

# THE BRIDGE

The past, present and future of Queens' College



Issue 11 | Autumn 2019



## The Patroness returns

Pages 2-3

**The President-elect**  
Dr Mohamed A. El-Erian

Page 4

**Postdoctoral Research**  
**Associates**

Pages 6-7

**Fellow's Insight**  
The Praelector

Pages 10-11



# The Royal Standard is raised over the College once more

Her Majesty The Queen, the Patroness of the College, visited Queens' in July and was entertained to luncheon in Old Hall.

The Queen arrived at the Old Gate and was greeted by the President, Lord Eatwell, who introduced her to the President-elect, Dr Mohamed A. El-Erian. Her Majesty had lunch with more than 80 Fellows, students and staff. The Royal party then departed from Walnut Tree Court, through Friars' Court and out into Queens' Lane.

Her Majesty's last visit to the College was in 2005 when she was accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh who, at that time, was the Chancellor of the University. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother visited the College as Patroness on many occasions and, latterly, in 1998 to mark the 550th anniversary of the foundation of Queens'.

Photography (including front cover photograph) Andreas Grieger.



# The President-elect, Dr Mohamed A. El-Erian (1977)

Last May, the Governing Body was delighted to announce the election of Dr Mohamed A. El-Erian as our 42nd President. Since then, College has been inundated with enthusiastic messages of support from members and well-wishers.

Mohamed read Economics as an undergraduate scholar at Queens' (1977-80). He was taught by **Dr Andy Cosh (1968)**, Life Fellow and former Senior Bursar, and the late **Professor Ajit Singh**, among others. He also captained the Football team. He completed his MPhil and DPhil at Oxford University, also in Economics.

Mohamed is chief economic advisor at Allianz, the corporate parent of PIMCO where he was CEO and co-CIO. A professor of practice at Wharton (University of Pennsylvania), he is a columnist at Bloomberg News, a *Financial Times* contributing editor, on the board of several non-profits and one corporate board, and has advised governments and industrial and financial companies. He has served as chair of President Obama's Global Development Council. He was a Deputy Director at the International Monetary Fund and President of Harvard Management Company.

## Dr El-Erian said:

*"Having experienced the transformational power of Queens' and Cambridge, I am extremely honoured and delighted to have the opportunity to work with my colleagues to build on the College's many accomplishments under the 23-year leadership of Lord Eatwell. I am particularly privileged to return to Queens' at a time of great change, not only in social and economic affairs, but also due to exciting technological innovations that influence education and our society in so many ways. Underpinned by our deep commitment to academic excellence, we will work in an inclusive way to continue to broaden access, deepen diversity and promote an ever more supportive environment for intellectual curiosity, deep learning and impactful research."*

*Anna and I so look forward to being in Queens' and spending time with the students, Fellows and alumni of the College."*

**Dr El-Erian will take up office on 1st October 2020.**



Andreas Grieger

## The John Eatwell Fellowship

To mark Lord Eatwell's distinguished Presidency of the College over the last 23 years, the Fellows of Queens' aim to raise funds for a full College Fellowship. It will be without subject bias, allowing maximum flexibility to apportion teaching where needs arise and will be called **The John Eatwell Fellowship**.

More information about the Fellowship campaign can be found in the enclosed leaflet and on the website. If members and friends of Queens' would like to mark John's Presidency, he humbly requests that they make donations towards this Fellowship.

# Alumni highlights

Please send your news & photos to [thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk)



Katherine Stevenson

Three Queens' alumnae industry leaders were invited to speak at the Judge Business School's *Wo+Men in Leadership Conference 2019* recently. They were **Annamaria Koerling (1985, Fellow Commoner)**, pictured above, **Sally Boyle (1980)** and **Dr Vanessa Marcié (Exec MBA, 2016)**. See overleaf for more on Vanessa.



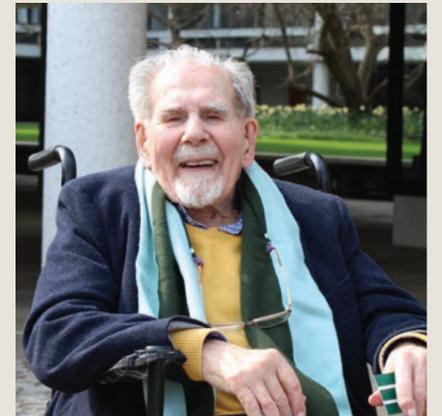
Ollie Phillips and team on Mt Everest; he is fourth from right in the back row

Singer-songwriter **Ssegawa-Ssekintu Kiwanuka (PhD, 2009)** has recently returned from Guangxi, China as part of a month-long PRS and British Council Musician in Residence scheme. Alongside his Chemical Engineering PhD at Queens', Ssegawa was captain of the CU Boxing team (and awarded a full Blue) and was a founding member and lead singer of the band *Clean Bandit!*



Charles Cui

Ssegawa, left, with Shen Lihui, Founder & CEO of Modern Sky Entertainment



The College welcomed **Stephen Wilkinson MBE (1937)** for a luncheon in celebration of his 100th birthday in April. Stephen came up as an organ scholar to read Music and served in the Royal Navy during the War. In 1944, he was medically discharged and returned to Queens' to complete his degree. Stephen is pictured wearing the scarf presented to him by the College.

**Michael Sternberg QC (1970)** has been awarded the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for his interfaith work, including his leadership of The Faith & Belief Forum and his work as Chair of the Sir Sigmund Sternberg Charitable Foundation. With him were his daughter **Rachel Rushbrook (née Sternberg, 1998)**, son **Daniel Sternberg (2001)** and daughter-in-law **Lizzie Ostrom (2001)**.



l-r Daniel, Rachel, Michael, Janine Sternberg, Sarah Sternberg, Lizzie

Queens' Global Network events were held in the summer in Johannesburg and Auckland, with an inaugural event held in Buenos Aires, at the British Embassy, courtesy of **Sam Gilbert (2009)**. Recent JCR President and English scholar, **Hope Whitehead (2016)**, helped co-host the event in her home town of Auckland with Rowan Kitt (Development Director). The gathering was held at Auckland University of Technology courtesy of **John Maasland (1960)** who is the Chancellor.



Clare Hartford (LLM, 1983) and Dineo Lioma (MPhil, 2015) at the event in Johannesburg

## Letters to the Editor

"My thanks to **Holly Mackinlay** and **Hope Whitehead** for their interesting article in the last edition of *The Bridge* on the modern Bats and what it achieves. I trust they won't mind if I add a few words on the Society's origin.

*The Dean at the time was the great Henry St. John Hart whose rooms were within earshot of Cloister Court wherein Jimmy Beament's 21st birthday celebrations finished somewhat rowdily. Meeting Jimmy the following morning, the Dean said to him; "the bats in the cloister were rather active last night; perhaps they should put their obvious talents to better use". Henry Hart was always referred to as "Inventor of The Bats" by its members and, strictly speaking, The Bats was founded the day following Jimmy's 21st birthday. My sources: Jimmy and the Dean in conversation."*

**Mick Wigfield (1957)**

## Running a business

### Humour in the workplace

**Vanessa Marcié** recently founded her own company, **Leading with Humour**, which aims to improve workplace performance, culture, relationships and communication through the use of humour. She runs workshops on how to get people out of their comfort zone and use their creative brains to devise funny content and gain confidence in themselves.

Vanessa became a stand-up comedian to cure her fear of public speaking. "My first experience of stand-up comedy was the most terrifying moment of my life! But it has taught me to be humble, embrace failure, see the silver lining in everything and, perhaps most importantly, it has taught me the transforming power of humour. It completely changed my mindset and that is the focus of my business."

She is now leading workshops in the UK, the US and her native France and aims to launch an online course and write a book on the subject. Vanessa wants to inspire 1 million smiles in the workplace and to help build gender equity with humour.



### Breathalysing cancer

**Andrew Koehl (PhD, 2001)** is a co-founder of **Owlstone**, a technology company who specialise in chemical detection. Most recently, their Cambridge branch, **Owlstone Medical**, made national headlines for its development of a breathalyser test that can tell whether the patient has a number of diseases, including cancer. The technology upon which the business is built came out of Andrew's PhD project.

Andrew's day-to-day role is expanding the customer base and finding new partners. "Long term, our goal is to make our technology ubiquitous, by making it very small and very cheap. So I'm

focussed on trying to engage partners who can help us grow our customer base and move into new applications," he explains. It's rather different to his role when the business was founded, when Andrew was "the technology person, responsible for electronics and getting the systems built and tested".

Advice for those attempting business start-ups? "Go for it! The best way of learning is doing. I know people hesitate because they are afraid of what might go wrong. But starting a business is a really exciting thing to do and the best way is just to jump right in."

## My room (mate)

### Chris Lawrence (1984)

I met Tom Barnes on my very first day at Queens' in October 1984, when we moved in next door to each other on the first floor of BB staircase in Cripps. We both thought "He's odd" — and became firm friends. So it was natural that in our second year (1985-86) we would share a set in Fisher, and found ourselves in T8.

We were taking a big risk: our tastes in music were utterly different. We both had very modest hi-fi systems from our first-year rooms and obviously only needed one of them in our new shared room; because Tom's was slightly less rubbish than mine, we agreed to install his. He could therefore have claimed bragging rights, but in fact access to the turntable was pretty democratic, so we ended up introducing each other to our respective music. I was more Bartok, and Tom was more Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band... Tom categorised my taste in music (or indeed the whole of Western classical music) into three basic categories:

'Lift' (Bach etc); 'Superman' (Shostakovich etc); and 'Tinkly-bonk' (all living composers, and several recently dead ones too). I went on to run an orchestra that specialised in 'Lift' music (the Academy of Ancient Music), having worked for another that promoted 'Tinkly-bonk' with a touch of 'Superman' (the BBC Symphony Orchestra).

I read Classics, and Tom Theology. Tom thought I might be able to help him with his New Testament Greek. I was a bad teacher, and he a bad pupil, so we soon kept off academic matters and just enjoyed each other's company and that of the many friends (mainly my musos and his thespians) who came to tea regularly (and were made to sign our Visitors' Book). But you had to be careful about bringing a bunch of your mates back to your shared set, in case your roomie was already there with a 'special' friend... So we had a system of placing a large sombrero at a jaunty angle on the corner of the sofa, visible on entry, which meant "Come back later".

If you can't quite picture which room is T8, next time you are in Cambridge stand outside the public toilets in Silver Street and look up to the first-floor room opposite in Fisher. We watched those public toilets being built throughout the whole of our academic year — I swear they started the week before we moved in and finally finished the week after we left. And we heard them being built — an early start, every morning, with pile-drivers, diggers, cranes and more. They must be great toilets. Lasting Cambridge impressions...



Chris Lawrence in T8 in 2019



Tom Barnes

Chris is now the Bursar of Newnham College, Cambridge.

Tom is an English teacher at The UCL Academy, London.

Please send your treasured memories of your room (mate), ideally with photographs, to [thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk)



### Queens' Curiosity

In Cloister Court, there is a paving stone at the east end of the north cloister (just before you enter Walnut Tree Court) that bears the inscription:

I Poley  
Bursar  
1695

John Poley was a Fellow 1676-1718 and was Bursar in 1695. Presumably this inscription dates the laying of the paving.

Send your Queens' Curiosities to [thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk).



Chris and Tom either side of Chris's mother at General Admission



# The impact of the Arab Spring

**Dr Mona Jebiril (former Queens' Gates Scholar; current Postdoctoral Research Associate)**

*Having lived in Gaza, Mona associated the Queens' May Ball fireworks with bombardment. Haunted by conflict, she is researching the impact of the Arab Spring on higher education in the Gaza Strip. She searches for what she calls "The Invisible".*

*Mona works at the Judge Business School's Centre for Business Research, having completed a PhD at Queens' in 2017. She was born in Kuwait but her family relocated to Palestine in 1990, following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Mona finished her school career, attended university and became a school teacher in Gaza, leaving the country for the first time in 2005, to pursue a postgraduate degree at Oxford.*

## What do you research?

I am currently working as part of the Research for Health in Conflict, MENA [Middle East & North Africa] Project. The project aims to develop capability for research and training in relation to health in conflict-afflicted areas, especially Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Palestine. Specifically, I am working on the political economy of health in the Gaza Strip, analysing the health system within its macro-economic and political context.

## Why did you leave home in Gaza?

I was raised to believe that **education is power**. My parents really believed that and Palestinians consider education to be their main resource. The experience of being a

refugee, losing your land and leaving your home, makes you realise that **education is the only resource that you can always take with you**.

## What inspired your PhD at Queens'?

After I finished my BA in Gaza, I became a teacher, even though I didn't particularly want to, as there was little in the way of other opportunity. After Oxford, I returned to teach at two universities in Gaza.

During that time, I began to think about the topic that would become my PhD thesis: there was lots of conflict going on – bombardment, siege and restrictions being some of the tangible effects – but sometimes, the conflict was muted for a few calm months. During these lulls, resources were available, but students and academics struggled because of something internal. I didn't know what this was, so I called it **The Invisible**. At some points, I felt that I myself was oppressed by it and still I found it difficult to identify what was undermining my work, other than simply the background of conflict, all too familiar in Gaza. So I applied for PhDs and was offered four scholarships. I decided to become a Gates Scholar at Queens'.

For my PhD, I took this *Invisible* from contemplation and reflection to research: what is it? I did that through exploring the past, present and future higher education experience at Gaza's universities. I interviewed lecturers about their experience when they were students; and I interviewed students and their lecturers about the present situation and how they think the Arab Spring revolutions might affect higher education in the future. To the best of my knowledge, **it is the first instance of research exploring the impact of the Arab Spring on the higher education experience in the Gaza Strip**.

## How did you find moving to Cambridge?

When I arrived in Cambridge, I wasn't the same person as when I left Oxford. The five years in Gaza in between my two visits to the UK – the 2008 war, the poor conditions, the changing political situation, the siege imposed a couple of years into my return – had changed me, and I hadn't realised how deeply I had been affected by this until I left.

**It took me months, perhaps even years, to recover.** I was in the context of Cambridge,

but somehow also not in Cambridge, because my memories of home and the feelings from Gaza were still with me.

## When I heard fireworks, I thought more of bombardment than May Ball.

## How did you find life at Queens'?

I enjoyed meeting friends in the Buttery! I especially enjoyed conversations with colleagues from different departments – I learned a lot from engaging with them. They also learned a lot about Gaza.

I received support whenever I needed it, especially from **Dr James Kelly (Senior Tutor)**. However, sometimes I didn't ask for it, because I didn't know it was there, felt I couldn't ask for it, wasn't sure this would be accepted or didn't want to look weird! Overall, though, I think the University should take on a leading role researching the experience for students coming from conflict-afflicted areas and in redefining diversity and inclusion in this regard, especially now there is so much conflict happening in the world.

Now, when other students come to Queens' from conflict-afflicted areas, the College has some experience in dealing with this: they know about the issues, about the difficulty

of closed borders, about the situation in Gaza. **Maybe their application was delayed due to power cuts or a sudden bombardment.** When I was preparing to leave for Oxford I was very scared. I had my visa, my scholarship, my admission but I couldn't help thinking: what can I do if the border doesn't open? It's devastating.

My role has just been to share my experience. When you share your experience, even your vulnerable moments, it can make you stronger and improve the experience for others. So, after finishing my PhD, I knew I wanted to write about my experiences, to explain them and to contribute to the understanding. **I don't feel that I am that vulnerable person any more.**

**Queens' supports a group of Postdoctoral Research Associates to give young academics a headstart in their careers. They are offered membership of the Senior Combination Room for up to two years and dining rights on High Table, in order to mix with more established academics.**



Dr Pau Formosa-Jordan

**Dr Pau Formosa-Jordan** (from Barcelona) and **Dr Hélène de Maleprade** (from Paris) are the PDRA convenors. They organise a wonderful series of talks for MCR, PDRAs and Fellows. This year they have included:

**Why do people still die in earthquakes?** (Professor James Jackson FRS (1973), Official Fellow, Earth Sciences)

**The Malaria Cell Atlas** (Andrew Russell, MCR, Sanger Institute)

**Big Data and Art Exhibitions** (Linzhi Zhang, MCR, Sociology)

**Humour, satire and censorship and their political impact** (Dr Rhiannon McGlade, PDRA)

**Outbreak, surveillance & response systems in Africa: conceptual tools for would-be reformers** (Dr Freya Jephcott (2013), Junior Research Fellow & Ebola expert)

**Whispering Tree & Murmuring Stone: tracing a ritual and poetic idiom over three millennia** (Anija Dokter, MCR Gates Scholar)

**The role of sex in the health of autistic adults** (Elizabeth Weir, MCR, Autism Research Centre, Psychiatry)

**The Hitchhiker's Guide to Time in Computers** (Mistral Contrastin, MCR, Computer Laboratory)

**The ethical conduct of mathematicians** (Jonathan Tsang, MCR, Applied Mathematics & Theoretical Physics)

**Darwinian Evolution in our blood: mutation, selection and cancer risk** (Dr Jamie Blundell, Official Fellow, Oncology)

**The K-12 reform in the Philippines' educational system** (Ivy Abat Brown, MCR, Education)

**In-Service Teacher Training in Cameroon: the implications for sustainable development** (Goodwill Mih, MCR, Education)

**Vitrimers: plastics for the 21 Century** (Professor Eugene Terentjev, Official Fellow, Physics)

**Development of Ni-based Superalloys for AM Repair Applications** (Freddie Markanday, MCR, Materials Science & Metallurgy)

**Roads to adaptation: Improving decision-making for the adaptation of road infrastructure in Bogotá, Colombia** (Juan Sebastian Canavera, MCR, Engineering)



Dr Hélène de Maleprade



# Mens sana in corpore sano\*

The Commemoration & Ceremony of Benefactors 2019

## Fellow's Insight Dr David Butterfield, Praelector

### Everyone remembers "their" Praelector. Why are ceremonies important?

In a formal sense, there is a great deal of importance. I am deputed by College to present to the University anyone taking a degree and declare their worthiness – in scholarship and in character. Despite the remarkable survival of much medieval pageantry in the ceremony, this formal declaration is more than mere pomp, and something I do with pride and enjoyment.

Within College, the Praelector's role is more focused on the Fellowship. Not all alumni may know, but when a Fellow joins the Fellowship, they have to read a declaration in Latin to the assembled Fellows in Chapel, to declare that they will follow the College's guidance and not bring the College into disrepute. The formality of that exercise may seem antiquated, but it strikes me as a great leveller for the Fellowship. By virtue of everyone going through the same exercise, in a language unknown to most, I think it serves as a good reset button to remind the Fellowship that we are all equals, all working toward the same common goal.

### Why have they remained largely unchanged over hundreds of years?

The cynical answer would be that it is simply the inertia of history: there is never a point when it has seemed acceptable to say, 'Let's do something different'. A more constructive and positive answer would be that the very sameness of the process inculcates the idea into the Fellowship that they are merely part of a long-lasting entity that has far greater expanse than any mortal lifespan. The institution is not just bigger than any individual, but bigger than any generation. So the permanence of these ceremonies at the beginning and end of

people's careers in Cambridge is a positive strength, not an outmoded weakness.

### What do you research and why?

I am a Classicist – but Classics is the broadest subject that the University offers. It attempts to reconstruct as much as possible about the ancient world of the Greeks and Romans and, more broadly, the peoples living around the ancient Mediterranean, from roughly 1,000 BC to 500 AD. It is not limited, as the name implies, to classical literature; it incorporates philosophy, the history of language, the history of science, art, archaeology, the human condition – pretty much anything you can imagine humans doing, thinking or making – over one and a half millennia. So that's the Classics.

Within that, I work primarily as a Latinist: I study literature written in Latin from anywhere between 200 BC and 500 AD and, in particular, I focus on a Latin poet active from around 60 BC, called Lucretius.

The major project that I am rounding off at the moment is a new, critical edition of Lucretius, whose six-book poem *De rerum natura* (*On the nature of things*) is an all-encapsulating scientific course. It teaches the reader first about the atomic physics of the universe, then about how the atoms

of the body work, then about the workings of the world around us: Lucretius, as an Epicurean, believed that teaching humans about the fact that we are mortals in a physically rational universe would not just remove harmful superstition but solve the ethical problems of our own shot at life!

### Will Cambridge Classics die out if Latin in schools falters?

Two things are true: first, the general provision of Latin in the UK secondary school system is decreasing (only about 10,000 students take Latin GCSE), and second, in order for the Classics to be studied in the thorough way we approach them at Cambridge, there has to be direct engagement in the languages, Latin and Greek.

The temporary solution at Cambridge has been to create a preliminary year for those without any Latin at all, to get their Latin up to or beyond A-Level standard. We have had a couple of people at Queens' take that route, and with success: the first student we accepted entered the main Tripos as the university's top candidate.

**One of the things I believe most passionately in is keeping Latin alive in the state sector. This is the lifeblood of Classics.**

### How can Cambridge help preserve the subject?

I am the Access & Outreach Officer at the Faculty for Classics, which involves hosting a lot of events in Cambridge, as well as going to schools to promote the subject, not just as a potential option to study at university, but as a fascinating subject in world history.

The role has many aspects, but all seek to inspire people about the Classical world. It can be 10- and 11-year-olds coming in to the Faculty to get a taste of Latin. I give them a short session where they experiment with this curious code-like language, which has somehow left its imprint on several hundreds of thousands of English words: it is heartening how interested young minds are in all of that. More often it's older students – many from schools with no Classical teaching – who are curious about hearing what's so special about these long-lost civilisations.

I don't know whether it was a species of 'outreach' that I used to run a website that provided translations of anything – phrases, poems, documents – into Latin and Ancient

Greek. After I realised I'd played a rather active part in tattooing over a thousand bodies with words they couldn't read, I felt I'd left a sufficient mark on the public at large. At any rate, it paid for my wedding.

### Classics is irrelevant and should be dropped: discuss.

Very good. To me, there are two especial reasons to study Classics, one more romantic than the other.

The first is the sheer excitement of the subject. Tens of millions of words written by the ancient Greeks and Romans survive. These are not limited to literature of astounding sophistication, beauty and wit that has shaped so much of the western tradition. Many of these texts instead flesh out original ideas in philosophy, politics and science, several of which saw little advance between the age of the Greeks and the dawn of the Renaissance 2,000 years later. This was a world not only of remarkable individuals, but of civilisations whose ingenuity, complexity and self-assurance are inspiring to study, both when they feel familiar and when they feel alien.

The second, more pragmatic, argument is that the sort of skills required to be a good classicist are increasingly valued by society and employers. I don't just mean linguistic and logical skills. More particularly, I mean the ability to take on a broad range of complex and nuanced evidence, created by different people under different circumstances, to sift through that material, to see the wood for the trees, to draw robust conclusions, all the while dealing critically but sympathetically with material from a completely different culture.



David with his second son, Alfred



David running on Red Pike in the Lake District

### What are your interests outside work?

I enjoy fell-running. I spent a decent portion of my childhood in the Lakes – I regard Cumbria as my home county – so I've always been on the fells. In my twenties I started running on them, purely as a means to climbing more in a given day.

Then my brother did something called the "Bob Graham Round", a challenge to run over a specific ring of 42 mountains in 24 hours. It seemed to me such an impossible task that it might be worth gauging just how impossible it was. The route is 70 miles and the total ascent is almost the height of Everest from sea level, at 8,200m. In the end, it emerged to be more of a psychological than a physical challenge. It was a tough day at the office – it took me 23h46m! But I will happily take that. I trained for two years and only completed the challenge on my fourth attempt.

A big spur to do it on that last go – and I nearly didn't, as you can tell from those numbers! – was that my wife (a Queens' graduate) was eight months pregnant with our first child, and there was no way I was going to be able to have an attempt once Arthur was born. So I saw her as I came off the 42nd mountain and that gave me a spur to kick on through the eight-mile run to the finish.

\*There's a very famous Latin quotation: **mens sana in corpore sano**, a healthy mind in a healthy body. Being on a squash court and whacking a ball as hard as you can is a natural release! Running on the fells is different: you're so removed from either other humans or the distractions of day-to-day life that it is almost a sublime experience, having no other draws on your time and mental attention. As beautiful and beguiling as Cambridge is, my thoughts sometimes wander north.

# College Highlights

## Access

### Open Days

The University Open Days took place in July. Queens' was open on both days and an estimated 3,000 prospective students and their families came to look around the College. The potential applicants were taken on tours of College by a team of 24 student volunteers and listened to talks given by 19 Fellows across a wide range of subjects. Crucially, the College ice cream truck was back, giving away more than 2,400 ice creams!



### Access Roadshow

In March, four teams of Queens' students set out on the annual Queens' Access Roadshow, to talk to school students in our four link areas (Kent, Medway, Havering Borough and Bradford). The teams tell the school students about their experiences of study and life at Cambridge and encourage them to consider applying.

**Maria McElroy**, our long-serving Schools Liaison Officer, and **Hannah Thomson (2015)**, Widening Participation Assistant, visited 57 state schools, speaking to more than 2,200 students. This was the eighth annual Roadshow, an initiative conceived in 2011 by the then JCR Access Officer **Lewis MacDonald (2010)**.

## Fellows

The inaugural *Ron Oxburgh Fellow in Earth Sciences*, **Marie Edmonds**, has been promoted to a professorship, as has **Alastair Beresford**, Director of Studies in Computer Science. **Ella McPherson**, *Anthony L. Lyster Fellow in Sociology*, is now a Senior Lecturer.

Queens' Fellows were recognised this year at the CUSU Student-led Teaching Awards, which reward outstanding teaching and student support across Cambridge University. **Dr Tyler Denmead (MPhil & PhD, 2007)**, Director of Studies in Education, received the award for best Lecturer across the University, whilst **Dr Peter McMurray**, Director of Studies in Music (funded by *The Friends of Aiki Vatikioti for Music & the Arts*), received a commendation in the Partnership category, for those who have worked with students to make student-led change. Shortlisted were **Professor Ashwin Seshia**, for best Postgraduate Supervisor, **Dr Edwige Moyroud**, for best Undergraduate Supervisor (Science & Technology) and **Dr James Kelly** (Senior Tutor), for Student Support.



Alastair Beresford



Ella McPherson



Tyler Denmead

## Chapel War Memorial

Following the feature in the last edition of *The Bridge* on three Queens' members who died shortly after the First World War, the three names (**L. P. Ching**, **W. S. Fan** and **W. H. Pettett**) have now been added to the Chapel War Memorial and will be formally unveiled at this November's Remembrance Service.

## Students

167 undergraduates were awarded first-class marks last summer, of which 41 were finalists. Congratulations to **Felix Birkel** (Maths), **Ryan Comins** (Theology), **Robert Glew** (Engineering), **Siyuan Guo** (Maths), **Noah Halberstam** (Maths), **Henry Mercer** (Computer Science), **Basil Mustafa** (Engineering), **Yi Chao Ong** (Engineering), **Frances Penrose** (Engineering), **Oliver Wilson-Nunn** (MML) and **Quan Han Wong** (Engineering) who were awarded starred Firsts in their finals.

A start-up co-founded by **Dante McGrath**, an Engineering PhD student at Queens', has been awarded top prize at the Medical Technology Venture Competition, run by the Cambridge Judge Business School. The product is a 3D modelling software for heart surgery in newborn children. It provides surgeons with a tailored map in the operating theatre to guide procedures in which survival greatly depends on the technical accuracy of minuscule incisions.

Treatment for diseases which arise from defective genes has taken another step forward, thanks to the world's first atomistic model of an entire gene – a simulation of over one billion atoms created in Los Alamos National Laboratory in the USA. Several Cambridge alumni are part of the team, including Queens' Part III physicist **Dominic Phillips**, who spent last summer on a research placement in Los Alamos.

## Extra-Curricular

To celebrate the renaissance of the Bats, *As You Like It* was performed in Cloister Court in June. The cast was honoured to have **Iain Softley (1976)** and **Stephen Fry (1978, Hon Fellow)** help with some rehearsals.



Stephen Fry in rehearsal with the Bats cast

MagSoc's Easter term concert featured fresher **Will Rose** conducting Elgar's *Serenade for Strings* and another fresher, **Eleanor Medcalf**, playing the harp in Debussy's *Danses sacrée et profane*.



The May Week MagSoc concert in the Chapel



Kat Astley with the President

The fifth annual Blues Dinner was held in May to celebrate and thank all those who represented Queens' in sporting endeavours at University level. The speaker was **Kat Astley (1994)**, former President of CUWBC and now a leadership coach. **Jonathan Duck (1979)** attended and presented *The Eleanor Duck Sports Bursary* certificates to **Freddie Markanday** and **Lucy Harris**.

**Jamie Lowenthal** and **Eleanor Lee**, the men's and women's captains of the University Karate Club, won their Varsity match in March.

American postgraduates **Laura Foster** and **Gerard Kuenning** rowed in the winning Blondie and Goldie crews in April and have been elected Vice-Presidents of CUWBC and CUBC for 2019-20. Gerard said: "winning the Boat Race for a second year in a row was an absolutely indescribable experience, and the support that Queens' provided along the journey has been of immeasurable value towards accomplishing that goal. From the backing of our most senior academics through to the QCBC and fellow students of the College, Queens' has fostered an environment that student athletes can



Laura Foster and Gerard Kuenning

thrive and succeed in; the importance of this in those months and terms leading up to the race and through winter training cannot be overstated. My success as a member of the CUBC can be directly attributed to those opportunities afforded to me by Queens', and for that I am extremely grateful".

Last Lent term, Queens' students were very involved in the Cambridge Union, with **Imran Mateo Firoz Hussein** as Vice-President and **Joy Jia**, now JCR President, as Debating Officer. During their time on the Committee, the Union invited Queens' member **Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa (1976)**, Chief Justice of Pakistan, to speak.



Justice Khosa (left) with Mateo Firoz Hussein (right)

## May Ball – “Ephemera”

The biennial **Queens’ May Ball** took place in June. The Ball was attended by 1,800 people including more than 150 alumni, who were given a separate reception. They were also able to watch the fireworks from the President’s Garden and had exclusive use of the SCR as a base for the night.



Sean Irving



Channon Pornrungroj



Jeroen Van Haute

## Student voices

**Mac Ealham is the first person from his family to go to university.** He read Land Economy at Queens’ and graduated in June with a First. Whilst here, Mac won a Half Blue and was President of Cambridge University Clay Pigeon Shooting Club.

### What myths about Cambridge are important to dispel?

There are so many myths that surround the application process, the interviews and Cambridge as an institution that are just not true in the 21st century.

In my experience – I went to a secondary modern for GCSEs and moved to a grammar school for sixth form – for example, one of the things I was told would be fatal to my application was that I didn’t do full GCSEs; I did BTEC qualifications. Also, at A Level I only did 3 ASs in my first year, rather than the conventional 4, and my school told me this would mean that Cambridge wouldn’t consider my application.

**All the myths I believed were dispelled at the Land Economy Open Day.** Professor Martin Dixon led the talk and afterwards I asked him about it all. He said the prospectus makes clear that Cambridge requires 3 A2s at A\*AA – no more and no less. Don’t believe anything else!

Other than that Open Day, I didn’t look around Cambridge before I came – that’s how much I didn’t think I would get in! I thought it was a shot to nothing. This is my main theme, actually, for anyone who’s from an underrepresented background: **what have you got to lose?** There is nothing to lose and you don’t have to be perfect, which is probably another myth that should be thrown aside.

## Student voices

### What were your first impressions of Cambridge when you arrived?

I was just overwhelmed by it all, by the grandeur of the place. Within a week of being here I had worn a gown to a dinner, listened to Latin graces and heard the gong. I remember seeing Stephen Hawking in my first week outside Caius and I couldn’t help but be absolutely blown away by it.

### How did you come to apply to Cambridge?

Probably the key person who sowed the seed was a family friend who had some experience of Oxbridge. He told me to have a think about it, have a look and just see what I thought.

Then I found Land Economy, which has been my perfect degree. So it was a combination of factors that led me to apply to Cambridge; it was more good fortune and coincidence than Cambridge having been my dream from day one.

That’s another myth that it’s important to get rid of: that everyone who is at Cambridge has wanted this all their life.



## Dr Jenny Leivadarou (2013) Trailblazer for accessibility at Queens’

Jenny left Queens’ this summer after six years of study as an MPhil and PhD student, based in her ground floor room in Fisher Building’s W Staircase. It became a home for her. She said that such a period of study would not have been possible other than at Queens’ and particularly not in her native Athens, or Greece generally, due to a lack of facilities for people with disabilities.

Arriving in 2013 at the age of 28, having worked in Greece in urban development, Jenny was advised by the University’s Disability Resource Centre to choose Queens’, simply because it was opposite the Land Economy Faculty, where she would study. She never went inside the Faculty itself due to the lack of suitable wheelchair access but, fortunately, her lectures were in Mill Lane, which she could manage.

When she switched to studying for a Mathematics PhD, she met up with the great **Stephen Hawking**, who had already ensured that the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics was accessible. Jenny took a bus every day from outside Queens’, which dropped her off at the Maths Department off Grange Road.

Queens’ added disabled facilities to Jenny’s room including emergency lighting. But as a member of the MCR, she could not access the postgrads’ Woodville Room until a donor, **Gifford Combs (1983)**, came forward and paid for disabled facilities via BB staircase in 2016. The Cripps Foundation had generously funded ramps on the ground floor of Cripps Court in 2007.

Nothing stopped Jenny whilst at College: she was the first person in a wheelchair to be President of the MCR and the best student caller on the Telephone Campaign two years in a row. She travelled to Australia for research and to New York to work at the UN for four months in the Department of Social & Economic Affairs. Jenny attended the May Ball in 2015 and was able to secure a second ticket for a carer.

Now Jenny aims to work in Greece and get her own apartment close to her job. She is happy to be an ambassador for people with disabilities thinking of applying to Queens’ and Cambridge more widely.



# Queens' Old Library

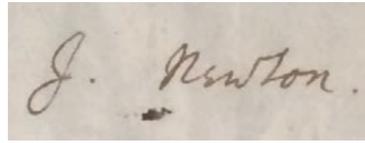
From **Dr Tim Eggington**, Fellow Librarian, & **Lucille Munoz**, Rare Books Curator

The process of cataloguing all the early printed books in the Old Library attracts more researchers every year and continues to bring to light wonderful discoveries, such as the fascinating and extensive pamphlet collection of Queens' former Vice-President Revd David Hughes (c.1704-77, Queens' Fellow 1727-77) which formed the basis of the latest Old Library exhibition (Michaelmas and Lent).



Queens' members and visitors at 'The Age of Reason' exhibition launch.

*'The Age of Reason, Religion & Ridicule in the Library of the Revd David Hughes'* examined the science and theology of Isaac Newton and his Cambridge followers as a means to trace the path to modernity forged in 18th-century Cambridge. A unique perspective was afforded by Hughes' habit of arranging his pamphlets into bound volumes devoted to opposing sides of the contentious debates that exercised Cambridge minds of the period. Hundreds of Queens' members and other visitors enjoyed the exhibition, including the Cambridge Bibliographical Society who in June combined their AGM with a private view of the exhibition and talk by Librarian Tim Eggington.



Signature of Isaac Newton in a note sent to the College addressed to Isaac Milner.



Decorated initial from Queens' Gradual (MS 28).

A further hugely important development this year has been the appearance of two of the library's medieval manuscripts on the Cambridge Digital Library ([www.cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/queens](http://www.cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/queens)). We are extremely grateful to **Nan and Michael Kershaw (1975)** and **William Heard (1970)** for providing funding to make this possible. The new additions comprise an early fifteenth-century copy of Augustine's *Soliloquies* (MS 25) thought to have been previously owned by Mary Tudor and an opulently-produced Book of Hours created in Amsterdam in 1453 (MS 50). A 15th-century gradual for the Use of Sarum will be added shortly (MS 28). These latest additions complement the Renaissance printed books and Thomas Smith's personal notebooks that are already on the site. Further additions will be made as funding becomes available.

The Old Library continues to contribute to the College's engagement with local schools through the provision of outreach sessions that provide much educative enjoyment to children (and the librarians). In these, children examine huge folio bibles, tiny pocket prayer books and much else in the course of completing discovery sheets designed to enable them to learn for themselves about history through the study of books, artefacts and buildings. The Old Library also continues to assist College teaching through the provision of book history workshops for English and History students as well as more general sessions open to all students.

Queens' Old Library events: Open Cambridge on September 13-14; Festival of Ideas on October 14-26 and a new exhibition in Michaelmas Term 2019.

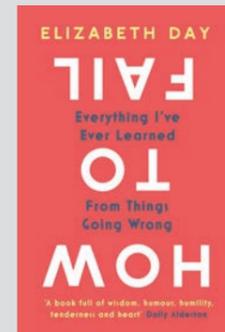


Fellow Librarian Tim Eggington with children from Mayfield Primary School.

In 1995 **Catherine Rooney** matriculated at Queens' where she read Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic, and stayed to do an MPhil (2000) and a PhD (2005). Catherine returned to Queens' in 2016 as a dedicated volunteer in the Old Library where she received cataloguing training that enabled her to play a significant part in the cataloguing of the David Hughes collection. We are delighted that Catherine has been able to use her experience at the College to achieve her first professional position as a rare books cataloguer on a twelve month contract to catalogue the collection at Emmanuel College. We are grateful to Catherine for her excellent work and wish her well for the future.



# Alumni Books



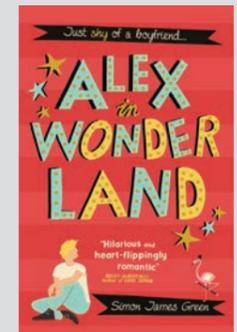
How to Fail: Everything I've Ever Learned From Things Going Wrong

Elizabeth Day (1998)



Airhead: The Imperfect Art of Making News

Emily Maitlis (1989 & Hon Fellow)



Alex in Wonderland

Simon James Green (1995)



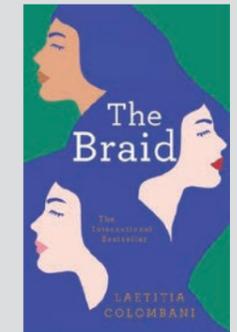
Oiling the Wheels

Dr Peter Caunt (1965)



Orto

Dr Or Rosenboim  
(2010 & former JRF)



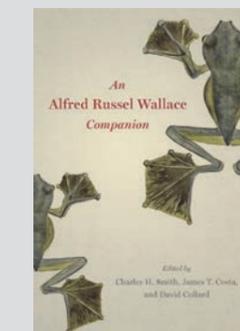
The Braid (translated from French)

Louise Rogers Lalaurie (1982)



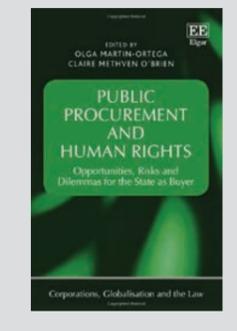
European School Inspection and Evaluation: History and Principles

Adrian Gray (1975)



An Alfred Russel Wallace Companion

Professor David Collard (1957)



Public Procurement and Human Rights: Opportunities, Risks and Dilemmas for the State as Buyer

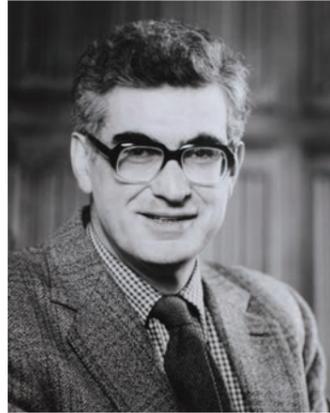
Claire Methven O'Brien (1993)

# Floreat Domus

## Supervision system

*The Ron Oxburgh Fellowship in Earth Sciences* was established by the Governing Body in April, to mark the distinction and service of the former President (1982-89). Lord Oxburgh was hosted to a College dinner at which the Fellowship was celebrated. The inaugural holder is the newly-promoted **Professor Marie Edmonds**.

**Dr Tim Pick (1946)** has kindly indicated that he will be leaving a generous gift to Queens' in his will that will endow *The Pick Fellowship in Medicine*. Tim was a GP in the family practice in Barnsley throughout his career.

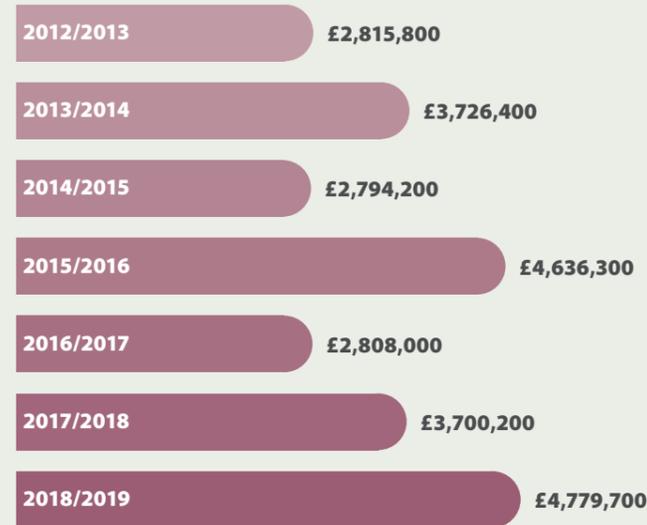


Ron Oxburgh

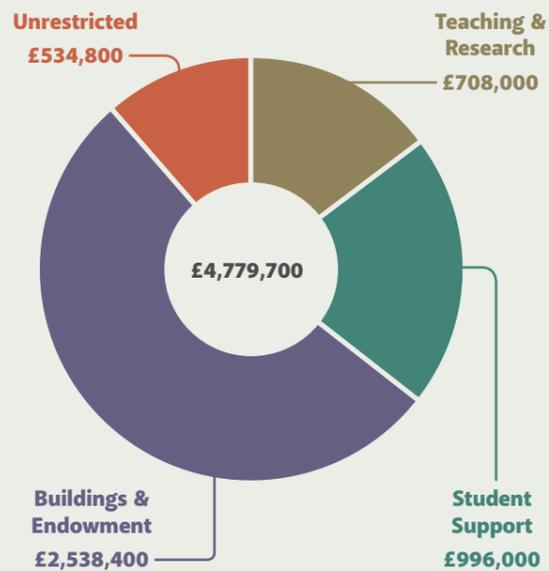


Dr Tim Pick

### Total amount received per financial year from 2012 to 2019



### Amount received 2018-19 by strategic priority



### Number of Benefactors eligible for the Feast



Number of donors in 2018-19 tax year <b>1,684</b>	Oldest donor matriculated <b>1939</b>	Youngest donor matriculated <b>2017</b>
--	--	--

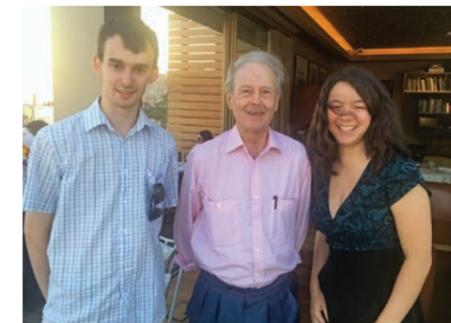
## Student Support

Perhaps unsurprisingly, given James Diggle's stature at Cambridge, fundraising for *The James Diggle Fund in Classics* was extremely successful, raising £100,000 to endow support for Classics students in perpetuity. More than 50 alumni and friends donated including 20 first-time donors to Queens'. In fact, the College has also been able to endow *The James Diggle Prize* (in Greek or Latin Composition or Textual Criticism) and create permanent support for the **Queens' Classical Society**.

In this spirit, we would now like to create *The Henry St John Hart Fund*, to support our Theology students. Any money raised beyond the required £100,000 may allow us to create extras such as a Hart Prize, to reward an outstanding student in Hebrew language (or in Theology and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies more generally), or something connected with Henry's great pastoral work. The Revd Henry Hart was admitted as a Fellow in 1936 and his 68 years of service remain unsurpassed. He was a wonderful tutor and mentor to generations of Queens' students, including the current President. We hope there will be sufficient support to enshrine Henry's name at Queens' in perpetuity.



Henry St John Hart



Stephen Farrant flanked by organ scholars Edward Reeve & Blandine Jacquet during the Choir tour to Greece in 2018

**MagSoc** has become the first major extra-curricular society to have an endowment created to support it. **Stephen Farrant (1956)** gave £100,000 through the *Friends of Alike Vatikioti for Music & the Arts* to create *The Farrant Fund*. The outgoing and incoming Presidents, **Issac Barkway** and **Mia Willows**, wrote to thank Stephen.

We have completed the fundraising for *The George Band Sports Bursary*, through the generosity of friends and members. **George Band (1949)** was the youngest member of the successful Everest expedition of 1953. We now have five endowed sports bursaries, each providing about £500 per annum to support students pursuing elite-level sport. This makes a huge difference to the students.

Queens' now has another brand new punt! This one is named after the donor **Michael Tunbridge (1958)**, who punted his "own" punt along the Cam after the Garden Party in June.



## Benefactors' Feast 2019

The third annual Benefactors' Feast saw a record turnout with the number of eligible donors rising from 73 to 93 in a year. Highlights during the Commemoration and Ceremony in Chapel (open to all members of College) included a wonderful harp solo from **Eleanor Medcalf** (a Classics fresher) and Lord Eatwell giving the Address. After the Old Hall Feast, our JCR Access Officer **Rebekah Hinton** spoke about how increasing support from Queens' alumni and friends is creating amazing opportunities for many students including those, like her, from our link area in Bradford.

For further information, please contact [development@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@queens.cam.ac.uk).

**Thank you to all those who support Queens' with gifts.**



Eleanor Medcalf



Rebekah Hinton

# Queens' College Alumni Events Series

## 2019

### September

**'1959 & Before' Reunion Lunch**  
Wednesday 25th September 2019

**Queens' Global Network Event: Tokyo**  
September 2019, TBC

### October

**Distinguished Lecture in Law & Dinner**  
(by invitation)  
Speaker: The Hon Mr Justice Newey  
(Sir Guy Newey, 1977)  
Thursday 17th October 2019

**1989 30th Anniversary Reunion Dinner**  
Saturday 26th October 2019

### November

**1979 40th Anniversary Reunion Dinner**  
Saturday 2nd November 2019

**MA High Table Dining**  
Wednesday 6th November 2019

### December

**The Varsity Matches**  
Thursday 12th December 2019

## 2020

### January

**The James Diggle Fund Dinner**  
(by invitation)  
Friday 17th January 2020

### February

**MA Congregation for 2013 matriculants**  
Saturday 22nd February 2020

### March

**MA High Table Dining**  
Wednesday 4th March 2020

**1970 50th Anniversary Reunion Dinner**  
Saturday 14th March 2020

### April

**Cambridgeshire Regional Dinner**  
Contact – Dr Simon Mentha  
[cambridge.dinner@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:cambridge.dinner@queens.cam.ac.uk)  
Thursday 23rd April 2020

**Commemoration & Ceremony of Benefactors** (open to all members), followed by **The Benefactors' Feast** (by invitation)  
Sunday 26th April 2020

### May

**Blues Dinner** (by invitation)  
Wednesday 6th May 2020

**MA High Table Dining**  
Wednesday 20th May 2020

**2000 & 2010 Joint Anniversary Reunion Dinner**  
Saturday 30th May 2020

### June

**The John Eatwell Fellowship Dinner**  
(by invitation)  
Wednesday 17th June 2020

**The Alumni Garden Party, including**  
- **Family Day** (all alumni welcome)  
- **The 1448 Society Garden Party**  
- **The Arthur Armitage Society Garden Party**  
Sunday 21st June 2020

### October

**The "39 Steps" Dinner** (by invitation)  
To celebrate 40 years of women at Queens'  
Saturday 3rd October 2020

Please check the website as additional events are added throughout the year  
[www.queens.cam.ac.uk/alumni-support/alumni-events](http://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/alumni-support/alumni-events).

**The Bridge:** produced by Alice Webster (Development Officer – Communications)

Any feedback on or queries about *The Bridge* can be sent to: [thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk).

Alumni & Development Office  
T7 Fisher Building  
Queens' College  
Cambridge  
CB3 9ET

[alumni@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@queens.cam.ac.uk)  
[www.queens.cam.ac.uk](http://www.queens.cam.ac.uk)  
+44(0)1223 331944



Follow us on Facebook **QueensCollegeCambridge**



Follow us on Twitter **QueensCam**



Follow us on LinkedIn **Queens' College Cambridge Members**



Follow us on Instagram **queens\_college**



Join the Queens' Polis Community at <https://queens.polistech.uk/>

The Queens' College of Saint Margaret and Saint Bernard in the University of Cambridge is registered with The Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1137495

