

EXON

THE EXETER COLLEGE MAGAZINE ISSUE 9 AUTUMN 2006
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INNOVATION AND INSPIRATION

PHILIP PULLMAN ON STEPHEN HAWKING'S 'ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE'

CHANGES IN OXFORD

SUBFUSC, GOVERNANCE AND ADMISSIONS

COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY

EXVAC, CHANNEL SWIMMING AND SCHOOL VISITS

THE ROLE OF THE CHAPEL

THE CHAPLAIN AND OLD MEMBERS EXPLORE

INVISIBLE FRIENDS

YAHOO!'S JON GISBY LOOKS AT THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET



HOW CAN ART EXHIBITIONS STAY RELEVANT?

BRANDING THE NATIONAL GALLERY

RESEARCH SNAPSHOTS

LOW TEMPERATURE PHYSICS, DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION,
AND BYZANTINE HISTORY

PLUS RUGBY REUNION, TRAVEL SCHOLARS, UGANDA, SPACE, INTERNSHIPS, CHEMISTRY AND THE TRUTH ABOUT STUDENT HARDSHIP



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Editorial

This is my first year producing Exon magazine since I came to Exeter College as Alumni Officer in January 2006. It has been a busy six months for us, with a packed Old Members' programme of events and publications, and a fantastically successful telephone campaign. We have also, of course, said goodbye to Jonathan Snicker, Director of Development for the past six years.

Part of what makes Exeter College special is our diversity, from our student intake to the life experiences of our Old Members. For this reason, Exon 06 has the overarching theme of 'innovation'. We have tried to bring you thought-provoking material, written by and for Exonians, that pays tribute to the many interesting fields and activities in which our members are involved. There are some snap-shots of original research by current students and a Fellow's profile to demonstrate how current members are contributing to the intellectual community. We have a feature by Philip Pullman that takes a 'novel' approach to discussing a lecture given by Stephen Hawking on the origin of the universe. In our viewpoint section our writers have drawn on issues in their own work to produce three articles that address innovations in established or recently-established fields.

It may seem that there is an undue emphasis on all things science in this issue – but don't worry! We have already started commissioning pieces for Exon 07 which will have more of an arts/media focus, so if you have something you would like to include please do drop us a line at development@exeter.ox.ac.uk.

Finally, this edition of Exon was made possible by the support of many people but my particular thanks go to Corrissa Tung (2003, Literae Humaniores), an intern who worked incredibly hard to collate the College news section.

**Alison Copeland
(Alumni Officer)
development@exeter.ox.ac.uk**



Rector's Address

**By Frances Cairncross
(Rector)**

Welcome to the latest issue of Exon. The magazine gives a wonderful picture of the tremendous range of activities that go on at this College, from an annual dinner to celebrate Burns Night to a cross-Channel swim, and from helping Oxford's neediest children to get a holiday to repairing the ravages of time on the Chapel's stonework.

These pages also tell you what varied and fascinating lives our Old Members lead. You will learn about travels in Uganda and research with the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (Arizona). You will enjoy an article by Philip Pullman, one of our most famous Old Members, and excerpts from the notorious JCR Suggestions Books. Pull it all together, and you have a picture of a thriving and lively community.

The College has sadly said goodbye to some familiar faces in the past year, but also welcomed some exciting newcomers. John Maddicott, who taught mediaeval history to generations of students, has retired. At a series of dinners to mark his departure, his former students remembered, with a deep sense of affection, the brilliance, patience and humanity of his teaching. Thanks to the generosity of Sir Ronald Cohen and assisted by a well-supported campaign among Old Members, the College has been able to endow a new Fellowship in modern British and European history, filled by Christina de Bellaigue.

Professor Elizabeth Jeffreys, whose work on Byzantine studies has brought a stream of interesting graduate students to the College, has also retired. And

Jonathan Snicker, Development Director for the past six years, has left to take a career break.

Mark Birch, Chaplain for the past three years, has also sadly left to become chaplain at Helen and Douglas Houses, two hospices for terminally ill children and young people. In his place the College has its first female Chaplain, Helen Orchard. Keith Brain also came to the end of his Staines Fellowship. We will miss them all.

The College celebrated in several ways its links with Williams College in western Massachusetts, from where 26 junior-year students arrive each year and make a tremendous contribution to College life. This year, the Williams-at-Exeter Programme celebrated its 21st birthday with a reception at the residence of the British Ambassador in Washington DC. An even grander celebration is planned for the Programme's 25th birthday, in the summer of 2010. In addition, thanks to the generosity of Bennett Boskey, an alumnus of Williams College, Exeter has also acquired a new Junior Research Fellowship in politics. The first holder of this new post is Elisabetta Brighi. She will divide her teaching between Williams and Exeter students.

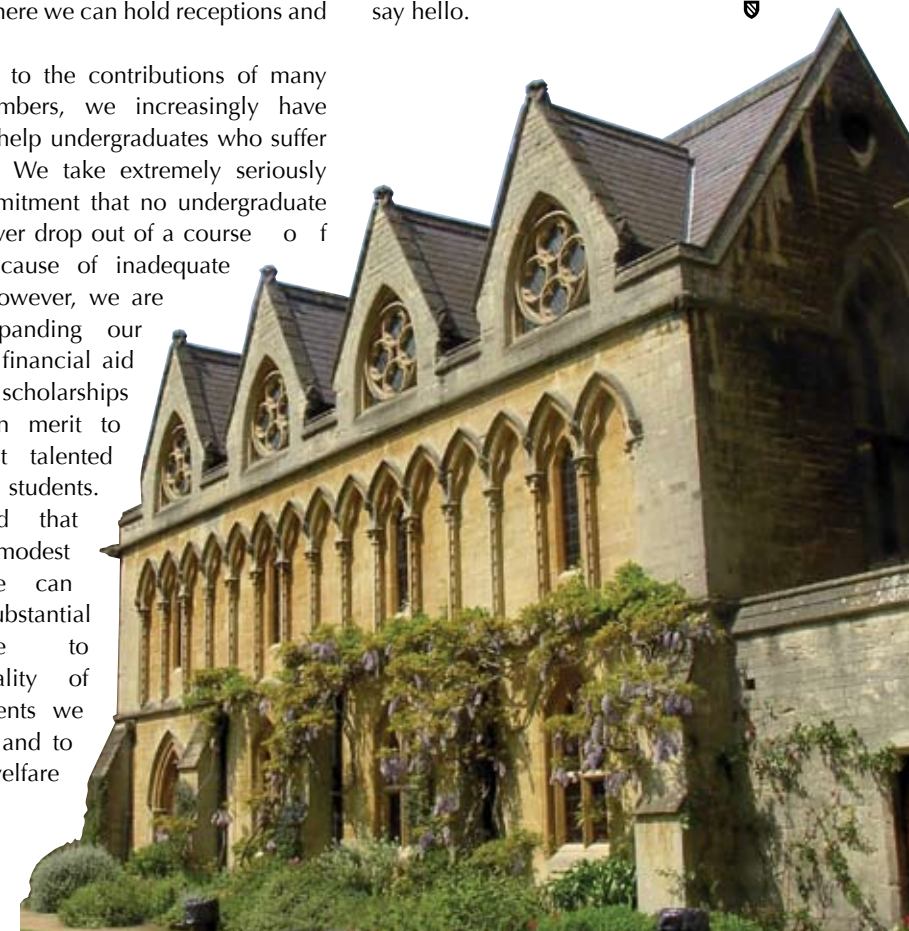
Our Old Members have helped us in all sorts of wonderful ways this year. For instance, in the Hall, Mark Houghton-Berry has generously made it possible for us to turn the gallery into useable space, where we can hold receptions and dinners.

Thanks to the contributions of many Old Members, we increasingly have funds to help undergraduates who suffer hardship. We take extremely seriously our commitment that no undergraduate should ever drop out of a course of study because of inadequate funds. However, we are now expanding our range of financial aid to offer scholarships based on merit to the most talented graduate students. We find that quite modest assistance can make a substantial difference to the quality of the students we attract – and to their welfare too.

In the University as a whole, this has been a quieter year. A review of undergraduate admissions has attempted to ensure that students of equal academic potential have an equal chance of admission to Oxford, whichever college they apply to, in order to end the pervasive view outside the University that admissions to Oxford are a lottery. The colleges have also reached agreement with the University on new fund-raising principles, designed to ensure that alumni are not bombarded with competing claims from different branches of the University, but are encouraged to give to the causes they care about most.

The commitment and support of our Old Members remains one of our most precious assets. They make it possible for us to flourish; their generosity changes the lives of many brilliant and hard-working young people. Even modest sums can have a big impact. For example, a gift of £50 pays for an hour of tutorial teaching – and just may turn out to be the hour that counts when it comes to Finals! We are particularly keen that our most supportive Old Members should never feel that they shoulder the burden of support on their own. It is encouraging for them to hear that their contemporaries are also helping the next generation, on whatever scale they can afford.

Enjoy Exon, and the stimulating picture it gives of this great College. And, if you are passing through Oxford, do drop in to say hello.



A Public Zone Production.
www.publiczone.co.uk
ph: 020 7267 4774
Publisher: Jonathan Simmons
Editorial Director: Emma Sorensen
Designer: Gregory Mills
Exeter College Editorial Team:
Frances Cairncross, Alison Copeland, Katrina Hancock,
Christopher Kirwan, Corrissa Tung
Cover image: istock

Channel for Charity



This summer a band of enterprising students set themselves a momentous challenge: to swim the English Channel to raise funds for charity. Catherine Hay, who despite her enthusiasm about the project couldn't quite be talked into actually swimming with the group, reports on the swim.

**By Catherine Hay
(2005, PPE)**

At Oxford, we expect worlds to meet. However, the idea of American students swimming the English Channel to support HIV positive mothers in South Africa is a little out of the ordinary. Channel for Charity is certainly ambitious: ten swimmers of varying experience taking turns to swim the chilly 21 miles between Dover and Calais. But ultimately the swim was a very exciting way to raise money for a worthwhile cause: the Mothers Programmes. The Mothers Programmes were set up in 2001 by Williams College (Massachusetts) alumni and are dedicated to supporting HIV positive mothers in Africa. Through education and empowerment, the Mothers Programmes equip women with the tools to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV as well as to combat the stigma attached to their condition in their communities.

Channel for Charity was organised by Noah Smith-Drelich who, like many of the other swimmers, spent last year studying at Exeter on his year abroad from Williams

College. He and his team members spent Trinity term clocking in hours at the Summertown pool in preparation for the swim, which was scheduled to coincide with the Summer Solstice, in order to give the swimmers the longest day possible for their passage to the French coast.

Over the course of the crossing the team took shifts to swim, with each swimmer covering just over two miles in two separate swims. Aboard the safety boat, the other nine swimmers waited till it was their time to dive in again. 'The safety boat was responsible for charting our course across the Channel, regularly reporting our position to the coast guard, and ensuring our safety throughout the swim,' Noah said. 'We were fortunate to have secured a Pilot and safety boat with an incredible amount of experience accompanying successful swim attempts of the Channel.' One of the swimmers, Devin Yagel (also a Williams Student at Exeter), said that she was a little wary before setting off. 'I really didn't know what to expect because I'd never done open-water swimming before, but it was hard not to feel optimistic when we

headed off at around 9:30 on Saturday morning.'

But amidst the success Noah is swift to point out that at the end of the day the crossing was inspired by the women aided by the Mothers Programmes. 'So far we've raised about £4,000 for our charity, which is a fantastic amount of money that will make a huge difference in so many lives. However, we're planning to continue fundraising, so hopefully this total will go up. The need in Africa is so great that every donation goes quite far and helps enormously.'

On 24 June 2006 Channel for Charity completed their English Channel crossing in 11 hours, 10 minutes, missing sunset by about 15 minutes. Donations to the Mothers Programmes may be made securely online at www.channelforcharity.org or by cheque to Friends of the Mothers Programmes c/o Noah Smith-Drelich, 145 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7AN. Catherine Hay is organising a second swim: catherine.hay@exeter.ox.ac.uk.

All Singing From the Same Hymm Sheet

The College Choir is an integral part of our community with a reputation as one of the best in Oxford. This year they recorded a CD and sang at the Edinburgh Festival.

**By Katherine Barker
(2003, Literae Humaniores)**

It has been another very active year for the choir. We welcomed several new members (Exeter freshers and from other Colleges) including a new junior organ scholar, Carlene Mills. As well as the regular Evensongs, we performed our first concert of the year in Michaelmas Term. The first half included pieces which varied as much in composer as they did in style and included the latest offering from a current member of the choir, Jonathan Bridcut (History, 2003), 'Why Do You Stand Far Off?', composed in memory of the victims of the July 7th bombings in London. We also sang Parson's Ave Maria, Dum Transisset by Taverna, Salve Regina by Howells and MacMillan's Christus Vincit, a very atmospheric piece set for eight parts. A second concert, in Hilary term, was at least as well attended by members of the College and people from the wider Oxford community, showing Exeter's strong reputation for having

one of the best mixed choirs in Oxford. Again, the concert was varied in its music, demonstrating the choir's ability to sing a variety of styles with enthusiasm and musicality. In Trinity term, the choir recorded a CD, which will be released on Dinmore Records and available to purchase from the College from October.

The choir tour this year was to Edinburgh, where we sang as part of the Edinburgh Festival at St Mary's Cathedral, St Giles' Cathedral and Canon Gate Kirk.

Under our Chaplain, Mark Birch, the choir has continued to thrive. We are sad to see him leave but wish him all the best. Although we are saying farewell to quite a few valued members of the choir and to Stephen Wood (Senior Organ Scholar), to whom we extend our thanks for all his work, those who remain are looking forward to all that next year has to offer. Plans are already being made for a summer tour to Truro in 2007. We also hope to have a Carol Service specifically for Old Members. Watch the website for choir news updates.



Noah Smith-Drelich (2005, Williams-Exeter Programme)

A Not So 'Common' Room

By Mawuli Ladzekpo (2005, PPE)

Exeter's beloved Junior Common Room (JCR) was given an eagerly awaited makeover in the summer.

This is the first time in over four decades that the JCR has been renovated and the work is expected to cost somewhere in the region of £100,000. After the building work has been completed, the new-look JCR will offer students a range of amenities including, for the first time, direct access to the kitchen, and a number of upgraded vending machines. It will also boast a flat-screen TV and sophisticated lighting – students will be able to watch their favourite TV programmes, such as Neighbours, Desperate Housewives and football matches, in style.

The overarching vision behind the changes to the JCR was to offer students a refuge from their seemingly relentless academic studies that would be in their own image. The Home Bursar, Eric Bennett, said 'At the planning stage we held consultation meetings and asked the students what they wanted – after all it's their room'.

Eric says the Jacobean-inspired décor will restore the JCR to its original splendour: 'I am sure students will enjoy using it'.



Photos by Mawuli Ladzekpo (2005, PPE)



A Day in the Life of a Porter

In the modern world, Lodge Porters must have the following characteristics: a sense of humour, understanding, politeness and a great deal of patience when they get the urge to throttle someone!

By Chris Probert
(Head Porter, Exeter College)



As Lodge Porters we have many roles. We act as telephonist or secretary when taking calls and messages; postman (or woman), sorting incoming and outgoing mail; trained first-aider in case of mishap; security guard, keeping a look out for suspicious people; a custodian of the college keys; mother/father/friend to the students; detective when attempting to identify lost property; and, finally,



a general mine of information. There appears to be a common misconception amongst overseas visitors that we carry luggage. We don't – we organise the carrying of luggage!

A typical day during term begins when two day porters take over from the night porter. From the minute we clock in, there are usually interruptions from the telephone switchboard, (I have found that if I leave it ringing long enough, it stops – only joking); some inane questions from members of the public; and people ringing

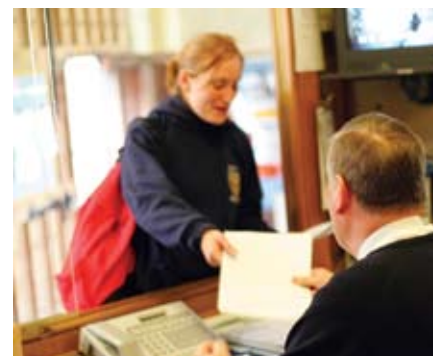
the bell on the gates in Broad Street hoping to drive into the College for free parking.

The first thing we do is sort the post and place it in the student and staff pigeon-holes. We are often entertained as we do this by the Oxford Tour Guide, who usually brings a group of up to 20 tourists into the



College at about 11am ('This is Exeter College Chapel, a cheap imitation of the Sainte Chapelle in Paris'). In addition, we normally have at least one visitor turning up for an appointment with Professor X or Dr Y (of whom we've never heard). On asking them to confirm they have the correct College, the answer is usually 'this is Lincoln isn't it?!'

In the afternoons the College is thrown open to the public – it is during this time that the porters have to be extra vigilant against opportunist thieves. Not to mention, in the summer, the conference guests who always have a question or two from 'can I get a room with air conditioning?' (no) to 'my swipe card doesn't appear to work'



(you need to take it out of the little plastic holder first – it's amazing how few people have any common sense!).

Some days are busier than others. However, in general our days fly by. No sooner do the students arrive than they seem to be leaving again. All in all, I have found the porter's job to be an enjoyable, different experience, where the clientele keep one young and active.

Chemistry Today

During the 2006 Telephone Campaign at Easter, a number of Old Members told the student callers that it would be nice to read something in Exon about the experience of studying particular subjects at Exeter today, to see how it compared with earlier years. You asked for it, so we start with Chemistry.

By Matthew Smith
(2005, Chemistry)



Photo by Noah Smith-Drelich (2005, Williams-Exeter Programme)

Chemistry is the study of substances and their elements and the way in which they react. All at once chemistry seems simple and impossible: the whole world is governed by it. Few courses offer the kind of structure and attention from academics that chemists enjoy as undergraduates. It is an intense workload, but it is manageable and consistent, and

the reward is a thorough understanding of the little things that make up everything. As the American astronomer Sagan said: 'Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.'

My typical week features ten hours of lectures with the fun usually beginning at 9 o'clock, making a lie-in a rarity for the regular attendee. A good performance from an enthusiastic lecturer is well worth the early start, though an hour of apathetic laser-pointing is less inspiring and life seems to be just refluxing away. However, no other subject offers the combination of explosions and bright colours that can be found in the best chemistry lectures.

I'm sure all our Old Members will appreciate that tutorials are something special; they are quite unlike anything I'd experienced before coming here. Each of my three tutors (in organic,

inorganic and physical chemistry) has a different style and preferred way of working, placing different demands on a student. Through my tutorials and classes I've been introduced to, among other things, classical thermodynamics, electrochemistry, and quantum theory as well as the more mundane maths and physics. I haven't had the opportunity to use anything as romantic as an electron microscope but I have used an infrared spectrometer. But things haven't changed very much over the years – the majority of my work still relies on the good old Bunsen burner and some litmus paper!

College hosted its first Chemistry Dinner in Trinity term: an excellent event, well supported by students and Fellows. As the physical sciences lose favour with students, I hope that chemistry at Exeter is never consigned to the back Bunsen. Right now, it's alive and well.

See Chemistry Then page 40.



The Telethon

12 students, **554** phone calls
£113,548

and the re-telling of a legendary practical joke played on Jesus College.

Turn to **page 22** to read about the success of this year's telethon.



Stepping Out

Internships are a valuable experience and a way to make informed career choices. Exeter's Careers Officer, Daragh McDowell, has been busy helping more Exeter students to step out and experience the world of work.

By Daragh McDowell (2005, Russian and East European Studies)

The Exeter College Careers Office was set up in the 2004-05 academic year in order to provide young Exonians with internships and careers opportunities as they take their first steps into the wider world. This year has seen the Careers Office expand and deepen our partnerships in order to provide a comprehensive service for Exeter students, building on the foundations laid by Glen Goodman (2004, South American Lit.) in 2005. The programme this year has included careers workshops and speakers in addition to its core functions.

The Careers Office currently has internship schemes with numerous companies in fields ranging from finance and journalism to law and technology, and many more are planned.

We would like to thank the following Old Members and Friends and their companies for their help in running the internship programme this year:

- AIB**, Shom Bhattacharya
- HSBC**, Rebecca Hill
- EIU**, Daniel Franklin
- ABPI**, Richard Barker
- JRF**, Richard Best
- Library House**, Charles Cotton
- Benfield**, Richard Dudley
- JMMorgan Stanley**, Anaita Bhaskaran
- Nicolas Piramal**, Swati Piramal
- Lastminute.com**, Ian McCaig
- Alliance and Leicester**, Fay Harriman
- Lovells**, Clare Harris
- EDF**, Vincent Denby-Wilkes
- Cordless**, Philip Ross
- Michael Best & Friedrich**, Joyce Nordman
- Newsweek**, Rana Foroohar
- EIU**, Daniel Franklin

Name: Rajiv Tanna
School: Mathematics
Year of Matriculation: 2003
Internship with: HSBC Private Bank, Geneva

So, how was Geneva? I was fortunate that not only was the work placement an amazing opportunity, but it was based in Geneva. I found I was lucky enough to be living in the Old Town: a pleasant 20 minute stroll to the office, with a relaxing walk past the Jet D'eau and across Lake Geneva every morning.

Very nice. What was involved in the internship? I worked in the Treasury Department of the Private Bank, specifically attached to risk management. After making my initial introductions, I was set a project to calculate Daily NII on the Private Bank's Investment Portfolio. After successfully constructing a model that correctly predicted daily income to high accuracy, I spent a lot of time with the traders on the fixed income desk and sat in on advisory meetings.

Sounds complicated? Yes, this was challenging work that required me to learn a lot of financial terminology. But after two years studying mathematics, it was a pleasant surprise to find I could actually use my degree in the real world!

All work and no play? My internship did afford a wonderful opportunity to explore every corner of the city and venture out to neighbouring towns. I was also lucky enough to catch the end of the Montreaux Jazz Festival, and thoroughly enjoyed the live music and atmosphere.

How did the internship help you? It was most helpful in helping me decide upon a career path, and I would like to extend my thanks to the Rector, HSBC Private Bank and in particular Clive Bannister (PPE, 1977).

Interviews by Corrissa Tung (2003, Literae Humaniores). To find out more or participate contact the Careers Office careers@exeter.ox.ac.uk.

Name: Harriet Mancey-Barratt
School: English
Year of Matriculation: 2002
Internship with: Public Zone, London

What were your responsibilities? I was working for the publishing agency that produced Exon 2005, and this was my major project, though I helped out on other clients' projects too. As such, I did whatever needed doing to help compile and produce Exon, which included writing copy, proofreading and reducing articles to fit, liaising with the graphic designer, chasing writers, checking facts, researching images and checking copyright issues.

What did you enjoy the most? Working so hard on something and then getting the finished product with my name on it (obviously very small!). It was also an outlet for my pathetic obsession with spelling and punctuation.

Did you make a lot of coffee? Not really – I happened to be there over the Project Manager's holiday, so was given much more responsibility than I would have had otherwise, or at a larger company. It was quite scary to be thrown in the deep end, but I learnt a lot more quickly than if I'd just been pottering around doing minor tasks.

What was your least favourite part? The nature of magazine and web publishing is its speed. Deadlines are frequent, as opposed to book publishing, so the work could be stressful and chaotic.

What did you learn from this? To be confident about my role in a project, to speak up if I'm dubious about the details of what I have to do, and to trust my instincts.

How has it affected your career aspirations? It's given me really useful skills that mean I can follow this career path for a good few years while I decide whether or not it is for me long term. It is hard to get publishing work experience, so the internship gave me a foot in the door. After the internship I was employed part-time for eight months while I did my MA; then it helped me to get another job in book publishing so it was really very helpful.

A New and Refreshing Perspective

Andrew Sellers is the current holder of the Alberta Bart Holaday Scholarship. The Scholarship gives graduates of the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) the opportunity to study at Exeter College for up to two years.

By Andrew Sellers (2005, Computer Science)

Upon graduating from the US Air Force Academy, I was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and assigned to Exeter College for two years. This extraordinary opportunity has been made possible by the generosity of Bart Holaday, a 1965 Exeter matriculant.

I study at the Oxford University Computing Laboratory. My time at the ComLab has been divided between coursework and research in Active Database Systems under the supervision of Professor Georg Gottlob. The ComLab has a diverse offering of courses, covering the latest advancements in many specialities within computer science. I have fully availed myself of this opportunity to learn new methods and techniques in computing. I am able to consult world-renowned computer scientists and mathematicians while pursuing my educational goals. This programme also facilitates frequent collaboration with my peers, an international group of rising computing stars, and I have no doubt of the great achievements they have ahead of them. The Oxford approach to learning encourages a pro-active and independent approach to research. I am confident that such an education in computing fosters the skills necessary for us to stay abreast of new technological advancements while making meaningful scientific contributions for the rest of our

careers. Indeed, I can imagine no better counterpart to my previous education at the Academy than my academic experience at the Oxford University Computing Laboratory.

Life at Oxford is far more than studying. I have made what will be life-long friendships with people from all over the world. I enjoy new insight, not just into other academic disciplines but into other world-views as well. The College itself offers an abundance of opportunities to discuss, and gain insight into, current

I have not had such an international experience before

events affecting all aspects of politics and culture through lectures from expert guests with international reputations. I have the benefit of the further activities available from the Oxford clubs as well as those organised by the College's Middle Common Room.

I came to Oxford last October



Photo by Noah Smith-Drelich (2005, Williams-Exeter Programme)

accompanied by my wonderful new wife, Andrea. Neither of us had ever been to Europe before so we've enjoyed travelling around the United Kingdom visiting sites of historical and cultural significance. We never get tired of exploring castles, museums and churches, and as we see more places, we get a greater appreciation for how much more there is and marvel at the vibrant national identity of the British people.

After my time at Oxford, I will continue to serve in the United States Air Force. I am a communications/computers officer and in this capacity I am certain I will frequently apply the technical education I have acquired. Perhaps of even greater value will be the new and refreshing perspective that has come from living and working among, and with, the great minds in Oxford. I highly value my Air Force education and training; however, Oxford has provided a life and work experience that cannot be found in a military environment.

Life at Oxford is fundamentally different than that at the Air Force Academy, where the training of future military officers necessitates regimentation and strict order. The most striking difference is in time management. At Oxford our time is almost entirely our own. It's a welcome change of lifestyle, where I can more freely pursue other interests, study at my own pace and take a much more independent role in my own education.

Oxford has literally opened a new world to me, and I hope that the experience will make me a better Air Force Officer. I have not had such an international experience before and I know this contact will enhance my capabilities in my future career. I am truly grateful.



North American Travel Scholars 2005

Gareth Thomas was awarded the North American Travel Scholarship in 2005 and spent his summer travelling across Canada and the United States, meeting up with a number of Exonians along the way. Chris Martin also received funding from the Old Members Fund to assist him to travel to the United States and he gives us an insight into his experiences.

My Travels in North America

By Gareth Thomas
(2003, Physiological Sciences)

When I heard that I had won the North American Scholarship I could barely contain my excitement. After 20 hours of connecting flights I crashed down onto the runway. After months of waiting, planning and reminding myself that exams would soon be over, I was actually beginning my six week journey across Canada and the US.

I had landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia. My first week was spent in the small fishing village of Chester with Keith and Amy Fox. Once I had shaken off my jet-lag, I was able to appreciate fully the spectacular coastal scenery that Nova Scotia had to offer. During my visit to the famous Peggy's Bay I was treated to a freshly caught lobster and given a good lesson on how to eat it. I also enjoyed taking part in the local weekly yacht race, with Keith's expert guidance. After partial concussion when I failed to duck the boom, we

finished a respectable third out of the six yachts racing.

My next port of call was the French-speaking city of Montreal, where I stayed with David Mitchell who had studied French Language and Literature at Exeter and in 1955-56 became 'Lecteur d'anglais' at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, rue d'Ulm in Paris, a post earlier held by the playwright Samuel Beckett. He had many stories of college life: one of the most entertaining was of a Welsh undergraduate he had known who, whilst knocking back ale in the Stapeldon Arms, apparently forgot his stage-cue in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* put on by Ned Sherrin in the Fellows' Garden.

my parents had seen him perform in Wales

It was now time to board the Toronto Express and return to English-speaking Canada, where I was to spend my time staying with Clint Ross and his girlfriend Heather. They took me on a boat ride to Niagara Falls, and I also spent an afternoon in the Sky Dome watching a nail-biting game of baseball between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. A major highlight during my stay was attending a dinner put on for me by Chisanga Puta-Chekwe, which was attended by several proud Old Exonians including Richard Fitzsimmons, Bernard Wolfe, Seumas Woods and Rex Williams.

In Chicago, I was hosted by Frank Nims,



Gareth Thomas at dinner with Exonians in Toronto.

who arranged a picturesque walk along the beach into the city centre. After a trip up the Sears tower and an architectural boat cruise with two current Exonians on holiday in Chicago, I really felt I was able to piece together the city and it is one of the most impressive I have visited. The three of us also attended a meal hosted by the English Speaking Union. The members were incredibly enthusiastic to meet Oxford Students despite seeming slightly disappointed that we were two Medics and a Lawyer rather than English students passionate about Shakespeare and Wordsworth.

I was rather excited about going to stay with Richard Sparks and his family in Beverley Hills. Richard made sure I wasn't disappointed, entertaining me with cocktails in their stunning back garden, sushi on Rodeo Drive and visits to the stunning white sands of Venice Beach and downtown Hollywood. The highlight of my week was going to the VIP after-party at the Crosby, Stills and Nash concert held in the open air Greek Theatre where I was introduced to Graham Nash. He thought it was hilarious when I told him my parents had seen him perform in South Wales when he used to be in the Hollies. During my stay I also had a great lunch with Peter Dunham in the deluxe setting of the Beverley Hills Hotel where he made me very jealous by telling me about all of the young actresses, such as Jessica Biel and Jennifer Garner, that he got to meet while designing their million-dollar mansions.

Scholars 2005

There was plenty to see and do in central Manhattan. I'm fairly sure I covered at least the top 20 tourist attractions with the useful local knowledge from the Exonians I met there. Particular highlights included lunch in Central Park in Strawberry Fields, taking the Staten Island Ferry past the Statue of Liberty and visiting Times Square during rush hour. I commuted in to central New York from Long Island, where I was staying with Jo and Joan Jesty who taught in the local medical school. It was interesting to hear their views on the American medical system and compare it to my own experiences of medical school at Oxford.

The final destination of my tour was Boston where I stayed with Ned Sahin. Staying with Ned was an incredible opportunity as he works in the field of Neuroscience, specifically speech and language. Boston is pretty much the centre of the world for Neuroscience and I had the fantastic chance to meet one of the most famous neuroscientists in the US, Steven Pinker. In addition Ned took me on a tour of Massachusetts General Hospital and the William James Psychology building at Harvard and I attended a fascinating if slightly controversial lecture entitled 'The Intelligence Gene' by Bruce Luhn in MIT.

The final day of my trip was unforgettable. I spent the morning whale watching out of Boston Harbour and was lucky enough to see two humpback whales feeding, one of which performed a 'full breach' from the water. In the evening it was Boston's 375th Birthday: I watched the most incredible firework display and left with a bang!

Many Old Exonians went out of their way to show me their way of life and entertain me. The link we shared through Exeter College remains a strong tie even across continents.



Gareth Thomas with Graham Nash.



Chris Martin at the Grand Canyon.

An Experience of the US

By Christopher Martin
(2002, Mathematics)

Last year I was offered the chance to visit the USA all expenses paid. I was to choose where I wanted to go, who I wanted to see and then make it happen; this was the tough part. The pressure of yet another set of finals papers was looming, I'd been outside of the UK just once before and never on my own!

My first ever long-haul flight brought me to Washington DC: 'We're approximately 10 minutes from landing,' said the pilot. 'If you could just fill in the green form in front of you now, this will make the customs procedure a lot smoother.' Sounds easy enough: name, age... address at which you will be staying. Ah - I didn't know that. It won't matter though will it?

'I'm sorry sir, we can't let you in without an address,' was the retort I was greeted with on handing over my 'green form'. 'Well, that's it then' I thought, but my host, Chuck Anderson, saved the day. Helpfully, just past the customs desk, he rescued me from the clutches of the US customs department.

The topic on everyone's lips in NY was Hurricane Katrina and the disastrously inefficient relief effort. I felt whilst I was there, and after seeing so much news

coverage, that Danny Glover's words really summed up what we were all seeing, '[that when Katrina] struck, it did not turn the region into a Third World country... it revealed one'.

In Billings, Montana, I was hosted by the Cech family, who made sure that I was treated to the true Montana experience: an all-American barbecue on the first night, followed by a day of rafting with Russ Lord and a traditional steak-house meal that evening. It was so very different from New York and Washington.

When stepping out of the airport in Phoenix, Arizona, into the 40 degree centigrade surroundings, I learnt that

we can't let you in without an address

when based in the desert, air conditioning really makes a difference. The wild west is still alive in the heart of Arizona. I was shown a rather amusing, and somewhat inauthentic, wild west recreation group at a local, restored gold-mining village. This was no preparation for the next day when I was to embark on quite a journey: a five-hour drive to the Grand Canyon. What a day and what a sight.

In retrospect, all that I can say is thank you to everyone who helped me on my trip; without you it wouldn't have happened. Let's do it again one day! ♥

Not Just Dreaming Spires...

Exeter College sits right in the centre of Oxford, with its Chapel spire dominating the Oxford skyline. Increasingly, Exeter is also central to the community through the outreach work of the well-established Exeter Vacation project (ExVac), in the newly-formed Aspire! programme for local school children and through the work of our Schools Liaison Officer. Students are enthusiastic about these initiatives and their Exeter experience is enriched as a result.

Aspire!

**Hannah Parham
(2001, Modern History)**

Children at over 25 Oxfordshire primary schools have been invited to visit Exeter College, the backdrop to Philip Pullman's *Northern Lights* and a place that evokes all the magic of JK Rowling's Hogwarts for the children. The focus of these visits is the Chapel, where undergraduates (some of whom are aspiring teachers) lead the children in sessions designed to enrich the teaching of Art, History, Music and Religious Studies. The visit includes a treasure hunt, which has been specially designed to illuminate the building's magnificent art and exciting history. The session ends with the children pretending to be the choir and singing their favourite hymn in the choir stalls, accompanied by the organ. The programme is accessible and enjoyable for children from all religious backgrounds and none, and the College does not charge the schools to participate.

The idea behind the programme is the belief that, while it is counterproductive to set targets for pupils when they are very young (if indeed at all), it is crucial to plant seeds of aspiration in a child's imagination. Aspire! offers children the opportunity to experience a place like Exeter College, and discover its historic buildings and traditions of learning for themselves. The children also meet undergraduates and learn about going to university in general. We hope that the programme will help foster enthusiasm for higher education in the children, so that they never feel that Oxford, or university, is 'not for them'. Aspire! also aims to enhance the children's understanding of the place of a college within the city and the community more broadly.

The programme was piloted with St Ebbe's Primary School, Oxford. The

children responded impressively to their surroundings and their intimidated silence soon evaporated as they discovered the brilliant details of the stained glass, the colourful mosaic and the superb brass lectern. Back at school, the children wrote letters of thanks to the Chaplain from which it is clear that the visit had a notable effect. One child wrote, 'When we grow up we would all like to become students of Exeter College'. Another passed on good wishes to the

it is crucial to plant seeds of aspiration in a child's imagination

student leaders: 'We hope you did well with your rowing and all right with your studying'. Lunch in Hall was highlighted as 'exquisite' and the stained glass in the Chapel and the 'secret stair' to the SCR received particular praise. The children's teachers were similarly impressed, with head teacher, Liz Burton, commenting:

'What a lovely visit! We all enjoyed it... it was perfectly pitched, well paced, appropriately timed and altogether splendid... the chapel has a special atmosphere. Thank you for inviting us and inspiring our children.'



Children at the Aspire! Programme enjoying lunch in Hall.

Photo by Hannah Parham (2001, Modern History)

In this and subsequent school visits, the student leaders have risen to the challenge of leading large classes of energetic children and the results have been praised by teachers.

The programme has been established by the Chaplain, Mark Birch, and Old Members and Friends of the College. These include Rosemary Peacocke, a former Senior Inspector of Schools and the wife of Arthur Peacocke (1942, Chemistry) and Hannah Parham (2001, Modern History) who works for English Heritage. Tom Pugh (2001, Chemistry) who is a newly-qualified teacher, offered guidance to student leaders. Organ Scholars, members of the choir, and other undergraduates have provided the leadership and enthusiasm to which the children respond so well during visits and there are currently ten student volunteers.

'The schools to come have a wonderful treat awaiting them', one child who participated in Aspire! said. With this in mind, it is good news that the programme will continue next year, and is already fully booked for Michaelmas Term. We'd be delighted to hear from new student volunteers or Old Members who would like to support the programme. If you would like to find out more please get in touch by emailing aspire@exeter.ox.ac.uk.

Exeter Inspires!

By Helen Stubbs (2002, English)

Helen Stubbs was appointed as Schools Liaison Officer for Exeter and Lincoln Colleges in February 2006. Here she explains why this role is so important for the College.

I remember when I decided that I was definitely going to apply to Oxford. It was a warm July evening, and my sixteen-year-old self was in the Fellows' Garden. I had just attended a poetry reading in the Rector's Lodgings as part of a truly inspirational week on the Sutton Trust Summer School. During the week I met current undergraduates and was taught by Oxford's top academics. This experience, coupled with some very sound advice from the Oxford Colleges Admissions Office, dispelled the many myths about Oxbridge that I had brought with me. I was determined to apply and to make the very most out of my time in higher education.

After three fantastic years studying English here, it has been a pleasure to return to Exeter as Schools and Colleges Liaison Officer, and pass on some of the sound advice and encouragement that I was given as a prospective applicant. The position is a joint post with Lincoln College and my job involves advising all students with the potential to continue into Higher Education in general, and

Oxford in particular, regardless of their social, ethnic, regional or educational background. Summer is a busy time. Many applicants use the summer months to visit campuses and colleges and finalise their decisions, or listen to applications talks in their schools and colleges. My job involves hosting Open Days, showing smaller groups of prospective applicants around the colleges, running targeted events like our recent Exeter Schools Year 12 visit, and giving Oxbridge Admissions talks to sixth formers in schools across the country.

As well as working more extensively with sixth formers, and maintaining and developing links with schools, the post now makes it possible for Exeter to provide its own programme of Aspiration Days. These days provide an opportunity for bright 14-15 year-old students to visit Exeter College, find out more about higher education and meet undergraduate students, as well as take part in academic activities. The experience also addresses some of the misconceptions students have about a university like Oxford. The support of our helpful, approachable undergraduates and the interesting sessions led by academics have been vital in making these events a success. Dr Richard Earl (Schools Liaison and Access Officer for The Mathematical Institute, Statistics Department and the Computing Laboratory) assisted me with Aspiration Day in College giving a very interesting lecture on 'Maths in the Courtroom', before 25 students from Derbyshire

In-Spire-ation

Plans are also afoot to illuminate Exeter College's Chapel spire, highlighting it as one of the city's main architectural features. The lighting of the spire, along with the tower of St Michael's Church on Northgate and the spires of St Mary Magdalen Church on Magdalen Street and the Wesley Memorial Chapel, will form a cross of light in the centre of Oxford.

The scheme to light up Oxford landmarks, which may also soon

include Carfax Tower and University buildings such as the Radcliffe Camera, is being funded by Ian Laing, former High Sheriff of Oxford. The scheme will make use of low-energy architectural lighting and will not be on all night. The lighting will greatly increase the beauty of the Oxford skyline in the evenings, as well as highlighting Exeter's dreaming spire as integral to the College, the University and the City of Oxford.

attempted their own mock trial, with our undergraduates acting as judge and jury.

I frequently meet with the access and schools liaison officers in other Oxford colleges, departments and the Admissions Office. We share our various resources and experiences and ensure that our work reflects an awareness of the projects undertaken by others. For example, I recently assisted Helen Odom, Oxford's Access Cymru/Wales Officer, by addressing 450 students on the Welsh open day about my experiences as a Welsh student at Exeter College, before accompanying her on a series of Oxbridge seminars in Colwyn Bay and Cardiff. Students find it encouraging to speak to someone from the same background and whenever I travel to schools I try to take some of our own undergraduates from the same area.

Future plans for Schools Liaison at Exeter include developing our current work in the West Country. I recently met representatives from St John's College, and the Secondary Schools Association in Cornwall to discuss a future programme of road shows, talks and visits to and from the area. I have also met the Schools Liaison Officer for Jesus College and hope that we can host a 'Turl Street Colleges' event together, either for prospective applicants or for teachers. Although much of my work is on behalf of both colleges, projects that I am pursuing for Lincoln include their Lincolnshire Access Initiative, and plans for a Classical Archaeology and Ancient History state-school subject day. What all of these projects and events have in common is that they provide up-to-date and accurate information, encouraging university applications, and promoting Exeter College and Oxford to the brightest and best students, regardless of background.

To contact the Schools and College Liaison Officer write to schools.liaison@exeter.ox.ac.uk or phone 01865 279661.

Detail from a print by Virtual Archive



'There is nothing like looking, if you want to find something'

Exeter College has been home to inquiring minds for nearly 700 years. Fellows, Scholars and Commoners have engaged in scholarly research in a broad range of disciplines, from biochemistry to politics, helping to develop Exeter's reputation for academic excellence. Over the next few pages you will find evidence of this, from a profile of one of our Emeritus Fellows, Joseph Hatton (Physics) to two pieces of original research from Emily Pull (2003, Physiological Sciences) and Meredith Riedel (2003, Byzantine Studies).

An Inquiring Mind

By Carol Topley
(2003, Physics & Physiology)

Dr Joseph Hatton has had an interesting career in physics. He is now an Emeritus Fellow of the College, although he can still be seen in the quad or in attendance at the occasional Gaudy!

An undergraduate during the Second World War, Dr Joe Hatton excelled in physics while still finding the time to train part-time as an infantryman during his time at Oxford. Dr Hatton was especially interested in the physics of substances at low temperatures – usually referred to as solid-state physics – and he later specialised in this subject.

After his graduation he was asked to remain in laboratory research, where he studied microwave electronics. However, after a year Lord Cherwell called him to Canada in order to join the British nuclear research team based there, which he found far more interesting. But not long after his arrival the war ended and Dr Hatton was free to return to Oxford. He did so in 1946 to join his supervisor in working on researching the phenomenon of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), which had only just been discovered.

NMR is a complicated effect, which occurs because of the way nuclei behave within a magnetic field. All nuclei have a naturally-occurring magnetic moment, which will point in the same direction as, or in the opposite direction to, a magnetic field in which they find themselves. So a nucleus in such a field has two possible states. A nucleus pointing in the opposite direction has more energy than an identical nucleus in the same direction as the field, and if a radio wave carrying the same amount of energy as this difference hits the nucleus, it will

resonate. Dr Hatton was interested in how this resonance behaviour changes at low temperatures, when nuclei can change their directions. The widespread theory at the time was that this change would take far longer than a period equal to the age of the universe, which was proved by experiment to be completely wrong!

After obtaining his doctorate in this field, Dr Hatton was offered a fellowship in the physics department of Harvard University, which he accepted gladly. Such positions were then still rare in Oxford, and besides, taking up a physics fellowship at Harvard was, in his words, 'like being a Muslim and having the chance to work in Mecca!' Physics was still enjoying a golden age in the 1950s and, with new breakthroughs occurring almost every week, it seemed that many

physics was still enjoying a golden age in the 1950s with new breakthroughs

of them were occurring in America.

During his time at Harvard Dr Hatton continued his research in low temperature physics, using NMR techniques. He also taught graduate and undergraduate students, giving lectures in, among other topics, graduate-level thermodynamics. As well as his highly interesting research work Dr Hatton greatly enjoyed teaching, and made many friends among his colleagues and students. He and his wife expected always to remain in America, but Exeter College offered Dr Hatton a physics fellowship. At this time the College was only just beginning to offer scientific subjects – during Dr Hatton's years as an undergraduate Exeter had no physicists, engineers, or mathematicians.

In 1953 Dr Hatton became Exeter's first physics Fellow. It was here that Dr Hatton



Joseph Hatton, Emeritus Fellow (Physics).

performed important research into the behaviour of helium-3 (helium whose nucleus contains two protons and only one neutron) at low temperatures. This type of helium is especially intriguing in its low-temperature behaviour for many reasons – one of the simplest being that it is possible to achieve, in the laboratory, the temperature at which it stops obeying classical laws and begins behaving entirely in accordance with the (very different) laws of quantum mechanics. As the helium-3 is cooled to lower and lower temperatures, its behaviour becomes increasingly complicated, and Dr Hatton's research resulted in a detailed understanding of this type of helium.

Dr Hatton continued not only research, but also the teaching he had so enjoyed at Harvard. His new position at Exeter College allowed him much more direct contact with students than he had at Harvard, as Harvard did not use the tutorial system as extensively as Oxford did, and still does. Many of his students at Exeter were extremely bright, and he was certain that several of them 'would probably have gone on to win a Nobel Prize!' He found his time at the College very enjoyable – like an extended family as it is to many of its members today. ♡

Deep Brain Stimulation: An Electrifying Solution to Neurological Disorders

By Emily Pull
(2003, Physiological Sciences)

'Deep brain stimulation' (DBS) sounds drastic. Pioneered over 20 years ago, the initial surgical procedure passes hair-thin electrodes through the skull while the patient is fully conscious, targeting specific structures within the brain. The final location of the electrode tip depends on the disease and the symptoms. Electrodes are connected via a wire that runs beneath the skin of the scalp and neck to a battery-powered neurostimulator. The voltage, timing and frequency of the electrode can be controlled via a remote control held to the chest near the neurostimulator.

The high-frequency electrical current that passes through the electrodes is thought to interrupt the abnormal activity in the brain that, in Parkinson's disease, for example, is caused by the depletion of dopamine. Work in monkeys first identified the effects of this depletion in two areas of the brain – the subthalamic nucleus and the globus pallidus – as the cause of Parkinson's disease; accordingly, these two areas are the target in DBS-based treatment. Professor John Stein (Physiology, University of Oxford) and neurosurgeon Professor Tipu Aziz were two of the first surgeons in Britain to attempt this procedure on humans in the 1990s.

As with all surgery, there are risks including intra-cranial haemorrhage, interruption of normal brain function or worsening of symptoms such as slurring of speech and negative effects on mood. However, the benefits for most patients seem to outweigh the risks. So DBS was approved in 1997 as a method of treatment for Parkinson's disease. However, its success depends on careful selection of patients and extensive

Photo by Noah Smith-Drelich (2005, Williams-Exeter Programme)



Emily Pull researches deep brain stimulation.

monitoring after the operation. It can also take a significant amount of time for the settings of the neurostimulator to be adjusted to achieve the optimum effect.

Currently, popular treatments for a range of conditions including epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, obsessive-compulsive disorder and depression are pharmacologically-based. However, in a significant proportion of

DBS appears to provide a good alternative for some

cases, these drugs are not particularly, if at all, effective and DBS appears to provide a good alternative for some patients.

Parkinson's Disease

Since the late 1960s the drug Levodopa has treated the debilitating tremors of Parkinson's disease. But although it initially reduces symptoms it creates new problems. Many patients develop impaired control of movement, with sudden, uncontrolled jerks of the limbs or neck. DBS has shown promise in reducing all symptoms of Parkinson's disease without the side effects of Levodopa.

Epilepsy

DBS is also showing promising efficacy in the treatment of epilepsy. Epilepsy is caused by electrical hyperactivity in the brain which – like Parkinson's – usually has its original focus in a single region.

Epilepsy's range of foci and symptoms make it a challenge to treat. It is thought that DBS works to control the onset of seizures by blocking areas of the brain that produce unusual electrical activity. Research originally showed DBS to be effective in controlling chemically and genetically induced seizures in rats and more recent research on humans has been promising with reductions in seizures of 50-90%. Trials on humans have been small-scale and often uncontrolled so further research is needed.

Anxiety and Depression

The role of neurological pathways and chemical transmitters in psychological disorders such as obsessive-compulsive disorder and depression is well known, leading to electroconvulsive and drug therapy treatments. Current drug therapy for OCD is directed at controlling abnormal levels of serotonin. 60-70% of patients respond to the SSRI drugs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors). Behavioural therapy in conjunction with drugs, is another option but 20% of sufferers are unresponsive to both medical and behavioural therapy so for them DBS provides some hope. In a recent small-scale study, patients saw an average improvement of their symptoms of 36%. More research is needed before patients can begin to benefit from the treatment on a large scale.

As with all the other illnesses described, treatments for depression exist but not all individuals respond well to traditional anti-depressant drugs and therapies such as counselling. DBS again holds promise. In a recent study researchers treated six patients by targeting an area of the brain called the subgenual cingulate region that plays a critical role in modulating mood states. Four out of six of the patients experienced a 'striking and sustained' reduction in their symptoms. In textbook fashion, the symptoms returned as soon as the stimulator was turned off.

The Future of DBS

Other diseases like Schizophrenia may be treatable and while DBS will never provide a panacea for every individual it offers an exciting alternative to drugs and drastic surgery for sufferers of many neurological conditions. ♡

Imperial Religious Rhetoric and Byzantine Military Power: 'the fury and the mire of human veins'

By Meredith Riedel
(2003, Byzantine History)

The unpurged images of day recede;
The Emperor's drunken soldiery are abed;
Night resonance recedes, night-walkers'
song

After great cathedral gong;
A starlit or a moonlit dome disdains
All that man is,
All mere complexities,
The fury and the mire of human veins.
– William Butler Yeats, 'Byzantium'

Founded by Constantine in 330 AD as the heir of Rome, Byzantium lasted through 11 centuries of studied immutability. Yet beneath the façade lay turbulence. From the late eighth century, when Byzantium's eastern frontier from Tarsus to Trebizond stabilised, border warfare became an annual feature of Arab-Byzantine relations. The Byzantine side, outnumbered and underfunded, nonetheless adapted to counter swift Arab cavalry raids, holding the border against further major losses. By the late ninth century, the tide had turned in favour of the Byzantines, aided by internal strife within the Caliphate, so that by the second half of the tenth century, Roman armies could successfully pursue a war of expansion, regaining significant territory in the east. Throughout this period, Byzantine emperors used religious rhetoric to motivate their Christian armies as they faced a Muslim enemy. Simultaneously, they engaged in high-level diplomacy, primarily prisoner exchanges, and commercial negotiations that maintained uninterrupted trade relations between the two empires.

How much did imperial religious language affect military operations? Three emperors of the Macedonian dynasty – Leo VI (886–912), Constantine VII Porphyrogennitos (913–959) and Nikephoros II Phokas (963–69) – all exploited religious idiom. Leo VI wrote an influential military manual, the first Byzantine text known to address the Arab military threat. Constantine VII Porphyrogennitos composed a manual of international diplomacy, delivered two theology-laden military orations, and performed several innovative victory celebrations in Constantinople, despite never leading troops into battle. Nikephoros II Phokas, the emperor-general who earned the epithet 'White Death of the Saracens', went so far as to request that the Orthodox Church recognise dead soldiers as martyrs if they fell fighting the Muslims. The bishops refused.

It seems apparent that there is in Byzantine military success was accompanied by a rising ideological temperature, particularly in contradistinction to Muslim faith and practice. Even the Orthodox patriarchs

I hope to show the influence of theology on the imperial world

participated in cultural affairs, writing letters to Arab emirs, delivering polemic sermons, and fortifying or restraining imperial ideological conviction where they could. The flexibility of Byzantine social fabric allowed an emperor to request special religious status for his dead troops, but did not grant him this wish, prompting the question, why not? The society appeared saturated in religious rhetoric, much as the city of Constantinople was awash in churches, relics and religious icons. How much power could Orthodox Christian rhetoric wield in such an environment?

My thesis is shaped by a number of tenth-century primary sources, including military manuals, imperial speeches, panegyric, historiography, ecclesiastical letters, epic poetry, ceremonial books, legislation, military harangues, gold coins, lead seals, and government manuals on foreign and economic policy. I hope to show the influence of theology and religion on the imperial world-view, particularly as it was manifested in military decision-making vis-à-vis the Muslims to the east.

Sporting

The College's year in sport was full of assorted triumphs and disasters!

Ben Fox (1997, Earth Sciences)

Rowing

A good year for the women's crews. The novice As reached the quarter-final of the Christ Church regatta in Michaelmas, while the senior boat came first in their division in the Wallingford Head of the River. In Hilary, a record three boats qualified to row in the snow and driving rain of Torpids where the first VIII bumped St John's, Keble, LMH and Wolfson all within a matter of strokes to gain blades for the second successive time. Now fourth in Division 2, the first division is at last in sight for the women! Sadly Trinity term was not the success story the women had hoped for. In abysmal weather the second VIII qualified comfortably for Summer Vllls but finished down three places. The Firsts moved up three places overall but were denied blades on the second day of racing when their bump was not recognised – an unfortunate end to a great year.

Exeter has a record second-to-none of making fine oarsmen of Novice athletes, and a big highlight this year was our victory in Christ Church Regatta. The victorious VIII included members of both the JCR and MCR, demonstrating the



The Men's First Torpid ready themselves to do battle. From left to right: Christopher Beaumont, Richard Harrap, Matthew Yeowart, Andrew Williamson, Nic Niedermowwe, Esben Urbak, Octave Oppetit and George Anstey. Photo by Cameron Noble (2005, Mathematics).

Achievements

range of students involved, all learning their trade under the tutelage of coaches James Arthur and Dirk-Jan Omtzigt. Torpids in Hilary term saw four days of intense competition and resulted in encouraging performances all round. Summer Vllls saw the return to the First Division of the Men's event of countless Oxford University Boat Club athletes, all of international standard, and again the Exeter Men's First VIII raised its game through six weeks of training to put in a spirited performance. The demise of Oriel, who got bumped on every single day of the races and dropped to their lowest position on the river in living memory, brought joy to many on an unfortunately damp Saturday of Vllls.

Football

On the football pitch this year the College performed admirably but with little discernible reward. The JCR First XI missed out on promotion by a single point but did have the consolation of having one match ending in a 19-3 victory and another officiated by premiership referee Dermot Gallagher!



Matthew Rigby, postgraduate at Exeter, takes part in the varsity football match at Craven Cottage. With thanks to Aaron Barkhouse and Matthew Rigby (2001, Physics).

The MCR XI (bearing more than a little resemblance to the JCR side) ended the season second in the top division, despite going unbeaten for the entire league campaign. The respective captains, Darren Kidd and Eric Engler, should be applauded for their organisation and enthusiasm over the course of the year. Special mentions go to Matthew Rigby (who played in the varsity match at Craven Cottage) and Brandon Levy (involved in

the Blues' setup this year).

Not to be outdone, the women's football team (combined with St Hilda's) enjoyed a solid season after losing many players from last year's team, performing well in Cuppers and finishing fourth in the second division. As the year went on they improved significantly, getting to the quarter finals of the five-a-side competition, only to be knocked out by the eventual champions.

Cricket

The First team cricketers saw most of the early season ruined by the famous British weather and, as a result were only able to play three of the first seven matches in the top division. In the first round of Cuppers the team fell to Merton/Mansfield. Mixed results followed, the highlight being victory over a strong Wadham team, but collapses against Worcester and Somerville meant that the boys found themselves at the wrong end of the table by the close of the term.

Busters Cricket

Despite the recent disbanding of the legendary Assassins football team, sporting no-hopers abound in the ever-popular 2nd cricket XI (aka the Busters). Despite never having 'done a bat, done a bowl or done a field' before, first-year Russell Gammon typified the Busters' spirit, by being utterly useless yet compellingly enthusiastic at the same time, whilst always having a beer close at hand. The side finished mid-table in the top division. To cap-off the season a returning Old Busters team came up for a 20:20:20:20 game, with the current students winning with seven balls to spare.

The tradition of Busters is of course a long one – turn to page 50 to read about the Busters of the 1950s and their Tour of the South West.

Bar Sports

As readers may well be aware, Exeter has a recent proud



Current and past Busters face off. On the left side, back row: Andrew Mullin, James Jordan, Tobias Hopkins, Doug Speed; middle row: Russell Gammon, Luke Barrs, Matthew Rigby, Ben Fox; front row: Charlie Morris, James Robinson, Andy Williamson. Returning Busters on the right side, on the back row: Rob Sparkes, Jo Davis, Andrew Fadden, Tom Barkworth; seated: James Nicholls, Jonny Sultoon, Matthew Bale, Paul Stephany, Jon Devaney. Photo by Ben Fox (1997, Earth Sciences).

tradition of excelling at the so-called 'Bar Sports'. This rich heritage was upheld again this year with David Hoare and Rhys Jenkins winning the university two-man pool competition and the Darts First VIII claiming both the Cuppers eight-man title and the 'beerleg' six-man title to go with last year's haul of the league title and the Cuppers 'beerleg' trophy.

Other Sports

The women's tennis team found the going a little hard on the grass courts, but they did have strawberries at practices to cheer themselves up. The netballers finished sixth in their league, came second in their Cuppers group and won every match they played in Hilary term. The men's squash team are yet to play a competitive fixture, but apparently the practice sessions have gone very well!



News in brief

Oxford on Top Again

Oxford has once again been nominated top in the Guardian's 2006 University rankings. *The Guardian's University Guide* is compiled in collaboration with Campus Pi (an applied research department at Brunel University) and assesses teaching quality, staff-student ratios and graduate job prospects. Oxford was placed first before Cambridge and a number of London institutions; the top 20 was dominated by the Russell Group Universities (an association of 19 research-intensive universities of the United Kingdom).

Protest v Pro-test

The University secured a new injunction from the High Court on 26 May to protect staff, current and former students, and all contractors working for the collegiate University from intimidation, harassment, and potential violence from animal rights activists. Protesters have also been further limited in where they can protest and how long, and denied the use of klaxons, whistles, loud-hailers, etc. As well as pressure from the law, animal-rights protesters have also faced opposition from the Pro-test lobby, an Oxford-based group campaigning in favour of continued animal testing and in support of scientific research. Further details on the University's bio-medical facility and animal rights issues are available from www.admin.ox.ac.uk/biomed.

More Sporting Firsts

The Iffley Road sports ground has seen a number of firsts, including our very own Roger Bannister (1946, Physiological Sciences) running the four minute mile. The University has recently unveiled plans to redevelop this historic site to create state-of-the-art facilities including a new sports hall, an expanded fitness gym and indoor tennis courts. Plans also include extra facilities for the 80 University sports clubs, as well as a spectator and conference area. The running track is currently being resurfaced to meet International Amateur Athletics Federation regulations. Read more at www.ox.ac.uk.

Investing in the Past

By Alison Copeland
(Alumni Officer)

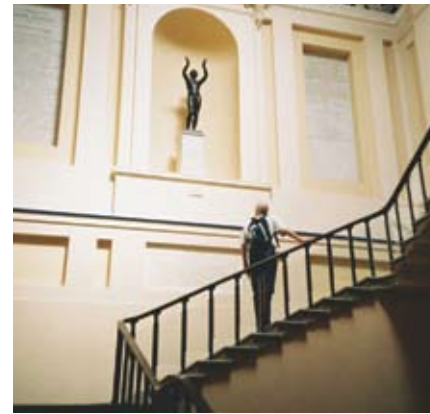
The Ashmolean Museum and the Pitt Rivers Museum are each undergoing extensive renovations to bring them up to the standard of Britain's greatest public museums.

The Pitt Rivers Museum is building an extension to house new facilities for teaching and research as well as a new exhibition area and improved disabled access. The project is being funded by HEFCE at a cost of £7 million.

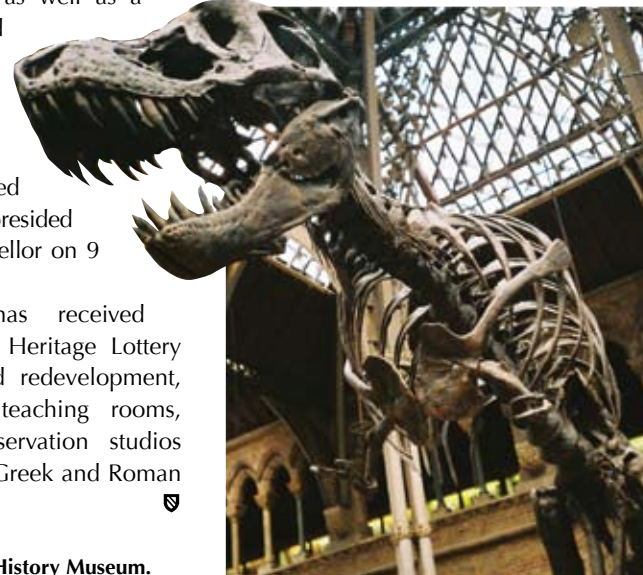
The extension was topped out at a ceremony presided over by the Vice-Chancellor on 9 February 2006.

The Ashmolean has received £15 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards planned redevelopment, which will include teaching rooms, discovery areas, conservation studios and integration of the Greek and Roman collections.

Right: inside the Natural History Museum.



The Ashmolean Museum.



A New Vision for the Radcliffe Infirmary

The 10.5 acre Radcliffe Infirmary site, located between Woodstock Road and Walton Street, is set to be redeveloped to provide much needed central Oxford teaching and research facilities for the University. Following the appointment of Rafael Viñoly Architects PC to the project in April 2005, considerable work has been done to develop a new framework for the site (which includes several Grade II listed buildings) to accommodate a number of academic departments, as well as teaching, library and research facilities. Suggestions for use of the land include the creation of a Humanities Centre, a new building for the Mathematics Institute and the relocation of the University's central administration, currently based at Wellington Square. The University has consulted widely on the plans and the aim is for these to be endorsed by Oxford City Council by the end of 2006.



Work is due to start on redeveloping the Radcliffe Infirmary in 2007.

All photos by Cayle Lazda (2004, English)

Under New Governance?

The University is considering a number of proposals to change the way in which Oxford is governed. Here we set out an introduction to what has happened so far.

By Alison Copeland (Alumni Officer)
and Frances Cairncross (Rector)

Over a year has now passed since the publication of the first University Green Paper on the reform of Oxford's governance structure. These proposed reforms have sparked controversy both within the University and externally, as the merits of making significant changes to the structures and procedures of the University are debated at a variety of levels from College JCRs to the national press.

The first Green Paper (in February 2005) was issued by a Working Party chaired by Dr John Hood, the Vice-Chancellor. It suggested a number of reforms, the most contentious being to split the role of the University's Council, its main governing board. The Working Party proposed setting up a Board of Trustees to oversee non-academic matters (and, in particular, financial management), and creating a separate Academic Council, composed of 150 members, to 'bring together individuals from all parts of the collegiate University to take responsibility for academic business'.

Congregation, the University's 'parliament', was highly critical of this paper, prompting a number of revisions. These were published in the Governance Discussion Paper, put before Congregation on 1 November 2005. The Working Party announced that its principal aim in making these suggested reforms of University governance was to protect academic freedom. The Discussion Paper presented revised plans for Council, which was once again divided in two. Institutional governance rested with a Council that would have an equal number of internal and external members and be chaired for the first five years by the Chancellor, Lord Patten. However, it was suggested that after this five-year transition period, Council would have a majority of members external to

the University, on the grounds that such an arrangement would provide more effective oversight of the University's activities. This Council would delegate matters pertaining to academic affairs to a 36-strong Academic Board – an amendment that received greater support than the previous recommendation for a 150 member Academic Council.

The current White Paper, due to be discussed by Congregation this autumn, continues to recommend a Council of 15 with a mix of internal and external members and the splitting of institutional from academic governance to create an Academic Board. Council would have

The reforms sparked controversy

four major committees to oversee Audit and Scrutiny, Finance, Investment, and Remuneration (of senior officers). The overarching powers of Congregation would be unaffected by these changes.

In an article for the Guardian (2 June 2006), John Hood wrote:

'Governance is about setting the right framework for [the University's] dynamism and diversity. The recommendations newly published in our university's white paper seek to do that. They are designed to allow Oxford to take greater advantage of outside expertise without compromising academic self-government, to encourage effective planning and action without sacrificing democratic control, and to meet contemporary challenges and expectations without diluting Oxford's scholarly values and priorities.'

However, these proposals too are likely to prove controversial. The columns of the *Oxford Magazine*, the house magazine for dissenting academics, are full of furious debate on the White Paper. Five academics (none from Exeter College) published in May this year an 'alternative

White Paper', titled 'A Democratic Approach to Oxford's Future'. They reject the bicameral approach to reform, splitting Council into an academic and an institutional component, each overseen by separate bodies. They reject the idea that the best way to bring outside voices into the governance of the University is through this bicameral approach, which would allow outsiders to be involved with issues of governance but not with academic matters. They argue that reform could be accomplished by adjusting existing structures rather than by creating new institutions of governance. They argue that external oversight can be provided by creating an external advisory board. The Vice-Chancellor's critics argue, 'If it ain't broke, why fix it?'

In the next five to ten years, Oxford will face increasing competition for funding (for teaching and research) and for attracting the best quality of students and staff. Oxford needs a system of governance that can draw together the Colleges and the central University and that clearly delineates responsibility and accountability. This will require an atmosphere of trust – and that is something the University sorely lacks just now.

Timeline

5 October 2004 – John Hood admitted as Vice-Chancellor

12 October 2004 – Working Party on Governance established

October 2004 – Congregation approved the terms of reference of the Governance Working Party

24 February 2005 – Green Paper on Governance issued for consultation

29 September 2005 – New Governance Discussion Paper published in the Gazette

1 November 2005 – Congregation discussed the Governance Discussion Paper

1 June 2006 – Governance White Paper published

8 June 2006 – 1st Question Time on the proposed Governance White Paper

15 June 2006 – 2nd Question Time on the proposed Governance White Paper

Autumn 2006 – Congregation will discuss the Governance White Paper

'Ultimately they are just kids and their primary objective is to have as much fun as possible.'
The amazing success of ExVac on **page 23.**



The Great Subfusc Debate



Exeter students in traditional academic dress in Oxford.

Earlier this year, the University began to consider getting rid of, or at least making voluntary, the wearing of subfusc – the traditional uniform of students at formal University occasions.

By Corissa Tung
(2003, *Literae Humaniores*)

The decision, earlier this year, to consider making voluntary or removing the obligation to wear subfusc, was apparently prompted by the hope that students would be less willing to be trashed if they were dressed in their own clothes rather than subfusc. The University and City Council have been working together to try to put an end to the thousands of pounds' worth of bills that the Council must pay every year to clean the confetti from the cobbles of Merton Street. I did pass by this year on my bike a few times and it appears that police officers have been posted at the back of the Exam Schools in the hope of discouraging would-be trash-artists. Seeing the street littered with confetti and one dazed, post-finals girl splattered with a mixture of sardines, cat food and treacle, it seems that the effort has not been too successful!

The subfusc issue ignited the indignation of students throughout

the University: in an on-line poll a resounding 81% voted in favour of the traditional Oxford dress code. The news even made the *Times Online* in March. So what is all the fuss about?

Subfusc, as you will remember, consists of a dark suit and white bow-tie for men, and a white shirt with black skirt or trousers and a black ribbon for women. In addition to this everyone carries a mortar-board (not to be worn, on pain of rustication) and a commoner's gown, or (if one is extra special) a scholar's gown. Gowns usually remain un-ironed for the duration of one's degree, so that the formal ensemble is rarely smart and tidy. Wearing subfusc also means that students can be terrified on the way into exams by the Proctors criticising the female students for not wearing black stockings in the height of summer, and the male students for daring to wear coloured rather than black socks. I thought I had left school uniform behind me when I came to University; never mind that subfusc is usually expensive and hardly ever worn.

Wearing a suit is hardly ever practical for men during summer finals, even in chilly British summers.

On the other hand, in what other way can we show our pride at being part of the University and revel in being literally termed 'commoners'? It's fun to dress for the occasion and a formal uniform like subfusc allows us to do this for University events such as matriculation. Preparing for exams may never be fun, but when I donned subfusc before my Mods I felt almost as if I was dressing myself in battle armour. In order to come to Oxford a certain amount of tolerance of tradition is required. Most students revel in every tradition they can discover or invent, including the wearing of subfusc. It may be expensive, impractical and tiresome at times, but most of us would not be without it. And if it weren't for subfusc, it would not have been possible for two of my friends, clad in subfusc and on their way to re-take their prelims, to be pointed out as 'scholars' by a sadly mistaken Oxford tour-guide.

Take Me On

Getting into Oxford has always been difficult. The 'College Lottery' system means a more able student might be rejected from a popular College while a less able student is accepted elsewhere.

By Alison Copeland (Alumni Officer),
Jonathan Herring (Law Fellow) and
Frances Cairncross (Rector)

Colleges, departments and faculties want to take only those candidates with the highest potential in order to maintain Oxford's world-class standards.

Since 2000, two University Working Parties have looked into reforming the admissions process. The first Working Party, headed by the former Principal of St Anne's, Dame Ruth Deech, published its report in 2002. Many of its recommendations concerning assessment methods and procedures have been implemented over the past five years. The second Party was led by Sir Tim Lankester, President of Corpus Christi College, and its report (published in November 2005) advocated further improvements to ensure that the colleges and the University work together better to select the very best. This report received a lot of national press coverage, where it was even heralded as the beginning of the end for the autonomy and individuality of the Oxford colleges.

What the paper actually outlined was a proposal for a single model for handling undergraduate applications covering all subjects across the University and drawing on good practice as it currently exists in several subjects. The working party suggested two models:

Model A

- Applicants would be shortlisted by all tutors (or a sub-set) in a particular subject, acting collectively.
- Shortlisted candidates would have at least two interviews and would be ranked.
- Successful candidates could, if they so wished, indicate a first and second choice college preference.
- Colleges would then select from amongst

this group in accordance with the rankings and all successful candidates would be offered a college place.

Model B

- Candidates could, if they wished, state a college preference at the time of application.
- Shortlisting and final offer would be done by subject tutors collectively, who would also rank successful candidates.
- Shortlisted candidates would be interviewed by college tutors in two colleges, who would be guided, but not bound by, the department/faculty rankings.

Both models emphasise that subject tutors in colleges and departments should work together collectively to select the best candidates. Applicant college choice (if stated) would still be taken into account but would not affect the chances of an application being successful.

At the time of publishing the report, Sir Tim emphasised that at that stage the proposals were 'only ideas' and went on to reassure readers that Oxford is 'committed to upholding the colleges' traditional commitment to excellence in the teaching of undergraduates, and the proposals do not affect the autonomous status of colleges or the way teaching is organised'.

A number of departments already operate a similar 'centralised' admissions process – Medicine, for example, tests its candidates and ranks them centrally before shortlisting those invited for interview. Shortlisted candidates are interviewed by their first-choice college and one other, and tutors do not know whether the students they interview have chosen their college or not. The models proposed by the recent Working Party recognise that tutors have a joint relationship with their college and their department. Such a system would help to ensure that selection is the responsibility of those best-placed to recognise potential, the academics. On the downside, the process will be resource-intensive and smaller departments in particular may not be able to cope

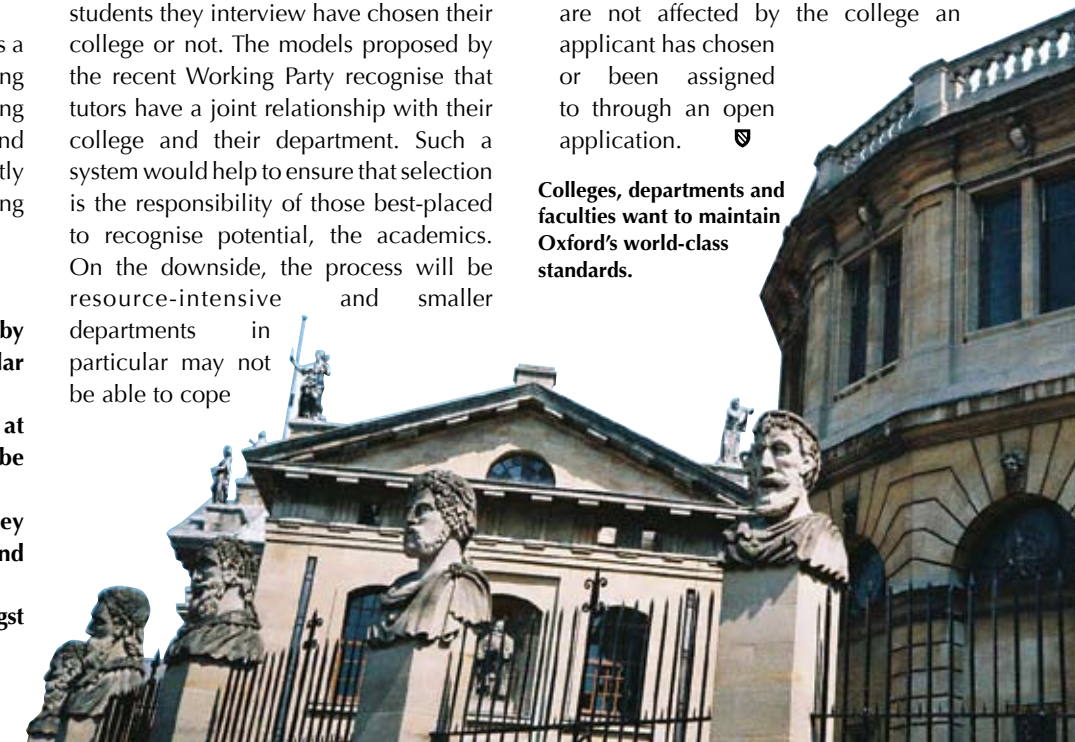
with this additional strain. The models proposed by the Lankester Working Party were also based on single honours schools; in the latter, admissions are already an extremely complex business of coordination between a number of departments and the colleges.

The consultation following the report showed the difficulty in finding one admissions model which would be appropriate for all the departments and faculties. The Medicine model was not one that could be transplanted onto everyone else. The latest proposals focus on developing principles which can be agreed upon across the board: that in all subjects admissions procedures should be fair and ensure the best candidates are successful; that agreed procedures and criteria for each subject are applied consistently; and that candidates' chances of success should not be reduced due to their college choice (if any).

It is to be hoped that Congregation, when it debates this issue in the autumn can find a way to implement an admissions system that is fair, efficient and transparent. In all of the debate over the Lankester report there appears to have at least been unanimity over the three principles which underpin Oxford's admissions:

- To attract applications from the most academically able individuals, irrespective of socio-economic, ethnic or national origin;
- To ensure applicants are selected for admission on the basis that they are well qualified and have the most potential to excel in their chosen course of study;
- To ensure that the prospects of admission are not affected by the college an applicant has chosen or been assigned to through an open application.

Colleges, departments and faculties want to maintain Oxford's world-class standards.





Sacre Coeur

Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and built between 1856 and 1859 in the style of the Sainte Chapelle in Paris, the Chapel is spiritually and physically the 'sacred heart' of the College, with its imposing façade dominating the front and back quads. It is a place of worship, of music and a place for the community of the College and of Oxford to gather. These stories give different insights into the role it plays.

Seeking Christ

By Mark Birch (former Chaplain)

The Morris tapestry of the Adoration of the Magi is one of the College's greatest treasures. It has hung in the Chapel since 1890, after the College commissioned one of its alumni (one Edmund Burne-Jones) to design something to cover the last patch of bare wall in their new Chapel. Over a century later, no doubt preserved by the dim lighting, this haunting scene continues to glow and entrance.

The setting is fantastical and full of mystic meaning. The traditional stable is ditched in favour of a simple, thatched bower. The willow hurdle, making up the back of the structure, reflects the Pre-Raphaelites' appreciation for the practical beauty of traditional rustic crafts, and Joseph, a simple artisan himself, has clearly been out hacking down brushwood for a fire. You wonder whether

whether the students recognise in this work a call to Christian devotion and duty is debatable

this unlikely nursery might have been Joseph's own construction; a physical pledge of his commitment as guardian to the child.

The luxuriant foliage of the foreground contrasts with the starkness of the surrounding woodland; the tree trunks forming a complex maze of paths and dead-ends, ready to entrap and bewilder the hapless wanderer. The Christ-child is born amidst the entangling darkness of a dangerous world and yet the same world, quite literally, blossoms into life around him. Roses refer to Mary, the 'rose of such virtue... the rose that bear Jesu'. Lillies reflect the purity of Christ, reflected in his Saints, amongst whom these three visitors are surely to be numbered. In the middle foreground tiny anemones prompt us to hold this child in perpetual remembrance.

The three visitors are plainly kings, reflecting, traditionally, all the nations of the world to whom Christ is manifested – or, at the very least Africa, Europe and Asia. They also represent the three ages

of man. The gift of gold is clutched by the youngest monarch, who brings all the treasures of his youth in offering to the King of kings. Incense is brought by the central, chivalrous figure, representing the age of mature political and religious duty – his armour denotes the protection of his people, while the incense indicates devotion to God. At the head of this regal procession is the elderly king, bearded and stooping, who has cast his crown to the ground and, in acknowledgement of the mortality he shares with this child, offers the casket of embalming spice. For a College whose young members might expect to assume significant roles in Church, State, and Commerce, these kings remind the Members of their highest duty at every stage of life.

Most sublimely, its wings clipped by the tapestry frame, an angel carries the star that has guided these three to the still greater Light. The perfect child curls dynamically in his mother's hands, in contrast to Mary and Joseph who appear frozen in contemplation. The Christ-child seems apprehensive under the gaze of these exotic visitors, and no doubt we are meant to sense the tension and fear associated with the portentous gift of myrrh. Such a weight of hope and expectation, told in the inclined bodies and fixed attention of the three visitors, seems too great a burden for such a tiny life, yet we know he will accept it, and will bear its consequences.

Whether the students of today recognise in this work a call to Christian devotion and duty is debatable. It is almost too much 'of a piece' with the rest of the Chapel, and not easily visible from most of the places where one is likely to sit. However, to move it would disturb the interior coherence of the Chapel and in such a lavish building it seems appropriate that its greatest treasure has to be sought out. Time has to be taken for the eyes to adapt to the gloomy light, and for the tapestry to be discovered, glowing darkly behind the pews. Perhaps the message of this piece has less to do with the Magi and their gifts per se, and more to do with Christ's injunction to 'seek... and ye shall find.' It took the kings a great deal of time and searching to find this treasure and, in our impatient world, such diligent seeking is a rare but necessary virtue.

Lasting Impressions

By John Smith (1962, English)

I arrived at Exeter, an extremely callow and innocent youth, as a Choral Scholar, firmly convinced, after surveying the rather grandiose surroundings, that I was there under totally false pretences! The Chapel physically dominated the front quadrangle and thus it dominated my first impression of the College as a whole.

My duties as a Choral Scholar involved singing in the Chapel three times a week for Evensong. The then Organ Scholar, Christopher Herrick, has gone on to make a distinguished career as a solo Organist, but in all truth, the College Chapel Choir in those days was not all that good. It was, of course in the days before ladies were admitted to the College and when we relied instead on the reserve boys from Christ Church Cathedral School. There were two official Choral Scholars, Sandrey Date (1962, Music) and me; the rest of the Choir was made up of 'volunteers'.

I did not have much experience, apart from singing in my school chapel choir, which was of course very different. Exeter College Chapel, I remember, had initially a quite extraordinary effect on me: it was rich, grandiose, spacious and dignified and I was very conscious of the privilege and responsibilities of its being 'mine' for a time. I came to love its ornateness – the colours, the decoration and the aura of dignity – even while it was being used so fully. These first impressions wore off with predictable speed!

It is only on looking back with fond nostalgia that I begin to realise what a huge effect the College as a whole, and the Chapel in particular, has had on my whole life. My first Gaudy brought this home to me: we were invited to attend Evensong and the Chapel was packed with youngish Exonians, all drawn to what must be the most dominant and friendly communal centres of this most friendly of Colleges – even more so than the magnificent Hall.

Again, looking back, in my day this had much to do with the quiet, almost shy, and completely unassuming leadership of the then Chaplain, Eric Kemp. He was a quiet and eminent man who was also my Moral Tutor (I hope such offices still exist!) and a great help – he even lent me money at one stage!

I realise, on looking back over this brief note, that I have talked more about the human interface with the Chapel than the building itself – but again, I do not think that a lesser building would have encouraged that interface. Others I have met, and I have been fortunate to meet a number of Exonians



from different generations, seem to agree. The Chapel for me, and I am sure for countless others, was a huge influence. It was always beautiful, always open, always available, and always there. Its effects on me have been immeasurable – it is a wholly positive and great part of my memories of College life which I have been grateful for ever since I left!

Photo montage of the Exeter College Chapel by Jenny Okun.

www.jennyokun.com

Turn to page 3 to read about the current choir and their activities.

Exeter College Chapel Campaign

2009 marks the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the Chapel. A survey of the Chapel was undertaken in 2005 and revealed an alarming state of deterioration of both the stonework and the stained glass, requiring extensive conservation and renovation, meaning that we urgently need to embark on a programme of repairs. This work will cost somewhere in the region of £1.8 million and we have, fortunately, already received some generous donations to begin the work of cleaning and restoring the stained glass and interior of the Chapel. Although the College hopes to secure a large proportion of this essential funding from interested Trusts and Foundations in the UK and abroad, we hope that many of our Old Members will want to have an opportunity to contribute something to restoring this wonderful building. In 2007 the College will launch a campaign to raise these funds to restore the Chapel. It will require a huge effort to ensure that this beautiful Grade II* listed building, which has had such a profound effect on generations of Exonians, is able to retain its place as the heart of the College. If you would like further details or if you would like to be involved in helping to raise funds, please contact the Development Office on development@exeter.ox.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 1865 279620.

Calling all Exonians



Over Easter, 12 Exeter students called 554 Old Members to update them on College news and ask for their support.

By Anna Doyle
(2005, Women's Studies)

Exeter's fifth Telephone Campaign has once again shown the tremendous rapport between the students of today and yesterday, and the commitment of support from those who have gone before.

The callers spent a weekend learning about the history of Exeter and pooling their knowledge of current College news in preparation for the first calls. Even though the group members ranged from first-year undergraduates to DPhil students, the chance to forget about exam revision or vacation reading for two weeks seemed equally welcome and there was an immediate sense of enthusiasm.

With 12 people all making phone calls in a small room in the Rector's Lodgings, there was always a constant buzz of conversation and our high spirits were maintained by regular doses of chocolate and sweets or by the occasional glass of wine when the evening calls were going particularly well!

Although it was sometimes a challenge to stop chatting to each other and start making phone calls, we were all impressed by the continued interest the Old Members showed in Exeter and this made the conversations both enjoyable and rewarding. We were all kept amused and entertained by the hilarious and fascinating stories Old Members told, and these also offered a real insight into Exeter's history. A particular favourite of mine, which captures the intensity and inventiveness of college rivalry in the past,

was told by one gentleman who admitted responsibility for capturing six pigeons from the front Quad, feeding them up with birdseed and laxative in the College Chapel over the course of a week, before eventually liberating them into the Jesus College Boat Club dinner. He cheerfully reported that the pigeons 'performed quite well!' Famous names also featured amongst the anecdotes we heard, evoking a glamorous side to Exeter's history. One highlight was the tale of a College play rehearsal taking place in the Fellow's Garden which was interrupted when, to the director's astonishment, he became aware that they were being observed not only by Old Exonian Richard Burton, but also by Elizabeth Taylor.

As a newcomer to the College these conversations represented a valuable chance to learn more about Exeter and I was surprised by the sense of community that exists between all members of College, past and present. It is this continuing involvement that made the telethon such a success and so rewarding. Although I am at Exeter only for a year-long MSt course, I realised that the links formed during my time here will last a lifetime.

Above, from left to right: Jessica Lafferty, Anna Doyle, Dominic Ellis-Gray (RBA), Eachan Johnson, Siu Lee, Katrina Hancock (DO), Carol Topley, Emily Watson, Rachel Knibbs, Rajiv Tanna, Corrissa Tung, David Cooper, Nerisha Singh and Matthew Smith.

Frances Cairncross (Rector)

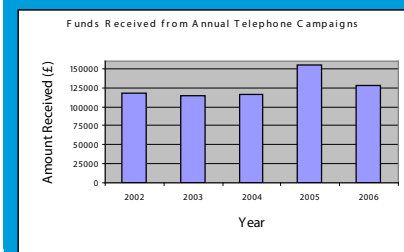
Our students are Exeter College's greatest strength. Nothing makes that plainer than the Telethon Campaign, when a select group of volunteers each year rings Old Members, Parents and Friends to talk about what is new at Exeter and ask for their support. This year, the calls were made from a room in the Lodgings. This meant not only that students had a constant supply of tea, coffee and chocolate biscuits but that I could occasionally eavesdrop on callers. Their enthusiasm and charm on the telephone was heart-lifting.

Thanks to their calls, the College raised more than £110,000 to put into student hardship grants, arts and sports activities, refurbishing the library and our new History Fellowship. More than half of those called agreed to make a gift, including many parents, and many gave for the first time. This is important: our largest donors always like to know that they are not alone in supporting the College and that others also give regularly, on whatever scale they can afford.

Quite apart from eliciting such impressive generosity, the student callers were able to talk about our plans for the College. And they too learned from the experience. Above all, they learned that the College is an extended family, sustained by the support of those who have benefited in the past for those who are there today.

Total calls made	554
Yes	299
No	255
Giving Rate	53.97%
Amount per call	£231.60
Amount Pledged	£128,309.00
Total Received	£113,548.14
% Overall Fulfilment	88.5%

45% of Parents called agreed to make a gift and pledged £20,099.29 of the total.



Another ExVac Success

Funded and run by Exeter students past and present, ExVac is a great way to give something back to the community.

By Matthew Carter
(2005, English)

OK, I'll admit it. The first time I heard about ExVac, I was sceptical to say the least. The idea is a simple one: 16 Exeter College students take 32 children, chosen by the Social Services, for a week of trips, activities and games. The kids, all from Oxford and its suburbs, can be selected for any number of reasons. Some have been neglected. Many have been abused. Others have been forced into a life of heavy responsibility, caring for disabled parents and siblings, never having the time to play or the opportunity to just be kids. Whatever their background, they all have one thing in common – they deserve a holiday!

And, yes, as a first-year Exonian and newcomer to the charity, I was sceptical. The question that immediately sprang to mind was, how much good can we do? Are we really going to make a difference?

Training for the ExVac week was terrifying as well. Though we wouldn't all be privy to each particular child's history, we were taught to spot signs of physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and learned the legal procedures for following up anything important that the kids themselves might tell us. We were told to be prepared for bad behaviour and hyperactivity. The second question, then, was inevitable: would we be able to cope?

Within a few hours of our arrival at Eton Dorney, both questions had been firmly answered. Whatever we may have come to expect was outweighed by one simple fact – that ultimately, these are just kids, and their prime objective is to have as much fun as possible. From the moment they stepped off the coach, each of them threw themselves into the holiday with full force and it was no surprise really that by the end of the week it was the ExVac leaders who were left exhausted, nursing shoulders sore from all those piggy backs and throats reeling from leading one too many sing-along songs! Trips to London Zoo, Legoland, bowling alleys, cinemas, hands-on science museums and adventure playgrounds were interspersed



Below: trips to Legoland were interspersed with hours of games.

with hours of games back at the hostel where we stayed. It seemed that no end of football matches, Easter egg hunts or contests to see who could go higher on the swings could tire them out.

In the midst of all this it was easy to forget the sad lives that these children have led, in a world far-removed from the dreaming spires of the Oxford that we are all more familiar with. This is precisely ExVac's aim: to enable them to forget, if only for a week, and to just be kids. The difference that ExVac makes to these young people's lives is staggering and can be seen on the face of every boy or girl every time they race to the next rollercoaster, or to the top of the next slide at the swimming pool, or when they put the last brick on top

of their Lego tower, setting yet another record (until tomorrow of course). Simple words of encouragement or praise from a leader, of the kind that every Oxford student takes for granted, are greeted as though they were bars of solid gold. ExVac cannot be underestimated in its effectiveness at showing these kids that they matter, that they are good at something – whether it be drawing, magic tricks, swinging on monkey bars, or taking on the responsibility of organising and explaining a new game. Like any charity, ExVac cannot solve the world's problems. But it can offer an escape, and it can offer hope. Exonians should be exceptionally proud, as it does make a difference.

The Nuts and Bolts of Student Life

Have you ever noticed that 'student hardship' features prominently on our donation forms? Alleviating financial difficulties is a big issue. This is why...

By Katrina Hancock
(Deputy Director of Development)

We all recognise that there has always been student hardship. However, in the last ten years it has become not only a greater issue, but a much more prevalent one, which increasingly undermines both the higher education system and those who go on to study at this level.

There remains much confusion regarding student hardship. Many Old Members ask whether the issue is a genuine one and what can be done about it. Although the funding system is about to change again in time for the 2006 intake (see below), let me give you a glimpse of some of the real issues our students face.

On arrival at Exeter, a first-year undergraduate student from the UK will immediately have to pay the year's tuition fees of £1,175 (this is means-tested but only benefits those whose joint parental income is less than about £37,000). In addition, the student has to pay for accommodation in College for the term (£752.85 per term, minimum), a catering charge and then the cost of meals during the term totalling at least a further £700. If a student lives out in a private house (as nearly all 2nd years and a large proportion of 3rd and 4th years have to do), these costs can be almost doubled.

The maximum student loan available to a UK student in 2005 was just over £4,000 – that is £1,333 per term. It is obvious that this does not even cover the cost of accommodation and food for the term. Consequently, students who rely entirely on his or her student loan will start the year overdrawn, with no funds to buy books for their course, join sports teams where kit has to be paid for, or buy the necessary academic dress (or other clothes) let alone be able to afford to go out with friends or numerous other 'optional' activities. They will be under constant pressure to take a part-time job as well as study.

So why are there these problems? The government has decided that university students should fund themselves. With the abolition of the maintenance grant in the late 1990s, there has been an increasing expectation, and one which will continue under the new structure, that parents will contribute to the support of their children at University. In many cases parents are

members ask whether the issue is a genuine one

often able to cover the gap between the real cost of University and funding available. But where this is simply not possible, for whatever the reason, their children must fund themselves.

But how? Obviously students can get a job and many do work part-time during term (up to five hours a week as per Oxford University regulations) as well as the

vacations. Although this alleviates some difficulties, it means that they will not get a chance to have a break from working, do any academic vacation work, travel or take an unpaid internship, let alone spend time with family and friends.

Many people imagine that hardship is a result of beer, extravagance and too much socialising. I don't think most people would begrudge students actually enjoying themselves at University, but this is hardly the lifestyle these particular students are living. I know of one student who didn't go to the College ball not only because he couldn't afford to go, but because he could not afford evening dress, even from a Charity Shop.

It would seem an easy solution to suggest that the College could charge less. But the reality is that the College is already charging students much less than it costs to teach them, so that we make a loss on every student. This short-fall is covered by the conference trade (which is why the College is so keen to 'en-suite' as many rooms as possible) but it only helps us to break even – not to profit.

Exeter is committed to providing hardship bursaries and scholarships that will assist the students who, without such help, would have to leave College. Many Old Members, Parents and Friends already share this commitment and make a regular donation. We are now looking to create a group of scholarships and bursaries that are of greater value and will make a bigger difference so Exeter will always be able to attract, retain and support the brightest and best, regardless of their finances or background. ♡

Student Funding for 2006-07

By Dr Ian Reid (Sub-Rector and Fellow in Engineering Science)

With new 'top-up fee' legislation coming into force this October, student financial hardship and debt potentially become ever more significant issues for those undertaking or contemplating a degree. Like all the other major Universities in the country, Oxford will be charging

the maximum allowed fee of £3,000 per annum for home students (though even this amount falls well short of the actual cost of providing the education). In addition, it is estimated that typical, minimal, living costs in Oxford for the coming year will be around £6,000 for the 27 weeks of the academic year – rather more than this is needed in order to take advantage of all that Oxford has to offer.

Various schemes backed by the government or by the University and colleges are being put in place to assist students financially, especially those from the lowest income backgrounds. Government loans will be available to cover fees, and means-tested

A Real Example

Between the December and September before I started at Exeter many things happened. The good news – I got a place to study at Exeter and couldn't wait to go. Then the bad news, before I even finished my A-Levels: the Student Loans Company and the Local Education Authority had calculated my student entitlement, but in the months between when that calculation was made and when I was due to start University, both my parents lost their jobs and had no other income. As one of many siblings, I knew already that my parents were not going to be able to help me fund my time at University. I didn't know what I was going to do.

And so my time at Exeter started. I lacked the money to buy even the essentials of books and subfusc, so I certainly didn't have anything to spend on the arguably inessential too. During Freshers' week, while most people were worrying about what they would wear to the nightly Freshers' parties, I was trying to decide if I could afford to go to any.

This inauspicious start to the year characterised much of my first term at Exeter. I did not get involved in much extra-curricular activity because I simply could not afford to. I stayed in my room, keeping myself (and my financial difficulties) to myself. I avoided the bar because I equated bar to drinks and drinks to money and I avoided going out with friendship groups for the same reason. I didn't join the football team as I knew I would have to pay for kit. Of course, this was unsustainable and after a while



I ended up spending the little money I had. I resolved to keep working hard but to put to the very back of my mind all worries about what I would do when I had absolutely zero money left.

Financial insecurity and uncertainty was not what I expected University life to be all about. The thing that depressed

I lacked the money to buy even the essentials of books

me the most was that I'd heard many people say that the time they had spent at university were the best days of their life but I could not envisage ever saying that.

My situation changed about mid-way through my first term. The financial difficulties that I found myself in became unbearable as my bank balance came closer to zero. In the end I went and

told the Sub-Rector about my situation. I'll never forget how understanding he was – he made me realise that financial difficulties are something that no one ever plans to find themselves in. He also encouraged me to apply for a student hardship bursary. It was such a relief when I opened the letter that told me I was to be given an Exonian Hardship Bursary of £1,000.

It meant that I could meet my immediate financial demands like recommended textbooks, pens, pencils, essential clothing and so on. It also meant that I would be able to pay my Battels next term and could start to enjoy College life a bit more as well. I started playing for the football team; I was better able to concentrate on my studies; I felt more able to socialise and I have made some good friends as a result.

I am so grateful to those who have donated to support financial hardship – thank you. One day I hope to be able to give as generously as I have received. ♡

set out in the table.

The system of government student loans for maintenance continues: the maximum loan for 2006-07 will be £4,405 with a non-means-tested minimum of £3,300.

The increases in funding opportunities for students are obviously welcome, but it is difficult to predict the impact that the increased fees will have, especially on those whose household means cause them to fall just outside the cut-offs for

government and/or Opportunity Bursary support. Furthermore those already on a course remain under the old fee – and financial assistance – regime. In this uncertain transitional phase, therefore, the College is lucky and grateful to have the resources to be able to help those in need, so that Exeter can continue its tradition of giving support to everyone who needs it, regardless of background.

Household income

£0-£17,500
£17,501-£22,499
£22,500-£37,425

Oxford Opportunity Bursary

£4,000 in year 1, £3,000 pa thereafter
£3,000 in year 1, £2,600 pa thereafter
Between £2,500 and £100 pa on a sliding scale according to income

Benefactions

Exeter has flourished thanks to the generosity of those who went before us and the tradition of benefaction continues.

By **Katrina Hancock and Alison Copeland (Development Office)**

We are tremendously grateful to all those Old Members, Parents and Friends who have supported us over the years and for the many who have pledged to continue to do so. Every gift we receive makes a difference, no matter how modest.

Gifts to the Old Members' Fund are used to support key projects that the College has prioritised which would otherwise remain under-funded or simply unviable. Major benefactions, and often some legacies, are earmarked for larger capital or endowment projects that will strengthen the College today and in the years to come.

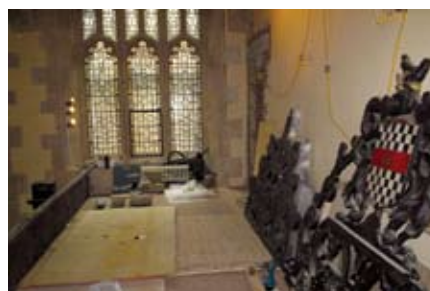
In the last year, Exeter has been very fortunate to be the recipient of several major benefactions.

Benefactors' Gallery

As a student, did you ever give much thought to the Minstrels' Gallery at the west end of the Dining Hall? With limited access (via a ladder from inside the hall) it is not surprising that its use has been infrequent or that it had fallen into disrepair.

However, thanks to the generosity of Mark Houghton-Berry (1976, Literae Humaniores), the Gallery has been completely restored. An essential passageway has been constructed between the Gallery and Staircase 3 to improve access whilst at the same time creating a new portrait gallery which will boast contemporary portraits of all our major benefactors since 2000.

This wonderful benefaction has allowed the College to preserve a unique feature.



The Gallery under refurbishment.



The Gallery refurbished.

The Gallery was formally opened on 19 May and has since been used as originally intended by a number of musical groups.

Boskey Donation

In 2005, Bennett Boskey, an alumnus of Williams College, USA, and Friend of Exeter College, made a gift of \$1 million to strengthen and enhance the Williams at Exeter Programme. This programme, now approaching its 25th anniversary in 2010, has gone from strength to strength, allowing around 25 Williams students each year to experience life at Oxford.

In line with his own interests, Mr Boskey's generous gift will be used to endow a Junior Research Fellowship in Politics and a College Lecturership in Economics. These posts will enable Exeter to attract and recruit top young academics who will make a significant contribution to both Exeter and Williams students.

Exeter is delighted to welcome Elisabetta Brighi to fill the Politics JRF. Dr Brighi (currently at the European University Institute, Florence) is very excited about this opportunity to teach and study in Oxford.



Mr Bennett Boskey, The Rector and Morty Shapiro (President of Williams College) in Washington DC.


In Memory of Sir Kenneth Clinton Wheare

Sir Kenneth Wheare (1907–79) had a long and distinguished career at Oxford that encompassed the roles of Rector of Exeter College (1956–72) and Vice-Chancellor of the University (1964–66). He went on to succeed Lord Salisbury as the Chancellor of the University of Liverpool (1972–79). He came up to Oxford to read PPE in 1929 as a Rhodes Scholar from Melbourne University. As an academic he distinguished himself as an influential writer on government and the constitution and he also served on a number of external committees and trusts, including serving as the President of the British Academy (1967–71).

Sir Kenneth's widow, Lady Joan Wheare, and her family have made a substantial donation to endow a bursary (the KC Wheare Memorial Bursary) for an Exeter College student experiencing hardship. While Sir Kenneth was Rector of Exeter College, Lady Wheare played an invaluable role in the lives of undergraduate and graduate students. This bursary, in memory of Sir Kenneth, will be a long-lasting reminder to many generations of his tenure as Rector and the influence he and his family had on College life.

John Bolin, 2nd-year DPhil student in Modern English Literature and the first recipient of the KC Wheare Memorial Bursary writes:

'I have been working several jobs at night as well as teaching in order to support myself, but injuries to my back and hands (sustained using farm machinery), have begun to worsen, forcing me to ultimately consider not finishing my degree because of lack of funds. Needless to say, I am very grateful for the help afforded by the Wheare Memorial Bursary. It is precisely the kind of help that many postgraduate students need.'

Benefactions such as these make such a dramatic difference – thank you. 



Sir Kenneth Wheare and Kangaroo, a dripstop on the Bodleian Library.



The Origin of the Universe

Why are we here and where did we come from? Professor Stephen Hawking gave the Dennis Sciama Memorial Lecture to a packed theatre in the Physics Department last March, which inspired author and Exeter alumni, Philip Pullman, to write this article.

By Philip Pullman (1965, English)

Stephen Hawking's account of the origin of the universe told a story of great brilliance and clarity. The questions 'Why are we here?' and 'Where did we come from?' are very good ones, and we all find ourselves asking them on the day we begin to grow up. When we're children, other questions occupy us; we want to know why we can't have more ice cream, and why we have to go to bed right now, and why nothing is fair; but on the day we begin to grow up, which is usually in our early adolescence, we find Professor Hawking's questions becoming more and more interesting. Of course, some people stop growing up, and then they stop asking those questions. They ask other questions instead, such as 'What's on TV tonight?' or 'Where can I get the best return for my investments?'

Professor Hawking's lecture began with an account of the great god Bumba and his digestive problems, which I hadn't heard about before. According to the myths of the Boshongo people, Bumba had a belly-ache and vomited up the sun, the moon, the stars and various animals including the first human beings. This ingenious piece of gastro-theology provides a very good account of why we're here and where we came from, with only the slight disadvantage of being untrue. Or at least unlikely. As I understand Richard Feynman's sum over histories, the great god Bumba may be busily at work somewhere, but probably not in this suburb of the universe. As the lecture progressed, I was struck by how much more interesting Professor Hawking's account was than that of the Boshongo people. I don't only mean more likely, more persuasive, better argued, though it was all of those; I mean more interesting. It was better storytelling: I always wanted to hear what was going to happen next, and why. It was full of more interesting characters and settings. The Steady State, for example, which I couldn't help picturing as a sort of 1950s advertisement, with a pipe-smoking father sitting comfortably in his living room, next to the radiogram, with a wife knitting submissively in the background and a small boy playing with Meccano on the carpet. The father would remove his pipe and twinkle knowledgeably as he said 'Of course, I'm with Steady State Insurance,' and a caption underneath would say 'You Know Where You Are With a STEADY STATE Policy'. Then there

were other fascinating characters, such as the general theory of relativity, and the microwave radiation from the very early universe that turns up on your television screen, and the spontaneous quantum creation of little bubbles that grow, or don't grow, into universes.

Another reason that the story we heard from Professor Hawking was different from that of the Boshongo people has to do with the relationship we have with the story itself. It's to do with the way we – the audience at an academic lecture, the congregation in a church, the jury in a crown court, the listeners around the cooking fire in the darkness of the savanna – regard the stories we're hearing. Different kinds of stories expect different kinds of audience and certain kinds of attitude from that audience. I don't mean an attitude of liking or respect, though every storyteller would like those; what I mean is there's something in the circumstances of the telling that says 'This story is to be taken literally', or 'This is a metaphor. One thing stands for another'.

Visit Philip Pullman's website at www.philip-pullman.com.

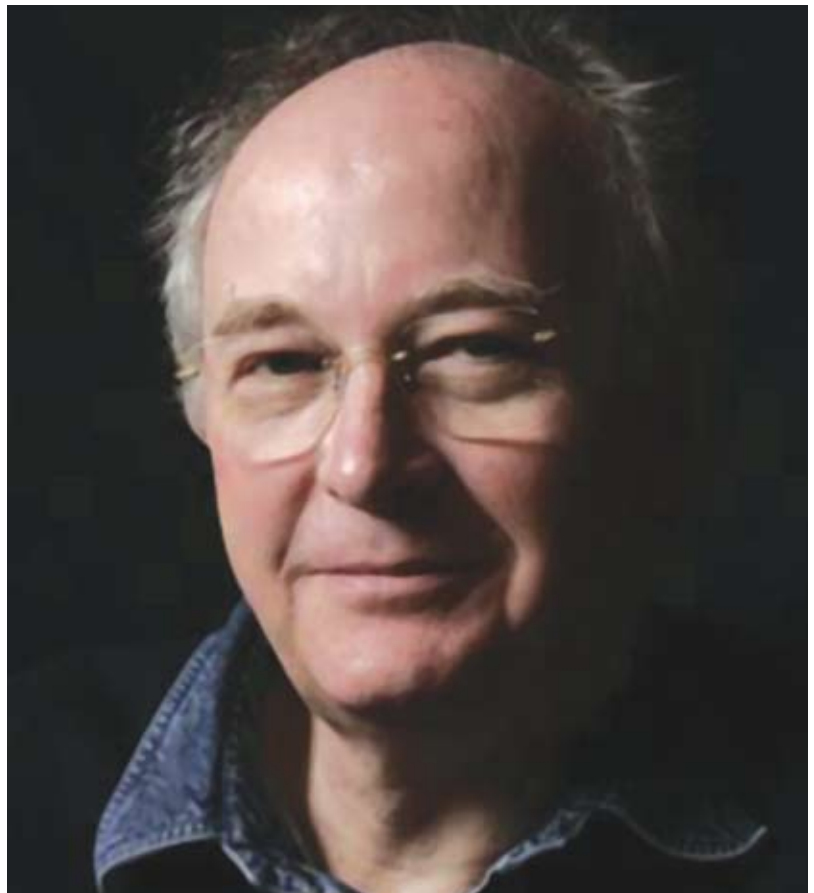


Photo by Wolf Maarfoh



Because in the normal course of life we depend on knowing which attitude it's appropriate to take to the stories we hear. A witness in court might be telling a lie, and the jury might believe him; but they don't think that he's talking in metaphor. If the prosecuting counsel says 'Tell the court what you saw the accused do,' and the witness says 'He stuck a knife in the victim's heart,' the jury isn't expected to understand this as meaning 'I saw him write a savage review of the victim's latest book'. The jury is there to decide whether or not the statement is true, but not what kind of statement it is. It's supposed to be a literal one.

Now we don't know whether the first people who listened to the Bumba story thought it was literally true. Maybe they did. But I think that if people have evolved to the point where they can tell stories at all, they've already got a fairly sophisticated mental world in place, in which they know the difference between what's literal and what's figurative. After all, every one of the Boshongo people must at some point have eaten a piece of dead wildebeest or something that didn't agree with them, and the consequences of that would have looked nothing like the sun, the moon, the stars and the animals and so on. So they were capable of thinking that Bumba's belly-

fundamentalists insist that there is no such thing as analogy or metaphor

ache and its results were like theirs in some ways but unlike them in others: they were capable of thinking in analogy or metaphor.

As long as that mental capacity persists, human beings are able to think about their world and describe it in more ways than one, and a very great gift that is. At the high point of what we might call the Bumba tendency, we find the sublime poetry of Milton's account of the creation in *Paradise Lost*. Milton pictures the angel Raphael talking to Adam and Eve and telling them what happened before they themselves were created, and does it in words that celebrate the sensuous physical beauty of the world so vividly that it's impossible, for this atheist at least, to withhold a rush of imaginative empathy. I know it isn't literally true, and yet I can enjoy it to the full. Most of us are capable of that sort of mental double vision, and that capacity can't only have evolved last week. I think it's as ancient as language and as humanity itself.

The trouble comes when the fundamentalists insist that there is no such thing as analogy or metaphor, or else that they are wicked or Satanic, and that there must only be a literal understanding of stories. The Bible is literally true. The world was created in six days. The Kansas Board of Education says so. The worshippers of Bumba, as far as we know, haven't developed this modern perversion, this modern limitation on the meaning

of narrative; it's only the worshippers of Yahweh and Allah who are as silly as that.

The delight for me in the account Professor Hawking gave us tonight, and has given us in his marvellous book, *A Brief History of Time*, is that we can both listen to it with wonder and take it literally. It's a tale of heroic endeavour, of intellectual daring and imaginative brilliance without parallel, and those people like me who are in the business of playing variations on the Bumba story, and trying to get as close to the Milton end of the spectrum as our talent will let us, can only take off our hats and salute the storytelling of those like Professor Hawking – those who not only tell the story, but who themselves played a part in the events: who uncovered a corner of the mystery, who shone a light into the darkness and revealed something that no-one had ever seen before.

The sort of story that these great heroes (and I'm using the word carefully and accurately) – that these great heroes of modern science tell does have one thing in common, and I mean in a technical, structural sense, with stories of the Bumba sort. And that has to do with how they end. Most stories that we read in novels or fairy tales, or see in films and plays, are shaped with a conclusion in mind. The events are all arranged to lead up to 'And they lived happily ever after'. Or 'Reader, I married him'. Or the last sentence of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*: 'The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which'.

Stories of that kind take us on a journey through harmonies and tensions and releases and discords and finally we come to a resolution. The story's done; all the ends are tied up; there's no more to be said.

But the stories that both religion and science tell us about our origins don't do that. There isn't that sense of cadence and finality that we have at the end of a play or novel, or the aesthetic and moral closure we feel at the end of one of the classic fairy tales. Stories about origins don't have that sort of determined ending. The religious kind of origin-story might tell us that we were brought forth by a great father in the sky, or in the case of Bumba by a great gurgitator, and they usually go on to put us in some kind of relationship with our creator. We are his children. We owe him gratitude and worship and obedience. The other kind of origin-story, the scientific kind, tells us about the development of matter from the first moments of the universe, the formation of atoms, the way atoms join with other atoms to form more complex structures that eventually give rise to life, and how life itself evolves by means of natural selection. We are the children of the sky-god, or we are made of the same material as the stars.

Either way, stories like this tell us how we got here: but then they say, in effect, 'The story continues, and the rest is up to you'.

And whether or not we know this, whether or not we like it, that puts us in a moral relationship with the thing we came from, too, whether that's God or whether it's nature. The God stories go on to make this quite explicit: do this, believe that. The stories of science have moral consequences too, but they convey them more subtly, by implication; we might say more democratically. They depend on our contribution, on our making the effort to understand and concur.

The implication is that true stories are worth telling, and worth getting right, and we have to behave honestly towards them and to the process of doing science in the first place. It's only through honesty and courage that science can work at all. The Ptolemaic understanding of the solar system was undermined and corrected by the constant pressure of more and more honest reporting: 'Yes, we know the planets are supposed to go round the earth in perfect circles, but really, if you look, you don't see that. You see this instead. Now why do you think that could be? What's actually going on up there?'

So we have the courage of such as Galileo and the other victims of persecution and fearful closed-mindedness. I was very glad to hear that Professor Hawking escaped the clutches of the Inquisition during his visit to the Vatican; four hundred years ago, he would not have done, and in the context of the time scales we've been hearing about tonight, four hundred years is the merest flicker of an instant. We sometimes forget how lucky we are to live in this little bubble of time which is still warmed, you could say, by the background radiation from the Enlightenment. We're privileged today to be able to hear the words of Professor Hawking without having to meet in secret, without having to depend on passwords and disguises, without the danger of betrayal and arrest and torture; and that is not only because of the intellectual brilliance of the great heroes of science, both past and present, but because of their valour too.

Professor Hawking ended his lecture with a survey of the current state of cosmology, and the prediction that we are getting close to answering the age-old questions 'Why are we here? Where did we come from?' Some people are rather afraid of thinking that there might be a final answer to those questions; they think it will take all the mystery and delight out of the universe. I think they could hardly be more wrong. The more we discover, the more wondrous the universe seems to be, and if we are here to observe it and wonder at it, then we are very much part of what it is. And there is no shortage of important questions. Once we know where we come from, we might find that our attention turns to questions like 'Where are we going? What shall we do?'

The story continues, and the rest is up to us. I'm immensely grateful to science, and to Stephen Hawking in particular, for illuminating our path to the present day with such brilliant clarity, such intellectual daring, and such wit.

Dennis Sciama Memorial Lecture

Professor Stephen Hawking delivers the Dennis Sciama Memorial Lecture on the beginning of the universe.



EMPIC

'We are getting close to answering the age-old questions: Why are we here? Where did we come from?' said Professor Stephen Hawking, delivering the Dennis Sciama Memorial Lecture last month. He gave his lecture to a packed Martin Wood Lecture Theatre, in Oxford's Physics Department. Also, via a live audio-visual link, the lecture was broadcast to additional audiences in the neighbouring Lindemann Lecture Theatre and at SISSA in Trieste, Italy.

Professor Hawking reviewed some historical ideas about the origin of the universe – the debate as to whether there was a beginning at all or whether the universe had existed forever.

He described how the general theory of relativity and the discovery of the expansion of the universe provoked conceptual changes, which meant that the idea of an ever existing, everlasting universe was no longer tenable.

Professor Hawking explained: 'We can get rid of the problem of time having a beginning in a similar way in which we got rid of the edge of the world. Suppose the beginning of the universe was like the South Pole of the earth. As one moves north, the circles of constant latitude, representing the size of the universe, would expand. To ask what happened before the beginning of the universe would become a meaningless question just like asking what is south of the South Pole.'

According to his theory, the creation of the universe would be down to spontaneous quantum creation and he likened the process to that of bubbles appearing and bursting, corresponding to mini universes that expand and collapse. Only those which grew to a certain size would be safe from recollapse and would continue to expand at an ever increasing rate.

The memorial lectures are an occasional series in honour of Dennis Sciama (1926-1999), the eminent astrophysicist who worked at Cambridge, Oxford and Trieste. Stephen Hawking, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, was one of his early students at Cambridge.

Article reproduced from Oxford Blueprint, Volume 6 Issue 8, 16 March 2006.

The Invisible Hand Now Has An Invisible Mouse



Jon Gisby has spent much of the last ten years working for leading internet businesses in Europe, including the BBC, Freeserve and France Telecom. He's now at Yahoo! where he runs online sites and services for around 40 million users across Europe. He offers his views on what has happened in this arena over the last ten years, why teenagers would rather give up TV than their PC and what the virtual future holds.

By Jon Gisby
(1990, History)

Over the last ten years around a billion people have gained access to the internet, and Yahoo! reaches about 500 million of them. Having worked in the online industry for much of that time I'm as familiar as anyone with the cycles of hype that have accompanied this growth, from the crazy days of the dotcom boom to the current fixation with Web 2.0. But, even with the limited hindsight we currently enjoy, there are many reasons why I believe that much of the hype is justified.

First, and most obviously, is the speed and scale of the growth in the number of people connected. Although growth in North America is starting to flatten, it continues strongly in Europe and Asia is roaring ahead. Efforts are also under way to extend online access into developing economies, with the recent unveiling of a working \$100 laptop (www.laptop.org) being perhaps the best example.

People are also spending increasing amounts of time online. In developed markets about 20 percent of 'media consumption' time is being spent online and the internet is diverting attention from TV and print. This trend is set to accelerate as today's teenagers grow up: recent surveys suggest

that the majority of teenagers would give up their TV before sacrificing their PC.

With hundreds of millions of people spending billions of hours online, it's no surprise that the economic and industrial consequences are profound. The ways we shop, work, communicate, find information and receive entertainment are being transformed. So too are the business models, and often the names, of the companies that supply us. Whole new sectors have been created, ranging from the ubiquity of search advertising (which was invented by a company that Yahoo! now owns), to the creation of new trading markets such as eBay, and to the more niche business of online gaming where large virtual communities have been created



Photo by Toby Meadlen.

whose populations and GDP per head rival those of some countries. The economic consequences of this should not be surprising: new players have emerged and old players have often found it hard to adjust. But the net economic result seems to have been positive: the combined market value of internet companies today greatly exceeds their value at the height of the bubble a mere five years ago.

The Next Ten Years

So what next? I'm wary of making predictions: the changes are so fast and fundamental, and the internet makes it increasingly easy to dig up old predictions that were laughably wide of the mark.

But there are many trends that have not yet played out fully: the continued growth in online advertising, the use of online as a distribution platform for broadcasters and publishers, and the ever increasing availability of archive content (from out-of-circulation recordings made available through Yahoo! Music, to the digitisation of the contents of the Bodleian). We are also seeing rapid growth in the mobile internet, and in services that enable personalised consumption and aggregation, and the impact of 'free' phone calls via the internet will be great for consumers and disruptive for suppliers.

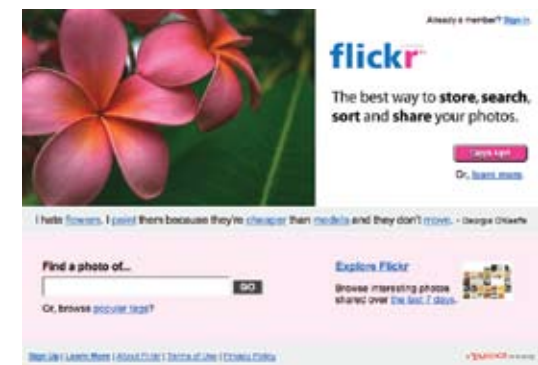
But for me the most interesting and unpredictable trend is the rise in importance of invisible friends: harnessing the power of the internet to connect individuals around the world.

User-Generated Content

The internet has long been a forum for individuals to publish and share their own content, be it commentary, photos, diaries, or pages for clubs, organisations or small businesses. But three new trends indicate some surprising ways forward.

The first concerns weblogs, or blogs for short. I live in a small town in Hertfordshire, and we recently had the first power cut that any of us could remember. Half the town was dark for several hours one winter evening. I was surprised the next day to find that there were a dozen or so blogs written by people who had been affected. What's more, some of them were earning money from advertisers specific to our town. These typify many of the 50 million blogs that have been set up over the last few years by individuals who are keen to publish their views, opinions or news to the 1 billion or so people who can access them. Suddenly anyone can become an editor, publisher or campaign organiser. Not convinced? South Korea is the most internet-enabled society on earth, and more than half the adult population now has a blog, including more than ninety per cent of people in their twenties. If my home town was in South Korea it would have had 15,000 people blogging about the power cut.

The second trend is focused on photos and video. While most photos on the internet are uploaded to be shared between family and friends, some



www.flickr.com
flickr is a photo sharing site.

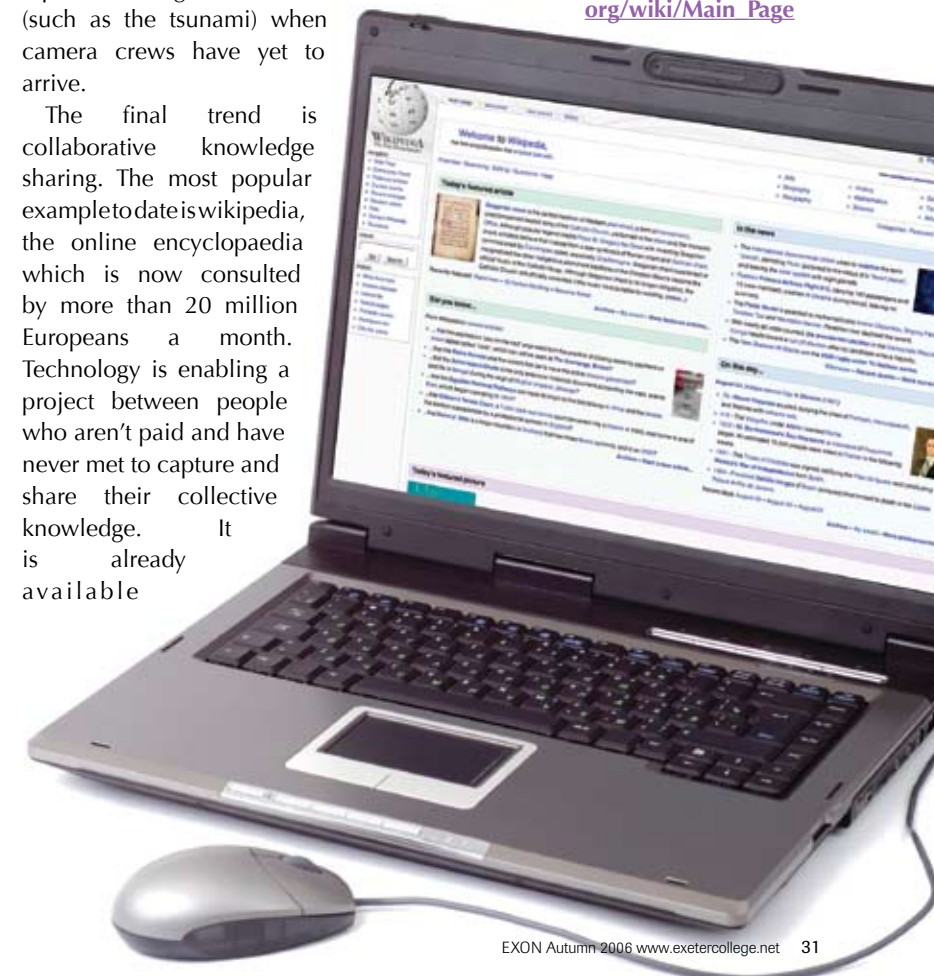
people are taking photos to share with the world. Last year Yahoo! acquired a photo site called flickr (www.flickr.com) where millions of users are publishing photos for the world to see. These range from the beautiful or sometimes quirky photos that you might see in a photography club competition, to photo journalism. Flickr was the one of the main sources for the media for photos of the London bombings, and there were many Flickr users in St Peter's Square during the Pope's funeral uploading photos on the spot. As broadband kicks in, exactly the same thing is happening with video: anyone can

the most interesting and unpredictable trend is the rise of invisible friends

now upload video to Yahoo! and 'broadcast' to the world. Imagine how powerful this could become to help new entertainers to find an audience, or to report breaking news events (such as the tsunami) when camera crews have yet to arrive.

The final trend is collaborative knowledge sharing. The most popular example today is wikipedia, the online encyclopaedia which is now consulted by more than 20 million Europeans a month. Technology is enabling a project between people who aren't paid and have never met to capture and share their collective knowledge. It is already available

These days teenagers would rather give up their TV than their PC. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page





The survey at www.fluid-lives.com.

in more than 100 languages, and it stands comparison well in scope and accuracy with the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Invisible Friends: the Power Of Connections

Communications such as email, chat, instant messages and now voice and video connect people in powerful new ways. One of the most moving emails I have had from a customer was from a daughter who had been using our online voice product to talk to her sick mother in rural China. For all of us, connecting with our loved ones produces the most important 'content' in our lives.

But the internet is also starting to realise its potential to connect individuals who don't know each other. Yahoo! recently participated in a global survey (available at www.fluid-lives.com) which found that

virtual communities whose populations and GDP rival those of some countries

the majority of broadband users believe that they will make a good friend whom they will never meet. That's an extraordinary thought, but entirely consistent with what consumers are doing: connecting with like-minded people from all over the world.

Connecting users together is also enabling powerful new services to be built. Some products are now able to draw on the preferences and recommendations of users to benefit others. Amazon was a pioneer here, but in a world of almost infinite content, it has applications way beyond books. Yahoo! Music now has many billions of user recommendations which helps match your musical tastes to that of others, and thus you discover new music. Imagine that applied to television schedules, or travel destinations, or dating, or choices of university course: democratising and personalising a world of infinite choice.

Finally, in a world where search will probably reach technological limits in its ability to find relevant content, we need something new: people. We have recently launched a service called Yahoo! Answers


where, instead of searching for information, you can ask questions of the millions of people who use Yahoo!. In the last few weeks I have asked questions seeking advice on everything from tadpole food, to recommendations on digital cameras, to whether ITV would be bought, to how to entertain a young family in Dublin and, finally, what polar bears drink. It would take hours to search for all this stuff. But within minutes useful answers from people I've never met have been emailed to my inbox. This approach has already proved very powerful in parts of Asia where it is becoming prevalent alongside traditional search engines.

The new revolution

A recent article in the *Guardian* made the comparison between the rise of search engines and the coming of the railways. The parallels are interesting. In the decades after the railways came, contemporaries were aware of their importance and potential but were not yet able to foresee that they would enable such things as suburbs and world wars. Nor, therefore, were they able to understand the full scope of their social, economic and political consequences. Mass access to the internet is only ten years old and we have only begun to glimpse its significance.

Another parallel, cited in a lecture I attended at MIT's Media Lab, is also instructive. In the early days of the computer industry, users relied on a single, high-powered mainframe pumping out information to a series of dumb terminals. An intelligent PC on every desktop, linked together through networks, has proved to be a more flexible and powerful model. Within a few years the monolithic computers at the centre had become redundant.

Translate this example into the world of information. For most of the last thousand years most knowledge has been created, controlled and distributed by relatively few individuals and institutions: the church, the state, the universities, the media. But the internet is empowering individuals to find, use, share and expand knowledge for themselves both as individuals and in groups. Errors and scandals in public life can be exposed within hours. Pressure groups and campaigns can mobilise millions. Experts, such as doctors, can be challenged by individuals who have access to the same sources of information. I'm sure that our tastes, decisions and values will continue to be shaped by experts whom we trust, but they will also be guided by the self-interested serendipity of millions of strangers we will never meet. Rather like getting recommendations from a few million people, just like us, in the pub.

So Adam Smith's invisible hand now operates an invisible mouse, wielded by invisible friends, many of whom now feel part of an increasingly connected and interdependent global community. For anyone who believes in the benefits of harnessing our collective wisdom or the freedom to express and share ideas these are heady times. 

Branding and Marketing A Nation's Art Collection



Photos supplied by Danielle Chidlow from the National Gallery

How can the National Gallery expand its audience and stay relevant in a changing contemporary world? Danielle Chidlow spent seven years working in advertising at Saatchi & Saatchi and M&C Saatchi and is now Head of Communications at the National Gallery.

By Danielle Chidlow (néé McDonald)
(1995, MSt Byzantine Studies)

In 1824 a decision was made by the House of Commons to purchase the picture collection of a banker named John Julius Angerstein. The intention was to form a new national collection and this gave rise to the National Gallery, housing one of the world's finest collections of Western European paintings from the mid 13th century to 1900. In terms of telling the story of Western Art the National Gallery's collection is unparalleled in its combination of breadth and quality. There are many larger collections in the world, but few so choice in their makeup; the 'stars' include Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers', Constable's 'The Hay Wain', Turner's 'The Fighting Temeraire' (recently voted The Nation's Greatest Painting in a BBC Radio 4 Today Programme Poll) and other works by the likes of Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Canaletto, Monet, Renoir, Cézanne and many, many more. So, unlike numerous European collections that were formed through State appropriation of a monarch's private pictures, The National Gallery was very consciously established for the benefit of the British public. The Trafalgar Square site was chosen for the construction of the gallery building,

and it was no accident that this site was situated at the crossroads of London, where the collection would be accessible to the rich people travelling from West London in their carriages, and on foot to the poor of the East End. The notion of the Gallery being established for the benefit of the public is clearly stated in this extract from a letter to the National Gallery Site Commission in the late 1820's: 'The existence of the pictures is not the end of the collection, but a means only to give the people an ennobling enjoyment...'

The language sounds rather old fashioned, but the sentiment is not. Therefore, when the National Gallery, along with the other national collections, comes under increasing pressure from the current Department for Culture, Media and Sport to increase and expand audiences, in return for funding, to include social groups that are currently under-represented, this is an aim already firmly rooted in its history. It is its *raison d'être*.

However the situation that we now face at the National Gallery is that our paintings' predominantly religious or mythological subject matters, and different aesthetic, are becoming unfamiliar in an increasingly secular society and one where a 'classical' education is more and more unusual. It is therefore not surprising that

The National Gallery,
Trafalgar Square,
London.



the Gallery is viewed by some as overly traditional, conservative and, to an extent, irrelevant to their lives. This situation, coupled with the increasing pressure on people's time, the plethora of 'easier' entertainment alternatives, and the view amongst some that the National Gallery is intimidating and 'not for them', has led to a lack of awareness of the Gallery. I don't mean to sound too 'doom and gloom' – last year nearly 5 million people came through our doors, making us the second most visited attraction in Britain (the first being Blackpool Pleasure Beach!) – but what we need to ensure is that we are not just appealing to our existing, large,

every institution, like it or not, has a 'brand' or an image

and very loyal audience. I have already mentioned that museums and galleries are under increasing pressure from government policy, and thus compete with one another regarding the requirements for diversity, access and education. But we're inevitably competing with one another on other levels also: for funding; media attention; sponsorship; and staff, as well as for the attention of the public who have less time, more choice and who are increasingly 'brand aware'. So herein lies the necessity for the National Gallery to act. We can't simply open our doors and expect people to pour in. It's essential that we actively promote the institution and 'manage' the Gallery's image so that more people in Britain feel pride in 'their' collection.

Danielle Chidlow, Head of Communications at the National Gallery.

But this notion clearly demands overt and




unashamed marketing activity, which is a hotly debated topic in the non-commercial and academically-led world of galleries and museums. Some galleries have indeed responded to this need with branding and marketing activity, for example Tate Modern and the V&A now promote themselves as destinations quite apart from their collections. Tate Modern's restaurants and bars operate as attractions in themselves, as do the V&A's late night extravaganzas. We at the National Gallery have discussed, at length, the merits of deliberate branding (which some feel is too 'commercial' for an institution such as ours) and whether certain types of promotional activity constitute increasing access or 'dumbing down'. However the truth of the matter is that every institution, like it or not, has a 'brand' or image. The public makes up its mind about companies or products based on the knowledge it has. Sometimes that knowledge is extremely limited, but it doesn't stop people having an opinion. It never has. So the question of whether or not to brand or market something, in this case a national collection, is really one of whether or not an institution chooses to manage the public's impression of them. It's much easier to do this when you are starting from scratch and thus are unencumbered by history – the development of the Tate Modern brand being an extremely successful example. It's trickier when working with a 200 year old institution – the Tate Modern branding being imposed on our beloved Tate Britain being a case in point. In such a situation, as at the National Gallery, where an institution has a long and rich history, one has to be true to it. And aside from the history of a place, there is inevitably an incredibly loyal and vocal following, comprising groups such as visitors, staff and Trustees. One 'fiddles' with an institution such as this at one's peril. It became clear to us that the key to success was to ensure that the new or updated image of the National Gallery sat comfortably with these audiences as well as attracting new ones. And the way to do this was to ensure that at the heart of any articulation of the Gallery's message, or projection of its image, was a core, irrefutable truth about the institution. This could then help guide how we should position the Gallery to the wider public, what we would offer visitors and how we could differentiate the Gallery from our competitors, while retaining curatorial integrity and intellectual rigour at the heart of everything we do.

We chose to base the National Gallery's communications around the fact that the Gallery is unique in the significant experiences it offers to its visitors. Not only does it inspire varied and profound responses and emotions from people, but these emotions are also portrayed in the pictures themselves. Our pictures tell stories of love, war, passion, death, betrayal, excess – these and many more can be found on the walls of the National Gallery. And of course these subjects, being the very 'stuff of humanity', are as relevant now as

the day they were painted. They are timeless tales. With this in mind, I feel that for the Gallery to seem relevant and attractive to future generations we simply need to help provide people with a 'way in' to the pictures, to understand their stories, to empathise with them and thus develop the means to enjoy them. And we need to be consistent in doing this. So whether we are launching an advertising campaign to promote the Gallery's permanent collection, or marketing a particular exhibition or a film season, organising a programme of lunchtime lectures, or running story time sessions with young children, our objective is always to make people aware of the richness of the experiences they might encounter in the Gallery.

Reaching new audiences and changing their

perceptions is a tough challenge, and one that isn't usually achieved overnight. Directors and Trustees may yearn for instant results. But a commitment on their part is essential if we are to be able to communicate a consistent message over time and thus achieve our goals. This is an ongoing challenge. However our hope is that the founding principle of the National Gallery, created for the 'ennobling enjoyment' of the people, is always evident in all that the Gallery does – in the hanging of the collection, in its exhibition programming, its education programmes and in how it communicates with people about these things. Then we will know that we have risen to the challenge set out in 1824 which, like the pictures themselves, is as important and relevant now as it was then. 




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Marketing material for the National Gallery, created for the 'ennobling enjoyment' of the people.



Photo by Micha Hesse (2005, Chemistry)

The Rise of the Global Meritocracy – Why Universities are the Key to Economic Success

Above, the Fellows' Garden at Exeter receives a smattering of snow.

In a world where universities are having to re-invent themselves yet again, Frances Cairncross provides some insights into their increasingly international focus and their place in the global economy.

By Frances Cairncross
(Rector)

Not many successful public companies have been in existence for more than a century. But the world's top universities have shown an extraordinary ability to reinvent themselves and to survive. Among the global top ten, as measured by the league table compiled by Shanghai's Jiao Tong University, only one – CalTech – is a child of the 20th century. Even though 18th century Yale dropped to 11th place, the 2005 top ten included two universities, Oxford and Cambridge, in continuous existence since the early Middle Ages; and three relics of the 17th and 18th centuries – Harvard, Princeton and Columbia.

Now the world's most successful universities, Oxford included, are re-inventing themselves. In the process, they are becoming even more important than individual companies in the competitiveness of nations. To talk about universities as economic entities makes many people squirm. But top universities produce the key ingredient of economic competition: intellectual capital. Knowledge is not

just power; it is also wealth and welfare, health and human happiness. Universities both discover and sift knowledge, and develop in the young the power to use it effectively.

All around the world, the impact of knowledge and ideas is becoming more important for the economy. For the individual, in America, for instance, the number of jobs requiring a higher degree has risen in the past decade at roughly twice the pace of those needing only on-the-job training. The real median earnings of male college graduates have risen by about 15% in the past quarter century, whereas the earnings of high-school graduates have declined 10%.

The best universities perform two functions crucial to the knowledge economy: they train undergraduates and graduates; and they undertake research. Increasingly, universities also give birth to small businesses which commercialise and market the fruits of those two activities, as Isis Innovation does in Oxford. All these roles are widely discussed. But the best universities also increasingly perform another highly important

function: they suck in young talent from around the world. They are becoming the key recruitment agencies of global talent.

More and more young people want to have at least part of their higher education abroad. The number of people studying abroad has doubled in the past two decades, to 2.1 million. Almost all of these go to universities in one of five wealthy countries: the United States, followed by Britain, Germany, France and Australia. Given the importance of English in the transfer and application of knowledge, it is no wonder that three of the top five countries speak English; and indeed, Continental European universities increasingly offer courses in English, partly to attract foreign students. The hunger for a foreign education is greatest in Asia, from where almost half of all overseas students come. By far the largest group is Chinese: one in eight overseas students comes from China.

For universities, the need to attract foreign students frequently began as a way of raising revenues. That has been especially true in the United States, Britain and Australia, where universities have comparative freedom to act competitively; and, in the case of Britain and Australia, have set higher fees for foreign than for domestic students. In such countries, higher education has increasingly become a notable 'export' industry in its own right. In Australia and New Zealand, 'exports' of educational services ranked third in terms of total services exported in 2003.

Foreign students also sometimes bring academic benefits to universities. They may bring new ideas and approaches to research. But more significantly, they help to keep alive departments that would otherwise lack students. At some British universities, the undergraduates studying some science subjects come almost entirely from overseas. Without them, the department would close.

But attracting foreign students has two long-term economic advantages for the countries to which they come. First, it is at university that young people build the first network of contacts that will see them into their careers. In the course of doing – say – a doctorate, students will meet people in their field of specialism, and will use equipment and consult books produced in the country where they study. When they return to their own country, these contacts and experiences will continue to influence them in many subtle ways. If they end up controlling substantial budgets, it will direct their purchasing and investment decisions.

Secondly, a significant proportion of foreign students remain for at least part of their career in the country that has educated them. Sometimes, this is deliberate: a student visa offers a much higher chance for a youngster from a developing country to gain permission to enter a wealthy country than do most immigration paths; and, once educated, a better chance to be allowed to stay on as a skilled migrant. But, deliberate or not, the impact on the receiving country's competitiveness may be

disproportionate. The high-technology industries of California have thrived to a great extent thanks to the supply of clever Chinese and Indians, many of whom first came to the state to study at one of its outstanding universities.

The success of American universities in attracting the brightest youngsters from around the world will be the underpinning of American economic success in the coming century. One other country has spotted the power of this approach and is trying to emulate it as a deliberate act of policy. Singapore now aims to become an educational hub in Asia. It hopes this approach will boost the island's skills base. In effect, a university degree can act as a four-year immigration interview. Such a way of looking at universities is only just beginning to creep into European minds. Tony Blair's speech to the European Parliament in Strasbourg in October 2005 hinted at it, when he argued that 'Our university sector is not competing in the way it needs to with America.' For most Continental Europeans, the idea that universities should see themselves as engaged in international competition is a novel thought.

And indeed, as universities go down this road they will face an increasing policy dilemma. A university education is a route to higher earnings, and a degree from a top university is a route to top earnings. So universities are tools not just

higher education has increasingly become a notable 'export' industry

of international competition, but also of social engineering. Governments worry about ensuring that a university education is accessible to all their citizens who can benefit from it. Given that governments pay a substantial part of the costs of university education everywhere, they have a considerable say in how universities behave.

So governments and universities face a dilemma. Is their first duty to educate the brightest, wherever they come from? Or is the first role of universities to provide a service for the young people of their own country? Those goals will clash, the more university places at the very best universities go to foreign students. They will generate a new sort of protectionist pressure, as parents clamour for their children to have protected access to top universities, and not be squeezed out by brighter students from overseas. It will be important to fight such protectionism, and to focus on the fact that talent is increasingly mobile. Educating the young is one of the best ways to attract talent and, with luck, to keep it.

An earlier version of this article by Frances Cairncross appeared in *Global Agenda*, the magazine of the World Economic Forum.



Editor

By Christopher Kirwan
(ex-Fellow in Philosophy)

We are now in the fifth year of this feature, and I, Christopher Kirwan, ex-Fellow in Philosophy, am still your editor of it. I reckon that the feature is still struggling a bit; but I want it to carry on and IMPROVE. Whether it should improve at the editorial end I cannot say—you readers must tell me. But I know it can improve at the contributors' end, if more of you send me news. The good men and women who have contributed below, and their precursors since 2002, show you the sort of thing we like you to share on the printed page. Make a note to do so next year! Better still, draft a piece for next year now, and send it in as soon as you wish. Preferably imitate the expansive entries. I do some editing of contributions, but not much. Some of what we receive is for the Exeter College Register only, and is not printed here: no matter, it is very welcome.

Send your contribution not to me, but to Exon News from Old Members, The Development Office, Exeter College, Oxford OX1 3DP, UK development@exeter.ox.ac.uk. Please note that if you use the insert enclosed, we publish only what you report on it as News from Old Members, not (unless you request it) your information on the Old Members Contact Form. Entries are listed by matriculation years. To contact Old Members who have not listed an email address get in touch with the Development Office.



Gayle Lazda (2004, English)

News from Old Members

1941

Philip A. Rooksby (1949) reports that 'my elder brother Dr RL Rooksby (1941–2 and 1946–8) is living in Freemantle, Western Australia. He retired some years ago from his post as Acting Professor at the University of Western Australia.'

1945

Warm congratulations to **Emeritus Professor Donald Anthony Low** on his AO (Officer of the Order of Australia) which, as he says, is senior to Britain's CB, CBE etc. It was awarded for services to 'scholarship and learning through the study of history focussed on Asia, particularly South Asia, East Africa and broader Commonwealth history'. He writes that he continues to be grateful for his Exeter Honorary Fellowship, and for 'my original Open Scholarship and Amelia Jackson Senior Studentship'.

1954

I am delighted to have **Dr GS Spathis's** permission to print here a letter he wrote to the Rector early in 2006. 'I thought it might entertain you to know that I have at last achieved a First Class degree, which the College had presumably hoped I would attain when it awarded me an Open Scholarship to read Medicine in 1954 (and which it probably continued to expect me to get in 1957; and which, frankly, I thought I had achieved – at least during the time between the examination and the publication of the results!).

'Unfortunately, it can't be included in the Norrington Table since it is from the Open University. But it was still quite pleasing to be awarded it fifty despite increasing senility – short-term memory (the text-reading today is just as fresh instructive as when I annotated it, yesterday), slower cognition, diminished intellectual reach – as refusal to revise, a continuing to answer the questions the should have asked rather less interesting ones they did, previous profound ignorance of (Humanities and Classical

my failure in 1957 was partly due to a fascination with the subject (I

had read widely, mostly under my tutor's direction), extensive and prolonged revision (since then, I have never again revised more than twenty-four hours for an examination), and the fact that the questions set included topics that intrigued me and which I had thought long and hard about!

'But, in the long term, I suppose I should be glad to have fallen into the booby-trap the examiners had (inadvertently) set. Had I got my First then, I would almost certainly have stayed on and worked for a DPhil (with Dr Coxon's support, who was trying to get me an MRS studentship) and if successful, would probably have continued in Physiology and so missed a fascinating and hugely enjoyable career as a consultant physician – and would probably have failed to be elected FRS anyway! In that sense, even failure to me was perhaps rewarding; while the First now might serve as a sort of ultimate justification for the judgement of Dr Barrow and the College who awarded me the Scholarship? Floreat Exon!'

1956

In this year too congratulations are very much in order. **Pedro Pablo Kuczynski** writes that he became Prime Minister of Peru in August 2005, after having served for three years as Economy and Finance Minister. nalppk@yahoo.com

Andrew Tracey was awarded a PhD (Hons) at the University of KwaZulu/Natal, Durban, in 1996. a.tracey@ru.ac.za

1960

Dr Gerald MD Howat tells us that he has his autobiography *Cricket All My Life* published by Methuen in 2006.

1963

Richard Reid, 'encouraged (or shamed) by the Editor's comments', i.e. my last year's plea for more contributions, reports: 'Fifteen years or so after leaving Exeter in 1966 I fulfilled almost exactly Dermot Roaf's prophecy. When I said after Schools that I wanted to work with computers, he predicted that I would be computer manager at 35 and would wonder what to do next. He was right. Subsequent periods

as a management consultant, as an IT manager in an international company including three happy years on the Rhine, and as an independent contractor allowed me to retire at 57 with enough for our needs. I never aspired to join the great and good on committees, and my subsequent career as a voluntary worker developed by chance. I started as a driver with my local Volunteer Bureau, thinking it would occupy me until something more substantial came along. Three years later I am still working for Maidstone's voluntary transport scheme as driver, co-ordinator, software developer, and – reluctantly, as someone who stopped being a technician about 30 years ago – de facto computer network manager. My wife, Pat, whom I met in 1968 and married in 1969, now works with me as a driver. Our daughter Margaret read History of Art at the Courtauld Institute and is Acting Curator of Dulwich Picture Gallery. Our tiny sailing boat, which we bought when I retired, has to take second place to the transport scheme, but we enjoy trips with her to the Broads as well as outings from her Medway mooring. When I ask myself whether I should be satisfied with this modest outcome, I cite Luke 10:37 and re-read Kipling's *The Sons of Martha*.'

1965

Philip Slayton reports the publication of *Lawyers Gone Bad: money, sex and madness in Canada's legal profession* by Penguin in 2006. Philip, incidentally, read PPE but was among the first to be allowed by new University regulations to avoid its premier subject Philosophy – and therefore me! (The press regularly spells PPE out as 'Politics, Philosophy and Economics': not the legal Oxford order.) philipslayton@sympatico.ca

1968

I am very sincerely pleased (though should I, a philosopher, be proud?) that my old pupil **James Mark Haeffner's** book *Dictionary of Alchemy*, published by Harper Collins in 1991, has advanced to a 3rd edition in 2005.

1971

Jonathan Hunt reports: 'I have recently taken early retirement from the Open University, where I have worked for 25 years. In 2004 I gave Worcester College's

annual Wilkinson Lecture on Jocelyn Brooke, author of *The Military Orchid* (1948), whose biography I am writing.'

Peter Willett obtained his degree in Chemistry from Exeter in 1975 and then went to the Department of Information Studies, University of Sheffield, where he obtained an MSc in Information Studies. 'Following doctoral and post-doctoral research on computer techniques for the processing of databases of chemical reactions,' he writes, 'I joined the staff there as a Lecturer in Information Science in 1979. I was awarded a Personal Chair in 1991 and a DSc in 1997, and am currently the Head of the Department. I have received several awards for my research into computer techniques for processing databases of textual, chemical and biological information, most recently the 2005 Award for Computers in Chemical and Pharmaceutical Research of the American Chemical Society for my contributions to the development of chemoinformatics. I am in *Who's Who*, and am on the editorial boards of three international journals. pwillett@sheffield.ac.uk

1983

Dominic Berry of the School of Classics, University of Leeds, has been appointed Senior Lecturer in Classics at the University of Edinburgh from September 2006.

1984

Rosalind Henwood (née Kirby), with her husband Nick and daughters Lydia (12) and Elizabeth (9), returned to Britain in summer 2004 after ten years in Nepal. 'We have now [October 2005] moved to Leicester to pursue medical and Christian work among the Asian community. We are exploring fresh expressions of church, see www.hopehamiltonchurch.org.uk'. henwood@henwoodfamily.co.uk

1986

Carol Robertson (née Gay) was married to Ian Robertson in Cambridge on 15 January 2005. Their son James Stephen Robertson was born on 15 March 2005.

1987

Ian Threadgill has recently returned to Oxford. 'Still practising meditation and chi kung. Have written a book on relaxation,

as yet unpublished.' writetoian@yahoo.co.uk

1989

Justin Brett was elected to the General Synod in October 2005 – term runs until 2010 – representing the Diocese of Oxford. justin.brett@gmail.com

1990

William Wadsworth has been appointed Lecturer in Physics at the University of Bath. His Royal Society University Research Fellowship is extended to 2009. On 23 July 2005 he married Judith Fox (Christ Church, 1989) in Monmouth, S. Wales.

1993

Sietske Riemersma reports that she is married to Henk Leerssen, and has two daughters, Maïke (2002) and Sophie (2003). s.riemersma@laborpath.nl

Merle Tönnies has been Professor of English Literature at the University of Paderborn since October 2005.

1995

Danielle Chidlow (née McDonald) has 'spent a number of years working in advertising in London' and returned to her Art History roots by working at the National Gallery, where she oversees all marketing activity and has led a strategic review of the Gallery's 'brand' (see page 33). She was married in Southwark cathedral, London, on 20 August 2004 to David Chidlow, a screenwriter. danielle.chidlow@ng-london.org.uk



Chemistry Then

What was it like to study Chemistry in the late 1950s? Michael Seakins shares some memories of his time at Exeter and his subsequent career in Chemistry in the West Indies.

By Michael Seakins (1956, Chemistry)

After leaving Oxford, Michael Seakins had a career in academia in the West Indies and was active in the Royal Naval Reserve.

I spent a year in the room once occupied by Richard Burton and discovered the fair sex

third year in line to fail) to the bench where I was working and hesitated for two or three minutes. I was initially quite worried until I realised that I did not recognise either of the other fellows on my bench – they must have hardly attended a lecture in all of nine terms! In my fourth year I worked on the low-temperature (270–350 Celsius) reaction of propane with oxygen under the supervision of Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, with whom I continued into a DPhil.

In 1963 I applied for two appointments – one as assistant master at Malvern College and one as a lecturer in Physical Chemistry at the University of the West Indies. I was offered both. The second seemed more adventurous and, as I had been with HMS VIDAL in Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas and Haiti, I opted for UWI Mona (Jamaica) where my wife and I were very happy for 16 years. Anne became a lecturer in the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit, and we had two sons and a daughter. During this time I continued work on paraffin oxidation and also collaborated with the Reader in



Haematology on various aspects of the chemistry of blood, most importantly the oxygen affinity of blood in sicklecell anaemia, culminating in a paper published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation in 1973. By 1979, the level of politically- and drug-inspired violence in Jamaica had become frightening, and we returned to England until 1981, when the Professor of Chemistry at UWI Cave Hill in Barbados asked me to return to the University of the West Indies, and I spent the next 14 years on the Cave Hill campus. I was retired in 1995 but, from 1998 until 2005 was the first-ever archivist of the Barbados Defence Force. I had been actively involved in the Royal Naval Reserve, 1956–63 and 1979–1981, the Jamaica Coast Guard Reserve, 1964–79, and the Barbados Coast Guard Reserve, 1981–95, having the honour of commanding both of the Caribbean Reserves.

My Chemistry training came in useful in 1972, in my capacity then as Training Officer of the Reserve. I went to ask the Officer Commanding the Regular Coast Guard for the use of a patrol boat for the weekend training of reservists. The sales manager of the Jamaica Oxygen Company was there and was suggesting that having magnesium anodes on our aluminium patrol boats was a waste of money – we should use zinc anodes that he could supply. I butted in and said: 'Zinc is the proper material for an anode on a steel boat, but it would be a cathode on an aluminium boat and would cause the boat to corrode faster than if nothing was fitted'. 'You may know some fancy academic chemistry, Seakins,' the sales manager said, 'But you know nothing about real life chemistry,' the result of which was that, the next week, with help from a regular sub-lieutenant, and with the use of a glass beaker, an avometer, and rods of steel, zinc, aluminium and magnesium, the sales manager discovered for himself which metal would be an anode with respect to which other metal! ☞

To find out how different it is reading Chemistry at Exeter in 2006, turn to page 5.

Floreat Exon

The 2006 Exeter College Rugby Football Club dinner made a particular effort to reassemble the 1963–64, 1964–65 and 1965–66 sides to mark the 40th anniversary of the latter becoming League Champions – a feat not since replicated by an Exeter team!

By Alison Copeland (Alumni Officer)

An invitation list had been drawn up by the 1965–66 team Captain, Mr Peter Walters, from some old team photos (suitably age-darkened). Sadly, the list could not include Peter Sutch (1963, Modern History) who passed away a few years ago following a highly successful career in Hong Kong. But of the 32 invited, an amazing 26 attended from Australia, South Africa, Canada, USA, Spain, France, Switzerland, Ireland as well as England, Scotland and, of course, Wales.

The evening 'kicked off' with a drinks reception where our diminutive Rector braved the displeasure of 45 large men by informing them of the success of the current women's team. As the champagne ran out, despite the generous contribution from an absent John Weale (1962, Literae Humaniores), it was off to the bar for yet more pre-dinner drinks (well, it was a Rugby reunion). The young side valiantly stayed warm in the freezing cold for an official photo, with a loud rendition of 'Floreat Exon', much to the distress of those attending a concert in the Chapel!

The younger generation provided an impressive Oscars ceremony for stars of the current season.



Left, the Reunion Dinner.

Many wonderful designer outfits were on display (and not just on the ladies' team) and thankfully there were no lachrymose speeches, but a strange rite whereby winners had to drink a mixture (Ribena and lemonade perhaps?) from a plastic helmet or old boot.

After Hall there was a scrum down on the front quad, just for old times sake – no reported injuries – and the revelries continued with all those who felt equal to the delights of an Oxford club braving the sticky floors and underage drinkers. There was a rumour that a certain Old Member demanded an OAP discount from a bouncer and met with short shrift... All the dreadful evidence can be viewed at www.exetercollege.net. Put next year's reunion in your diary now – see the box on the right. ☞

The 2007 Rugby Dinner is on Friday 16 February 2007. We are particularly keen to get back teams from the 1950s and 1970s. Contact the Development Office. Many Old Members from the 1960s rugby teams continue to meet up at Twickenham every year for the Varsity Match at the Fox in Church Street, Twickenham, from noon and again after the match.

Team Histories by Peter Walters (1963, Agriculture) 1963–64

Ian Duncan (1962, Modern Languages) was Captain. In Michaelmas Term we played in the Second Division but were not promoted. In Hilary Term we surprised everyone by getting to the Final of Cuppers. In the final we met St Edmund Hall whose side was full of Blues and Greyhounds. We had only one Blue in Brian King, a South African. We lost the game 19-0 but did not disgrace ourselves putting up a good performance, and but for some early dropped passes might have done even better.

1964–65

John Smith (1962, English) was Captain (an England schoolboy international). In Michaelmas we won the Second Division, without much difficulty. In Hilary we set out determined to get to another Cuppers Final. We made it after a really close semi final against St Johns which we won 3-0. We met Trinity in the Final and went to Ilfley Road determined to win (the game was delayed due to snow). On the day we just didn't click and lost 11-0 (the result is engraved on one of the door surrounds in Trinity front quad). All 15 of the Final side attended the dinner.

1965–66

Peter Walters (1963, Agriculture) was Captain. At last we won something! In Michaelmas we became League Champions, beating University College at home in the last game. Our record was Played 7, Won 6 and Lost 1. Interestingly the soccer team also won the League in the same term. In Hilary we were knocked out of Cuppers in the first round as several of the team started to focus on Finals!





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In a Galaxy, Far, Far Away

Emily MacDonald featured in the 2002 edition of Exon, when she was chosen from 400 applicants to join a six-person crew to work at the Mars Society's Arctic Research Station. Here is an insight into her current research and trip to the Mauna Kea observatory in Hawaii.

By Emily MacDonald
(2001, Astrophysics)

At 14,000 feet, on the summit of Mauna Kea, a white blanket spreads out beneath me as far as the eye can see. As I watch the sun disappear behind a horizon made of clouds, I feel quietly confident that this observing run will be a good one. Slowly the stars begin to show themselves, and the cosmos opens its doors to us once more, leaving me wondering what secrets will be revealed to us in the nights that follow.

Astronomy was always something that fascinated me. After completing a Masters in Astrophysics at Edinburgh University, and a DPhil at Oxford University, I accepted a Postdoctoral position at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory in Tucson, Arizona. On starting at the NOAO, I became part of a collaboration called GOODS, the Great Observatories Origins Deep Survey, an innovative and cutting edge endeavor.

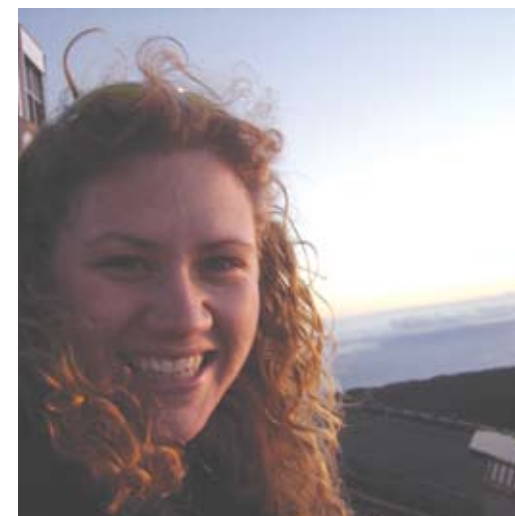
The aim of GOODS is to provide a data set that can be used to study the distant, or 'high redshift' Universe. Redshift (z) is a way of easily quantifying the distance between our galaxy, the Milky Way, and other galaxies. By definition, galaxies that are close by or local are at redshift 0, whereas galaxies at a redshift of 1, for example, are at a distance of approximately 1.32×10^{23} km. GOODS is set

to dramatically increase our understanding of the origin and evolution of galaxies through its use of multiple telescopes sensitive to different wavelengths of light (radio, x-ray, infrared and optical). The multi-wavelength nature of the survey, combined with lengthy observations using the world's leading space- and ground-based telescopes, such as the Hubble and Spitzer Space Telescopes, makes GOODS the first survey of its kind.

Studying galaxies at high redshift is analogous to looking back in time and seeing galaxies at earlier stages in their evolution. When we observe the cosmos, we are collecting light from objects in space. If objects are nearby, the light doesn't have far to travel and we therefore observe it in its current state. Light from galaxies that are very far away has a great distance to travel, and so the light we observe now was actually emitted long ago. Consequently, we are observing how the galaxy appeared in the past. It follows, that the more distant a galaxy, the further the light has to travel and, therefore, the earlier in its evolution we will observe it. Studying and comparing the global properties of galaxy populations at different redshifts will let us map the evolution of the Universe from earlier epochs to that which is seen today, allowing us to study the structure, formation and evolution of galaxies over time.

Generally, my areas of interest are galaxy evolution and the star formation history of the Universe. More specifically, I have been using GOODS to look for differences between galaxies at $z \sim 1$ and local galaxies, with the intention of learning more about how the Universe evolves between these epochs. The first step in this process was to define a sample of galaxies at $z \sim 1$, which was achieved primarily through multiple observing runs with the Keck telescope in Hawaii, situated on the summit of Mauna Kea, one of the most breathtaking, awe-inspiring places I have ever been. One recent and particularly exciting result to come from this work has arisen from the comparison of emission at radio and infrared wavelengths. A strong correlation is known to exist between these wavelengths locally but, contrary to previous assumption, this does not seem to be the case at higher redshifts. A correlation does indeed exist at $z \sim 1$, but it is not the same as is seen locally. In addition, there appears to be a population of galaxies at $z \sim 1$ that simply does not adhere to any such relationship, implying that these must somehow evolve significantly between $z \sim 1$ and $z \sim 0$ in order to produce the distribution of galaxies present locally. What is the nature of this population of galaxies? Could they be an entirely new class of galaxy? These are just some of the questions we are very much hoping to answer.

Ultimately, we are aiming to learn everything we can about our sample of galaxies, and to compare our findings with local and even higher redshift galaxy populations in order to discover more about how the Universe evolves. By adding and comparing our results to other studies in this, and related fields, and comparing these observational results with theoretical predictions, astronomers will slowly but surely continue to unravel the mysteries of the origin and evolution of the Universe. Sometimes it can be daunting just thinking about how much we do not yet know, but then how many ground-breaking discoveries must lie just around the corner? Besides, as they say, there's nothing like a good challenge and the cosmos certainly never fails to present us with that!



Exonians are High Flyers!

Not content with looking at the sky through a telescope, Emily recently passed her final flight exams and is now a qualified pilot. She was supported by an Old Member.

Coyotes on the runway, near mid-air collisions, sudden dust storms and plane crashes. At the end of 2004, when I was trying to raise sponsorship money to fund training for my pilot's licence, one of the qualifications required for my long-term goal of becoming an astronaut, I had little concept of what the following year had in store! With its clear skies, reputation for excellent flying schools and the relatively low cost of tuition, Tucson was the ideal place to train for my Private Pilot's Licence (PPL). I had been generously awarded funding by Exeter College, Exeter College Old Members and the CK Marr Educational trust, and was very keen, but it took three months to convince the US government that I was not a threat to national security!

In March 2005, I arrived at the flight school for my first lesson, enthusiastic and ready to go... until I saw the plane (a Cessna 172). It had looked so much bigger in the pictures! I was soon experiencing the exhilaration of flying, but amidst all the theory I had learnt, I guess I missed the chapter on what to do when you come in to land and discover about 20 coyotes sleeping on the runway. Apparently that's quite rare, but it was one of many evasive manoeuvres I had to master in the course of my lessons. The worst of all took place during my first solo flight. I came in for a third landing blissfully unaware that my nose wheel had undergone a 'catastrophic failure' and had fallen off its axle! The back wheels touched down and I lowered the nose wheel, only to feel the plane suddenly veer off to the right. I tried desperately to steer the plane but it began to bounce down the runway. With the third bounce, and a horrible metallic grinding sound, the plane tipped forward and the tail started to come up and over the nose. I thought it was all over but miraculously the propeller hit the ground in such a way as to right the plane. Stopping all flights from Tucson International airport and being photographed with fire men and a crumpled plane was not what I had hoped for on my first solo flight! But as my instructor noted, at least I stopped the plane exactly on the centreline!

I flew the day after that incident, but it took longer to get over the psychological hurdles. However, in June 2006, after 70 hours of flying, I passed my check ride and gained my Private Pilot's Licence. My examiner commented on how calm I seemed, despite the strong winds that had suddenly kicked up – I was just thankful that there wasn't a tornado!

Emily MacDonald graduated in Astrophysics in 2001. She is aiming to become an astronaut.



The Age of the Gentleman Explorer

The Pitt Rivers Museum hosted a 'Congo Journey' exhibition based on the Central African journeys of Robert Hottot in the early 20th Century.

By Daragh McDowell
(2005, Russian and East European Studies)

In February 1908 a young Parisian named Robert Hottot set out with a small team for Central Africa on an expedition sponsored by the French Ministry of Public Instruction. This journey took him several thousand kilometres from Brazzaville near the mouth of the Congo River to Lake Chad. Hottot had visited Africa twice before but as a gentleman traveller on big-game hunting trips. However, these trips had given him a keen interest in anthropology and, although he lacked formal training, his third expedition resulted in a wealth of objects and careful documentation.

Robert Hottot's son, Hubert, donated a large collection of photographs and documents from the expedition to the Pitt Rivers Museum in 1994. After moving to Jersey with his family in 1925, Robert Hottot had become a great friend of Robert Marett, the Oxford anthropologist who became Rector of Exeter College in 1928. It was through this connection that, when he had finished his education at Rugby School, Hottot's son Hubert came to Exeter in 1932 to read PPE. The young man's parents also moved to Oxford, and Robert became friends with Henry Balfour, curator of the Pitt Rivers Museum, thereafter occasionally donating objects from his travels to the museum. He continued to pursue an interest in anthropology until his death in 1939.

The Hottot Collection in the Pitt Rivers is most unusual in particular for its completeness. Alongside maps and glass-plate photographs, there are the cameras and cases used by Hottot, as well as a mechanised stereoscope viewer. Every stage of the journey has been meticulously recorded, and Robert Hottot's small neat handwriting is everywhere. Philip Grover and Chris Morton, curators of the 'Congo Journey' exhibition based



on the material, remarked that to find such a complete collection is extremely rare.

The Hottot Collection is a remarkable example of anthropology in its infancy, and its survival is surely down to Hubert Hottot's careful ownership over the course of several decades. Hubert Hottot worked as a French teacher and completed a B.Litt. thesis on André Gide in 1951. He remained in England for the rest of his life, until his death in Oxford in 1997.

For more information on the 'Congo Journey' exhibition visit www.prm.ox.ac.uk/congojourney. Our thanks to Philip Grover and Chris Morton at the Pitt Rivers Museum for their assistance.



Top: A local auxiliary soldier showing skulls taken from a hut to Lieutenant Mourin. The expedition had an armed escort in hostile areas. Boganga village, Oubangui-Chari, 19 May 1908. Middle: Group portrait of the expedition members, taken in Paris prior to departure in 1908. From left to right: Albert Guinard, Léon Poutrin, Robert Hottot and Georges Barbat. Right: Some of the equipment Hottot used on the expedition (Pitt Rivers Museum).

Uganda, A View of the North

Richard Winn traveled to Gulu in the north of Uganda. Here he tells us about his experiences in the poorer areas of the north.

By Richard Winn
(1950, Geography)

'We strongly advise you and your wife not to go north to Gulu,' said a courteous Ugandan official at the British High Commission in Kampala.

'That's what you told us nine years ago when we were here and we have not come this far not to go to our friends there,' I replied.

'We can't guarantee you your safety – let me take a copy of your passport.'

An hour's air journey north to Gulu rather than the testing six hours' road journey of our previous visit gives the opportunity of chatting with one's passengers – a retired lady missionary going to Southern Sudan to help pastors' wives, the Ugandan Catholic priest returning to his parish in the North West after a rest in the capital, and the young Mid West American evangelist going to show the 'Jesus Film' in the Sudan, or Judy resurrecting her French to engage four Congolese students in conversation.

Whilst southern Uganda is relatively prosperous with Kampala's traffic jams rivaling most British cities, the North is another matter. For 18 years Kony's Lord's Resistance Army has caused terror, abducting thousands of children for its 'army' as soldiers, prostitutes and slaves – children who have to kill and mutilate their brothers and sisters on command.

President Museveni gets few votes here, there are no minerals (as yet), a large army earns extra pay, and the UN is loath to commit itself (though many non-governmental groups have been here for years). This has resulted in the continued distress of the people: 1.4 million people live in large camps and rely on the white trucks of the World Food Organisation bringing in the basics. Some 60,000 people live in Pabbo Camp, 18 miles north of Gulu – a journey not without its dangers! The camp is organised, but life is raw – huts regularly burn down, education is basic, and disease is always a problem. The land around is mostly uncultivated which is an economic disaster as this was once one of the main millet growing areas of the Acholi people.

We visited, for the Send A Cow charity, a farmer with a very recent cow and calf. His gaunt face reflected the rebels who had the previous night taken his food and milk; his left arm had been cut off by them a few years earlier.

Our hosts, Bishop Nelson and Brenda, insisted on our regular nightfall return, but one night we visited the fine Lacor Catholic Hospital near Gulu. Thousands of children poured into the protected

grounds with their sleeping mats and rugs, having walked miles from their homes. We hid our tears as we spoke with them – outwardly they were ready to chat – but inwardly? In Gulu and Kitgum towns thousands more children seek sanctuary nightly. Most clergy, including bishops, have little pay, yet they remain faithful pastors in the camps and the towns. The faith of the Acholi people is remarkable – an inspiration and very humbling.

thewinns@blueyonder.co.uk

A market, and waiting for water in Uganda.



Old Members' Association

The Development Office

Exeter's Development Office plays two crucial roles within the College and wider alumni body. We provide an active link between Exeter and all its Old Members, Parents and Friends by hosting regular events, producing several publications each year and maintaining the alumni website. In addition, the Careers Office was established within the Development Office in 2005 to forge links between Old Members and current students. The Development Office also coordinates the College's fundraising efforts and we are very grateful for all the support we receive, be it in the form of a regular gift to the Old Members' Fund or perhaps a larger one-off gift for a specific project.

We are always happy to hear from you by phone, email or post and will always try to help with any inquiry or request. If you have news or ideas to share, let us know; if you want to get back in touch with someone you've lost touch with, give us a call. Most of all, if you have moved house or are coming back to visit College, do let us know. We want to stay in touch with all our Old Members, Parents and Friends and you are always welcome back. Floreat Exon!

Benefits

All Old Members, Parents and Friends will receive our annual publications (Exon, Donors' Report and the Register) and invitations to our many events from subject dinners to book launches—see the events list for more details. There is an option to sign up to receive a termly electronic newsletter 'Exeter Matters'. It is also possible to make use of the College's conference facilities should you, or your business, be interested. In addition, Old Members are entitled to the following benefits:

High Table Dining Rights

Old Members who have their MAs and those who have read for a higher degree (i.e. any graduate or undergraduate masters degree*), are entitled to dine on High Table:

- Once a year at the College's expense (but paying for wine and dessert**)
- At two other times in different terms at their own expense**

Old Members may use these Dining Rights to dine on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday in Full Term, but Wednesdays (lounge suit) and Sundays

(black tie) are guest nights when a wider variety of Fellows and other College guests will also be dining. Although there is no restriction on the number of Old Members dining on any one night, the College may have to sit larger groups in the body of Hall. Old Members may not bring a guest in to dine on High Table and gowns are not obligatory.

To sign in for dinner, please download a booking form from www.exetercollege.net or contact the Development Office on 01865 279619 for further details.

*Those who have read for a 'masters level' undergraduate degrees such as MChem etc, are only eligible 21 terms after matriculation (ie at the time when anyone who had done a normal BA would get their MA)

**As of 1st October 2006, the price of High Table meals is £19.27/£25.36 (weekdays/Sundays) with an additional charge of £3.62 for dessert and £6.50 for wine. All prices are inclusive of VAT.

Dining in Hall

From Michaelmas Term 2006, Old Members (regardless of whether or not they hold an MA or higher degree) will also be welcome to dine in Hall with up to five guests on Wednesday evenings in Full Term at a cost of £18 per head (includes one glass of wine). Additional drinks can be purchased during the evening. College will make every effort to accommodate all bookings but cannot guarantee that specific dates will be available. For special occasions, the Benefactors Gallery can also be hired for parties of 8–12 at a cost of £45 per head. Please download a booking form from www.exetercollege.net or contact the

Development Office on 01865 279619 for further details.

Accommodation

Old Members benefit from a discount rate of £42 per night on Bed & Breakfast in College. The main Guest Room is in Palmer's Tower (built in 1432). Normally, bookings can be taken only out of Full Term, and availability will depend on other residential bookings. Old Members are also eligible for discounts at the Old Bank Hotel, the Old Parsonage Hotel and the Tower House Hotel in Oxford. Just tell them that you are an Old Member of the College when you make your booking.

Careers Support and Networking

We try to offer continuing support to Old Members after they have left and are happy to set up careers advice meetings, particularly for recent leavers who might benefit from some words of wisdom from a more experienced Exonian. If you would like to offer careers advice to current students or recent leavers, or think you might need to receive some, do please get in touch with us.

We also arrange an annual networking event for Old Members who work in the City (and hopefully in New York) each December. If you'd like to be involved, or have any suggestions for further networking events, do please contact the Alumni Officer on 01865 279619 or development@exeter.ox.ac.uk.

Contact Details

The Development Office
Exeter College, Oxford, OX1 3DP
+44 (0) 1865 279619
development@exeter.ox.ac.uk
www.exetercollege.net

Student loan = **£1,333** per term

Tuition = **£391.66** per term

College Accommodation = **£752.85** per term

That's not including books, food, clothes and bills... you do the maths!

See why student hardship is a real issue on **page 24**.



Oxford University Society

The Oxford University Society is the official University alumni organisation, with over 160 branches around the world. It can provide you with an alumni card (great discounts) and a lifelong email-forwarding service; it produces the highly informative *Oxford Today*, which includes all the latest news on the University at large, and also runs events (such as the North American Reunion). If you have never registered (or if you have not heard from OUS for a while) visit www.alumni.ox.ac.uk to find out more.

North American Reunion 2006

The North American Reunion 2006 attracted more than 800 alumni from across the United States, Canada and Mexico to the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. The weekend's events began with a reception on Friday evening, including a speech by the Chancellor, Lord Patten, and went on to a day of academic sessions rounded off with College dinners. The academic sessions included talks on 'Global Health – New Frontiers', 'Oxford Music – A Harmonious Story' and 'The



Above, Helen Giannandrea (2002, Modern History) and Jonathan Snicker (former Director of Development) at the Exeter College dinner at Cellini in New York.

Role of the United States in a Post-Iraq Conflict World'. Exeter College held a dinner attended by over 20 Old Members at Cellini Restaurant, kindly organised by Keith Fox (1973, Mathematics).

Alumni Cards

Oxford University Alumni Cards were introduced in 2005. The cards serve to identify Oxford graduates when they visit Oxford as well as entitling holders to a range of benefits, from discounts on accommodation to ties at Shepherd and Woodward. Readers of *Oxford Today* should already have received a card either in the Trinity Term 2005 or 2006 editions of *Oxford Today*. If you need one please contact the Oxford University Society at alumniocard@ousoc.ox.ac.uk or call 01865 288088.

Email Forwarding Service

In 2004, the Society introduced an email-forwarding service for recent graduates, to provide a new Oxford-based email address (set up to forward emails to another specified address) once their student email address had expired. The service is currently only being offered to graduates from 2004, 2005 and 2006, although there are plans to extend the service to all alumni very soon... watch this space!

Oxford and Cambridge Society of India

The Oxford and Cambridge Society of India offers four scholarships each year, one of which is to allow an Indian national who has been accepted to Oxford to study at Exeter College.

Honorary Fellows

This year, the College elected three new Honorary Fellows. Bennett Boskey, a distinguished American lawyer, has helped the College to create two new posts. David Malet Armstrong, a philosopher at the University of Sydney, was a graduate student at Exeter in 1952–4, while taking his BPhil. He is also a grandson of RR Marett, the anthropologist and former Rector, and recalls as a child coming to tea on Sundays at the Rector's Lodgings. Arthur Peacocke is an Old Member of the College and a well known theologian who won the 2001 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

Honorary Fellows are:

Mr Martin Amis
Sir Ronald Arculus
Professor David Armstrong
Dr John Ashworth
Sir Roger Bannister
Mr Greig Barr
Mr Alan Bennett
Mr Bennett Boskey
Dr Alfred Brendel
Dr Sydney Brenner
Professor Marilyn Butler
The Right Honourable Lord Justice Richard Buxton
Sir Ronald Cohen
Professor Sir Ivor Crewe
The Very Reverend John Drury
Sir James Gowans
Mr Harry James
Professor Sir Ian Kawharu
Sir Sydney Kentridge
Mr John Kufuor
The Right Honourable Lord Justice John Laws
Sir Michael Levey
Professor Anthony Low
Mr Richard Mahoney
Dr Colin Maiden
The Reverend James McConica
Mr Stephen Merrett
Professor Joseph Nye
Dr Arthur Peacocke
Mr Philip Pullman
Professor John Quelch
Mr Robert Robertson
Sir David Serpell
HM The Queen Of Spain
Sir Kenneth Stowe
Admiral Stansfield Turner
Professor David Underdown

Fifty-Five Years On

John Speirs is editing a compilation of letters and drawings from the 'golden age' of 1950s JCR suggestion books, to be published in 2007.

By John Speirs
(1956, *Literae Humaniores*)

The inclusion of some letters and drawings from the 'golden age' of the JCR Suggestion Books in Exon 2001 was fairly well received, although it was clear that most of the letters would have to be typed for a wider readership.

To keep your appetite whetted, here are some drawings for Exon 2006. As I write this note in March 2006, I have a full draft at last amounting to about 150 pages. We will be pushing on to publish a book within the next 12 months. ♣

Below Right: Simon Clements (1955, *Modern History*)
'Your presence was undoubtedly missed this night, What action do you propose to take to suppress, debauchery, rancid and rampant, or would Exeter not be the same without it?' And top right, a more recent illustration from the same artist, who says it's based on a true story and popular locally as a card now!



Desperately Seeking...

Since 1985, students from Williams College, Massachusetts, have been studying at Exeter College on the year-long Williams at Exeter Programme. Each year the Programme provides 26 students from Williams College with the opportunity to further their studies at one of the world's top universities and experience the intellectual and social life of Exeter College.

An event in Washington D.C. earlier this year marked the 21st anniversary of the Programme and planning is already under way for a big reunion (either in Oxford, or in the United States) to celebrate the 25th anniversary in 2010. Roughly 500 students have enrolled on the Programme since it began in 1985 but sadly the College has lost touch with most of them. This summer we began a project to track down these Old Members. As the College does not have an accurate record of Williams-Exeter Programme students this is a particularly Herculean task!

Can you help us? If you are still in touch with any Old Members who were on the Williams-Exeter Programme, or if you were on it yourself and can remember or have contact details for any of your classmates please do ask them to get in touch with us at development@exeter.ox.ac.uk or by phone on +44 (0)1865 279620.

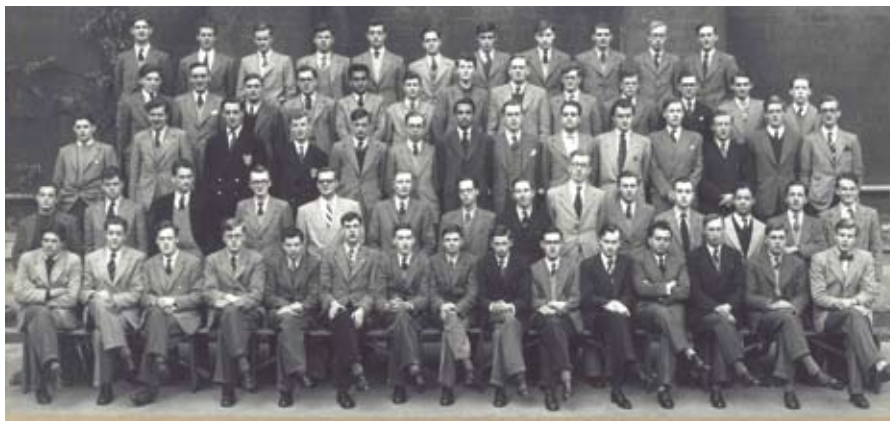
We very much look forward to hearing from you.





1952 Matriculands

Can you name – or are you one of – the freshers seen here in their 1952 matriculation photograph sent to us by Vernon Kitch (1952, Modern History). Email your responses to us at development@exeter.ox.ac.uk.



1957 Rugby

Back in January 2006 we received a plea from Philip Le Brocq (1957, English) for a copy of the 1957 Rugby team photograph. After an awful lot of detective work on Philip's part, writing to the players of the 1950s, Jeffery Wear (1957, Physics) obliged with a copy of his original. However, there is still some detective work to be done in putting names to faces. If you recognise any of the players, or are one of them, do please contact us at development@exeter.ox.ac.uk.



1967 Matriculands

This photograph of 1967 Freshers was published in the 2005 edition of Exon. Thank you to Robin Taylor (1967, English), Gordon Read (1967, Literae Humaniores) and Godfrey Stone (1968, Geography & Theology) – between them we have names for 56 of the 85 people in this photograph!

From left to right, starting at the back:

Back row

?, Nicholas Kadar, ?, ?, ?, SC Leung

5th row

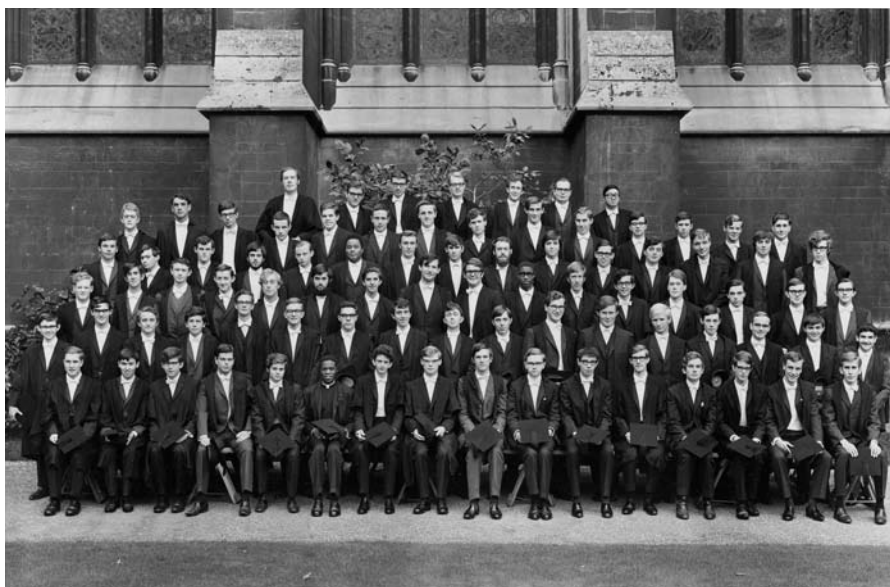
Michael Langley, ?, Roger Elliott, Christopher Booth, ?, Tim Brown, ?, Kelvin Paisley, Alan Lee, MP Griffiths, Philip Radcliffe, ?, Roger Pearson, Robin Taylor

4th row

Christopher Shorley, Stephen J Suzman, Anthony McBride, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, John Davy, ?, ?, Michael McClure?, Charles Palliser

3rd row

Franklin A Johnston, Noel Robinson,




Richard Schofield, ?, Giles Duncan, John Hall, Gregory Hill, John Gray, Iain Webb-Wilson, Michael Richardson, ?, David Norgrove, Charles Oram, Nicolas Lethbridge, ?, ?

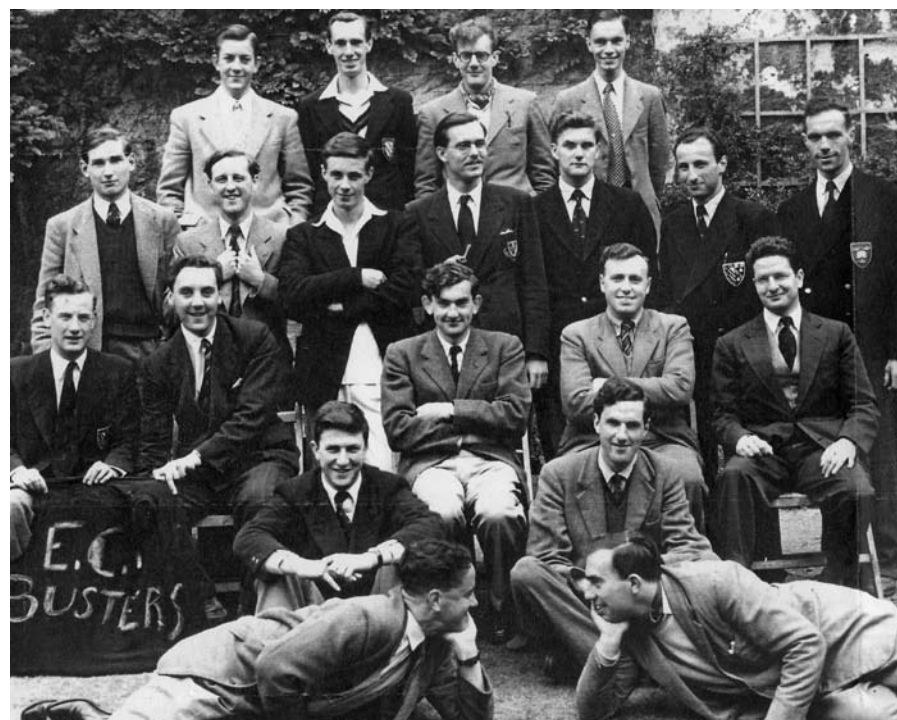
2nd row

?, ?, James Allman, Christopher Booth, Anthony Tebby, ?, Graham Curtis, ?, ?, Philip Lowe, Sean Lyle, Christopher

Hawker, MJ Lloyd, ?, Hugh Bevan, ?, Michael Krantz

Front row

Clive Cousins, John Carroll, Brian Hillyard, Thomas A Clover, Alan Bean, Henry Kyabukasa, Trevor Mills, Richard Landon, Michael Schultz, Gordon Read, Colin Parker, Ian Parker, Keith?, R Greer, Keith Bickerstaffe, ?, Peter Bell. 



Busters

In the Autumn 2004 edition of Exon we published a photograph of the 1953 Cricket 'Busters' – we are no longer referring to these Busters as the 'College Cricket team', as so many of you informed us that being able to play cricket was not necessarily the most important qualification for membership! Thank you to everyone who sent us in names and memories of the team.

From left to right:

Back row: Keith Holloway, John Dakin, Frank Thomas/Ashley Pugh, Keith Pearson

Second row from back: Roger Barltrop, Norman Ransome, Tom Keeley, ?, Colin Richards, ?, Gareth ?

Front row on chairs: Philip Appleby, Anthony Moreton, Benjamin Brough, Dennis Hayden,?

Seated on ground: Robert Shaw, Richard Mackie

Lying on ground: ?, Norman Jacobs

Names were provided by David Burchell (1951, Modern History), Richard Mackie (1951, Modern Languages), Peter Nicholl (1951, Chemistry), Bill Roberts (1952, English), Dennis Holman (1949, English) and Colin Richards (1951, Chemistry). There was some disagreement as to the identity of back row, 3rd from left, but our participants were in agreement on the rest.

Bill Roberts (1952, English)

Bill best remembers 'the splendid teas in comfy village pubs' along with the tasteful outfits: 'There was a lovely Busters blazer of neapolitan ice-cream colours (too expensive) and a nice tie of the same bright hues'.

Dennis Holman (1949, English)

Dennis's chief memory of the Busters is the tour of Devon, described by Paul Bolitho (right), when they played the Devonport services: 'The day was idyllic, the condition of the playing surface superb, the facilities were as well-ordered as any first-class county could desire'. The other side apparently possessed two bowlers who were Welsh rugby internationals!

Patrick Radcliffe (1948, Theology)

One of those rare 'cricketers' to actually get onto the Busters team, Patrick remembers that the purpose of the group was 'to have a token cricket match with a vastly superior village team, who would beat us thoroughly by the middle of the afternoon, and we all then retired to the pub for a riotous evening's drinking'.

SUMMER VACATION—BUSTERS' WEST COUNTRY TOUR			
DATE	OPPONENTS	GROUND	RESULTS
Monday, 18	Royal Marines, Plymouth	St. Andrew's, Plymouth	W 10-0
Tuesday, 19	Plymouth Corporate Officers W, Ex 10-0	St. Andrew's, Plymouth	W 10-0
Wednesday, 20	Lidford C.C. W, Ex 10-0	St. Andrew's, Plymouth	W 10-0
Thursday, 21	Collingwood C.C. W, Ex 10-0	St. Andrew's, Plymouth	W 10-0
Friday, 22	R.N.E.C., Plymouth	St. Andrew's, Plymouth	W 10-0
Saturday, 23	United Services, Plymouth	St. Andrew's, Plymouth	W 10-0

1951 Busters Tour

The 1953 Busters' photograph prompted Paul Bolitho (1948, Modern History) to write to us with his memories of the tour to Plymouth and South-East Cornwall he organised for the Busters in June 1951. A true historian, Paul sent us the full details of the outcome of each match, some newspaper cuttings charting their progress, the fixtures card and the photo of his cap! For lack of space we have included just some of these highlights.

Bearing in mind that we were neither the College First XI nor Second XI, but merely a group of young men who enjoyed playing cricket, without any pretensions to prowess, I had raised my sights far too high in seeking fixtures. The first and final matches were played on Minor Counties' grounds against formidable sides. We lost our first seven wickets for only 33 on the Saturday against the might of the United Services! Nevertheless, we won two matches out of six, and at one stage were leading by two matches to one!

EW Thompson was far and away our best batsman, and I believe he was one of those 'borrowed' from the First XI. We were also reinforced by Rex Tompsett who as sports master at Kelly College, Tavistock, was unable to fit in a fixture for us, but turned out to be an Old Exonian himself and was able to play a couple of matches.

I regret I have no photos of the players, but I still have my Busters' cap, and I include a photo of it which my wife has taken.

We greatly enjoyed that week: it didn't matter how many games we won or lost – it was taking part that counted!

The tour took place just as I left Exeter. Were there any subsequent tours? And do the Busters still exist?

The Development Office can reassure readers that the proud tradition of Busters' cricket is still going strong (see the Sporting Achievements article on page 15) If you have any memories from subsequent Busters' tours we'd be delighted to receive them for the next issue of Exon.



Good Evening Moon

By Dr Chris Simpson (1959, Chemistry)

Chris Simpson continues here his reminiscences of College life in the 60s. He makes no apology.

In the early 1960s there was a habit of tampering with people's names to make nicknames, usually by doubling letters. Nigel Salmon became 'Salmoon' (with the 'l' pronounced) and then, 'Moon'.

One evening, Nigel was away in Cambridge and would be returning (via the Fellows' Garden wall), in an undoubtedly elated state, in the wee small hours. Knowing this, the late Malcolm Spence and I thought this opportunity was too good to miss. After Hall, we decided to 'invert' his room on Staircase 6.

We obtained a ball of string, some sellotape and a packet of drawing pins, and made use of various bits of sporting gear as supports. We trussed up his (made) bed and then inverted it. We decided against turning the chest of drawers upside down, but inverted each drawer and its contents without spilling them out, stopping the cutlery from falling out of the top drawer by sellotaping the contents on the inside to its bottom. However, we spared his many teaspoons this indignity, and taped them in a row across the ceiling, pointing towards his kettle which was also taped there. His arm chair was inverted on the floor and propped up by his umbrella. I recall his College scarf and scholar's gown were apparently hanging upwards from the floor. Cups and saucers were suspended in mid-air. All his books were inverted in the bookcase, and his current work was taped underneath his desk top. The contents of his food tins were exchanged (tea in the one marked 'sugar', sugar in the tea caddy etc).

We then decided to leave him a message on his tape recorder. Now, in those days, such machines were reel-to-reel, the size of a small suitcase, and had a hinged lid. They had a turn-on switch/volume knob, and the valve amplifiers required 20 seconds warm-up time.

Recording a message starting about 20 seconds from the start of a reel was no problem. We then rewound, turned the device off, and selected PLAY. We taped the end of a piece of string to the knob, wrapping it once around the knob so that when pulled, even with the lid resting on it, it would turn the recorder

on to full volume, pull off and allow the lid to close, leaving a piece of apparently uncommitted string on the floor. However there would be a slight click of the switch, and a soft thud as the lid closed the last quarter inch. How to conceal this?... Nigel had a lot of coins which he used as Poker chips. So we arranged a second string to successively tip four stacks of these coins into his china teapot, which we located in a corner of the room. We fixed the two strings via drawing-pin pulleys so that they would both be pulled when he opened the door. We then withdrew for a well-earned Guinness.

Nigel duly arrived back in a mildly-pickled state at around 1:30 am. He opened his door, to the accompaniment of a series of crashes and tinkles off to his right. His hand found the light switch and a scene of mayhem was revealed. His eyes goggled as he focussed and took in things hanging from the floor and in mid-air... But what were those crashes? He was blearily peering into his teapot when two voices in unison boomed out behind him 'GOOD EVENING, MOON! NOT SLOSHED, I HOPE?... NO, YOUR ROOM REALLY IS UPSIDE DOWN... BUT NEVER MIND, WE ALL LOVE YOU...' and so on.

In the account Moon wrote in the JCR Suggestion Book immediately afterwards, he said 'Things started happening!!' then he sat down and wept with laughter.

It took him days to find his cutlery.

Note: Nigel 'Moon' Salmon and Chris Simpson shared the Quarrell-Read Prize for the 'Undergraduate most concerned in the life of the College' in 1961–62.

Excommunication of the Rector

Every two or three years Dacre Balsdon (then Senior Tutor) would give an after-dinner talk in the Dining Hall on the History of the College. I attended two of these. They were not confined to serious content, and I can roughly paraphrase two of the more amusing anecdotes.

The first related to a time some centuries ago when the Rector of the day had caused some scandals. I seem to remember that Devil Worship was involved and, also, the getting with child of one of the College's bed makers. John Trelawney, Bishop of Exeter and Visitor of the College, heard about this and posted to Oxford. Dacre concluded 'When the Bishop arrived in Oxford, the Rector heard about it and had the College gates slammed shut in his face. Trelawney, being still a vigorous young man, promptly climbed over the College

wall, went and stood on the Chapel steps, and excommunicated the Rector!'

In the old bar underneath Staircase 2 a vivid mural depicted this story.

The second story related to the Rector who had been William, Duke of Clarence's chaplain, who had a slight speech impediment, and whose picture was hung in Hall above and to the right of the portrait of King Charles I '...In those days, the students had to attend Battels each Saturday to settle their accounts in front of the College authorities. When one gentleman fronted up, the Rector looked at his Battels in amazement "Whaths this I thee? Mutton for Bweakfast, Muttons for Lunthch, Mutton for Thupper?...Jesuth Cuwist, man! What gutsth you mutht have!'"

Barrow in the Barrow

Being chemists, our Schools Dinner was after three 6-hour Practicals, spaced at two-day intervals, and well after the end of term. By that time the American Summer School was in residence.

Our tutor, Dr Richard Barrow, was so relieved that none of us looked like failing finals that, during the dinner, he 'looked on the wine' and it was very red! This induced in him a blend of benevolence and incapacity. After dinner we decided to show the Americans what true Democracy was about. We pinched a wheelbarrow from the Fellows' Garden and lowered our revered tutor into it and wheeled him around the Quad, introducing him to the Americans as our tutor, as he dispensed beatific smiles and quasi-Papal blessings to all and sundry.

No Apology

So there we were: It was said that optimists were learning Russian and pessimists were learning Chinese. Those in between were pretty lighthearted. All we had to worry about were the next Tutorial, Finals, and the fact that, if some clown in Russia pushed a button, seven minutes was the longest time anyone in Britain would have to think about it. Carpe Diem or perhaps Carpe Septem Momenta.

Some Snippets

- Gentlemen in dinner jackets drumming up faith and attempting to walk across the goldfish pond after a Rowing Club dinner.
- Dr Greig Barr, then Rowing Don and subsequently Rector, standing on the table during that dinner, giving a speech about grabbing opportunities by their appendages, while we tied his shoelaces together.



A Year in Pictures



Opposite page

Below Right: The New York Benefactors' Dinner with Keith Fox, John Quelch, John Tinker, Costas Prapoulos, Joseph Kenner, Robert Sowler and Caleb Watts.

Middle Right: The launch of Exeter College Boat Club's new boat (named after Philip Pullman), thanks to generous sponsorship by Water for Fish AON. From left to right: Bagpiper, Phillip Pullman, the President of ECBCA Ryan Clay, Dirk-Jan Omtzigt, the Rector Frances Cairncross, Octave Oppetit, Nicholas Scott, George Anstey, Hannah Matthews, the Boat Club President Cherry Briggs, James Arthur, Steven Shea, Megan Hancock and Richard Harrap.

Top: Mathematician undergraduates receive a good trashing in the Lodge on completion of their exams. From left to right: Rhys Jenkins, Chris Collins, Colin Cheung, Matthew Byrd, Charlotte Kestner, Rajiv Tanna and Elizabeth Lennox. Photo by Hannah Matthews.

Below Left: The Rector and her husband, Hamish McRae, test the dodgems at the College ball. Photo by Dr Sung Hee Kim.

This page

Top Right: MCR freshers become a part of the university at matriculation. From left to right: Daragh McDowell, Sara Adams, Elsa Lingos, Mauro Casselli, Ingrid Diran, Julian DeHoog and Stefanie Michor. Photo by Sara Adams.

Top Left: Celebrating the Battle of Trafalgar – a chocolate 'Victory'. Below Left: The Washington DC Reception in the British Embassy to celebrate the Williams-Exeter Programme, was hosted by the Ambassador and Lady Manning. Pictured are Eric Bennett, Home Bursar, with other guests.

Middle Right: The JCR Ski trip to Les Deux Alpes at Christmas. From left to right: Rosie Kent, Hannah Adams, Andrew Whitworth, Matt Yeowart, India Bourke, Cat Williams, Mark Curtis, Tolomey Collins, James Reed, Kitty Jansz and Felix Leach. Photo by Cameron Noble.

Below Right: Women's First Torpid victory chalked in the front quad.



Calendar and Dates

Sunday 24 September 2006
History Gala Dinner for Dr John Maddicott

Saturday 30 September 2006
Gaudy for 1982-84

Tuesday 3 October 2006
Zurich event

Friday 27 October 2006
Lyell Society Dinner

Friday 24 November 2006
Medics' Dinner

Sunday 26 November 2006
Advent Carol Service

Tuesday 5 December 2006
City Drinks – London

Friday 16 February 2007
Rugby Dinner – 50s and 70s

Saturday 10 February 2007
Volunteers' Event

Saturday 17 March 2007
Gaudy for 1994-96

Saturday 21 April 2007
College Ball

4-6 May 2007
Chapel Campaign Launch

Sunday 10 June 2007
Higgs Night

Saturday 23 June 2007
Gaudy for 1997-99

July 2007
Recent Leavers' Turl Street BBQ

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I take my degree? To take your degree, either in person or in absentia, contact the College Office on 01865 279648 for a list of Degree Days and to register or download them from www.exetercollege.net. The College has a specific degree day in September each year with up to 50 places. Degree Days take the form of a ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre followed by an address from the Rector, presentation of degree certificates and a buffet lunch in College. Full academic dress must be worn and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct gown and hood for both parts of the ceremony (before and after your degree is conferred). Up to three guest tickets are given for the ceremony. Guests are also invited to join the Dean of Degrees for lunch in College. Further details at www.exetercollege.net.

How do I get my MA? Those in possession of a BA or BFA may apply for the degree of MA in or after the 21st term after matriculation. Those who read for a 'master's level' undergraduate degree do not get an MA but gain MA status after the same length of time. To sign up to receive your MA, please contact the College Office on 01865 279648 for a list of Degree Days and to register or visit www.exetercollege.net.

Who do I contact to sign up for High Table? Download a booking form at www.exetercollege.net or call 01865 279619.

Can I bring some friends for a dinner in Hall? Yes. Visit www.exetercollege.net and download the Booking Form for dinner in Hall and return it, with payment, to the Development Office.

I am interested in making a donation to College. What should I do? Fill in the enclosed donation form and return it to the Development Office. We are dependent on the support of all our Old Members, Parents and Friends and are hugely grateful for the support we receive. If you would like to know more contact the Development Office on 01865 279620 or development@exeter.ox.ac.uk or visit www.exetercollege.net.

I read about an event that I'm interested in, but I've not received an invitation? Contact the Alumni Officer on 01865 279619 or email development@exeter.ox.ac.uk.

How do I find out if there are any events going on in the University that I might like to attend? See the online Calendar of events at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/nb/.

I am interested in getting married in the Chapel/College – whom do I contact? Contact the Conference and Events Manager on 01865 279653.

How do I update my contact details? Visit www.exetercollege.net or call us on 01865 279619.

What's in a Name?

The Exeter College Old Members' Fund was founded to provide funds that would be used to preserve and extend academic excellence and the quality of experience at Exeter. This Fund is currently supported by around 1,000 Old Members, Parents and Friends and is disbursed on an annual basis to support projects such as student hardship, tutorial support and extra-curricular activities and travel. However, with the increasing number of Parents and Friends who have started contributing to the fund over the last decade, the name 'Old Members' Fund' is now something of a misnomer, and referring to said 'Old Members, Parents and Friends' while descriptive is rather long-winded!

We are therefore inviting all Exon readers to come up with suggestions for new names for this Fund and for our 'alumni' perhaps with something steeped in our past or representative of the College spirit more generally today (note that the Stapledon Society and the Petre Society are already the official names of the JCR and MCR respectively!). Answers on the back of a postcard to The Development Office, Exeter College, Oxford, OX1 3DP or email development@exeter.ox.ac.uk. Entries will be judged by the College's Development Committee in November and the winner will receive a bottle of College port.

Term dates

Michaelmas Term 2006
Sunday 8 October – Saturday 2 December

Hilary Term 2007
Sunday 14 January – Saturday 10 March

Trinity Term 2007
Sunday 22 April – Saturday 16 June