

THE BRIDGE

The past, present and future of Queens' College



Issue 7 | Summer 2017

*Mike Foale participating in
a Hubble repair mission.*



The Queens' Astronaut Mike Foale's collision with space

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NASA image archive

Queens' kickboxing
PhD student

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Surviving gangs and
police in Brazil

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Development Director
grilled on Queens'

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Fighting the good fight

Maria Khwaja explains why she arrived in Cambridge with a black eye, and how she, as a Muslim American woman, tries to balance a PhD in Education with a competitive kickboxing career.

PhD

I'm doing a comparative study of education systems in **Tanzania** and **Pakistan**, building a critical ethnographic study currently entitled: **A geography of teaching**. My fieldwork begins in January; I'll be spending roughly two months immersed at each site.

I don't come from an NGO background; I'm coming at this from a teacher's perspective which, in development, isn't a perspective that is heard often. I think it's very relevant. I'll be looking at the entire landscape of the classroom: the way teachers and students perceive students' aspirations, the opportunities available and the students' potential futures. I will investigate the dynamics between pupils and teachers, as

well as all of the outside factors that affect their career prospects. My intention is to examine critically not only the concept of development and the specific impact of global and multinational forces, but to examine also the resonance of history, ethnicity, and political culture on subaltern populations in the classroom.

The Road to Cambridge

I come from a relatively cosmopolitan background. I was born in Karachi, and we moved to the US when I was five. **My first language isn't English, it's Urdu.** My parents ran a 7/11 – a 24-hour convenience store – and both had college degrees before arriving in the US. The community

where I feel most at home is the Muslim American community; however, because I've moved around so much I've really become a global citizen.

It's felt like a long journey here. My undergrad was in Education, and then I worked as a teacher in urban schools in the US. Following that, I did a Master's at Oxford in Comparative & International Education. I was accepted to continue on and do a DPhil but didn't have any funding, so I had to turn it down and returned to teaching in Houston. Although I wanted to turn to development work specifically, at that point such jobs were scarce because of the recession and I did not have the financial stability to take that risk.

In 2012, I started my work in development, launching *Elun*, a non-profit dedicated to providing free teacher education to schools in the developing world. Alongside, I was working as a teacher so I worked on projects during the summer holidays: training teachers and visiting schools in Rwanda, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Tanzania. Elun has been really rewarding, but it's not been easy. I've personally funded most projects, though we crowdfunded for some projects and worked with other non-profits to help pay for expenses on the ground. I have put Elun's work on hold while I do my PhD.

Even though I was happily working in international schools all over the world, I realized last year that it was the time to apply for the PhD or I would lose the chance.

It feels as though it's taken a lot of blood, sweat and tears to get here. This has been a passion my whole life, so the wait has been worth it. My supervisor is fantastic and it's now a process of getting the PhD completed to the best of my ability.

Kickboxing/Muay Thai

I'm very softly-spoken and introverted by nature, so my love of fighting often comes as a surprise to new friends (and to my opponents!). I discovered it when I picked up Muay Thai in 2010, while living in Qatar.

In 2015, I moved back to the US and trainers at my local gym suggested I compete. Although I was initially not interested, it turns out I didn't back down in the ring – they said I had a natural affinity for it. I enjoyed it. I actually competed in a Kickboxing Federation Tournament in South Carolina two days before I moved to Cambridge, which resulted in me moving here with a black eye.

Dedication

I think the dedication to the sport is significant – it's a huge time commitment and commitment to your body. Fighting requires you to take care of yourself diligently.

I love the sport and, especially as a woman, I think it gives you a feeling of empowerment. You have to be willing to walk into a gym and be ok with being the only woman at times. **Women are often taught to be quiet and unassuming, especially women of colour.** Fighting teaches you discipline but also to be assertive at the correct time. Psychologically, it's really important.

It's a male-dominated sport, certainly, but it's always fantastic when you find women competing. I'm a brand ambassador for *Society Nine*, a women's fight wear brand, and I've met inspirational women through it. There's a great Tumblr page I follow called *Muslim Female Fighters*, a compilation of Muslim women who fight in different combat sports. I've made friends with some of these women online and it's a great way to connect to women who are tackling stereotypes and changing perceptions on how to be feminine, in a way that we are redefining very deliberately.

Competition on hold

At the moment, I'm still training but I'm not fight-ready. There's an MMA gym in Cambridge and I go to London every Saturday to KO gym in East London for Muay Thai, but it's been tough to squeeze that in with the PhD. I'm really looking forward to competing again soon. I'm too busy at the moment but I'm hoping that during my writing up period I will have more time. Being fight-ready is a huge time commitment: it involves running five-six miles a day, working out three-four hours, six days a week. That's competition shape.

Growing up Muslim, Muhammad Ali was a big inspiration for me. Not just in terms of the fighting but also standing up for what you believe in. **Secretly, I enjoy getting hit in the face; I know that sounds strange, but it wakes you up.** Some get hit and recoil; others get hit and lean into it. I think that's why I ended up here: it's been almost 10 years of trying to get back to do this PhD. Fighting teaches you that tenacity. I'm exhausted, but I'm not going to stop.

Travel bans

Having become a global citizen, it was difficult when I recently travelled back to the US during Trump's travel ban – especially

during the initial chaos. I'm always detained anytime I've flown in or out; my luggage gets searched a lot. It doesn't help that I travel back and forth for refugee work in war-torn countries.

Being a Muslim in America isn't easy. My friends and I have all dealt with hate crimes; we all live in some degree of fear. I don't look demonstrably Muslim, so I tend to escape outright vitriol. **In Pakistan, I have been shot at by Taliban operatives in the city.** It's frustrating for the communities who are actively working to try and make it better. When I go to Pakistan I'm in danger of being blown up by terrorists. When I'm in the US, I'm in danger of being shot at by someone who hates Muslims. I do feel as though I'm in danger all the time.

Breaking down the problem

I want to help students in developing countries find their own voice and agency. I think, for me, it's meaningful because I've worked in these communities for almost a decade and, for some, schooling is their only avenue to success; however, a bigger issue looms: some students, regardless of the academic acumen, do not have the means to change their circumstances – no amount of schooling will change that.

When I did my Master's degree, I investigated adolescent male disaffection in a slum in Karachi. I found that boys were dropping out of school at eight or nine years old at very high rates. They weren't dropping out because their parents were forcing them, they were making the decision for themselves. This was a disturbing trend,

one worth researching. Interestingly, I discovered it wasn't because they thought the schools weren't high quality, because they did. The disheartening finding was that these boys knew this education would be fruitless. And they were right – so they would leave to work in a factory, supporting their family... at eight.

I believe we need to be honest about the disservice we do to these children in encouraging them to attend school and become educated when there is no supporting infrastructure in place to allow them to do anything with that schooling. That is why my work focuses on children's aspirations and teacher's understandings of the same – I'm trying to understand where the disconnect is, if there is one, and what we can do about it to make education more valuable for children and their families.

Urgent need

To me, this work feels very urgent. I want to be on the ground making a difference to these children's lives. Long-term, I'd like to start a foundation. The majority of development work is still led by men, and I think it's important women take more of a leadership role in the field. It's my hope to reposition, in my work, populations who have historically been unheard so that schools are more relevant and meaningful for them. As a woman from Pakistan it feels ethically imperative to do this work, this way; otherwise, I feel I would be doing an injustice to the people who have trusted me with their stories. **It is hard work to push against prevailing norms and ideas, but as I do in fighting, I am not backing down.**



Maria post fight, pictured middle, right.

Alumni news

Please send your news & photos to thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk

BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs* featured our own **Dr Demis Hassabis (1994, Fellow Benefactor)** recently. He shared stories from Queens', his career and the future of Artificial Intelligence. If you missed it, you can listen back in the archive. Other Queens' members who have appeared on *DID* include **Robin Millar (1970) & Stephen Fry (1978)**. Does anyone know of any others?

English Fellow **Dr Ian Patterson's** poem *The Plenty of Nothing*, has been shortlisted for the Forward Arts Foundation's Prize for Best Single Poem 2017.

Dr Chris Baker (1966 & former Fellow) has won the Fukuoka Asia Grand Prize for 2017 jointly with his wife, Pasuk Phongpaichit (New Hall), for 'outstanding contributions to academia, arts, and culture in Asia'. This



is the first time the prize has been awarded to a couple. They have written widely on the political economy, current affairs, history, popular culture, and literature of Thailand, most recently *A History of Ayutthaya: Siam in the Early Modern World* (CUP, 2017), and have translated several works including literary classics, history texts, and political memoirs. Chris Baker was a Tutor and Director of Studies in History in the late 1970s.



Congratulations to **Ernest Lowinger (1961)**, who married Gill in April 2016 at Puckrup Hall, Tewkesbury.

Current student **Dr Jamie Roberts (2015)** was appointed Captain of the Welsh Rugby Team for the June internationals. He is the first person to captain a national team whilst still at College since **John Spencer (1967)** in 1969. John managed the British & Irish Lions tour to New Zealand in the summer and now becomes the President of the Rugby Football Union.



Alumna **Dr Karen Tkaczyk (1994, pictured right)** received a prestigious translation award from the Institute of Translation & Interpreting in May. She won the *Best Performance on a Translation Assignment* class at the Institute's international conference.

The Pang Kam Ping Fellow in Medicine, **Dr Anna Paterson (2002)**, has passed her Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists (FRCPPath) examination - the final part of her medical training.



Stephen Fry (1978, Hon Fellow) spoke at the Collegiate University's Campaign celebration event in London, wearing his Cherubs tie. The President and **Dr Mohamed El-Erian (1977, Hon Fellow & Fellow Benefactor)** also attended. The Campaign is raising £2 billion for Collegiate Cambridge.



In May, the College hosted a celebration for the publication of the *festschrift* for Life Fellow, **Prof Peter Spufford** (pictured in the waistcoat), in recognition of more than 30 years of leading research into the topic of "Money and its use in Medieval Europe".

The University of Athens has awarded **Prof Richard Fentiman (Fellow & Chair of the Law Faculty)** an honorary degree.

Rob Foreman (2001) has recently been appointed Chair of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Wormwood Scrubs.



In May, two alumni, **Anand Ashok (2007)** and **Vruti Dattani (2008)** got engaged under the Sundial in Old Court. They originally met at College in Easter Term 2009 while revising in the library, Vruti studying Medicine and Anand reading Chemical Engineering (when he wasn't busy winning Cricket Blues). Please send us your engagement in the College grounds stories.

The Sundial is going to be renovated in the near future, funded largely by a legacy gift from an old member of the College.



Rachel Whitehouse (2002) received the Freedom of the City of London recently. She reports that she can exercise sheep across London Bridge and will be doing so this month, borrowing the sheep for the day from the Worshipful Company of Woolmen.

Alumni Books



Could the world's most valuable company be built from the UK?

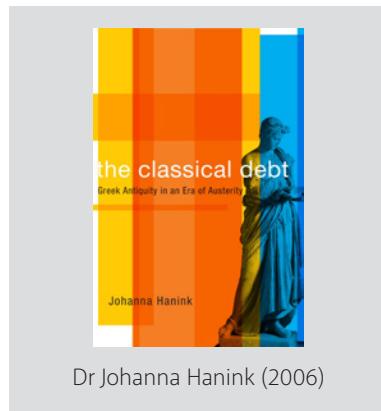
Queens' hosted some of the world's leading investors, entrepreneurs and computer scientists probing the question posed above.

Among the illustrious speakers were **Siraj Khaliq (1997)**, **Dr Demis Hassabis (1994, Fellow Benefactor)** and **Dr Ramsey Farragher (Bye-Fellow and founder of Focal Point Positioning)**. Other speakers included Niklas Zennström (Founder of Skype and the venture capitalist fund Atomico) on why now is the best time to be a start-up founder in Europe and **Dr David Cleevely (Fellow Commoner)** on starting companies in Cambridge and the role of Cambridge Angels.

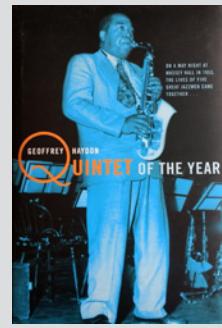
Queens' students quizzed the speakers about success in business and each entrepreneur and investor did a short sales-pitch, partly to encourage our graduating students.

It became clear at the event just how much of a kingmaker **Dr Robin Walker (1966, Estates Bursar)** is: Demis Hassabis, Siraj Khaliq and **Sid Jayakumar (2013)** all mentioned that they were taken out of the "pool" by Robin to read Computer Science at Queens'. They have all gone on to make remarkable contributions in various technology ventures.

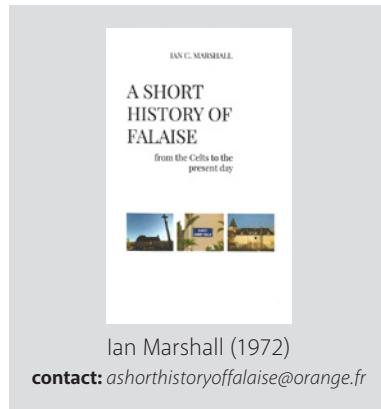
There will be events organised to celebrate **40 Years of Women at Queens'** in 2020. Please spread the word and make sure we have your current contact details so that we can ensure you receive an invitation. Please let those who might be "lost" know as well.



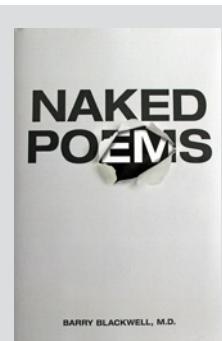
Dr Johanna Hanink (2006)



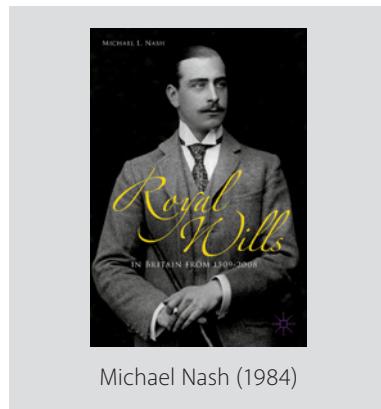
Geoffrey Haydon (1957)



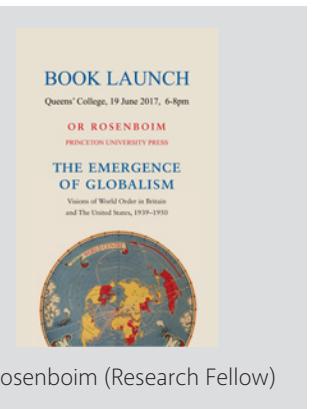
Ian Marshall (1972)
contact: ashorthistoryoffalaise@orange.fr



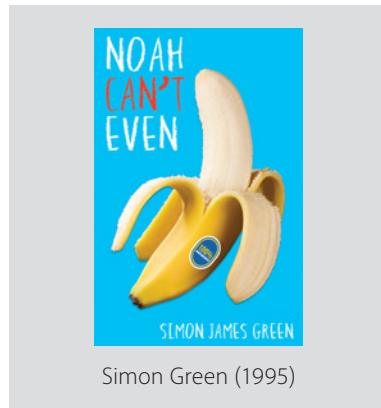
Barry Blackwell (1954)



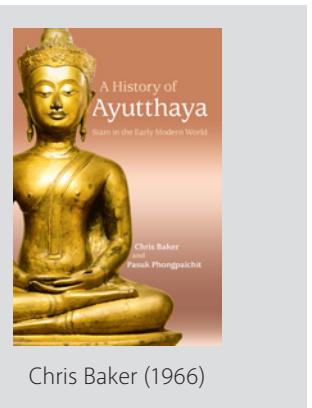
Michael Nash (1984)



Or Rosenboim (Research Fellow)



Simon Green (1995)



Chris Baker (1966)



Cities and inequality: thinking through policing and violence

Fellow's Insight: Graham Denyer Willis

Background:

B.A., University of Toronto 2002

M.A., Royal Roads University 2007

PhD, Dept. of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT 2013

University Lecturer 2014- Centre of Development Studies & Centre of Latin American Studies, POLIS, University of Cambridge

Fellow & Director of Studies in Geography at Queens' 2015

Visiting Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University 2017

Cities, police and violence...

It is now estimated that in excess of 50% of the world's population live and work in cities. But cities are, of course, sites of great inequality. This is unmistakable in the Global South. But the Grenfell fire shows cities very close to home are acutely unequal, too. I came to be interested in São Paulo and Brazilian cities after going on a year-long Rotary International student exchange to Brazil in my teens. I grew up in a small town in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada, a place of great natural beauty but little diversity. That time in Brazil made

me check all of my assumptions about the world as I had seen and understood it.

Around that time, violence was an especially serious problem in Brazil. In 1999, more than 9,500 people died violently in São Paulo alone – a trend that has since reverberated in many major cities throughout Latin America. Inequality is often intertwined with violence, accompanying the rise of organised crime, gangs, heavy handed policing, and other egregious problems.

My research began by asking how homicide detectives in São Paulo make sense of having to investigate half-a-dozen or more murders a day, plus, on average, three killings by police. **When you show up at homicide scenes and can 'sense' that the area is controlled by organised crime, how does that inform how you carry out your work?** Or, when you show up at the scene of a police shooting and it's clear that the story they are telling you isn't right, what do you do? Why?

We would arrive at a crime scene, and the police would immediately have a set of assumptions about what's occurred: perhaps near a *favela*, far from downtown, they would often only superficially inspect the body and have someone on the team take 5-10 pictures of the scene. The larger point is, how do under-resourced detectives, who are accustomed to routine violence, cede space for an organised crime group that is making the city less deadly in numerical

terms? How does this become mediated by race, poverty and space in the city?

In other words, my work attempts to make sense of a city where police killed more than 830 people in 2015 and where homicide is down in parts of the city that are now controlled by an organised crime group. It is an exploration of how Brazilian police detectives struggle deeply to protect life and what happens when some lives, especially black lives, are given little value. All of this in the foreground of a dramatic decline in homicides in São Paulo, by upwards of 85% over the last 15 years, which means that about 6,000 fewer people are dying violently every year.

This effort, originally my PhD dissertation, won three international commendations. It is based on me following around homicide and other detectives for about three years. It became my first book, *The Killing Consensus: Police, Organized Crime, and the Regulation of Life and Death in Urban Brazil*.

Shadowing detectives

I'm an ethnographer – the way I do research and make a claim to 'know', is by considering how people behave routinely. I'm interested as much in what people do, as what they may say about what they do. The point is, we all have assumptions. The results of my work would be very different if I did formulaic interviews or sent out thousands of survey questionnaires to ask police and citizens "Has organised crime made São Paulo safer?" You can imagine why.

My own assumption is that what is unspoken, but practised socially, is often what is most meaningful. In this research on violence in Brazil, I would hang around with police at crime scenes, in the station, or when, on shift, they wanted to go out to eat at 3am. This entails being open to a great deal and having to reflect on how people live in systemically different realities. For example, the book seeks to grapple with an important ancillary question about the lives of these detectives – what is 'corruption' in a place where more than 100 police are killed each year, and where, as a result, detectives leave their guns and badges at the station, seeking to hide within the city? Where they choose to tell their children they are something else – like a 'history teacher'?

Queens' first Geography Fellow

I arrived in Cambridge in September 2014 with a post in the Department of Politics & International Studies (POLIS), with teaching

and administration in Development Studies, Latin American Studies and POLIS. Because my research is largely about cities, and Latin America, my teaching fits seamlessly into Geography at Cambridge. I teach the undergraduates in College and lecture on three different MPhils (Latin American Studies, Development Studies & Politics and International Relations), as well as lecturing on the Geography Tripos.

I came to Queens' because I was interested in finding an intellectual community at Cambridge. **I have been thrilled with the way the Queens' Fellowship and the Senior Tutor see the role of teaching and learning in a larger context of national and global inequality.** It is deeply serendipitous that Queens' would be looking for their first ever Geography Fellow, in more than 550 years, at the time of my arrival at Cambridge.

The violence of Brazil versus the gentle Backs at Cambridge...

Cambridge is a fabulous place with such a wealth of resources. It is brimming with inspiring scholars, energized students, and a palpable thirst for knowledge. **But this place is also a gigantic bubble of privilege.** I struggle with squaring the reality of Brazil – with police, in the favelas and in the cemeteries of the urban poor, where I am doing some research now – and then coming back to sit at High Table. There is a hanging absurdity to the mobility and resources that I am afforded. Did you know that there are brilliant A Level Geography students in *this* country that are self-taught because they have no teacher?

I feel a need to remind myself habitually of the inequality that exists in the world and in this country; we are too sheltered in Cambridge. It's far too easy to get comfortable here. But the privilege of this place is also a pedagogical tool. **What does it mean to not walk on the grass?** What is imbued in the grass? In the statues and walls of Oxbridge? This feeds into big debates we're having more broadly today – about everything from Black Lives Matter, to the state of women and work in the world.

On questioning the role of police

The very idea of policing suggests that some populations need to be policed. As we've seen, many cities in the Global North have become safer over time. Crime rates have gone down; some cities are safer than they have ever been in history. The question is: how do we justify the need for police? Who makes and stokes fear?

Police, and all of us, have a villain to fear. This is routinely given to us as it circulates through everyday discussion: everyone has a criminal in their mind's eye, the media and scholars are hyper-vigilant about crime statistics, police maps of 'hotspots' that reinforce ideas of what, and who, is unsafe. In many countries, too, police now have quotas to meet; *they must arrest people*. The problem is, the more criminals you arrest and the more they are evoked, the more criminals will exist in our imagination. And the idea of policing as necessary continues. **But there is a fallacy: police don't make problems go away. They need problems to justify their existence.** That's a big paradox – especially acute in the United States at the moment. The more you police people, the more prisons you need. And private prisons are big business. Have you seen *Orange is the New Black*?

Policing the internet...

For the last three years I've been doing research on who polices the internet. At the end of my research alongside homicide detectives, I found myself befriended on Facebook by the police I was spending time with. I noticed an unnerving trend. Unlike the *Black Lives Matter* movement in the States, where citizens upload their own videos of police brutality, I found that police in Brazil were posting and circulating images of their own violence onto social media. This was frightening. But it also became deeply important to follow because of what happened as a result. These videos created all sorts of dialogue in Brazil and some political pressure. However, just as quickly as they were posted, Facebook would remove them – as if they, and the circumstances that created them, never existed.

This raised a number of questions for me: 1) Who gets to decide who should see police violence online? 2) Should Facebook be 'moderating' this content? Why do they do it? And for whom? 3) Who does the actual work of content curation? Where in the world are they?

Trust in social and intelligent machines

It is becoming more obvious that companies like Google and Facebook are shaping the contours of what we can know, know we can know, or don't know. Facebook is now struggling to confront the reality that it is not just an apolitical platform that can be populated by whatever. Fake news! *Bad!* This is deeply intertwined with the idea of trust and safety. These companies work on the assumption that people will use a platform repeatedly if they trust it, and they



won't if they see perverse images, violence, porn or other problematic content on there.

This has led directly to the research I am doing now, which is tracing the ways that big technology firms keep their platforms clean and 'well lit' under a rubric of 'community guidelines' and 'trust and safety'. This is, ultimately, about policing bad content. So far, I've found my way into some interesting corners, including working briefly for a content moderation start-up. A lucrative industry is emerging around content moderation. Since it is very expensive to employ an army of people to sift through millions of data points, most companies outsource that work to precarious workforces in places like Manila and Dhaka. There are thousands of people today that work in either call centre type offices or as 'distributed' workers – out of their homes, wherever they may be. **All day long they look at the worst kind of images – beheadings, child abuse, sexual violence – either deleting them or leaving them alone.**

The going rate is roughly €50 per 1,000 images. It takes forever to go through 1,000 images, determining if something is explicitly violent, sexual or 'clean'. As a result, the most recent turn is to teach machines to do this work. Now, the work of deciding what is a 'good' and what is a 'bad' image or video is about training the machine to recognize it for itself. Over thousands of instances, where content moderators code individual images, companies are hoping that they'll be able to virtually eliminate human costs – **intelligent machines could one day, not so far away, decide what is inappropriate.** In which case, the decision, who decides about what we see, or don't see – the foundation of our 'trust and safety' – will be made by something other than a human.

The horizon for this project is a bit frightening, as you can imagine. I hope I can do justice to it in my next book.



Mike Foale's Space Odyssey

Few astronauts have endured a collision in space and lived to tell the tale...

It costs roughly USD120 million to train an astronaut, so making the right selection is no small matter. Mike Foale, with six space flights, more than 375 days in orbit and quick thinking in the face of catastrophe, has proven he is worth his salt. He was recently entered into the US Astronaut Hall of Fame – an honour bestowed to under 100 people to date. It's no wonder that a film, *Icarus*, about his illustrious career is underway...

Background

I fell in love with the idea of becoming an astronaut at six years old; my mother put the idea into my head. She took me to a museum in Minneapolis St Paul, where I was shown John Glenn's capsule (the first American to do the first three orbits around the Earth). To my untrained eye, the capsule looked like a dustbin – not particularly alluring. However, I glanced up to the ceiling, where hung a model of a futuristic space shuttle and I thought, "I wouldn't mind flying in that". From there, my mother built upon my fledgling interest, supplying me with books on space and astronomy. I was also interested in following my father's footsteps by

becoming a pilot in the Royal Air Force (RAF) – either that or a steam engine train driver. Either way, I was set upon a scientific path, more motivated to learn mathematics and physics than I might otherwise have been.

At 16, I tried to join the RAF but didn't make the cut due to a faulty eyesight exam – I was absolutely crushed. At that time I thought I had to be a test pilot in the RAF to become an astronaut; that was the path. My father comforted me, and told me to focus on my other skills. My grades were ok but not great: an A and two Bs; however, I took the Cambridge entrance exam and did well – an exhibition. I was in.

Dr Michael Foale CBE (1975)

Natural Sciences – undergraduate (First)

Physics – PhD

Honorary Fellow

CBE

2017, Astronaut Hall of Fame

Daughter, Jenna, MPhil and now PhD at Queens'

Road to the stars

I read Natural Sciences at Queens'. I greatly enjoyed the hands-on projects: the second year project, out at Lord's Bridge on Barton Road, with radio telescopes was a lot of fun. While at Cambridge, I joined many societies: the underwater exploration group and flying at Duxford amongst them. I took the third year seriously which paid off as I ended up with a First.

The First enabled me to stay on and do a PhD at the Cavendish Laboratories. My supervisor was Sir Alan Cook, a famed physicist and the Head of Cavendish Labs at the time. It was quite an honour to be one of his students; imagine my surprise when he immediately

informed me he was going on sabbatical. I didn't see him for almost the whole PhD!

I'd had a couple of big personal upsets between my undergraduate degree finishing and my PhD beginning, and I was happy to throw myself into my work. A few Queens' thespians looked out for me, including **Stephen Fry (1978)**, and the Finance Director of the Cavendish Labs, Mr John Deacon, seemed to have his eye on me. When I asked for equipment or travel, he would make it materialise; I was well supported and managed to write up on time.

Jumping off point

After my PhD, I immediately moved to America to work for McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation (now part of Boeing), next to the Johnson Space Centre. My first job was working on the space shuttle navigation software – not very stimulating, but it paid well. I was told by the Head of Astronaut selection at the time, Mr George Abbey, that it would be wise to stay around the Houston area if I wanted to become an astronaut. At the time, President Ronald Reagan had instituted a hiring freeze, but when it lifted, they said they would hire me into the NASA civil service – which they did, in 1983. I wasn't brought on as an astronaut initially, instead working with the cargo and experiments going on the space shuttle. I was responsible for payload, speaking with the organisations flying cargo or conducting experiments on the space shuttles, to help get their experiments off the ground.

During those early years, I was on the ground in Mission Control, as Payload Officer, during most missions.

To Mars by 45

In 1987 I applied for a third time to be an astronaut, having been rejected twice beforehand. I was successfully selected at the age of 30. I felt very old at the time – I'd hoped to be on the moon by the time I was 30 and on Mars by the time I was 45 – though I was actually the youngest in my selection group. The astronaut entrance process was gruelling, but I had prepared tirelessly in the lead up and I was ready and excited. I enjoyed all the exercises: physical, mental, and medical. The interview was the most terrifying aspect, although, really, they knew me well by this point.

First Flights

My first flight was in 1992, **STS45 ATLAS 1**. The mission involved flying two shifts of scientists to study global warming caused



26 year career in NASA



375 days in orbit



6 trips into space



4 spacewalks totalling
22hrs 44 mins



20th anniversary
since Mir crash



23 minutes of reserve oxygen
before they would lose
consciousness aboard Mir



1 month – length of
time the Mir station was
inoperable after accident



\$120 million – the amount
to train an astronaut



30 years old – when accepted
into space programme

by carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases, atmospheric impurities in the ozone, and measuring solar brightness variations. The coolest part of the experiment was creating artificial aurora – Northern lights – over Australia (*Aurora Australis*), firing an electron beam out of the shuttle. **You can't replicate that first space flight feeling.**

STS56: I was quickly sent back up (1993) to do essentially the same thing, with a smaller crew. These first two missions were roughly 10 days each.

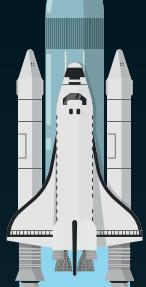
STS63: My third flight was in 1995. On this mission, I was determined to partake in a spacewalk; however, to do this, you can't really be the 'scientist', so I lobbied my bosses to think of me as a flight engineer. Generally, those roles went to army/airforce, but I persevered and on my third flight I flew as the flight engineer. We were required to install an astronomy telescope in space for roughly five days. Once in place, myself and one other astronaut flew out to retrieve the hefty telescope (weighed 1.5 tonnes). In addition, we were also testing a spacesuit heating system that they were perfecting for the Hubble Space mission in future. The test resulted in some frostbite!

To Moscow and beyond

As the mission concluded, the Cold War was ending and Clinton and Yeltsin had agreed to build the International Space Station (ISS): the agreement allowed Russians to fly in the American Space Shuttle and vice versa. Little did I know, this would result in me moving with my young family to Russia for two years. Jenna was four, Ian was one; he was so little he would disappear in the snow! I had to learn Russian, which I found the biggest challenge. The **STS84** crew delivered me to Mir, where I was tasked with mostly performing scientific experiments. My Russian colleagues welcomed me aboard, though, they were not very forthcoming with information; my nickname in Russia was either 'Langley' or 'Cambridge'.

Collision in space

Unbeknownst to NASA, an experiment was to be conducted while I was on board Mir: to fly a cargo ship, *Progress*, by remote control to the Russian station. My predecessor, Jerry Linenger, had warned me that the crew had been attempting to dock the cargo ship without the use of radar. What we didn't know at the time was the purpose for this was financial, as the Russians no longer wanted to buy radar from the Ukraine. The nightmare scenario came to life when, without radar, the speed



Coming soon

Icarus, film about
Mike's career

2017

inducted into
US Astronaut
Hall of Fame

2013

retired from
NASA

2005

made CBE for
services to space
exploration

1997

accident
aboard Mir

1992

first space flight

1975

matriculated
at Queens'

of the cargo ship was misjudged and it was unable to brake in time with the thrusters, resulting in a direct hit. The crash caused the air to rush out of the station, which meant we only had 23 minutes before being rendered unconscious. Communicating all the while in Russian, the flight engineer and I managed to pull cables out of the hatch and plug the hole to stop the air escape.

Having saved the station from full depressurisation, we unfortunately ended up disconnecting a third of the station's power supply, leaving the station with limited power, no communication with Earth and in an uncontrolled tumble. In space, due to the speed and orbit, one is in daylight for 45 minutes and darkness for 45 minutes. By the time we moved into darkness, the station had powered down completely and, due to the spinning, our solar rays were no longer pointing to the sun which meant there was no power to the batteries. Everything was completely silent, dead.

Those critical hours

We had hours of discussion, watching the stars to orient our direction of spin. Oddly, **the view out the windows during those few, critical hours was, to this day, the most beautiful sight I've seen in space**: the Earth was radiating a stunning blue light and we were surrounded by complete darkness in the cabin. Our only option was to rotate the station using power from the Soyuz (our lifeboat). As it was our only escape, we were concerned about using too much fuel from the lifeboat; however, we took our one chance at salvation, fired the Soyuz thrusters, and managed to stop the uncontrolled movement. We also recalibrated our position to optimise the exposure to solar rays, permitting power to return. After nearly 30 hours, we re-established continuous power to the station and could finally communicate with ground control. It was a saga but really quite exciting, looking back. The repair process over the coming months was long and tedious. Because we'd disconnected so much power from the station, multiple modules were dead; water was freezing and coagulating in large cubic meter globs. I spent about two months on the damaged craft trying to extract dirty, slimy water from those modules. Needless to say, I didn't do many experiments over that period.

At the end of the Mir mission I participated in a Russian spacewalk to try and find the hole in the Mir Spekter module. The hole was inaccessible to us to find and repair, which was frustrating. It was the day they



Mike speaking at the Astronaut Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in May 2017

buried Princess Diana. I went out in a Russian spacesuit and investigated the hole outside the Mir. We knew the world was no longer watching us...

Y2K

At the end of 1999, I was on the Hubble Rescue Mission. This was quite a complex repair job, but it had to be done quickly as NASA, along with the rest of the world, was unsure how Y2K would affect the equipment, afraid the shuttle would perhaps fall out of orbit. We rushed the intricate job and landed safely – of course, nothing happened.

After the mission, I was posted to Washington DC as the Deputy Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Space Flight – that was my biggest title and my most difficult job. I was in the position for a year, but I wasn't really suited to desk work.

My last flight

After the *Colombia* tragedy in 2003, they suspended most flights; however, I was one of the few that flew on a mission to the ISS, as the Commander. I was part of a two-person crew; our time was shared between maintaining the space station and performing roughly 70 experiments, often human experiments... performed on myself and my crewmate. To keep morale high, they'd have people ring us up like Tom Hanks or Kevin Klein.

In the family

I was lucky that my wife, Rhonda, has always been very understanding of what can be a dangerous career. When we met,

Rhonda knew I wanted to be an astronaut and she worked for NASA for eight years as an engineer, specializing in the shuttle robot arm.

To what do you attribute your success?

Luck, optimism and persistence, and a touch of fearlessness.

Grounded

I officially retired from NASA in 2013. I now run my own company, *Foale Aerospace*, consulting for companies, using my knowledge of rocketry, space operations and the Russian space programme. I have been inspired by my daughter, Jenna, and her work at the Engineering Department at Cambridge; she's currently a PDRA and is staying on for a PhD at Queens', working on combusting turbulent flows to improve the efficiency and cleanliness of jet engines. I'm incorporating some of her work into my consulting. I work with SpaceShipTwo and Virgin Galactic, among others.

Currently, I'm greatly enjoying gliding in my spare time and my next focus is working on machine learning: adaptive, intelligent approaches; controlling and monitoring equipment much more like a human. I plan on applying it to identify imminent failure on things like rocket motors, jet aircraft engines and wind turbines, or loss of control of aircraft. I make the boxes and software myself. I've put sensors on my glider and have been testing it in Colorado. Hopefully it will come to something.

Back to the stars

There's no doubt that space tourism is a burgeoning industry that's sure to take off. I would happily go back to space, perhaps accompanying film stars on joy rides. There

are a couple of interesting companies out there now – SpaceX with Elon Musk (already delivering cargo to the space station), is working on a vehicle, *Dragon*, that carries crew and will probably fly next year; Boeing's space flight should be operational by next year as well. The Jeff Bezos venture, *New Shepherd*, is interesting; he's making a rocket that may be the one that beats them all.

Icarus film announced

A film is being made about Mike's career and we're sworn to secrecy. The film is being directed and developed by **Iain Softley (1976)**, written by Hilary Thompson and Laurence Coriat, and is produced by Kris Thykier, Michael Maher (of *Passengers* fame) and Iain Softley.

Iain and Mike were friends at Queens', which gives the story a personal taste. Iain is keen to ensure it's not just a survival film in space. Iain optioned the book, *Way Station to the Stars*, written by Mike's father. The film traces Mike's time in Cambridge, his blossoming career in space aviation, his move to Star City (Cosmonaut compound near Moscow) and culminates with the Mir accident and repairs.

Iain says the film is coming along nicely and they are now looking for someone to play Mike and get a cast in place.

Watch this space – it's sure to be an exhilarating ride!

Fun fact: Early discussions about the film started here at the President's Lodge. Mike and Iain frequently meet in Cambridge to catch up on the project.



Mike greeted at Queens' by the President, Lord Eatwell



Halcyon Days

Harry Woodhouse (1949)

The importance of being unimportant

Whenever I come to an alumni weekend, I am overwhelmed by the important people who surround me. They are bishops, ambassadors, professors, colonels, admirals, MPs, Lords, judges, film stars and are, probably, millionaires. They all have one thing in common. They are all important...

Where, I ask myself, are the unimportant? I am one myself.

I was never very bright at school, but made up for it by working harder than anybody else. To my great delight, I was offered a place at Queens'. I won a Cornwall County scholarship for £70. The Council said this was plenty to keep me at Cambridge for a year. I did a year in the Army, where I learned a lot. For example, always do the easiest job first: you may get killed in action, then you never have to do the difficult job. In 1949, I paid my University entry fee of £2 and moved into room A3, by the Gatehouse.

I shared with **Maurice Windsor (1949)**, who became a professor (of course). Together with **John Baldwin (1949)**, who became Professor of Radio Astronomy, **George Band (1949)**, who was on the successful Everest expedition, and several others, we used to juggle with 15 balls in Old Court, when the porters were not looking.

For my second year, I moved into L1 with **Geoff Lomer (1950)**, who also became important. The best fun was fishing in the

Cam. We made a trap from a jam-jar and a small honey jar, with a string hinge in between, put a piece of bread inside, and lowered it out of the window. We had a tiny kitchen, and for weeks we were perplexed to find our dishes were covered with soap-suds when we left them in the sink. One day we heard a gurgling noise in the kitchen: our drain was connected to that of the **Revd. St. John Hart (1936 & Fellow)**, who lived upstairs. Every time he had a bath, his dirty bathwater came up into our sink. We could only have ice cream in the winter, because the College 'frig' would not freeze in the summer. (We all had to hand in our ration books, of course). We played bicycle tennis on the Queens' courts in the evenings. Queens' was a men-only college – we were not allowed to have girls in our rooms in the evenings; the penalty was immediate expulsion. Times have changed.

I read Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Mineralogy (the Natural Sciences Tripos). Every exam had a compulsory English essay. That's why most Cambridge graduates of my age can read and write. In a moment of madness, I also chose Advanced Maths as an additional subject. We had Miss Grimshaw. The very name still gives me nightmares. She started the lectures by teaching us how to prove that one is greater than nought (I thought I had learnt that in the infants' school). She said the proof was not subtle. I agreed. Of course, students had no computers in those days, and calculators were not allowed. The University had two computers: "EDSAC" and "ENIAC". They occupied the whole of the Maths building, several storeys high. All the windows were kept open, and there were fans everywhere to dissipate the heat from the thousands of valves.

The practical Chemistry exam lasted three hours. On one occasion, a student near me asked the lab assistant for a bucket of ice. The assistant said it was not needed for the exam, but the student insisted. He took a bottle of champagne from his rucksack, and put it in the bucket. It turned out that I was good at gravimetric analysis; indeed the tutor told me he used my results to check his own. Obviously, I should have become a laboratory chemist. Britain was very short of them. Unfortunately it only took me five minutes to realise I could earn twice as much as a manager. Any fool can be a manager (look around you), but you try being an analytical chemist.

The Physics practicals were world-famous. The idea was that anybody intelligent could pass, without any knowledge of complicated equipment. My final exam gave me a piece

of string, a piece of glass and a pin, and asked me to prove Brewster's Law. I sweated for three hours, and finished up with a graph with two points on it. Everybody knows that you can draw anything you like through two points. I was sure I had failed. When I got outside, I found nobody had got three points, some had one, and most had none. I passed.

There was little time for sport when doing science (or Medicine, or Engineering) because of practical work, but I played squash and tennis and in my first year rowed for Queens' third boat. I joined Queens' orchestra, and the University second orchestra under Raymond Leppard (who became very important). In my last year, I had a walking holiday in the Sahara desert. On the way there, I had a midnight swim in the Mediterranean, not realising it was next to the Algiers sewage outfall. I am now immune from every known disease.

In my spare time I became a plant manager in an oil refinery, did process research for English China Clays, overseas studies for production and storage, setting up new overseas projects, and finally setting up and managing their operations in the Pacific, where we built plants in India, Japan and Australia. When I had flown round the world 20 times, I stopped counting. I never travelled on Concorde, which was reserved for important people.

I took a lovely Cornish girl to a May Ball in 1952, and married her in 1955. We have three children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Now, in my 87th year, I only work two days a week, one for rifle-shooting for the blind, and one for the local museum.

Despite all that effort, I am still not important. I salute all members of Queens' of whom nobody has ever heard: we are the unimportant.

It is nice to be important, but it is more important to be nice.





Brandon O'Dell, Can Türkseven and Doug Dennis

Queens' alumni merge minds to create app

It was during Fresher's Week when **Can Türkseven (2011)** received an email about a tour of historic Cambridge with Queens' alumnus and local historian, **Doug Dennis (1965)**. The tour was very popular and filled up quickly.

Six years later, Can and fellow Queens' alumnus **Brandon O'Dell (2011)** started *Cultrex mobile app* – short for 'culture explorer' – which provides self-guided, curated tours for museums and cultural sites. All tours are written by experts and professionally photographed and narrated, creating an excellent user experience. When creating the Cambridge tour, they naturally turned to Doug. So

sparked a fun, inspiring collaboration that brought together Queens' alumni whose matriculation years were 46 years apart!

Cambridge – the bedrock

Can's student experience was pivotal in his idea becoming a reality:

"Being in such an intellectually vibrant place as Cambridge brings humble yet ambitious and talented people together and fosters creative thinking."

At Judge Business School, we combined classes from arts and media management with entrepreneurship, giving us the tools

to test the Cultrex concept. Mentors from Cambridge's Entrepreneurship Centre were crucial to our success as we took tangible steps to make it a reality. The project, funded from the Natural Science Foundation of Turkey, was launched soon after we graduated."

The tour covers:

- The symbiotic growth of the town and University and the development of the one of the most successful entrepreneurial centres in the world with a world-renowned university;
- Historical colleges: King's, Trinity, St John's, Corpus Christi and St Catharine's;
- Cambridge traditions;
- Cambridge landmarks: the Arts Theatre, St Benet's Church, Corpus Clock and Senate House;
- Prominent Cambridge alumni;
- And of course, Queens' College, which gets a special visit in the tour. Part of Doug's research has also revealed some interesting facts regarding ties between Oliver Cromwell and Queens' College, which are also featured.

"Obviously, nothing beats a personal tour with Doug," says Can. "However, Cultrex Cambridge Tour is the next best thing."

The tour is free and works on iOS and Android. For more info, search "**Cultrex**" on app stores or go to www.cultrex.com Contact: hello@cultrex.com



If you haven't yet signed up, you can sign up here:
https://queens.politech.uk/sign_up

Queens' Community

New features coming soon

After a very successful launch with over a third of alumni signed up, we are planning what's next for the Queens' Community. Coming soon will be a 'Groups' feature which will enable users to create groups based on, amongst other things, subject, clubs/societies or current location so that informal events and meet-ups can be arranged easily – something which we hope will be particularly appealing to alumni who aren't able to make it back to College as often as they'd like. If you're interested in setting up a group, please do let us know. We are also planning to create an option for users to post requests for careers advice which will work in a similar way to the 'Jobs' board – details to follow in due course. If you have any suggestions for other features which you would like to see on the Community, feel free to email them to community@queens.cam.ac.uk.



New Visitor at Queens'

The Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada, has been elected as Queens' new College Visitor. We thank our outgoing Visitor, **The Rt Hon. Lord Falconer of Thoroton QC (1970)**, for ten years of service to Queens'. The purpose of The Visitor is to consider disputes regarding College matters, in cases where all internal College and University remedies have been exhausted.

Photograph © SCC / Photographer: Roy Grogan

Queens' Curiosity

Tunnel unearthed

The remains of an underground tunnel were unearthed in Cloister Court while gardeners were digging there in 2014. This was a thrilling discovery, as the tunnel had not been visible for over 500 years. The tunnel aligns exactly with a large, sealed arch visible on the waterfront of the riverside building, just above river level.

Currently, we can only hypothesise that the tunnel may have served the cellars under the Old Hall and kitchens, providing a direct path for river-borne deliveries to reach the cellars. For now, the tunnel will remain a curiosity. Any suggestions welcome.



Profile: Kevin Bassam Queens' Head Chef

Kevin tells us what's cooking at Queens'

Cooking has been my passion and profession for the last 18 years, having the privilege to cook in various three to five-star hotels, and one to three AA Rosette restaurants. I've worked under some excellent, classically-trained head chefs, including a six-month stint working in a five-star hotel in Cape Town. All these experiences have helped me develop my skill set and fuel my love of cooking.

Plans for College

Over the next few months, I will be introducing new banqueting menus available for both internal and external events, showcasing local and sustainable produce. I also plan to update the Buttery and High Table menus, working closely with the Stewards' Committee to take into account all student and Fellowships needs.

Being part of Cambridge University, we are part of a co-operative and use several local suppliers. I'm an advocate of using locally sourced produce and believe in the

importance of using sustainable produce. I have a close working relationship with each of my suppliers, regularly speaking with them daily to source the best produce for Queens'.

Be sure to try my signature dish

My signature dish is currently 'Pork three ways': pork fillet, slow cooked pork belly, sticky cheek, pomme puree, scorched leek, roasted granny smiths, heritage carrots and scratchings with a shallot and thyme jus.

The highlight of my short time at Queens' so far has to be the inaugural Benefactors' Feast, a first for Queens' and a brilliant team effort from all the chefs and the entire Catering Department. I chose the five-course menu (with a few added courses to cleanse the palate), focussing on creating a well-balanced meal, with each course reflecting what was best in season.

I look forward to next year's Benefactors' Feast!





Grilling the Development Director...

Fellow's Insight: Mr Rowan Kitt

Appointed four years ago to lead alumni relations and to fundraise for Queens', Rowan is asked by **Dr Julia Gog (David N. Moore Fellow in Mathematics) & Gifford Combs (1983 & Fellow Commoner)** what he's been up to.

Background:

Chorister at Worcester Cathedral

Studied at Durham, London universities and Cambridge

Taught at Bryanston, Charterhouse and North London Collegiate schools

Development Director at North London Collegiate; Acting Development Director at Clare College

Queens' Fellow since 2013, Bursarial Committee member and Senior College Officer

Director of Studies for MBAs, EMBA & MFins 2016-17

Spare time: Three children aged six, four and 18 months; rugby refereeing.

What drew you to the role and how did you end up here?

Development is a great job if you believe in the institution and what it does – that's easy to do at Queens'. But I could also see from the outside that there was a huge job to do (and there still is), so it feels even more worthwhile. I came here via the Clare Development Office and from directing development at one of the top academic schools. And, Queens' is the *alma mater* of Charles Villiers Stanford – irresistible!

You've been with us for four years now, so what have you done?

The team has now set a standard of consistently bringing in over £2.5m per annum through the generosity of alumni, Fellows and friends of the College. We've endowed 15 Fellowships i.e. almost a quarter of the Official Fellows which is preserving the supervision system in perpetuity. The endowment has gone from £49m in 2006 to £86m in 2017 – this is

leading us towards being a moderately-endowed College after centuries of being chronically under-endowed.

There's been a huge increase in the percentage of alumni donating to the College from 8% to 12.5%, mostly through The 1448 Society. This has brought us up to the level of most other colleges in Cambridge.

We've also revolutionised communications with our alumni worldwide through various means, including the bi-annual *Bridge* magazine, the website, the Queens' Global series of events, social media, the Queens' Community online network, and the promise of a warm welcome at the College.

What are your hopes and goals for the next few years?

Encourage the 87% of alumni who are not giving to the College to give at least £14.48 per annum, and to put a clause in their wills that benefits Queens', as generations have done before. It would also be nice to "find" all of our "lost" alumni. We also need to attract more non-Queens' philanthropists, as well as parents to give to the College.

And beyond that?

Strive to make Queens' a genuine powerhouse college all around. To realise this, we need financial support in all areas: teaching, research, student welfare provision, extra-curricular activities. Our ancient buildings, too, require constant maintenance and repair. Most importantly, perhaps, is the need to change the seemingly-entrenched philosophy at Queens' that we've always been poor and can't do anything about it. We can!

I've noticed the Fellowship is getting more involved in development activities. How have you and your team achieved that?

There's a warm welcome in the office, for a start. We run the website and communications so there is always correspondence with our Fellows; we want to showcase their talents and academic impact. I've worked with many Fellows individually to see if I can find support for their specific projects. For example, we've successfully endowed prizes in various subjects (e.g. the David Ward Prize in Physics) and endowed Fellowships (e.g. The Ajit Singh Fellowship in Economics, in honour of Dr Andy Cosh). The Fellows remember their former students fondly and are always keen to receive updates whenever I meet them.

The inaugural Benefactors' Feast saw a great deal of the Fellowship in attendance – they understand the transformational power of philanthropy as trustees and want to thank people for their generosity.

And I hear there are more alumni involved than ever, how was this achieved?

We've gone out to meet people around the world face-to-face – many of whom previously had little contact from College. I've also used the rugby officiating that I'm involved in to meet alumni in places we might not normally visit, such as Johannesburg, Chicago, Durban, Edinburgh, Limerick, Cape Town, Sydney, Dunedin and Paris.

We have introduced events for alumni based on extra-curricular interests, for example, the *Wagner Evening* this October and the *Lions Night* and *Finance Evening* in 2016. We've also made the events programme accessible for younger alumni and those with families through the *Garden Party* and *Family Day* every June. I hope that alumni now feel welcome at their *alma mater* at any time, as life-members of Queens'. There's usually a cup of tea available in the Alumni Office above the plodge...or a sherry at the right time of day! I believe we are now stewarding people properly and ensuring they have an on-going relationship with us – the best way to thank people.

How would you encourage alumni to engage with us?

We are grateful for help in all areas:

- Business contacts for our students and young alumni
- Alumni expertise: alumni sit on the Investments Committee and have been commissioned to review some of our extra-curricular provision



Springboks v France, Third Test at Ellis Park, Johannesburg 2017



Family Day at Queens'

And, I won't pull any punches: a college like Queens' needs all its members to be donating according to means. Many people had a free education here and everyone's education was subsidised by the College. I also think most alumni want to give – they often just don't get round to it. But it's a great feeling when you do become a donor. Try it!

What parts of your role have brought you the most happiness?

Finding the hidden donor that is inside everybody! Seeing our young students going out into the world to do some extraordinarily creative, helpful and revolutionary things. Enabling alumni to reconnect with their *alma mater*, sometimes after a 40 or 50 year gap.

For example...

Watching one of our few centenarian alumni, **Peter Wood (1934)**, reciting the Latin Grace perfectly last summer in the Old Senior Combination Room at his 100th birthday party. Among many poignant tales is the case of **Dikran Knadjian (1970, Medicine)** who disappeared in Yosemite National Park in 1972 and has not been seen since. His sister visited College for the first time in 2015 and she and her siblings are now sponsoring a Queens' medical student to travel to Armenia for an elective every year in Dikran's name.

The biggest frustration?

The brain-drain away from Queens' for postgraduate study because of our lack of funding and accommodation. The same

applies to some academics we try to recruit as Fellows. If we want the best, we have to provide the best deal.

Do you get to work much with our students?

We've made a point of working with current students – it's fun and they are also in touch with our office for the rest of their lives, so it's important they understand what we do before they leave. We offer business contacts with alumni, feature students stories on the website, source alumni speakers for their society events and secure funding for travel bursaries and prizes. Student societies need help: we set up the Blues Dinner in 2015 to thank those students who represent the University at sport and have placed Fellow Patrons in some societies to help with continuity and organisation. Our team, of course, works with the student telephone callers to maximise the annual fund each September – this has been remarkably successful.

The football women tell me you had to deal with a rugby emergency earlier this year. What happened?

I was just a spectator with my tiny son at the Cambridge Women's 2nd team's Varsity Match against 'the other place' at Grange Road in March. The referee got injured eight minutes into the game and there was a fairly desperate tannoy announcement asking if anybody who could take over. I handed my son over to willing hands, borrowed some kit and a whistle and did the game. I survived.

("survived" might require clarification... Rowan is actually on the World Rugby panel of elite referees as a Television Match Official. He made his RBS Six Nations Championship debut this year and was selected for 10 full Test matches in the 2016-17 season, as well as the Aviva Premiership Final. He is also featuring in this year's Rugby Championship (the old Tri-Nations).

Funniest story told by an alum?

How the late **Duncan Revie (1972)** and his friends kidnapped a Fellow's Mini car

and liberated it on top of the Mathematical Bridge. If only there was a photo!

Favourite places in Queens'?

Cloister Court and the Development Office's post in-tray where donations are received!

How would you describe Queens' in 2017?

An awakening giant of a college that desperately needs support in all areas, but also a college in which morale

is gradually being boosted by the on-going philanthropy, which helps encourage the Fellows and students here to be the best they can be.

One message for alumni:

As life members of Queens', the quality of the College's future is partly in your hands. Join in!

Quick-fire questions from *Gifford Combs* – a Board member for the Collegiate Cambridge Development Campaign for £2bn - "Dear World... Yours, Cambridge"

Why should I give to Queens'?

We are one of the best vehicles for social mobility because we provide training for the best and brightest, irrespective of background and have a long tradition of doing so. Queens' transforms people and their opportunities. We also provide a wonderful environment in which our Fellows and students are inspired to collaborate, research, debate and construct. Our students go on to direct, discover and excel in just about every field one could imagine from artificial intelligence to film-making, whilst our Fellows lead research in fields as diverse as oesophageal cancer to GPS positioning.

How should a donor think about giving to Queens' versus giving to the University?

Donors can give to both – we are a collegiate university. Strong colleges make a strong university and vice versa. A gift to Queens' counts towards the University's current campaign. However, the University can attract funding from a huge variety of sources globally whereas Queens' (and most colleges) can only effectively rely on alumni, parents and friends. Our pool of potential support is far smaller.

Graduate students seem more important now. What is Queens' doing to integrate graduates into the life of the College?

The MCR is thriving and cosmopolitan: we provide grad students now with some tutoring, pastoral and welfare

care, academic input, their own Feast and dinners and increasingly better accommodation in large houses around the city. Next, we want to provide new study space for them, in buildings at the back and on the side of the Cripps Court.

What percentage of the College's revenues comes from either the University reimbursement or from the "colleges fund"?

We receive no financial support from the University. For the financial year ended 30th June 2016, Queens' received limited funding from the Newton Trust and Trinity (for bursaries) which amounted to c£140,000 or 1.006% of revenue before investment gains, pension liabilities and new endowments. This will drop to around £50,000 in 2018.

What percentage of the College's revenues comes from UK government support of undergraduates? How has that changed in recent years?

Fee income to the College has declined in real terms since 1998, and continues to decrease year on year. The College receives no government funding. Fees are the obligation of students and, in the four years to 2016, as a percentage of total income, it dropped from 30.4% to 24.9%.

How does the endowment compare to other colleges at Cambridge?

Colleges such as Peterhouse, Clare and Jesus are considerably smaller in terms of



student numbers, but often have more than double our investment assets. This shows how hard we have to work at Queens' to create a granite-like financial future from the shifting sands we currently occupy.

What are the three most important fundraising goals of the College at present?

The endowment: the good news is that rapid progress is being made thanks to careful investment and the generosity of alumni and friends. Our aim is to raise another £50 million. Roughly 4.5% of our total expenditure is supported by the endowment each year. The College's main financial priority is reinvestment in the endowment...which shows how crucial donations are to us each year.

The supervision system: the endowment of 15 fellowships in the last few years means that we are able to preserve this expensive but vital method of education. We have about another 45 to go!

Student support: fee bursaries for both undergrads and postgrads; accommodation for postgrads so we don't lose them to other colleges; travel bursaries for research and electives – those vital extras which students cannot always afford.

Floreat Domus

Philanthropy to Queens' continues, in the words of a Fellow, to lift the morale of everyone at the College and encourages people to be the best they can be. It also helps fund specific activities like the supervision system, the historic and expensive buildings and student fee bursaries.

Among gifts given to Queens' in recent months:



- The full archive of old *Record* magazines is now available online, thanks to the generosity of Nan and **Michael Kershaw (1975)**, in memory of husband and father, **Jack Kershaw (1939)**.
www.queens.cam.ac.uk/publications/the-record/
- Dr Graham McShane (2000)** becomes the first *Notley Fellow in Engineering*, thanks to a generous endowment from **Sean (1982) & Helen Notley**.
- The great Lyster legacy (**Tony Lyster, 1949**) continues to fund the supervision system, most recently in the form of the *Anthony L. Lyster Fellowship in Modern & Medieval Languages (MML)*, now held by **Dr Martin Crowley**.

• Legacy gifts are crucial to Queens' and a bequest from the estate of **Kenneth Waghone (1939)** has endowed the *Waghone Prize in MML*.

- Academic prizes have also been endowed in honour of two retiring and long-serving Fellows: *The David Ward Prize in Physics* and *The Gamble-Scott Prize in HSPS* (**Prof Jackie Scott**).
- Moreover, *The Milgate Fund in Economics* has been endowed in honour of the retiring **Murray Milgate**, a former Senior Tutor and Fellow of 21 years service. This will help fund the academic activities of all Economics students at the College, as well as three new prizes.

Kenneth Waghone



- Edward Reeve (2014)** is the recipient of the *Aiki Vatikioti Postgraduate Studentship in Music*, designed to support both an MPhil year and a PhD.



The riverbank and The Round have been repaired finally, at a cost of around £650,000. This summer, the south range of the Old Court roof was replaced, following the north range replacement in 2016.



Shanghai event

Alumni around the world are increasingly organising and attending Queens' reunions in their many locations, as part of the *Queens' Global network*. The most recent events have taken place in Hong Kong, Johannesburg, Durban, Sydney and Dunedin with **Rowan Kitt (Development Director)** and in Brisbane with **Murray Milgate (Fellow)**. The College's first event in Cape Town is on 4 October. **Jenny Wang (2014, EMBA)** organised an inaugural event in Shanghai in April – she is our Global "Ambassador" in China. The new online *Queens' Community* is helping alumni to connect more easily, so get involved!



Benefactors' Feast

The inaugural *Benefactors' Feast* was held in College on 7th May, to thank benefactors and celebrate philanthropy at Queens'. 27 benefactors were in attendance, accompanied by their guests, along with current students and Fellows.

The evening began with a special Ceremony in Chapel during the modified Commemoration of Benefactors' Service, conducted by the Dean of Chapel, the **Rev'd Tim Harling** and the Praelector, **Dr David Butterfield**. Some of the names of past donors – dating back to the foundation of the College – were read aloud by the President, **Lord Eatwell**. Current donors were then called forward in Latin by the Praelector to be thanked by the President and assembled Fellows.

Benefactors and their guests were then invited to a private viewing in the Old Library followed by a short talk by **Dr James Campbell**, *Seear Fellow in Architecture & Art History*.

The Feast in Old Hall was opened with choral scholars singing a Grace from the musicians' gallery. **Dr Julia Gog** (*David N. Moore Fellow in Mathematics*) gave a short speech thanking the Benefactors, some of whom had travelled from the USA and Hong Kong to attend.

The next Ceremony and Feast is on 6th May 2018. The current qualification as a benefactor is to have donated £10,000 (net) or more in the three years preceding the Feast. Please contact development@queens.cam.ac.uk for further details.



I-r: Ioanna Sitaridou, Howard Stone, James Campbell and Julia Gog

Fellows' promotions:

Many congratulations to College Fellows who have earned promotions this year.

Julia Gog and **Anthony Challinor** to Professorships;
James Campbell, **Ioanna Sitaridou**, **Chris Bickerton**,
Howard Stone and **Andy Rice** to Readerships

Dr Marie Edmonds (Director of Studies in Earth Sciences & Deputy Senior Tutor) has been awarded the Wager Medal for her outstanding contributions to volcanology. It is awarded every two years by the International Association of Volcanology & Chemistry of the Earth's Interior.

Professor-elect Dr Julia Gog has been awarded the Whitehead Prize for her contributions to the mathematical understanding of disease dynamics, particularly influenza.

Queens' College Alumni Events Series

2017

September

'1957 & Before' Reunion Lunch
Wednesday 20 September

Murray Milgate Retirement Dinner
by invitation
Friday 29 September

October

Distinguished Lecture in Law & Dinner
by invitation
Wednesday 4 October

Queens' Global Cape Town event
Wednesday 4 October

An Evening of Wagner with Stephen Fry & Edward Reeve
Chapel, Wednesday 11 October

High Table Dining
Wednesday 18 October

November

1977 & 1978 Reunion Dinner
Saturday 11 November

December

The Varsity Match
Thursday 7 December

2018

March

High Table Dining
Wednesday 7 March

1968 50th Reunion Dinner
Saturday 17 March

April

2008 10th Reunion Dinner
Saturday 21 April

Cambridgeshire Regional Dinner
Wednesday 25 April

May

Benefactors' Feast *by invitation*
Sunday 6 May

High Table Dining
Wednesday 23 May

1998 20th Reunion Dinner
Saturday 26 May

June

**1448/Arthur Armitage/
Family Day Garden Party**
Sunday 24 June

World Cup Football evening
tbc dependent on England's progress!

September

'1958 & Before' Reunion Lunch
Wednesday 19 September

November

1987 & 1988 Reunion Dinner
Saturday 10 November



Please check the website as additional events are added throughout the year
www.queens.cam.ac.uk/alumni-support/alumni-events

The Bridge: produced by Marisa Crimlis-Brown

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