first geriatric unit to be formed in the country, in Oxford, at the Cowley Road hospital (formerly the old Oxford workhouse).

The following extract is from an interview that took place in College, facilitated by Dr Robin Darwall-Smith (1982, Classics), College Archivist, with Mr Blaza's son Hugh Blaza (1971, Law) in attendance.

Watch a BBC TV newsreel on the Royal visit to Univ [here](#). 

How did you come to know Univ?

It was through the historic close link between Normanton Grammar School and Univ, established in the late 16th century by a wealthy Elizabethan entrepreneur, John Freeston, who founded the school and was also a substantial benefactor of the College. In 1943 I was 18 and in the school Air Training Corps

(ATC) with a keen ambition to become a pilot in the RAF. The Headmaster, John Holden, was also Commandant of the Corps and suggested that I apply for entry into the RAF for flying duties via an RAF Cadet Short Course available at Oxford and Cambridge Universities – and one or two others. (There were similar courses for the Army and Navy). Oxford and its Air Squadron (OUAS) and Univ, of course, were my choice. I was excited when I was accepted.

I get the impression the cadet course was a mixture of military training and a bit of academic work?

Yes, over its six-month course from Michaelmas Term 1943 to the end of Hilary Term 1944 I both read Military and Naval History (with unforgettable lectures and tutorials from Exeter College's eccentric C T Atkinson) and, as a member of OUAS based in Manor Road, I undertook the RAF's Elementary Flying Training (EFTS) curriculum featuring flying solo in a Tiger Moth. Saturday morning drill, in RAF cadet uniform, on Broad Walk by Christ Church Meadow Building was a refreshing exercise at the end of the week although not immediately to the satisfaction of the RAF Corporal in charge! Both activities brought to an end schoolday life and quickly opened a door on an adult world.

So, you enjoyed your first six months as a kind of taster?

Indeed, and of a world so different from what I had known before. Univ – and Oxford – made an immediate impact and, as the Short Course came to an end, there was the hope that if one survived the war, I would be able to come back to them both!

During that time, was John Wild generally looking after the College day to day? And, of course, he was Master when you came back.



He was Dean in those days and Chaplain, and responsible for air raid precautions as well, with a special regard for the roofs. I was in his roofs' protection team when, equipped with hand-held stirrup pumps and buckets of water, we would climb onto the roofs for practice. Happily, no occasions arose for the real thing. (I often wondered how effective our efforts would then have been). At the end of practice, John would invite us to his rooms for tea or coffee, with the entreaty; "Don't forget your rations!" (They were pretty meagre, including sugar and butter which we carried into Hall on a plate from our rooms for breakfast and dinner). John was very much liked and it was good to see that he had become Master when I came back in 1947.

I can imagine that JCR being a sort of fog of cigarette smoke.

Cigarettes, of course, and pipes. I smoked both, and enjoyed experimenting with different brands enticingly on display at Fribourg & Treyer's shelf-packed small shop on The High near Carfax. Wherever one gathered in numbers in those days in a confined space, tobacco smoke filled the air. We all were ignorant of the danger to our health. There was a national annual award: "Pipe Smoker of the Year" presented one year to the then Prime Minister, Harold Wilson (Fellow and Domestic Bursar in 1944).

You have people from very different educational backgrounds at Univ, how did you all get on?

Although coming up from a West Yorkshire Grammar School, I never had any problems fitting with people from other backgrounds, public schools, for example, and felt very much at home in Univ's immediately welcoming presence. An added sense of camaraderie and fellowship was given on returning after the War among so many ex-servicemen.

Did you have many dealings with women when you were at Univ?

Yes, but none to the extent that involved their having to leave one's rooms before Hall, or in need of climbing back in late at night. The most memorable occasions were Common Balls, the last being in 1950 with the lady who, in December that year, became my wife. Univ played a part in this, my having been introduced to Shirley the year before by a Univ friend, Michael Crowe, reading Greats. He was a neighbour and schooldays friend of Shirley in Wakefield.

We talked about *The Masque of Hope* in our correspondence. I think you're the first person I've met who saw it.

It was a spectacular – and unique – occasion held on 25 May 1948 in the Radcliffe Quad and presented by

members of the Oxford University Dramatic Society (OUDS) in honour of and before HRH Princess Elizabeth, the heir presumptive. I regret to say that I remember nothing about the specially-commissioned script, but I do recall that one of the cast was Robert Robinson, later to become the well-known broadcaster. I think the exotic Kenneth Tynan also had a part.*

They used a real horse in the production, for the scene where St George rides in at the climax of *The Masque*. We think they must have opened up the gates of Radcliffe Quad and got the horse in that way, with a vet on hand to ensure there would be no accidents.

That was the only way. It was a very large white horse. The vet is to be congratulated for what he did!

Clement Attlee was the Prime Minister in your second stint. Did the College feel any sense of "gosh a Univ man is our Prime Minister?"

Yes, I think we did although with no political connotation. For my part – and remembering the visit of Princess Elizabeth to Univ and its close association with others: Harold Wilson and William Beveridge, for example – there was a real sense of pride in that I too was a Univ man.

THE BIRTH OF THE HONG KONG MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY

A personal recollection by Colin Coulson
(1955, Engineering), Former Senior HK partner,
Freeman Fox & Partners, consulting engineers.





An urban railway for Hong Kong was first proposed in the Hong Kong Mass Transport Study submitted to Government in 1967. A follow up study was then commissioned and 'The Hong Kong Mass Transit Further Studies' report was submitted to Government in 1970. I arrived in the then colony in 1970 as Senior Partner in Hong Kong of Freeman Fox & Partners, the lead consultants to the design consortium. There was a two year delay as the incumbent HK Government Financial Secretary was against spending the money. My work initially was to do what I could to keep the project alive and provide any information to Government.

The Financial Secretary retired in 1972 and was succeeded by Philip (later Sir Philip) Haddon-Cave. He was a strong advocate of the railway and we were instructed to proceed with the detailed design of the system.

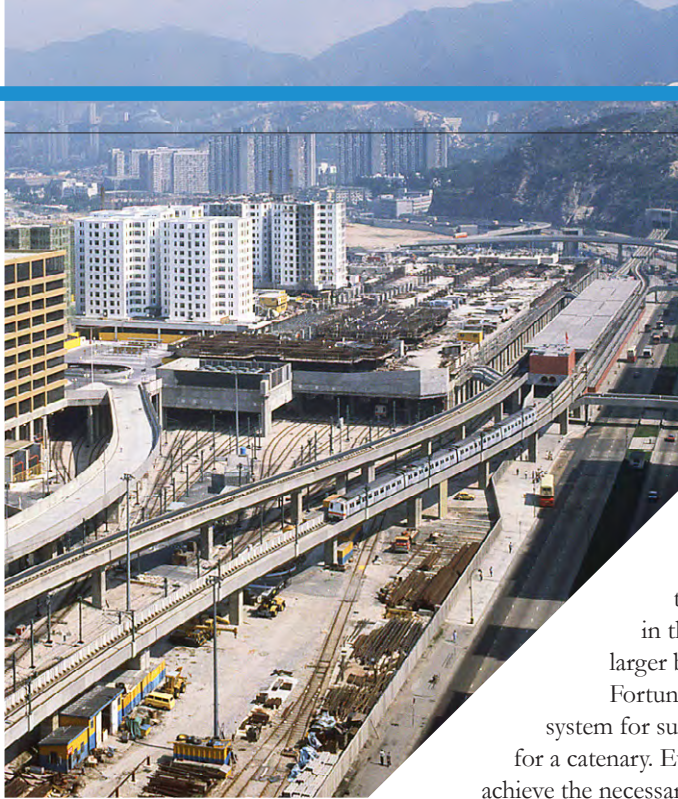
The Governor appointed the "The Mass Transit Railway Steering Committee". It was chaired by Haddon-Cave. The committee included the Director of Public Works and various other senior civil servants. I was not a member of this committee but attended all its meetings to take instructions and obtain decisions.

Government then decided to invite international consortia to build the Initial System for a lump sum. The Initial system comprised a line from Kwun Tong in Kowloon to the Central District on Hong Kong Island and a branch line from Mong Kok to Lai Chi Kok. In the event only a Japanese consortium led by Mitsubishi came forward with an offer to build the Initial System for five billion HK dollars. We were instructed to forward our designs to Mitsubishi as they were developed to show what was required.

For the next two years I and my team travelled to Japan with Government representatives to carry out "design negotiations". It soon became apparent that the Japanese had no intention of meeting our requirements. They were proposing shorter and narrower trains, smaller stations and many other proposals that we considered unacceptable and would quickly lead to serious system overloading. For the record we were specifying trains 3.2m wide with eight cars in two car sets 181.5m long with a crush capacity of 3,200 passengers. Seats for only 48 passengers and wide vestibules would allow maximum movement along the train. Traction electrical supply to the trains would be 1,500 volts DC.

In 1974 our concern was relieved by a major fuel crisis. Costs of construction rose worldwide and the Japanese Consortium withdrew their offer.

We now set about persuading the Steering Committee to instruct us to prepare a series of contract documents to invite tenders to construct the railway as we had designed it. To save costs it was decided to omit the section of line from Central to Western Market and the branch line to Lai Chi Kok. The resulting "Modified Initial System" comprised a single line from Kwun



Tong to Central together with the maintenance depot at Kowloon Bay. Bids were invited internationally for civil engineering contracts, trains and other electrical and mechanical services. Work commenced in July 1975.

By now the Government had set up the independent Mass Transit Railway Corporation and recruited the chairman and directors. The Corporation would own and operate the railway. The Corporation now became my client.

We then hit a problem. Our design was based on the use of a third rail to supply the power to the trains. The Corporation decided that they wanted an overhead catenary system, rather than a third rail for the power supply to the trains. I was unable to change their minds. An overhead catenary system could not be accommodated in the bored tunnels under Nathan Road. The prospect of negotiating larger bored tunnels with the contractors was unthinkable.

Fortunately the day was saved by Siemens who had developed a “sprung arm” system for supporting the live power line in much less space than would be required for a catenary. Even so we had to dish the roofs of the trains to lower the pantographs to achieve the necessary electrical clearances from the tunnel roof and the roofs of the trains.

Furthermore we discovered that the location plans for electricity cables, gas and water pipes under Nathan Road had all been destroyed by the Japanese during the wartime occupation. I had to put an engineer full time on taking measurements at every road opening work. Eventually we were able to fill in the gaps in our knowledge.

It is beyond the scope here to discuss all the challenges of designing a new railway that could cope with the high ambient temperatures of the Hong Kong summer or the problems to overcome by construction of the harbour crossing which was achieved by sinking tunnel sections into a trench dredged in the sea floor.

However the junction at Mong Kok was the subject of intensive study. Once the branch to Lai Chi Kok opened it would not be possible for trains from both branches to run through to Central during the peak two minute headway service. Half of the trains from the branches would have to be reversed at Mong Kok.

Over twenty different arrangements of this junction were examined and marked on points covering benefits to passengers, operating facility and capital and operating costs. The schemes fell into three categories.

- 1 “Triangular” schemes whereby all trains turn left onto the next branch. These were ultimately discarded as they would lead to widespread property destruction and platform overloading.
- 2 Alternate reversing and interworking schemes. These too were discarded as a delay on one branch would cause delay on other lines leading to dangerous platform overloading.
- 3 Schemes comprising the reversal at Mong Kok of all Kwun Tong branch trains during the peak hour. This was the only type that could handle the traffic without delays or overloading. Passengers from Kwun Tong to Central would have a cross platform interchange at Argyle (now Mong Kok) and those for Lai Chi Kok would have a cross platform interchange at Prince Edward.

Planning the stations with entrances and ventilation shafts in Kowloon’s busy streets was a challenge.

We held regular meetings in our office with the heads of the utility companies, the police, bus companies and emergency services to get agreement on each station layout. Once agreement had been reached all parties signed the agreed plan. This worked without a hitch.

The railway was opened to public use to Tsim Sha Tsui in December 1979 and to Central in January 1980. This was two months ahead of schedule and the total cost of the system was within our original estimate. Government confidence grew and further extensions to the railway soon followed.



Colin and Heather Coulson
at the 2018 Hong Kong
retrospective exhibition of
Heather's photographs



Modern Greats

Shazia Azim reflects on 100 years of PPE at Oxford

Shazia Azim (1993, PPE) is a Partner in Consulting, Financial Services as well as Head of UK Growth Priorities and Lead Relationship Partner (FTSE30 insurer) at PwC UK. She was previously Head of Strategy and Chief Operating Officer, Financial Services, for PwC UK. She is a capital markets professional with over 20 years' professional services and investment banking experience across financial services within leading FTSE 100 and international organisations.

Prior to PwC, Shazia spent 16 years in senior capital markets roles in investment banking. She served as

Head of Financing for European Banks and Insurers at Goldman Sachs for 10 years, followed by Head of Capital and Structuring at RBS. Shazia's most recent role, before PwC, was at UBS where she was MD and led the European Insurance Solutions Group which focused on capital and ALM (asset liability management).

Originally from Pakistan, Shazia came to Univ on a Rhodes Scholarship.

She is married to Dr Mark O'Neill (1992, Physiology), consultant cardiologist and Professor of Cardiac Electrophysiology at St Thomas' Hospital and King's College London.



How did you come to Univ?

I was a Rhodes Scholar, and, when you're applying from Pakistan, you can't visit the colleges or meet people. You have to choose on the basis of a description, so in many ways, you're making a blind choice. When I read Univ's description, I thought, "This is not too small, not too big, it seems incredibly friendly," and it had a fantastic PPE line-up. It gave me a really nice feel of a really friendly academic college. In hindsight, it was a decision that determined the course of the rest of my life!

Why did you choose PPE as your degree?

In Pakistan, I had trained as an economist, and I already had a graduate degree in mathematics, statistics and economics. This sounds really lame, but humour me. I wanted to come to Oxford to learn something completely new. I wanted it to be different to my life up to then and this was a once in a lifetime chance for me to learn something new for the sake of it. As I'd already done an economics degree, I focused on politics and philosophy. I absolutely loved it. I still have all of my books – Blackwell's nearly bankrupted me! Studying under people like Bill Child, John Gray, Ngaire Woods and Robin Archer was an absolutely outstanding experience.

How have you used PPE in your life and career?

I haven't consciously used a lot of the two Ps! I went on to become an investment banker and economics was what I have done day in and day out. Today, in my consulting role, economics underpins a lot of what I do but the principles of an education in politics are key to understanding how and why people and organisations make the decisions they do. In my day-to-day life, I manage our family's finances and I'm teaching my kids (and husband...) about being financially literate.

You're on the working group to celebrate the centenary of the PPE degree. How do you think PPE is relevant for the next 100 years?

I think it's completely relevant and that's exactly why I wanted to be on the committee. I find the expansion of politics incredibly interesting. If you look at the politics of vaccines and the interlinkage between science and politics, the whole COVID-19 response has all been around the politics, philosophy and economics of the response. What does it mean to be human? Should governments be curbing their citizens' rights to have freedom of movement? How should we treat our populations? All of these questions are so interesting,

and are so relevant for the future, just as they have been relevant for the past. The questions change because the times change, but I think the essence of the questions is still the same. I think it is one of the most relevant degrees out there.

What challenges have you faced in your current role?

This entire pandemic and the way of working from home has been pretty extraordinary. I think the word extraordinary doesn't even describe it, it's an aberration. I have found it challenging to motivate the team and look after their well-being, while also looking after our clients' business.

Then there's the question of how you balance well-being and the desire to deliver for your clients with making sure that you're doing your best looking after two children who are stranded at home, especially as teenagers aren't designed to be at home! My husband, who is also a Univite, is a doctor and I haven't seen him pretty much for the whole pandemic so that has been challenging.

My strategies to cope are twofold. One is regular exercise. The goal is very simple, immediate and it clears my head. I think that actually unburdens you. Secondly, I have made a conscious effort not to look repeatedly at the news to see what's going on because the situation is out of my control.

Which initiatives are you most proud of being involved with?

One of the things I'm really proud of is being on the Global Rhodes Scholarship committee, which I've been on for the last couple of years. The Global Rhodes Scholarship is for scholars from countries that are currently not endowed by Cecil Rhodes' will. So in the last couple of years, we have chosen a Rhodes Scholar from Afghanistan, we have chosen a Rhodes Scholar from South Korea, and we have chosen the first Rhodes Scholar from the Philippines. I'm incredibly proud of that because these are all individuals who would not otherwise have had the opportunity to come to Oxford.

You were flagged by Cranfield University as "one to watch" as part of a list showcasing the UK's leading female professionals. What should companies be doing to encourage more women to the top jobs?

I'm immensely humbled by being on that list; it's amazing to be recognised by your peers.

For me, coming to Oxford changed my life. As a female Rhodes Scholar from Pakistan, I have a very progressive view of how women should be educated and actually be in the workforce and be role models at the senior levels, because that is truly how they will empower others – men and women – who will be coming up. Diversity is not an option – it's a necessity. Organisations need to be gender blind – if they were, then the representation of women at senior levels of

those organisations would be greater. Diverse individuals have different experiences that can challenge the current thinking. I do think companies have to take more risks in promoting women. Because a woman might not shout as loudly as a man does not mean that she should not be taken seriously or be left out. Companies must think more laterally about the differences between men and women, understand the value in those differences and why men and women want to do certain things or behave certain ways. While unconscious bias training is incredibly important, I think there also has to be a conscious effort to promote women. One of the reasons I feel I've done well is that I have always been very fortunate to have incredibly good male mentors who have actively looked after promoting my career. I think that makes a huge difference.

You and your husband were married in the College Chapel by Bill Sykes. How would you describe Bill to those who weren't able to meet him?

Bill was a gem. I'm Muslim and he was exceptional in the way he dealt with marrying a Catholic to a Muslim in an Anglican Church. He was ultra-progressive and talked about respect and trust and all the things that really matter in marriage.

I also adore Bill Sykes because when I got very sick at Univ – I had a pulmonary embolism – he looked after me for two months. He would come every day and sit with me for half an hour, which was just remarkable. We never talked about anything religious, we just talked about the world. He was a pragmatist with an incredible heart, two characteristics that don't often meet.

Why are you excited about Univ North?

I'm really excited about Univ North because Mark and I lived in Stavs 25 years ago and it absolutely needs the help!

Why do you support the College and why would you encourage others to do so?

Univ is an incredibly progressive institution. It does things before other people do them and in a very low key manner, as well as being an educationally and intellectually rigorous college. If I look at my time at Univ, there was a protest about how many women were in the JCR and WCR posts. We're talking about 1993. Univ instituted something saying, "From now on, we're expecting this." The Opportunity Scheme that Sir Ivor started, what Baroness Amos is trying to do with actively fostering diversity – it's all a part of a fit for the future Univ.

It's had amazing Masters as well. I remember one of my favourite moments was when Bill Clinton and Bob Hawke visited, in the days of Lord Butler, and he didn't make a big song and dance out of it. It's not an arrogant college. I love that about Univ. It's a really progressive, smart college. It's comfortable in its own skin and this attitude is fundamental to diversity.

THE SOCIAL NETWORK

TRACING CHRISTIAN COLE'S UNIV CONTACTS

Christian Frederick Cole (1851/2-1885) – both the first Sierra Leonean and first Black African to take the Oxford BA – is an elusive historical figure. The sources comprising his own words are one letter and seven pamphlets (of which six survive), and these offer some insight into his opinions on the topics of the time. Ideas and opinions are formed through, amongst other things, interaction with other people, and so to get to know Cole a bit better this article looks at his Univ career and asks, “Who did Cole know and how was he known?”

1877

50

Imrich:
Nov. 30
(Nov. 28 scriptus)
B.A.
Cole
'878

Ego Christianus Fredericus Cole, filius natus
Secundus Jacobi de Sierra Leone apud
Afros Clerici libens Subscribo.
XVI terminos explevit.

1878

Univ's Register of Admissions. Source: 'Admissions register', University College Archives, UC: J1/A/3.

WRITING IN

Christian Cole, quite literally, wrote himself into the history of Univ when he entered his name into the Register of Admissions on 30 November 1877. Like every entry made in the Register since 1674, it showed, in his own handwriting, the place he was from (Sierra Leone), his father's profession (a Sierra Leonean clergyman), and his previous education ("B.A."). Cole had matriculated into the University in 1873 and took his degree "*non abscriptus*", in other words as an unattached student through a scheme set up in 1868 to offer an affordable way to study at the University.

Cole already had a BA and was admitted to Univ as neither a student nor a fellow. This was (and remains)

unusual as normally a student would have migrated during their studies. But it came about largely through the contacts and social network he had managed to build up since his arrival in Oxford in 1873.

According to a letter published in the 1877-78 Annual Report of the Unattached Students' Delegacy, Cole had lost his sources of income, and struggled to keep up with paying the costs of his degree. The letter was an appeal, made on Cole's behalf, for financial support.

Two of the letter's signatories were George Bradley, the Master of Univ, and Herbert Gladstone (m. 1872), the son of the several-times prime minister, and, by 1877, a fellow of Keble College. These were impressive names to have for a testimonial letter.

Unattached students did not normally have access to college teaching, but a few college dons allowed unattached students to attend their lectures. One of these was George Bradley, whose lectures on Latin prose, Sophocles, and Cicero were possibly attended by Cole. In any case, Bradley paid Cole's College dues in 1877/8 and 1878/9.

No doubt a college affiliation was a way to help Cole get back on his feet. Univ also became a point of reference for Cole on his network of personal contacts and acquaintances that cut across the various spheres of his life. The two most prominent in Oxford were missionaries and the Oxford Union.

MISSIONARIES

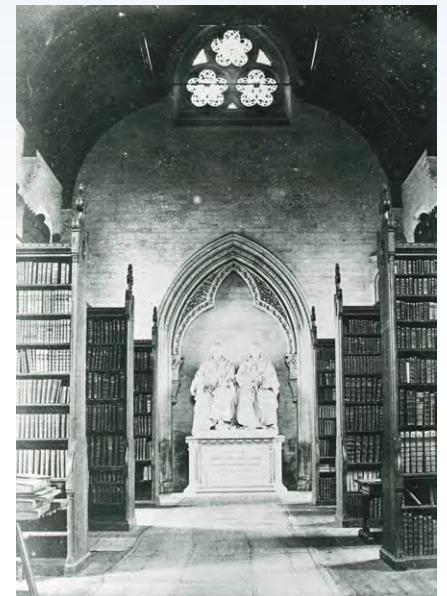
Religion and missionaries shaped and influenced Cole's life and, through the networks they offered, enabled him to come to Britain in the first place. He knew the Bible well and was a churchgoer throughout his life. He had been educated in Church Missionary Society institutions established in Sierra Leone, and it was probably people from the missionary world who championed his intellectual abilities and acted as the influential contacts needed to get into Oxford.

It is unsurprising, then, that in Oxford the missionary world provided a network for Cole. As an undergraduate, he was the unattached students' representative on the Oxford committee of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa (UMCA). He also gave talks about missions in Sierra Leone including one in 1877 at St Mary Magdalene, Woodstock.

Univ was a nexus on this missionary network at Oxford, and two Univites, William Percival Johnson (m. 1872) and Chauncey Maples (m. 1871) were active in the missionary world both during and



Left: W.P. Johnson and Chauncey Maples, c. 1897. Source: Public domain.



Right: University College Library, c. 1870, showing the statues of John Scott, 1st Earl Eldon and his brother William Scott, 1st Baron Stowell. Source: University College Library

after their time at Univ.

When Johnson and Maples were undergraduates they were both enthused after a visit made to Oxford in 1874 by Edward Steere, the UMCA bishop of

Central Africa, and subsequently became missionaries in Central Africa. It's almost certain that Cole knew both Maples and Johnson as all three were on the UMCA undergraduate committee in 1875.

THE OXFORD UNION

One of the places where Cole was most active during his Univ years was the Oxford Union. He had joined in 1874, but it was only in the period 1877-9 that he spoke in debates. Because of his membership of Univ his name could appear on the Union boards with “University” next to it.

Cole made at least six appearances as a speaker in debates, and often alongside Univ men. With John Sargeant (m. 1876), the Union’s Librarian and a gifted Classicist who went on to have a distinguished career teaching at Westminster School, Cole supported a motion for Indian self-rule, while alongside Theodore Hubbard (m. 1877) he spoke against a motion that the British Empire should be replaced with a federal union of self-governing states that would be united by a common imperial parliament.

We don’t know the points Cole raised in these debates because the proceedings of the Union only ever

recorded the motion, the speakers, and outcome of the division vote. But Cole didn’t just go to the Union to speak. The “Strangers’ Book” – the register used to record visitors brought to the Union by members – reveals another grouping of associates in Cole’s personal network. One of these was William Reeves, a friend from undergraduate days, whom Cole took to the Union on 2 September 1878. Reeves was a proper Oxford local: he grew up on the Cowley Road, was the son of a newspaper reporter, been a chorister at New College, and then entered the University as an unattached undergraduate student.

Another of Cole’s guests was Edward Blyden (1832-1912) a name that will be familiar to students of the histories of West Africa and the Pan-African Movement. At the time Blyden was Liberian ambassador to the Court of St James’, a correspondent with W.E. Gladstone, and a prominent figure both in West Africa and amongst Africans in

the diaspora. Blyden knew the Cole family in Sierra Leone – he had taught Arabic to Nicholas, Christian’s older brother.

There were other reasons why Cole might have been entertaining Blyden. In his writings Blyden expressed a vision of building unity between Africans in the diaspora and as a statesman promoted the interests of Africa within world affairs.

Cole showed his admiration for Blyden and his philosophy by making Blyden the dedicatee of one of the pamphlets he published in 1879. That pamphlet criticised a popular novel about Oxford life in which there were passages making derogatory and racist remarks about Africans. The other pamphlet, *Reflections on the Zulu War*, presented a polemical poem attacking the 1879 British campaign against the Zulu Kingdom. The war was a contentious topic in England throughout 1879 and had been debated at the Union on 27 February. Given his interest in the topic, Cole probably watched this debate.

MOVING AWAY

In 1879 Cole moved to London where he lived on Cursitor Street, incidentally the same street that John Scott, 1st Earl of Eldon (m. 1766) had once lived. Cole would have seen Scott’s statue in Univ’s Library from which he used to borrow books. It was from London that Cole published his two pamphlets, although they were also distributed in Oxford. He seemed interested in the public reaction there. Writing to an Oxford acquaintance in September 1879, Cole asked, “How are my pamphlets getting on?”

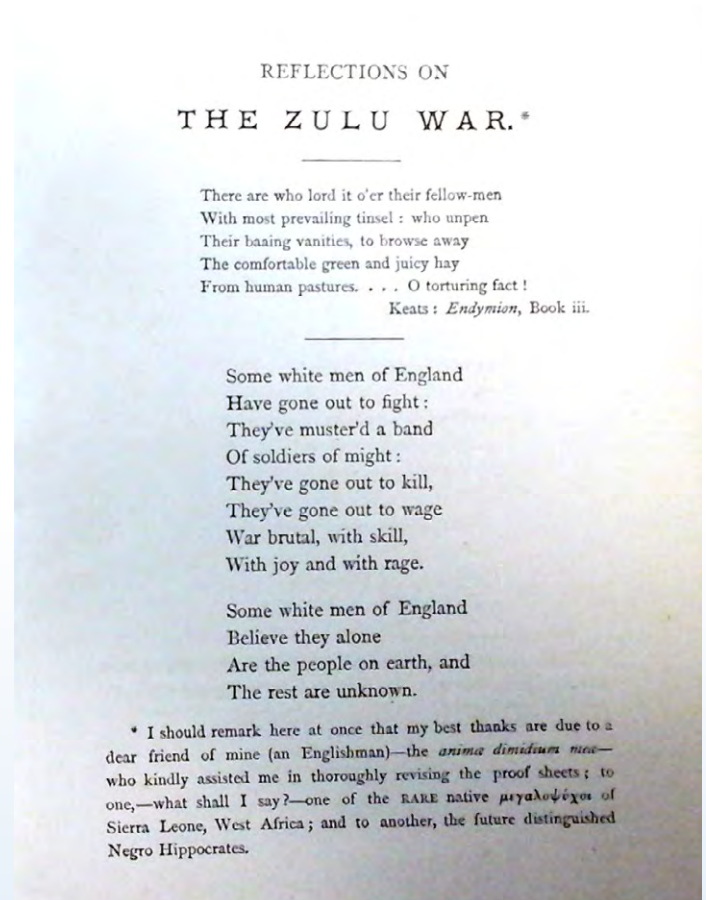
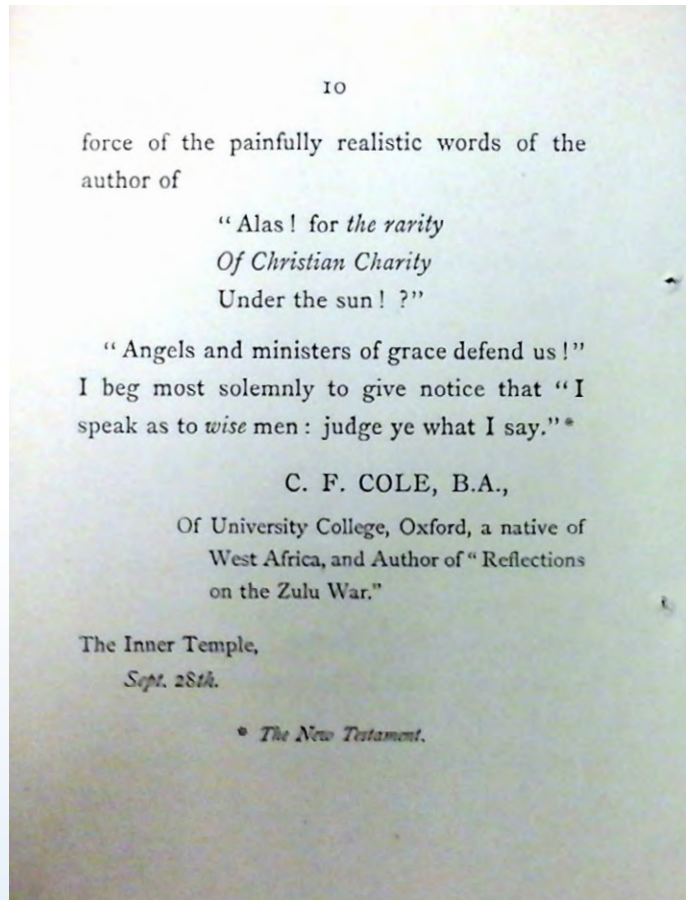
He received an answer to his question when he returned to Oxford the next month to speak in a debate on 30th October. In the line-up of speakers was another Univ man, Charles Marson (m. 1878), whose post-university career involved working as a clergyman in some

of the poorest parts of London and, later, gathering and editing English folk songs with Cecil Sharp. This was Cole’s last recorded appearance in a debate at the Union. In December 1879, the Union minutes noted that Cole had been fined £1 for “placing on the boards of the Society a motion, without appearing to move the same himself, or in his absence, appointing a proxy to do so.”

Meanwhile, his two pamphlets received a scathing review in the 6th November 1879 edition of the *Oxford and Cambridge Undergraduates’ Journal* which also published a denunciatory letter from J. Renner Maxwell, another Sierra Leonean studying at Oxford (you can read about this exchange in articles on the Univ website and in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* entry

for Cole, available online). The *Journal* also ran a report on the 30th October debate. Rather than referring to Cole by name, the report used racist sobriquets to make toxic references to Cole. After that, Cole does not appear to have returned to Oxford. But then would he have wanted to?

Nonetheless, Cole did not entirely leave his Oxford networks. While he didn’t ever become a missionary or take holy orders, he continued to be associated with the missionary enterprise for the rest of his life. His final months were spent in Zanzibar, where his social circle was made up of UMCA friends and acquaintances from Oxford days. It was these friends who sent back to England the first reports of Cole’s tragic death from smallpox in December 1885.



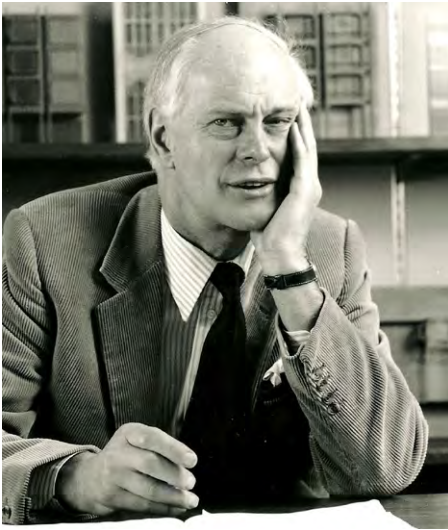
Pages from the two pamphlets published by Cole in 1879. A copy of *Reflections on the Zulu War* (right) is kept in the Univ Library.



Drawing together some of the threads on Cole's social network reveals that he was in a group of personalities that included current and future statesmen, missionaries, dons, and fellow students who pursued a variety of careers after university. In these circles Cole found himself on the receiving end of attitudes to race that ranged from inclusivity to hostility and intolerance. At times he found himself amongst progressive liberals and people with a strong sense of Christian socialism; at others, he was

the target of racial prejudice and abuse. The ideas he expressed in his writings were shaped through these various types of interactions which revealed to him Britons' attitudes towards the imperial world and those who came from it. Cole had been on the receiving end of these attitudes and challenged them by inserting the voice of his experience into the long conversation about Britain's imperial legacy.

Philip Burnett, Assistant Librarian



Sir Philip Dowson Remembers

While working on the history of Univ, I had the good luck to talk to many former students and Fellows of the College about their memories of Univ in times past, and they were all very generous with their memories. Several of them are now dead, but I still have their tales written down. One of my more memorable interviews was held in April 2007 with Sir Philip Dowson CBE, PRA RIBA, of Arup Associates, Old Member of Univ, and architect of Stavertonia. Of course, most of our talk was about Stavertonia, and notes on that part of our interview have already appeared on the website, but we discussed much else, and the whole interview was too interesting not to share with a wider audience.

Sir Philip came up to Univ in 1943 as a cadet student. During the Second World War, arrangements were made for undergraduates to come up to Oxford for six months, to combine military training with academic work, on the understanding that, when they came back from the war, they could, if they wished, take up a place here. In Sir Philip's case, he chose to go to Clare College Cambridge on being demobbed. Nevertheless, he clearly looked back on his time at Univ with affection.

His first memory of Univ was when he first arrived at the College, and was met by a rather august figure wearing a suit, who said "Good evening, sir. You must be Mr

Dowson." He was most impressed, for he had never been called "sir" before. This was Frank Collett, our legendary Butler, and Sir Philip came to think very highly of him. Once settled in, Sir Philip played a lot of sport, especially cricket, and he was for a while Secretary of the College's cricket team. He also played rugby and hockey. Sadly, no sports photos from 1943 are preserved. On the other hand, he liked to work late at night, from midnight until 3am.

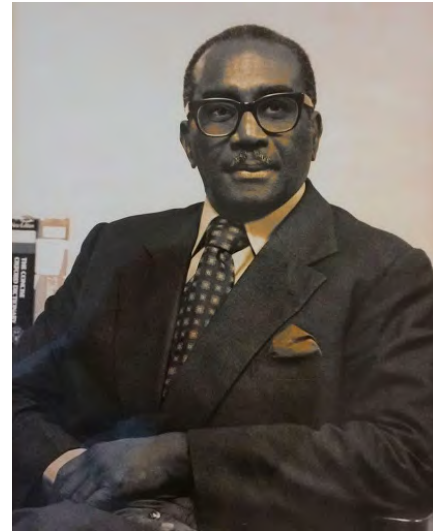
Of the senior members of the College, Sir Philip admired the Master, Sir William Beveridge, as an enormous figure, but thought him rather distant and invisible, especially during the weekdays. He also didn't appear to have much of a sense of humour. Sir Philip had much happier memories of Kenneth Wheare, whom he remembered as having "a wonderful wit", and John Wild.

Sir Philip's happiest College memories, however, were of his undergraduate friends. He called Univ "a very social College". He enjoyed going to people's rooms after dinner to chat, and found it exciting to find himself at dinner sitting next to someone in a totally different discipline from his own. When he went to Cambridge after the war, he found that the faculties, rather than the colleges, occupied a more central role. As a result, he did not know that many people in Clare College, and he clearly regretted that. The crucial difference for him was between the two JCRs: the Univ JCR was a real

social centre, where people would regularly congregate. The Clare JCR had a television in it, and that was that.

During the Second World War, Univ undergraduates did not have the College to themselves. Merton and Keble were requisitioned for government purposes at various times, and, when Sir Philip was up, several students from Keble were living in College. One of these Keble students was Cameron Tudor, who came from Barbados. While in Oxford, Tudor became the first black President of the Oxford Union, and on his return to Barbados served variously as Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Education Minister. Tudor made a great impression on Sir Philip: he remembered how Tudor "used to hold court" in Radcliffe Quad when people were playing bowls there.

After the war, Sir Philip formed a new link with Univ when his sister Aurea married our then Classics Fellow, Freddie Wells. In 1943, Wells was working in Naval Intelligence, overseeing topographical research into occupied territory, and so was not in College. However, Sir Philip had sailed on D-Day to Normandy, and had with him some photographs of the land in front of him, which, he later worked out, had been created by Wells's team. He found it "interesting" that he had effectively been helped by his future brother-in-law! Freddie and Aurea Wells lived in 10 Merton Street, and Sir Philip became a regular visitor there.



In the late 1950s, Sir Philip was invited to submit designs for a new building to be erected on Logic Lane. His plan was that on the east side of the lane would be a wall running along it. At ground level there would be an underground car park. Above it would be a courtyard, which could be paved or grassed. He called it a piano nobile. At the west side would be the main building proper, set back so as not to impose too much on Logic Lane. He was less interested in following Gothic styles or not, but he did want to explore morphology of the spaces, and how it was placed in a city context. In particular Sir Philip liked the high walls of some Oxford lanes, and he wanted to achieve something similar in Logic Lane. His designs, however, were passed over in favour of those submitted by Stirrat Johnson-Marshall, which became the Goodhart Building. Sadly, no drawings of Sir Philip's designs are in the Univ archives, but something might possibly be preserved in the archives of Arup Associates. Peter Bayley remembered them well, and more than once told me that the result would have made for a more impressive building than Johnson-Marshall's.

Instead, of course, Sir Philip's great contribution to the architectural history of Univ was Stavertonia, for which he was appointed architect in July 1967. His main brief, as he recalled, was that the College wanted a building in which to put people up to stay. It was not intended to be too grand

(no private bathrooms), and rooms should be arranged in groups for friends to live together. He envisioned a large central space in each floor to have cushions to sit on, say.

Sir Philip liked having the floors at half levels, so that people would feel much closer to every level. He also liked the horizontal/vertical effects, with no stratification. Because people would spend time in kitchens, he wanted them in the middle. Sir Philip admitted that he was asked to create Stavertonia on a tight budget. The best thing to do was to build each structure as simply as possible. He liked the big windows – it was a good feeling, he thought, to feel some translations between the internal and external. He didn't like walls which felt as if the windows had been put in like holes in a piece of cardboard. So, he worked to a simple unit for Stavertonia, with the window seats there to make one enjoy living on the edge. He also hoped that the roofs would be terraces.

I did politely make one point about Stavertonia to Sir Philip. For one year I lived in the side of Bennet Building directly opposite Percy Building, so that everyone in each building could see each other (and their doings) perfectly, and I admitted that I didn't like it. Sir Philip's answer was robust: one puts up with this in towns. Does it matter? I took his point of view, but am not sure that I agreed – and I am aware that I am not alone in this...

One source of regret for Sir Philip over Stavertonia related to its construction. The College's contractors were going bankrupt, and he urged the College to try to prevent this, for fear of losing the workforce, who knew the project. The contractors were not rescued, and the College had to be its own foreman – which Sir Philip thought a great misjudgement. At the same time, Sir Philip was designing the Sir Thomas White Building for St John's College, whose contractors were also in financial trouble. However, there he persuaded the College to bail out the contractors, so that the workforce was retained, and much trouble saved.

Sir Philip had designed several buildings for student accommodation in both Oxford and Cambridge, and, as I look back on these notes, it comes across how much he enjoyed the challenge of creating worthwhile and interesting accommodation, even when faced by financial constraints or (occasionally) an over-interested Governing Body. I also remember the enthusiasm with which he talked about what a university should be. For him, it was about culture in depth, and in that context he especially praised Jennie Lee (a politician whom he admired) when she said that she was a passionate elitist on quality and a passionate democrat on access.

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

Leading questions

Dr Christian E Mammen (1993, DPhil Law) is based in Silicon Valley and litigates intellectual property disputes. In the quarter-century since he was at Univ, he has represented Silicon Valley, global technology and life sciences clients in high-stakes patent and intellectual property litigation. Chris is also an accomplished scholar, with significant teaching and academic experience, including visiting faculty positions at UC Hastings, Berkeley, Stanford and Oxford. He has provided pro bono legal services for California Lawyers for the Arts, FairVote, KIND (Kids in Need of Defense) and Project Homeless Connect.

In 2015 he co-founded Oxford Entrepreneurs of the Bay Area, a community for entrepreneurially-minded Oxonians in the San Francisco Bay Area. Now called Oxford Entrepreneurs Network (OxEN), the group has over 2,000 members and chapters in a growing number of cities and has received official recognition from the University of Oxford Alumni Office.

Chris received his JD, *magna cum laude*, from Cornell Law School. His Oxford DPhil thesis was published as a book titled, *Using Legislative History in American Statutory Interpretation*. He lives in Berkeley, California.

What brought you to Univ?

As an undergraduate philosophy student, and then as a law student at Cornell, I was drawn to issues of legal philosophy. Oxford was the best place in the world to pursue a third degree focusing on jurisprudence. Univ, in particular, was at the centre, with John Finnis and Ronald Dworkin both active in College.

What do you remember about your first week at Univ?

When I first arrived at Univ, fresh off the bus from Heathrow, I was greeted by Cecile Fabre, who had arrived to start her DPhil perhaps a day before I did. As she showed me the convoluted route to my room in 90 High Street, I recall wondering what I had gotten myself into! Very quickly, however, I settled in with a diverse and brilliant group of friends in the WCR. Incidentally, Cecile has not strayed far – she is now a Senior Research Fellow over the road at All Souls.

What are your most treasured memories of Univ?

Dinner parties with friends, rowing for Univ in a Gents' VIII for Summer Eights with Pimms held high as we rowed past the boathouses.

What do you miss most about Univ?

I miss the intensity. College life during term-time was a drinking-from-a-fire-hose deluge of academic, social, intellectual, artistic engagement.

What makes Univ unique?

I can't explain it, but if you fill a room with Univ members, no matter where in the world, and no matter how long since they left College, you are certain to experience a warm, welcoming community.

What was the highlight of your tenure as President of the WCR?

Well, it's very tempting to point to President Bill Clinton's visit to Univ in 1994 when he received an honorary doctorate from the University. But I'd rather point to a substantive accomplishment by WCR members during my time as WCR president. We wrote and adopted the first written constitution for the WCR. I remember spending hours debating the mechanism by which the new constitution would be adopted and recognized – there was obviously nothing in the old, unwritten constitution concerning modification or adoption of a new constitution, and several students were concerned with how you could legitimately “bootstrap” the new constitution by having it provide its own rules for adoption. I believe one of the WCR members involved in those debates went on to become a constitutional law scholar.

Were there any Univ characters who made a lasting impression on you?

There are too many stories, most of which you won't get out of me until the third glass of port! Seriously, though, Dr Leslie Mitchell, who was Dean of Graduates during my time at Univ, has remained a good friend. I'm still coming across the sources of literary references that he quietly dropped 25 years ago.

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

The most meaningful contributions are the ones where we have an opportunity to make a difference for someone else. During the arc of my career, I've been fortunate to have a number of opportunities to do this – for both paying clients and pro bono clients as well. Similarly, the kinds of opportunities and network we have created with the Oxford Entrepreneurs Network has made a big difference for a number of Oxford-affiliated startup founders.

What inspired you to launch the Oxford Entrepreneurs Network?

It was really the brainchild of several of us – Gauthier Philippart and Richard Yonge deserve much of the credit. We started with two observations and a hypothesis: that there were a lot of Oxonians in the San Francisco Bay Area who were involved in entrepreneurial activities, that the sense of community among Oxford alumni provides a special bond, and that a group dedicated to entrepreneurship among Oxonians would fill an unmet need.

Are there particular individuals who have benefitted from the network whose stories you have found particularly inspiring?

There are so many incredibly impressive startups founded by Oxonians – it's hard to know where to start! Before the COVID-19 pandemic, each chapter would have a meeting about once a month and typically two founders would present their startups, followed by questions – and advice – from the audience. Just a sampling of the kinds of companies we've heard about: an app to teach financial literacy using developmental psychology principles, desktop robotics, artificial intelligence-driven analysis of radiology images, reforestation using drones. In fact, there have been so many inspiring startups that there is now an angel investment fund. It is formally separate from OxEN, but provides a way for interested members of the community to provide early-stage investments in these startups. To date, several iterations of the fund have supported over a dozen Oxford-related companies with another 25-30 in the pipeline.

What advice would you give to any Univ students with entrepreneurial ambitions?

Build your network. Find mentors. Ask for – and graciously receive – their wisdom. Finally, as an intellectual property lawyer, I would be remiss if I didn't add, "Protect your IP!"

What is your favourite part of the College?

The garden beside the library. It provided a quiet, informal retreat that was always a remarkable contrast from the intensity of the High Street just a few feet away.

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

An opportunity like this comes along less frequently (perhaps much less frequently) than once-per-generation. For Univ North, the College has had the vision to grow beyond the main site, the imagination to conceive of a comprehensive plan to serve students' 21st century needs, and the focus to bring the plan to fruition.

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

My time at Univ was transformative. Personal friendships, professional opportunities, and a connection to the Univ community have all been of great value to me. I am honoured to be able to give back to the College.

Describe Univ in three words:

Best. Oxford.
College.



Find out more:
oxfordentrepreneurs.net

Sports & societies



UCBC

As many may know since MT19 UCBC has been facing a truly unfortunate series of events, due to a combination of river flooding and a quite infamous virus.

However, we are doing our best to maintain the rowing spirits and give our athletes a chance to train during these weird times.

At the beginning of Michaelmas Term, we had a chance to move into “fully operational” mode. With the great help of our irreplaceable coach Jono, and thanks to College and Old Member support, we were able to allow training in both IVs and VIIIs to restart, as well as organise some land sessions. As the club considers the safety of our athletes as our main priority, we have thus carried out an extensive risk assessment, which not only greatly reduces the infection risk, but also allows us to respond quickly to the dynamic situation and changes in national or university regulations.



These measures not only meant that our senior athletes could get back into rowing, but also allowed us to run a taster session in Week 1, which was a very successful event! The novices had a chance to get out on the water, try out ergs and newly built tanks (big thanks to Jono and Jim), as well as chat to the senior rowers. The event was very well received, and many novices were enthusiastic to start regular training.

Following Week 1, both senior and novice rowers dived straight into training. We managed to run some water sessions, and the athletes were able to book one of two ergs available in our bay or use some individual training plans designed by our coach. We also ran regular circuits, which are a well-established club activity by now.

Unfortunately, during the second lockdown we were forced to close the Boat House once again. Instead of water training we made our best attempt to allow people to carry on with various forms of physical exercise – our ergs and circuit equipment were available on all major

College sites (main site, Staverton and Harberton Mead), and they proved to be very popular amongst both novices and seniors. Furthermore, our captains ran a set of challenges encouraging people to participate in individual training.

Despite our hopes, the beginning of 2021 did not bring the long-awaited changes, and the Boat House had to remain closed for the duration of Hilary Term. We continue to provide access to ergs for the students who are back in Oxford, and our captains and coaches did a wonderful job organising online fitness sessions and providing resources for home workouts.

Nevertheless, we hope to see our rowers back on the water in Trinity Term! Furthermore, the University-wide rowing community is currently discussing the feasibility of running Summer Eights, so please stay tuned for more updates on this topic!

Nina Handziewniak (2015, Medicine), Boat Club President


Music at Univ

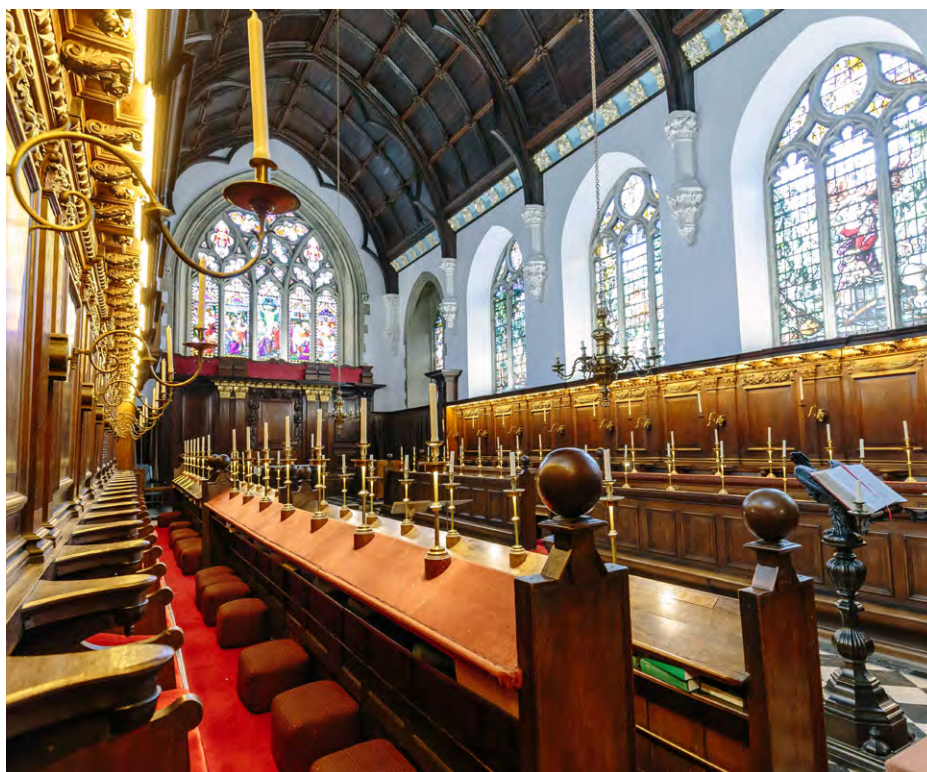
Staying connected during lockdown

After the privations of the first lockdown, Michaelmas Term saw the students back in residence, and the College functioning as near to normal as was allowed. This still meant there were no live music events as no audiences were allowed to concerts; no congregations in chapel; no open mic nights in the bar. The Chapel Choir was allowed to function with strict social distancing measures in place, as the building was only allowed to house 32 in total, including Director of Music and Chaplain. A Community Choir was launched to give opportunities for singers of all standards and musical tastes to join in the togetherness of communal singing (but as with other in-person gatherings, this has had to be mothballed until restrictions are lifted).

A game-changer for the College has been the fitting out of the Chapel with an up-to-date microphone and hearing loop system, complete with radio mics for the Chaplain and visiting preachers, and four adjustable mics. This, coupled with a brand new sound-editing suite, meant the Chapel Choir were able to continue to put out a weekly Sunday Choral Evensong online. The fundamental difference between this and the efforts of the previous term was that these services were recorded as live, and therefore gave far more of a real feel to the listener, complete with footsteps and birdsong! Since the beginning of Trinity Term 2020, when services were first made available via the website, there have been 5,500 visitors.

The Advent Carol Service too went online, as did the Christmas Carol service. 640 people listened to these two services, many more than would have been able had they attended in person.

One major new innovation was the Choral Advent Calendar ([see website](#) ); now to be a traditional feature of the festive season at Univ. A total of 3,700 people were able to catch these daily offerings. The carols were taken from the two carol services, with a few specially recorded



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It was such a joy to be able to get together and sing, and it brought home that the best part of making music is the ensemble and camaraderie of being in the same room, doing the same thing”

seasonal organ pieces. The final four items were recorded by the professional members of Martlet Voices, who were able to meet mid-December to record music not just for this, but also for future events. It was such a joy to be able to get together and sing, and it brought home that the best part of making music is the ensemble and camaraderie of being in the same room, doing the same thing – a joint endeavour.

At the time of writing, a skeleton choir is still meeting weekly during the lockdown of

Hilary Term. It produces a reduced form of evensong and the College is grateful to the nine singers who happen to be in Oxford, who faithfully return to sing together.

We look forward to welcoming you all back into Univ to attend concerts and Chapel services in person, but until then, we hope you continue to keep in touch, and to listen whenever you can via the website.

*Giles Underwood, Director of Music,
February 2021*

Announcements

If you have news you would like to submit for the next issue, please email communications@univ.ox.ac.uk by Friday 26 November 2021.

1960s

A report published by economist, urbanist and strategic planner **Dr Nicholas Falk** (1961, PPE) proposes an integrated transport system called the Oxford Metro.

Sir David Logan KCMG FSA (1961, Classics) was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (FSA) in October.

Fr Robert Barringer CSB (1967, Theology) has been appointed by the Archbishop of Toronto as the President of St Augustine's Seminary, Toronto.

1970s

In September, **Professor Phil Bartlett FRS** (1974, Chemistry) gave the Royal Society of Chemistry's John Albery Memorial Lecture.

Roger Press's (1974, PPE) latest music venture is Music Passion (classical.com), a platform that seeks to support musicians and performers.

Professor David Miles CBE (1978, PPE) was on the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme on 12 February discussing the economy post-pandemic.

1980s

Ambassador Thomas A Shannon, Jr (1980, Politics) received an honorary degree from his first alma mater, William and Mary, at its Charter Day last year.

Historian and author **Alex Kershaw** (1984, PPE) has been named as the Colby Award selection committee chair at Norwich University in the USA.

Richard Meade QC (1985, Law) has been approved as a High Court Judge. He was called to the Bar in 1991 and took Silk in 2008.

Roz Savage MBE (1986, Law) curated TEDxStroudWomen on 21 March, with a discussion on the theme of emergence.

Sean C Denniston (1987, History) was the speaker at the 88th Annual New York Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race Dinner, which took place virtually on 27 December 2020.

1990s

Professor Andrew Sweeting (1992, PPE) served as the Director of the Bureau of Economics at the Federal Trade Commission from January 2020 to January 2021.

Sarah Haren (1994, Law) and **Craig Hassall** (1995, Law) were appointed Queen's Counsel on 15 March 2021.

David Scofield QC (1995, Law) was appointed as a High Court Judge in Northern Ireland in November 2020.

Adam Kramer (1996, Law) became a QC in March. Mr Kramer is an experienced commercial litigator and author of *The Law of Contract Damages* (2nd ed. 2017).

Dr Bryony Mathew (1996, Experimental Psychology) has been appointed as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland. She is the first woman to hold this position.

Dr Sam Zager (1997, Modern History), a family physician, was elected in November and was sworn into the Maine State House of Representatives on 2 December.

2000s

Lucy Fisher (2007, Classics) joined *The Daily Telegraph* as deputy political editor in autumn 2020.

Carys Roberts (2008, PPE), Director of the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), contributed to the report, "Better Off: Recovery and Reform in the Post-Coronavirus Economy."

2010s

Otamere Guobadia (2012, Law) is presenting the new series "In Love with Otamere" on Jameela Jamil's YouTube channel.

Alexandra Wilson (2013, PPE) was on BBC *Woman's Hour* on 12 August discussing her debut book, *In Black and White: A Young Barrister's Story of Race and Class in a Broken Justice System*.

Peter Saville (2015, History) won the Rosamund Smith Mooting Competition at Middle Temple in 2020.

Dr Mitch Robertson (2016, History) organised the first event of the Rothermere American Institute's *America Decides* series.

Consultant physician **Dr Christopher Rusheng Chew** (2017, Global Health Science) is a member of the COVID-19 Incident Management Team at Redcliffe Hospital, Australia.

Dr Robin Meyer (2017, Classics and Oriental Studies) has been appointed as Assistant Professor in Historical Linguistics at the University of Lausanne.

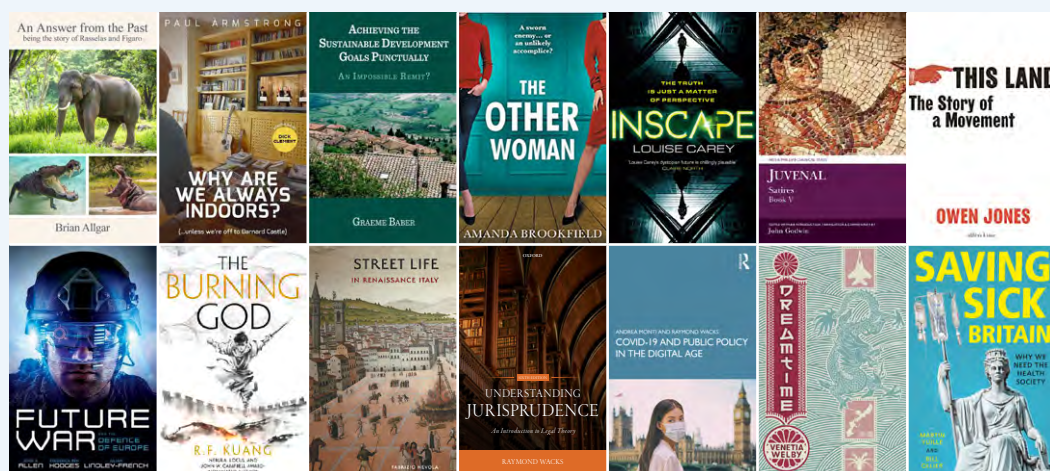
Stefan Dascalu (2018, Interdisciplinary Bioscience) is part of an international consortium of scientists consulting authorities on pandemic issues.

Rebecca F Kuang's (2019, Contemporary Chinese Studies) trilogy of fantasy novels, which begins with *The Poppy War*, is being adapted for television after Starlight Media optioned the rights.



Images (clockwise from top left): Onamere Guobadia, Bryony Mathew, Rebecca Kuang, Sam Zager

Books



Brian Allgar (1962, English), author of *The Ayterzedd*, published his second book, *An Answer from the Past*. The author hopes that it will sell at least as well as his first book, which actually reached double figures.

Paul Armstrong (1984, PPE), former *Match of the Day* editor, published his second book, *Why Are We Always Indoors? (... unless we're off to Barnard Castle)*, a personal chronicle of the strangest football close season in modern history.

A new monograph titled *Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Punctually: An Impossible Remit?* by **Dr Graeme Baber** (1987, Medicine) was published in December 2020.

The Other Woman by **Amanda Brookfield** (1979, English) was published on 13 October. The novel, about two women, connected – but not defined by – one man, is Amanda's 17th and has been described as “an emotional page-turner.”

Inscape is the debut novel of **Louise Carey** (2010, English), and has been described as “cyberpunk rebooted”, offering a “chillingly plausible dystopian future.”

Lucy Fisher's (2007, Classics) second book is due out in autumn 2021. *Women in the War* weaves together the oral histories of ten remarkable women who dedicated their young adulthood to the war effort.

Dr John Godwin FRSA (1973, Classics) published *Juvenal: Satires Book V*. Juvenal's fifth and final book of Satires continues and completes his satirical assessment of the Rome of the early second century AD.

Owen Jones (2002, History), published *This Land: The Struggle for the Left*, a page-turning journey through a tumultuous decade in British politics.

Professor Julian Lindley-French (1976, History), strategic analyst, author, speaker and commentator, published *Future War and the Defence of Europe*.

Rebecca F Kuang's (2019, Contemporary Chinese Studies) latest book is *The Burning God*, the exciting end to *The Poppy War* epic fantasy trilogy.

Professor Fabrizio Nevola (1989, History and Modern Languages), Chair in Art History and Visual Culture at the University of Exeter, published *Street Life in Renaissance Italy* in November 2020.

Professor Raymond Wacks (1971, Law) published the sixth edition of *Understanding Jurisprudence: An Introduction to Legal Theory and Covid-19 and Public Policy in the Digital Age* in December.

Described as “a terrifying and captivating vision of our near future”, **Venetia Welby's** (1999, Classics) second novel, *Dreamtime*, is due to be published in September.

Dr Martin Yuille (1966, Biochemistry) MA, PhD, FRCPATH, Honorary Reader at the University of Manchester, published *Saving sick Britain: Why we need the Health Society*, with Bill Ollier, in February 2021.

Honourable Mentions



Foundation Fellow

Phil Power (1962, PPE), Founder and Chairman of the Center for Michigan, has been elected a Foundation Fellow in recognition of his lifetime giving and philanthropy to the College.



Honours

Dr Peter Tibber (1976, History) was awarded a CMG in The Queen's recent Birthday Honours list “for services to British foreign policy.” He recently retired from the Diplomatic Service.



Stanley Martin CVO (1955, Law) was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours on the Overseas and International List “for services to British diplomacy.”

Yvonne Pye

The College deeply regrets to report the death of Yvonne Pye, widow of Honorary Fellow Graham Pye, and generous benefactor, with Graham, to Univ.

Yvonne was born in India and educated in Madras, and then, after spending time in Malaysia and Singapore, moved to London, where she worked as a secretary at the Café Royal. There she met Graham Pye, whom she married in 1966. Graham was the Chairman and Managing Director of the Pye Group of Companies, housebuilders who built extensively in the United Kingdom. Yvonne, in the meantime, worked at the Museum of Modern Art before becoming a secretary at the Ditchley Foundation. She then worked at the Indian Institute, before being persuaded to work at Pyes.

In conjunction, however, with their busy working lives, Graham and Yvonne were also generous donors and supporters through their trust, the Mr and Mrs JA Pye Charitable Settlement, to many charitable organisations in and around Oxford. In particular, they took a keen interest in music, and Graham reorganised the trust “Music at Oxford”, ensuring an important series of classical music concerts in the city.

Dr Gordon Screaton, Emeritus Fellow, in his obituary for Graham in the 2009 *Record*, remembered that he “was introduced to the College by our old member Anthony (Tony) Nathan (Univ 1961–4) who was a great friend of the Pyes. Graham and he shared a love of fine wines. Tony had said that it would be a good idea if the College got to know Graham and indeed that was how it turned out to be.” Soon after the Pyes came to know Univ, the College was able to offer a series of Pye Junior Research Fellowships that were of great benefit to young academics at the start of their careers. Together Graham and Yvonne later funded Univ’s Pye Tutorial Fellowship in Mathematics, which was held in turn by Professors Gordon Screaton and Michael Collins and now by Professor Peter Howell.

However, Graham and Yvonne helped the College in many other ways. Not only were they regular and welcome attendees at College feasts and other events, but



Graham used his specialist knowledge in the property market to advise the College on the Boat House and on its estates. He also took part in one of the College’s Strategic Planning conferences at Ditchley. Gordon Screaton remembered with great pleasure that Univ presented Graham for an Honorary MA awarded by the University in 2002.

Graham died in 2009, but Yvonne maintained a strong connection with Univ until her death, taking a continuing interest in its activities. The College therefore mourns the passing not only of a generous benefactor to the College but also a good friend.

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The College therefore mourns the passing not only of a generous benefactor to the College but also a good friend.”



Images (clockwise from top left): Eric Bentley, Jeremy Booth, James Partridge (Photo by Chris George), Michael Allen

In memoriam

Fellows

Professor Norman Henry March,

Coulson Professor of Theoretical Chemistry and Fellow of Univ from 1977-94, and Emeritus Fellow of the College since 1994, died on 2 November 2020 aged 93. Professor March grew up in Leicestershire, before studying at King's College London as both an undergraduate and postgraduate. He had held posts in Sheffield and Imperial College London before coming to Oxford. He was the first permanent holder of the Coulson Chair, and its title gave him especial pleasure, because Charles Coulson, after whom it was named, had been a great mentor to him. He also received honorary degrees from Gothenburg and Catania. He wrote some 20 books and many articles.

In the 1994 *University College Record*, our then Master, John Albery, himself of course a notable chemist, marked Professor March's retirement by praising his scholarship, observing that it was "characterised not by number crunching on the big computer but by elegant and economical theories." He went on: "Besides being a great scholar, Norman was a good College man. For instance he served on the Tutorial Committee and preached a notable sermon in Chapel on the compatibility of Science and Religion. Above all he is a man of unfailing kindness and courtesy."

A fuller tribute to Professor March will appear in the next *Record*.

1930s

Eric Russell Bentley (1935, English) died on 5 August 2020 aged 103.

1940s

David Hogg (1948, History and Diploma in Public and Social Administration) died on 12 September 2017 aged 87.

Richard Chapman Monk (1949, PPE), died on 3 May 2020 aged 94.

1950s

Jeremy John Booth (1950, Modern Languages) died on 27 August 2020 aged 90.

Christopher Frederic Herbert Clinch (1952, PPE) died on 1 March 2020 aged 88.

David Stanley Elliston (1952, Law) died on 18 December 2019 aged 89.

Michael Albert Wortley Allen (1953, English) died on 3 October 2020 aged 87.

Alan Francis Norman Poole (1956, Law) died on 21 April 2020 aged 84.

Vivian "Victor" Claud Craddock Williams (1956, PPE) died on 24 December 2020 aged 84.

Harry Steward Havens (1957, PPE) died on 31 August 2020 aged 84.

William Robert Farwell (1958, Biochemistry) died on 17 October 2020 aged 81.

Ian James Wainwright (1959, Metallurgy) died on 10 May 2017 aged 76.

1960s

Duncan Douglas Lawson (1960, English) died on 16 December 2018 aged 77.

Richard Llewellyn Thomas (1960, Geology) died on 13 July 2020 aged 80.

Raymond Keith "Ray" Blazdell (1961, Classics) died on 21 June 2020 aged 77.

Ramchandra Gandhi (1964, DPhil in Philosophy) died on 13 June 2007 aged 70.

James Benedict Lister "Ben" Shephard (1966, History) died on 25 October 2017 aged 69.

The Revd Andrew Crispin Roxburgh Balfour (1967, PPE) died on 27 July 2020 aged 71.

1970s

Nigel Stephen Benger (1971, Law) died on 9 September 2020 aged 67.

James Richard John Partridge OBE (1971, PPE) died on 16 August 2020 aged 67.

Shigeru Nakamura (1974, PPE) died on 22 December 2020 aged 71.

1980s

Stuart Peter Knowles (1980, Law) died in August 2020 aged 59.

Catherine "Cathy" Kari Derow (1983, Biochemistry and then Philosophy and French) died in October 2020 aged 55.

1990s

Stephen Rex Stem (1991, MStud in Classics) died on 21 October 2020 aged 51.

Members Of Staff



Sandra Williamson died on 16 September 2020. Sandra, and her husband Ian (who died in 2012), worked at Univ from 1985 until they retired in 2006. Throughout this time Ian worked as our Caretaker. Sandra, on the other hand, took on several roles. For 10 years she was Hall Supervisor, and she worked in the Kitchen Office, became Hall Manager, and lastly had been a Resident Warden, working in a welfare role with the Dean and Chaplain. They then retired to Spain. A fuller tribute to Sandra will appear in the next *Record*.

As *The Martlet* was nearing publication, we were saddened to hear of the death on 8 March 2021 of the Very Revd Joel Pugh, Assistant Chaplain of Univ from 1962-6, and husband of Caroline, daughter of our former Master Lord Redcliffe-Maud. He was aged 88. A tribute to Joel will appear in the next *Record*.

A walk around the Quad

Ebenezer Azamati (2020, DPhil International Relations)

An ardent Clausewitzian with keen interests in the interactions between wars and the origins of World orders, Azamati is a Student in Residence at Univ, and reads for the DPhil in International Relations. His research examines Realpolitik and illiberal Great Powers' conceptions of established international doctrines and liberal concepts. In particular, he is a student of Classical Realism in training who investigates the complex connections between international commitments and the Raison d'État of cardinal powers involved in the management of the international order via pre-eminent international institutions.

What brought you to Univ and what brought you to Oxford?

Getting into Oxford was a dream come true, not only because it is a place that has the ability to enable people to realise their potential, but also the fact that it is an intellectually stimulating community, one that you join to increase your knowledge, and to deepen your understanding of the world. It's an institution full of people from diverse backgrounds and people with all sorts of interests. Univ's intellectual agility blended with institutional flexibility was what really drew me to the College.

When I read for my Master's in International Relations at Oxford I thought, "Why put a stop to my academic curiosity?" There's so much to explore and Oxford provides you with that opportunity to be able to explore your knowledge as much as you can.

What have you been focusing on recently?

Essentially, I'm researching how and why China and Russia engage with international liberal practices. Clearly, China and Russia are not liberal states so it's intriguing to see them engage with international liberal doctrines that appear to undermine their own styles and systems of government as permanent members of the Security Council. In the Council they have the power to veto the liberal decisions that are made, yet they participate in them.

It's fascinating to investigate how much a country like Russia would largely like to operate within the UN Charter. The UN Charter, from whichever angle you look at it, is a liberal document, much more than anything. To see Russia championing its tenets and always standing up for them is contradictory to a large extent – that's putting it mildly. Russia could undermine the Charter, just as the US has at times undermined it, but they choose to uphold the Charter and its liberal prescription. That's very interesting.

Why do you think that is?

I'm hypothesising that Russia and China are pursuing hard-headed Realpolitik. But this time multilaterally, so the UN Security Council for them is a means to achieving specific ends. And for them, it is the ends that justify the means. Other countries may regard the UN Security Council as the institution responsible for maintaining international peace and security. However, Russia and China see it as a means to achieving their particular national interests.

What do you plan on doing after your DPhil?

Immediately after, I would like to distil my findings into a book, so that means I would enter academia briefly, but in the middle to long term I would prefer to be a practitioner so I will probably go into diplomacy.

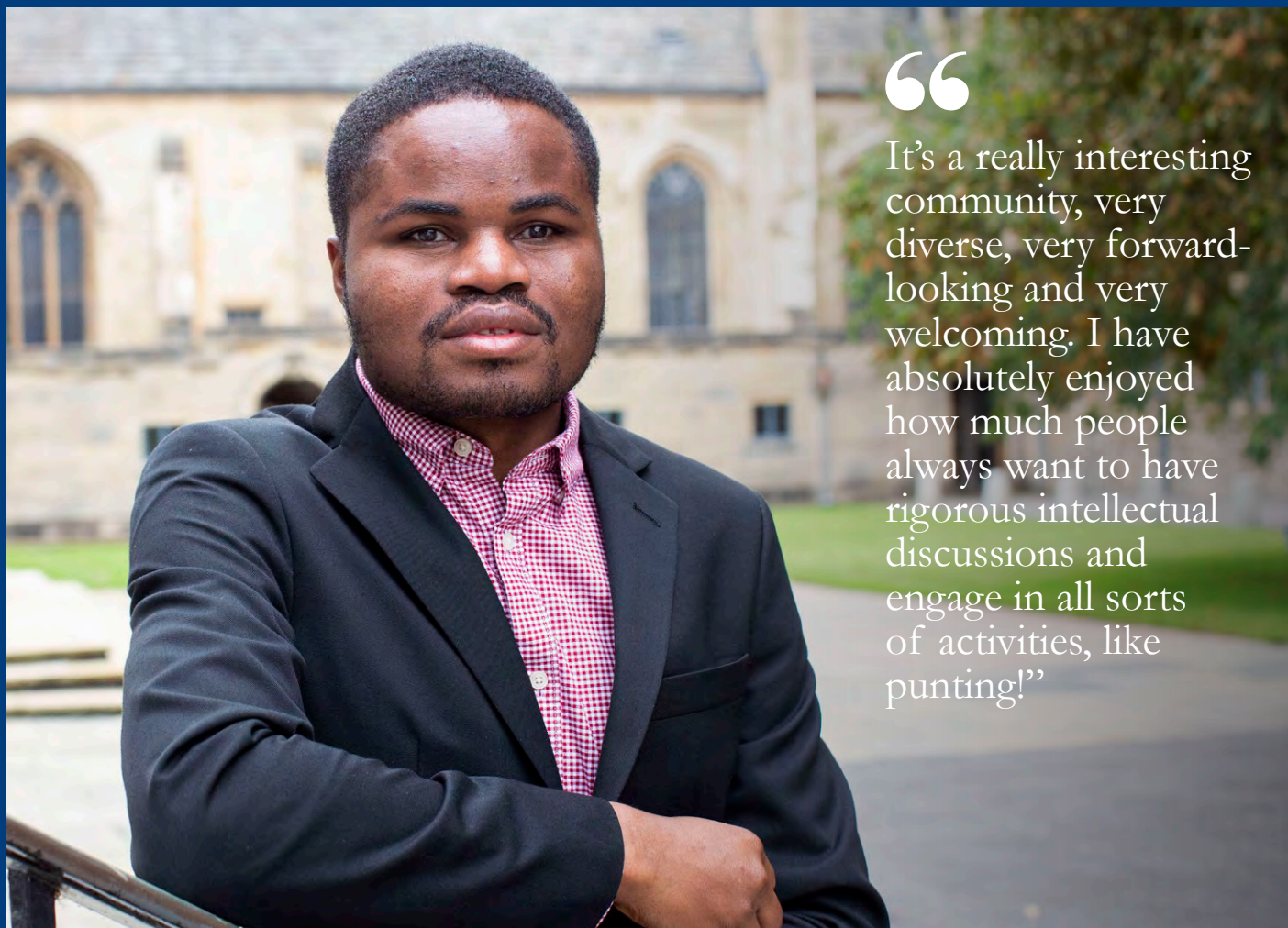
What has your experience of the graduate community at Univ been like?

Unfortunately, I arrived at a time when the pandemic was in full swing. I haven't been able to experience so much of the life of an in-person graduate community. But I must say the few people I have come into contact with have been very nice and there were also lots of events for Welcome Week. I'm rather hoping to be able to be more involved in the Univ graduate community when things open up again.

What advice would you give to someone considering Oxford/Univ?

I would say they should go for it. It's a really warm community, very diverse and very forward-looking. I have enjoyed how much people always want to have rigorous intellectual discussions and engage in all sorts of activities, like punting! Part of the reason for staying in Oxford was the very many accessible facilities, more importantly that the University has almost 150 libraries. So, you can rest assured that wherever you go and whenever, you will find a wonderful library to study in. And add to that the extremely welcoming academics! The staff are really approachable and lovely. Every time I've passed by the Lodge or go to Hall there's always something to laugh about with them!

I'm hoping to attend more of Univ's academic events. When I was at my previous college, I attended a few events at



“It’s a really interesting community, very diverse, very forward-looking and very welcoming. I have absolutely enjoyed how much people always want to have rigorous intellectual discussions and engage in all sorts of activities, like punting!”

Univ as a non-Univite and they were really engaging. I’ve attended a couple of events on Zoom and they have been eye-opening. Univ arranges really good discussions, it brings together respected researchers and excellent speakers. There’s also a good level of consultation among students before programmes and events are organised. It is really nice because it helps to create a seamless relationship between the students and the College administration. I will always recommend Univ to people who are intending to come to Oxford to study.

So many of the people that have come to speak here I would normally only have read about. It has been fascinating to sit before professors whose work I read as an undergrad. You meet people you would probably never otherwise meet in your lifetime. Being at Oxford offers you the singular honour of sitting in front of such people and even having a chat with them during a post-event tea.

Have you experienced any challenges in your life that you’re happy to share here? And if so, how did you cope with them?

The challenge of being a visually impaired person. The first time you step out, you face a challenge because society makes assumptions about you. Sometimes you go to places where they have never had any person like you before so they haven’t made provisions. You sometimes have to stop, start, negotiate and fight to get provisions made for you. What has helped me is my appreciation of the fact that every institution is a human institution and, as humans are not perfect, it follows that institutions formed by humans would obviously not be perfect. But can we strive towards perfection? I would say yes. I do not shy away from bringing forth problems to bear.

At all times, I try to draw the attention of leaders, management, etc, to those

problems, and, where possible, suggest solutions and participate in efforts to resolve those problems.

What do you think will be the benefits of the Univ North development to future generations of students?

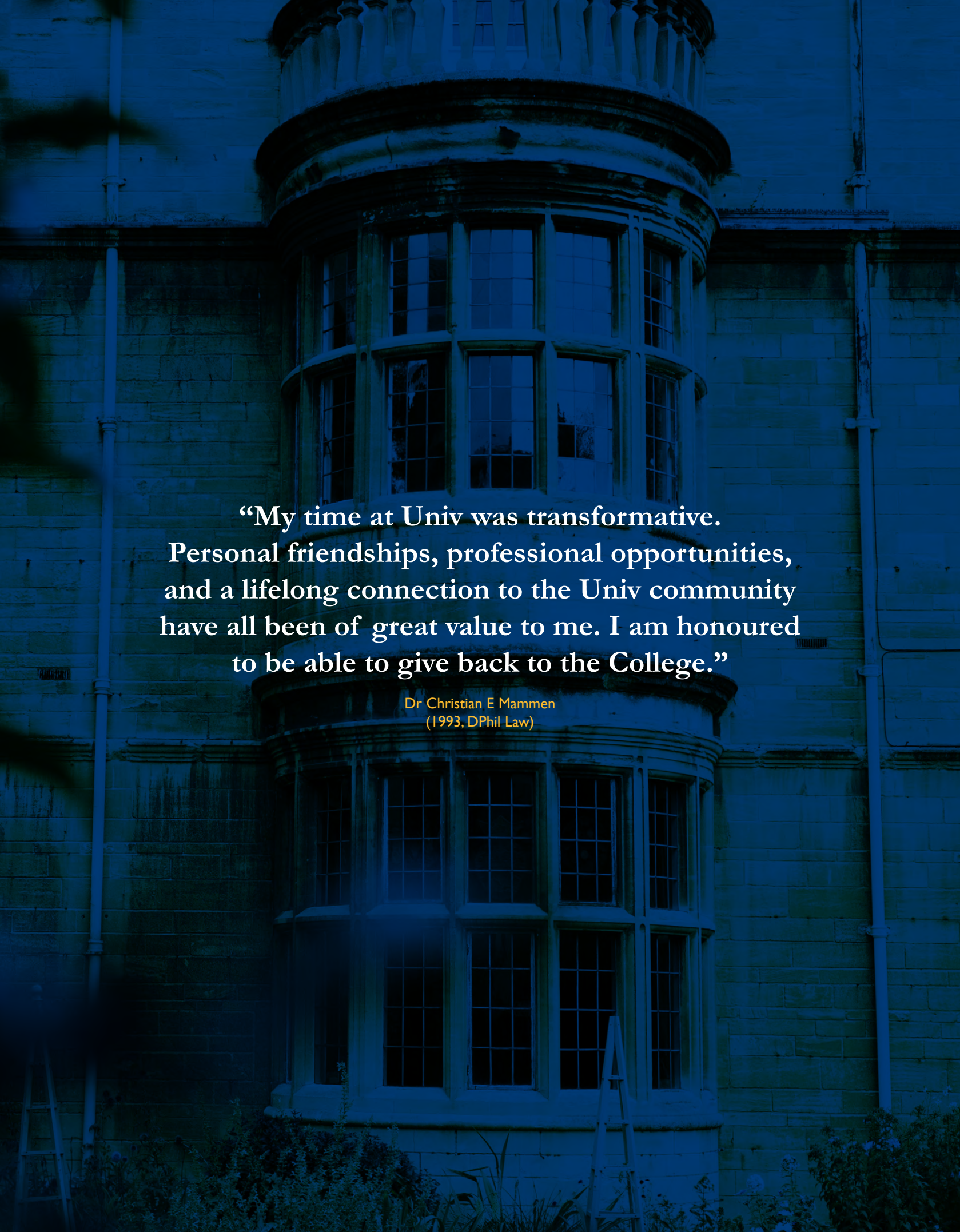
It’s going to open up the College and there will be more accommodation for students. Hopefully, there will be an even closer-knit community and also many more facilities for students.

What’s your favourite part of the College?

I love the library. In fact, even when I wasn’t at Univ, I used to sneak in with a friend of mine occasionally. It’s a really lovely library to work in.

Could you describe Univ in three words?

Univ is home.



“My time at Univ was transformative.
Personal friendships, professional opportunities,
and a lifelong connection to the Univ community
have all been of great value to me. I am honoured
to be able to give back to the College.”

Dr Christian E Mammen
(1993, DPhil Law)