End of an era

Lord Eatwell reflects on 23 years as President
The first question is easy to answer – the people. Of course Queens’ is beautiful (in parts), and living in the President’s Lodge is the privilege, as John Polkinghorne put it, of living in the finest, mid-sized country house in England. He was not exaggerating. But it’s the people of Queens’ that I will miss the most.

The staff, students and Fellows are quite simply amazing. The staff exhibit a dedication to Queens’ that significantly surpasses any employment contract. Without their dedication, Queens’ would not run so smoothly and happily. The students, both undergraduates and graduates, form a seemingly never-ending pageant of talent and enterprise, and of the unexpected. The Fellows are incredible. Uniquely talented individuals dedicated to their discipline, unshakeably convinced that pursuit of their research is one of the most important things they could do in life, and yet interested in and concerned for each other. The Fellowship is a Society in the very best meaning of the word. I should not forget the alumni and alumnae. Wherever I have been around the world over the past 23 years, there has been a warm welcome from members of Queens’.

I have lived in Cambridge since I was 19 years old (I’m cheating a little, as three of those years were in Cambridge, Massachusetts). Moving away in the summer, when my tenure as President of Queens’ comes to an end, is therefore something more than a “change of scene”. Suzi and I have bought a house that is a little over six miles outside Bath, in the direction of Wells. For me it’s a return to my West Country roots. I was brought up in north Wiltshire, and spent a lot of time in Bath in my late teens.

Two questions have dominated conversations over the past few months: “What will you miss most?”, and “How has Queens’ changed since you became President in January 1997?”

The view from the Bridge

Lord Eatwell, the 39th President of Queens’, reflects on the major changes during his time at College.
The second question is more difficult to answer. Of course, there are obvious changes. The student body is notably more diverse than it was 23 years ago. 30% of Fellows are now female compared with 10% when I arrived. Not bad, but there's still some way to go. The graduate community has grown to near parity with the number of undergraduates. And Suzi would never forgive me if I didn't mention that the singing of the Chapel choir is now sublime. There have been significant changes to the estate: the fourth floor on Cripps Building (The Stephen Thomas Teaching & Research Centre), the landscaping of the Round (my particular joy), the new Nursery at Owstow Croft and a host of less obvious but, nonetheless, important improvements (who would ever have imagined that Queens’ would have a majority of rooms boasting ensuite facilities?).

There have been other fundamental changes in College life. For as long as most of us can remember, student welfare was in the hands of the Tutors, full-time academics who spent a considerable amount of time guiding us through the pitfalls of undergraduate life. Today, this essentially amateur approach to welfare issues is simply inadequate. I am not qualified to assess whether the upsurge in demand for counselling and similar welfare services is a result of social change or a result of improved understanding and identification of problems. But an upsurge there has been. Queens’ is the first college to respond by creating a professional welfare team, working alongside the tutors who now focus on academic advice (which is, after all, their particular expertise).

Another major change has been the drive to enhance access to a Cambridge education. The College is fully supportive of efforts to improve access for the committed and talented. Indeed, once again Queens’ is taking the lead. All the Cambridge colleges are allocated particular areas in which to concentrate their outreach activities. Queens’ is the only college that has a full-time schools liaison officer resident in one of our major areas – Bradford. The impact of her presence has been remarkable. The typical number of applications has risen from 50 to 75. And crucially, the acceptance rate has stayed the same. In other words, there has been – Queens’ is the first college to respond by creating a professional welfare team, working alongside the tutors who now focus on academic advice (which is, after all, their particular expertise).

A less positive change in the past 30 years has been a significant increase in the pressures on the Fellowship. The government’s research assessment exercises, that tie departmental funding to research output, have spelled the end of the more contemplative life. It has been replaced by “publish or perish.” Many heads of University departments now actively discourage their faculty from spending too much time supervising undergraduates. The pressure to work longer hours and produce more, right now. It is not obvious that this active Fellowship that works exceptionally well at Queens’. And yet – fundamentally Queens’ hasn’t changed since as an undergraduate I first walked into Old Court 56 years ago. The change in the gender balance (there were no women at all in 1964), the growth of the graduate community, the technological changes that have transformed not just communication but research methods too, the impact of wider societal changes on College life – all these have been absorbed within that friendly, gregarious community that Queens’ was in 1964 and remains today. I don’t quite know how the spirit of Queens’ endures. It must be something in the bricks.

I am proud of our College. And I am delighted my successor is to be Mohamed El-Erian. I am confident that in his hands, Queens’ future is secure.

John Eatwell

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John Eatwell
COVID-19 & Queens’

The College hopes that all of its members worldwide are keeping as healthy as possible. Queens’ and the rest of the University are essentially closed for the foreseeable future. Visits to College are not possible, regrettable. The College website will continue to provide updates. Alumni can email alumni@queens.cam.ac.uk as usual.

The focus continues to be on the welfare of our students, staff and Fellows and also how to maintain teaching and conduct exam-taking online. Staff and Fellows are working from home to achieve this and other core functions such as Access and Development work. At the time of going to press, just over 100 students remained in College, with all those on the main site accommodated in Cripps Court with en-suite bathrooms and take-away only meals provided free of charge from the College cafeteria.

We have provided some expertise on the virus and disease, through Fellows such as Professor Julia Gog (seconded to the Department of Health, Dr Paul Bambrough and Dr Anna Paterson (working in the Royal Papworth and Addenbrooke’s Hospitals respectively) and Dr Christopher Smith (volontary).

We are sure that a great many Queens’ alumni will be working to combat this pandemic across the healthcare professions and in more varied fields, too. ‘From all of us at Queens’, we send our best wishes for your good health and our heartfelt thanks for all your efforts.

The University of Cambridge is taking a leading role in tackling this national and global crisis. In March, plans were announced for the launch of a major national effort, led by Cambridge scientists, to help understand and control the new coronavirus infection. The government is investing £20 million to create the COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium, which also includes the NHS, Public Health Agencies, the Wellcome Sanger Institute and other British academic institutions. The initiative will deliver large-scale, rapid sequencing of the cause of the disease and share data with hospitals, regional NHS centres and the Government.

Student Voices

Victoria Ayodeji is a second year Geography student and last year was the Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) Officer on the JCR Committee. Last year, she was awarded the Cyril Bibby Prize, for outstanding contribution to the general communal life of the College. She grew up in East London and was only the second person from her school to come to Oxbridge. Victoria had planned the College’s first BME Access Day (with St Catharine’s College), but this sadly had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“At Cambridge, we care about getting the brightest and best students, so if there is a cultural barrier, we are working to reach students from all backgrounds and say ‘I’m here. This is my story. You can do it too, if you want; and if you do want, this is how we can help you.’

‘There’s a great quote from Marian Wright Edelman, the African-American activist and writer, who says ‘You can’t be what you can’t see.’ Seeing people from a similar background to you, whether that be geographically, culturally, or in any other way, makes you feel much more comfortable and able to achieve more.’

Zein Al-Hindawi has just finished his second term reading Medicine. He was one of the first cohort of students to be admitted to Cambridge through UCAS Adjustment. Students qualify for Adjustment if they meet three out of five contextual flags indicating that they come from a disadvantaged background. They must have applied to Cambridge, interviewed and been unsuccessful but then, if they achieve or exceed the standard offer on results day, they can apply again and may be offered a place on the day if there are spaces due to offer holders missing grades or being unable to confirm their offers. The flags include: living in a postcode with low progression to higher education, attending a school where fewer than five students have attended Oxbridge in the last five years and spending time in local authority care.

‘My first two terms at Cambridge have had their ups and downs, for sure. In Fresher’s Week I met a lot of fellow students and started some good relationships. Once the workload started to come into play, things got more stressful and it became even more important to have friends to talk to, course-mates to work with and societies to take my mind away from work. I’m now the captain of the Queen’s Pool team and have also started my own society, the Iraq Society. My parents are from Iraq and when I looked in the societies’ directory before arriving at Cambridge, I couldn’t find an Iraq society. I felt that Cambridge should have one, so I started it’

Through the Gatehouse

Queens’ has a vibrant community of Gates Scholars (with six current scholars and more than sixty alumni), courtesy of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship programme, set up in 2000 through a donation of $210 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Twenty years on, the programme has now brought more than 1,700 scholars to Cambridge from more than 100 countries.

William Mcinerney is a current Scholar studying for a PhD in Education. “The Gates Scholarship has certainly transformed my experience here at Cambridge”, he says. “Without financial assistance, I would not have been able to leave my job and become a student again. Furthermore, the Gates Scholarship continues to provide insightful and well-rounded learning opportunities through seminars, workshops and research support funds.”

William’s research focusses on arts-integrated approaches to men’s violence prevention, ultimately hoping to contribute to ongoing practical efforts to reduce men’s violence against women. “I hope my work and research can be a small but meaningful part of the larger social, political, and educational movements to decrease gender violence and make gender equality a reality. I am certain my time here at Queens’ and the support of Gates Cambridge will help me continue to work towards these ambitious goals.”

Ria Collingwood-Boafo (MPhil, 2008) is an alumnus of the Gates Cambridge Programme who now works at the Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, as a Court Manager attached to the Criminal Division. She studied for an MPhil in International Relations, which she explains she would not have been able to pursue without the support of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship. “The Gates Cambridge Scholarship has opened many doors for me, by virtue both of relationships forged with other scholars and the transferrable skills developed whilst at Cambridge. For the past decade, I have been intimately involved in building the research capacity of leading public sector institutions such as the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health in Trinidad and Tobago. I attribute these experiences, and many others over the past decade, to the training in research that I received during my MPhil. I am very grateful to Queens’ and the University, who provided several resources to ensure that my time at Cambridge was both enlightening and enriching.”

We encourage all current and former Gates Scholars of Queens’ to join our new LinkedIn group, which can be found by searching ‘Queens’ College Gates Scholars’, or here: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12366699/
The road less travelled...

Edward Barsley (2010), founder of The Environmental Design Studio, has published his first book, Benefiting for Flood Resilience. With water levels in Venice reaching new destructive heights and many across the UK affected by recent flooding, it’s clear that we must prepare better and faster. Edward says: “I wanted to create a resource that would clearly explain the causes and impacts of different types of flooding whilst also showcasing the vast array of different strategies that can be used to make communities and buildings resilient to this threat.” The book features three projects that Edward worked on during his time at Queens’, on coastal settlements in Cornwall, methods for communicating flood risk and a framework for evaluating the flood risk of existing communities.

Sail Britain is an organisation founded by Oliver Beardon (2005) that aims to reunite us with our oceans. Alongside helping to tackle environmental issues by carrying out research and gathering much-needed scientific data – the climate emergency and marine plastic and microplastic pollution being among their recent fociuses – they sail with artists, leading to compelling tales: strange lands, exotic cargoes, daring exploits and voyages of discovery. But in a fast-paced and increasingly urban world, these stories are being forgotten. When the IPCC released their Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate in September, it was clear that the oceans were in a serious state of neglect, out of sight and out of mind. Moreover, we have little time to rescue the situation. “With life on land utterly dependent on a healthy marine ecosystem, preserving the ocean is one of humanity’s most pressing environmental challenges.”

Many congratulations to Professor Jeremy Pearson (1965), who was awarded an MBE in the New Year’s Honours for services to Medical Research. Congratulations also to Dr Jane Osbourn (1984) interviewed on page 15, who was awarded an OBE for services to Biopharmaceutical Science in the Queen’s Birthday Honours last summer. If you have received an honour or award, please do let us know at thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk.

Last Michaelmas term, Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan (2013) spoke at the inaugural session of Conversations on Race, Class and Identity, an initiative of the Schools of Arts & Humanities. The session at which she spoke was called Taking Up Race: Women of Colour on Class, Colonialism and Whiteness at Oundle and Beyond. Suhaiymah is a writer, spoken-word poet, speaker and educator. Suhaiymah was interviewed in Issue 2 of The Bridge in Spring 2015, when she was Access Officer on the JCR Committee. The interview can be found on our website.

Dr Lucy Delap (1991) has been co-curator of the University Library’s Exhibition ‘The Rising Tide: Women at Cambridge’ which celebrates 150 years since the foundation of Girton College and the first women studying in Cambridge. Two alumnae also gave talks as part of the exhibition, Dr Ann Kennedy Smith (1985), who spoke on the theme ‘A club of their own’ and explored Cambridge women’s societies from 1883-1914, and Sally Dore (1982), who studied some of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century literature aimed at young women in her talk entitled “The most glorious fate that any girl could desire”: Girton and Newnham at Cambridge’ which celebrates 150 years since the University Library’s Exhibition ‘The Rising Tide: Women at Cambridge’ which celebrates 150 years since the foundation of Girton College and the first women studying in Cambridge. Two alumnae also gave talks as part of the exhibition, Dr Ann Kennedy Smith (1985), who spoke on the theme ‘A club of their own’ and explored Cambridge women’s societies from 1883-1914, and Sally Dore (1982), who studied some of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century literature aimed at young women in her talk entitled “The most glorious fate that any girl could desire”: Girton and Newnham in fiction for schoolgirls 1869–1939.”

We were delighted to be given a talk by the School’s crest from Dr Timothy Pascoe (1962), which was made for him by his godmother and had travelled to his home in Australia before finding its way back to Queens’ last September!

Daisy Dillon (2011) was recently featured on BBC Two’s Mountain Vet, a programme that follows the busy lives of vets in the ancient Mourne Mountains in Northern Ireland, where animals outnumber people ten to one!
Fellow’s Insight: Caracas to Queens’

Dr Federica Paddeu, Derek Bowett Fellow in Law & Deputy Senior Tutor

What do you research?

My research focusses on three main areas of International Law: the Law of State Responsibility, the Law on the Use of Force and the Law of Foreign Investment. I am also currently looking into some of the legal questions thrown up by the COVID-19 outbreak, specifically in relation to the responsibility states have to, for example, foreign investors whose projects are interrupted by measures put in place to mitigate against the disease, and the defences states might use to exempt themselves from those responsibilities under international law.

Why Cambridge?

Cambridge is one of the most important International Law centres in Britain. The Whewell Chair of International Law, currently held by Professor Eyal Benvenisti, is one of the most important chairs of International Law in the world and the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law is a world-leading institution.

Dr Paddeu at her PhD graduation

Queen’s also has a very famous international lawyer, the late Sir Derek Bowett, who was President of the College from 1970 to 1982 and in whose honour I am delighted that my Fellowship at Queen’s is named. He wrote extensively on many areas of international law, especially law on the use of force.

What do you think of the supervision system?

It’s extraordinary! It doesn’t exist anywhere else in the world – it’s something I would never have dreamed of as a student in Venezuela.

Firstly, it’s just incredible to have so many contact hours with academics working in the fields you are studying. Secondly, it forces you to think through problems. The temptation as a law student is to just read and learn what the books say. The supervision system doesn’t let you do that; the way we teach in Cambridge is not about learning what the law says – anyone can do that! – it’s about working through the problems in the law. Also, it makes you think critically; sometimes I will ask my students what the legal answer is to a problem and then challenge them, asking ‘is that the way we want the law to be?’

Explain your research to a lay person.

International Law is a decentralised legal system, in which states both make the law and are its subjects. For this reason, what states do and the explanations they give for what they do are very important: these can tell us what states understand a treaty to mean, for example, or what the content of customary law is. As there is no centralised place where one can read what states are doing and why they are doing it, a lot of my time is spent trying to chase up what states do and what Foreign Offices around the world are saying – including following President Trump’s twitter account!

The aim of this is to understand the rules that regulate states and their limits. In the field of the use of force, for example, the existing regulation treaty (the UN Charter) only tells us so much: it tells us states cannot use force against other states and that if a state is a victim of an armed attack it can use force in self-defence. However, since the adoption of the Charter in 1945 much has changed, in particular, we have seen the increasing power of non-state actors (including terrorist groups) who are able to launch devastating attacks against targets across borders. The UN Charter rules do not tell us whether a state who suffers an attack from a non-state actor can use force against that non-state actor in self-defence: the defensive force will take place in the territory of a state who may not be responsible for the actions of the non-state group. Since the answer is not given in the Charter, it is crucial to find out what states understand the Charter to mean (by looking at how they interpret it in their practice) and what the customary law says (also by looking at their practice and the reasons they give for it), as this may give us an answer regarding the legality of the use of force against non-state actors who commit armed attacks. There are divided opinions on this issue, but I think that the practice of states does not (at this point in time, at any rate) permit the use of force against non-state actors in the territory of other states.

Practical applications & the Harry Dunn case

I often do practical work: I have advised or been consulted by various lawyers I like being involved in practice and find it refreshing to think about how my work can have an impact in the real world. Recently, I assisted a barrister on a case involving sovereign immunity, which involves the limits on the power of the courts of one state over other states or their officials. These rules will tell us, for example, if a complainant in the UK can bring a claim in the English courts against a foreign state or its officials.

A recent and prominent example involving questions of immunity, although not one I was involved in, is the tragic case of Harry Dunn, the British teenager who died in a car accident. The car was driven by a woman who, at the time of the accident, was part of the household of a US diplomat. On those grounds she possessed diplomatic immunity, which meant that the police could not arrest her and the English courts could not try her. Immunity from prosecution does not, however, mean impunity. Diplomatic immunity only lasts while the person is in post in the country so, as the woman has now returned to the US, she is no longer covered by it! The English courts have thus requested that the US extradite her to stand trial in the UK. The matter is still unfolding, with the US and UK Governments in disagreement as to the extent of her diplomatic immunity.

Protecting Children in Armed Conflict

Another recent project with practical applications that I took part in was the inquiry on Protecting Children in Armed Conflict. This project, headed by Shahed Fatima QC of Blackstone Chambers and commissioned by Gordon Brown, is in high capacity as the UN Special Envoy for Global Education, looks to assess how the existing international legal framework protects, or fails to protect, children who are caught in armed conflicts. The project brought together a panel of lawyers, including myself, to prepare a report and resulted in the drafting of a convention for the protection of children in armed conflict. The report was published in 2018 by Hart.

Venezuela: legal challenges and perspective...

I grew up in Caracas and I am a Venezuelan-qualified lawyer. I have been keeping a close eye on the situation, as I still have family and friends who live there.

The narrative on the use of force in Venezuela is very interesting. There is a faction of the Venezuelan opposition who would like a military intervention to remove the current President, Nicolás Maduro, and replace him with Juan Guaidó. Guaidó has constitutional and democratic legitimacy on his side, whilst Maduro has territorial effectiveness, resulting in two competing claims for the Presidency. This is, as a matter of international law – a fascinating question. International lawyers have long debated what it is that makes a government ‘the Government’ of a state. Some propose that the criterion is democratic legitimacy, but the mainstream view is that the government is defined by control over the territory of the state. This notwithstanding, Guaidó has received the ‘recognition’ of about 60 states. I say ‘recognition’ as such expressions of support are often only political and do not have legal effects: for example, in many countries that ‘recognise’ Guaidó (such as the UK), his envos are not accredited as diplomats and are not allowed access to the buildings of diplomatic and consular missions, which remain in the hands of the Maduro regime.

Glossary:

International Law: the set of rules that regulate the behaviour between states and other subjects, such as the UN, corporations and individuals.

The Law of State Responsibility: the set of rules that determine when states have violated their obligations towards other states and subjects and who, if any, consequences of that failure should be.

The Law on the Use of Force: the set of rules that regulate when states can go to war with one another. Historically, war was the only means states had to resolve disputes, but, since the UN Charter, war has been prohibited; states cannot resort to war to resolve their disputes, except in certain circumstances.

The Law of Foreign Investment Protection: the set of rules that regulate the standard of treatment that a state must give to investors of another state, subject to terms of specific treaty between those states.
College News

The admission of Lord Eatwell and Professor Lawrence

Congratulations to our Fellows who are taking on new positions. Professor Marie Edmonds, (Ron Oxburgh Fellow in Earth Sciences), will become the Vice President (Ron Oxburgh Fellow in Earth Sciences), will become the Vice President. Professor Neil Lawrence was admitted to a Professorial Fellowship at Queens’, following his appointment as DeepMind Professor of Machine Learning at the Department of Computer Science & Technology last year. His Fellowship has been sponsored by a £1.2 million Future Leaders Fellowship by UK Research & Innovation.

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In January, the Fellows were delighted to elect the President, Lord Eatwell (1964), to an Honorary Fellowship. Traditionally, the President of Queens’ is not a Fellow. Lord Eatwell’s admission as an Honorary Fellow follows the precedent of previous Presidents, including Sir Arthur Armitage and the Revd Canon John Polkinghorne.

We are delighted that a number of Fellows have recently been recognised with various awards. Dr Janet Maguire has been elected as a Fellow of the British Pharmacological Society and recognised as a Highly Cited Researcher for 2019, meaning she has demonstrated significant research influence among her peers.

Professor Lisa Hall CBE has been awarded the 2020 Dobzhansky Medal from the Institute of Measurement and Control, for outstanding contribution to measurement, instrumentation and control in the field of environmental science and engineering.

Last September, Dr Jamie Blundell, group leader in the Cancer Research UK Early Detection Programme, was awarded a €1.2 million Future Leaders Fellowship by UK Research & Innovation. This fellowship will enable Dr Blundell to build a team focused on developing predictive “forecasts” of cancer risk from serial blood samples, to detect cancer at its earliest stages and intervene.

The Queens’ Prizes for Outstanding Contribution to College Education were awarded this year to Professor James Jackson FRS (1973) in Earth Sciences and Dr Rachael Turton in Geography. Nominations for Professor Jackson described him as ‘amongst the most inspirational teachers...’, whilst those for Dr Turton commented on her ‘creative approach to teaching’ and her exemplary ‘approach to inclusive teaching and accessibility.’

Dr Ramsey Faragher was awarded the 2019 Henry Early Achievement Award from the Institute of Navigation (ION), in recognition of his outstanding innovations in mobile positioning and navigation and in particular for his pioneering of the revolutionary SuperCorrelation technology.

Dr Anja Schmidt, Bye-Fellow and interdisciplinary lecturer in Climate Modelling (Geography/Chemistry), has been awarded the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) Outstanding Publication Award for a paper on which she was the second author. The paper quantified the cooling effects and ozone losses due to volcanic aerosols, the largest natural contributor to climate change.

From the College

We are very pleased to have two new prizes for teaching and studying at Queens’. The Silva Breu Prize in Computer Science will be awarded in memory of the late Dr Silvia Breu, aTeaching Associate widely recognised by students and Fellows alike as an excellent teacher with a real passion for the subject. The Prize will celebrate excellence in undergraduate teaching and be awarded to either a PhD candidate or Teaching Associate who teaches Queens’ undergraduates.

In addition, The Ruth Hendry Prize has been created for excellence in fourth year Sciences and is named after Dr Ruth Hendry (1989), the first (and only) official female Senior Wrangler at the University of Cambridge. The College was very grateful to receive a portrait of Saint John Fisher (martyr and President of Queens’ from 1505 to 1508) thanks to the generosity of Gifford Combs (1983, Fellow Commoner). The portrait bears a strong resemblance to a Holbein cartoon of John Fisher in the Royal Collection. The artist is unknown and the portrait has not yet been dated, but it is believed to be from the Holben School.

Last term there was a new exhibition in the Old Library: ‘From Heavenly Harmony to Earthly Discord: An exhibition of medieval and Renaissance musical treasures, revealing the role music has had in shaping perceptions of man, nature and the universe.’

The College Environmental Committee consists of Fellows, staff and students and meets once a term to report on ongoing projects and come up with new ideas, with a particular focus on mitigating the College’s contribution to the climate emergency and crisis in biodiversity. In practical terms, this means reducing the College’s carbon footprint and waste output and improving biodiversity on the College site. In January, the Governing Body approved a new Environmental Policy, proposed by the Environmental Committee, which among other things confirms: our aim to reduce our overall carbon footprint by 50% from its 2020 level by 2030 and to net zero by 2045.

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Staff

Mairi Hurrell has been providing cover in the Health Centre during the Lent Term. Mairi was College Nurse of Queens’ for 20 years before becoming Welfare Adviser in 2013 and retiring in 2015. She is remembered with great fondness by many alumni and her expertise has been invaluable in this interim period.

After 45 years of loyal service to Queens’, carpenter Peter Towers has retired. A farewell reception was held at the end of January in the Old Hall, to mark this extraordinary tenure at the College.

Dunkirk: 80 years on

In June 1940, Queens’ was awoken in the middle of the night and asked to accommodate and feed hundreds of troops who had just been evacuated from the beaches of France. In this photo, troops can be seen being served food and drink in Cloister Court. These soldiers might well have been from Operation Aerial, an evacuation that took place shortly after Dunkirk.

Dr Ramsey Faragher receiving his award

Dr Ramsey Faragher

Dr Anja Schmidt

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Students

The new JCR committee has been elected, with engineer Tomos Wood at the helm. Tomos says:

"It’s an immense honour to be Queens’ JCR President for the next year. Nobody is more pleased about the new JCR committee than me, and it’s especially refreshing to see how many first years applied to get involved.

As a third year, it makes me feel very old! The committee and I will be working tirelessly to ensure that all Queens’ undergraduates can make the most of their time here."

Victoria Ayodeji was highly commended for Best University Initiative Award for their Bradford Mobility Initiative. The Queens’ Admissions Team were also highly commended for Best Victoria Ayodeji working tirelessly to ensure that all Queens’ undergraduates can make

Using Biotechnology to change lives

Dr Jane Osbourn’s (1984) services to biotechnology were honoured last year with an OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours. When the award was announced, colleagues recognised not only her contribution to and championing of biopharmaceutical science but also her commitment to STEM outreach and education.

Diversity in STEM

"From my experience working through the different stages of company development, the most important thing when building a company or doing any kind of science and development is that you have diversity of people around the table, with different experiences, cultures and learning styles."

Jane says: "Diversity of view, in my opinion, is how you get true innovation; it makes people think and challenges them in a different way.

Engaging the wider community

"I’ve done a lot of STEM education work through AstraZeneca, helping to train the next wave of scientists and, we hope, contributing to communities."

This education work includes sending scientists into schools, from primary through to sixth form. "Whether pupils are interested in science or a career in science or not, it’s really important that they have an understanding of science, data and decisions, probability and, fundamentally, how science can be a benefit to society."

"We’re living in a difficult age of interesting representations of facts; we want people at every age to know that they can find things out, they can explore and understand data and through that they can come to their own conclusions."

Using science to change lives

Jane started her career in business at biotech start-up Cambridge Antibody Technology

Extra-curricular

The Michaelmas term MagSoc concert featured second-year music student William Rose conducting the MagSoc Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Brahms’s Symphony No 2 and Bruckner’s Oys just and Te Deum, for which they were joined by soloists from the Chapel Choir. The College Boat Club had an excellent start to the academic year, kick-started in October with the naming of their new boat, The G. A. Hayter (See Floreat Damus, page 19). Two crews won blades at the Fairbairn Cup in December, Women’s 1 (rowing in the G. A. Hayter) and Men’s 2, with strong performances from all other crews. At the Lent Bumps, we entered more crews than almost all other Colleges and gained five places overall, with special congratulations due to the Women’s 1 and Men’s 2 who both gained three places over four races.

The Hayter family and friends with the new boat

The College Boat Club has also had a successful year, with the Men’s XI reaching the final for the first time since 2011. The Women’s XI were also on top form, enjoying a wonderful season that took them all the way to the Cuppers Final, where they were narrowly defeated on penalties by a very strong Pembroke side. This echoed their 2017 Cuppers campaign, where hopes of victory were also dashed in the final by Pembroke. Football at Queens’ is kindly supported by the Football Fund.

Last November, Queens’ athletes Emily Bradley, Roseanna Temple and Grace Miles took to the hills at Shottosher to compete against Oxford in the Varsity Cross-Country match, after taking team victory in Cuppers two weeks earlier alongside team captain and international Fiona Bunn. In an extremely impressive performance, they took 2nd, 3rd and 9th places respectively.

CQACF Women

CQACF Men

QCAFC Women

QCAFC Men

The MagSoc Michaelmas concert soloists

There were two Bats productions in the Michaelmas term. The first, a joint endeavour with the Lady Margaret Players (St John’s College), was Tom Stoppard & Andre Previn’s Every Good Boy Deserves Favours. The second was Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night performed in the Fitzpatrick Hall in early March.

The Hayter and family and friends with the new boat

The Queens’ College Association Football Club has also had a successful year, with the Men’s XI reaching the final for the first time since 2011. The Women’s XI were also on top form, enjoying a wonderful season that took them all the way to the Cuppers Final, where they were narrowly defeated on penalties by a very strong Pembroke side. This echoed their 2017 Cuppers campaign, where hopes of victory were also dashed in the final by Pembroke. Football at Queens’ is kindly supported by the Football Fund.

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My room (mate) Kirsty Ions (1995)

Claire and I had already shared a set in our second year (Fisher T9), when Claire came almost top in the room ballot for the following year. I must have been a passable roommate as Claire invited me to share our third year in the splendour of Walnut Tree Court – G5 to be precise. Palatial by comparison to T9, it was a quirky, beautiful set of rooms complete with window seats looking out over the court and even a tiny kitchen. The layout and décor looked like it had not changed in generations.

They say opposites attract; Claire read Natural Sciences, me Law. Claire lived in Scotland and came to Queens’ on the train with only the bare essentials. I came from the South with a car fit to burst – ready for every eventuality – plus a new-fangled laptop-type thing about three inches thick, but handy for us both. Claire had an enviable ability to gauge the amount she needed to work just right; by the time we were in G5, I had finally begun to realise that I did not need to spend every waking hour in the library (when I wasn’t on the lacrosse pitch).

Those were the days! The Police (Claire’s choice, not mine, but I came to love it). The layout and décor looked like it had not changed in generations.

Worth Tree Court. G staircase is on the far right.

Their names above G5

in place of Alanis Morissette – whatever happened to her and Jagged Little Pill?, lots of sport (hockey, squash, rowing, even lacrosse goalie for Claire; lacrosse with more lacrosse, as a Blue and Captain of the University team, for me) and, for Claire, the last year in College before she moved out for her final year. For me, with mixed emotions, this was it. The last year before graduation and the big wide world.

Here we are now, 25 years on from matriculation, both married (Claire married in Queens’ Chapel in 2005, me in 2002), both with three children – girls for me, boys for Claire. Still the best of friends. Claire a Fund Manager and me, with Claire’s encouragement, having recently taken the plunge to 26 years in Law to a new career. T9 and G5 days were special: I will never forget them.

Kirsty Ions (nee Lamb) is now Head of Admissions at South Hampstead High School, part of the Girls Day School Trust.

Clare Bews (nee Brown) is a Fund Manager.

Please send accounts of your treasured time at Queens’ and memories of your room (mate), ideally with photographs, to thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk.

Floreat Domus

The John Eatwell Fellowship

More than 150 alumni, Fellows and friends have helped us raise more than £1 million so far for this campaign, which commemorates Lord Eatwell’s 23-year Presidency and honours his name in perpetuity at the College. The Fellowship will be a unique resource for Queens’, allowing the College to fill an additional teaching role as needs arise across subjects.

The campaign requires another £1.5m and closes on 1st June 2020. For more information about the Fellowship or to make a gift: www.queens.cam.ac.uk/alumni-support/the-john-eatwell-fellowship. You can also make a gift by completing and returning the enclosed donation form to FREEPOST Development Office, Queens’ College, Cambridge, CB3 9YA.

Joe Stallard (Engineering PhD candidate & former MCR President)

“John has relentlessly pursued excellence in teaching and student support, alongside furthering the transformative College community which touches all who study here. As a research student you are inspired to tackle the unknown, and sense strongly that the College is behind you in your efforts. John and his strong team have championed the College’s values and traditions, and effectively harnessed student input. As MCR President, I owed much to his inspirational and effective approach – a fusion of friendliness, critical thinking, teamwork and enthusiasm – and his love of getting involved. This fellowship is a great way to celebrate his legacy, and to ensure it is a permanent one.”

Dr Neil Hunt (1977) & his daughter, Emelia (2012)

“We donated to The John Eatwell Fellowship because Queens’ College has been, and always will be, a huge part of our lives. We both enjoyed three happy years at Queens’, made lifelong friends at College and benefited from the teaching approach at Queens’, which is why we chose to contribute to this Fellowship, as well as marking the long and distinguished service of the President. We still enjoy coming back to visit regularly, including punting under the Mathematical Bridge and attending the May Balls. We love to see how the College continues to expand, develop and thrive and want to contribute to that and keep in touch.”

Mr Robert Magson (1963)

“My father, T. S. Magson, was Lord Eatwell’s headmaster at Headlands School. He was very proud of John and would have wanted me to make this donation.”


“From my first stay at College for an interview to read History, I always felt at home at Queens’, and it is appropriate that I met David, a medievist, there. My College highlight was singing in MagSoc. I returned to Queens’ on 24th June 2018 for the Alumni Garden Party, where I heard a performance by the Chapel Choir and watched England play Panama in the QBar. I always felt at home at Queens’, and it is appropriate that I met David, a medievist, there. My College highlight was singing in MagSoc. I returned to Queens’ on 24th June 2018 for the Alumni Garden Party, where I heard a performance by the Chapel Choir and watched England play Panama in the QBar.”

Some donor perspectives
Support for Researchers & Students

Prizes & Funds

It was a pleasure to welcome the donors to the James Diggle Fund in Classics to a celebratory dinner in January. Thirty-nine donors attended, with Professor James Diggle as guest of honour. The President, Professor Diggle and the Praelector, Dr David Butterfield, all gave speeches, after which the floor was opened to the donors to say a few words, thanking Professor Diggle and sharing memories of their time at Queens. The dinner was also attended by John Kwon, the first recipient of the James Diggle Prize.

We are delighted to announce the endowment of the Queens’ Postdoctoral Research Associate (PDRA) programme, thanks to the generosity of Mr Chris Rokus (Fellow Benefactor). The programme, which provides research stipends and SCR membership to people at the beginning of their academic careers, is now supported in perpetuity. There are currently 16 PDRAs at Queens’, spread across scientific and artistic disciplines, with an average of eight positions offered each year for a maximum of two years. This programme allows young academics to engage with more senior Fellows and for the College to recruit excellent teachers to supervise our students.

“PDRA positions are affiliations to the College, offering postdoctoral researchers – both former Queens’ students and those coming from outside Cambridge – a unique opportunity to be involved in collegiate life. Through this, researchers access the SCR teaching and social activities and meet academics across a wide variety of fields, stimulating a culture of open-mindedness and creativity.”

We are therefore extremely grateful to Chris Rokus for this new funding, which secures the current scheme and is also a great chance to reflect about ways to improve it even further.”

Dr Hélène de Maleprade, PDRA Convenor

We now have an endowed, annual undergraduate prize for academic distinction in Biological Natural Sciences, thanks to the generosity of Mrs Dragana Grant (1993) and Mr David Grant. The Grant Prize in Biochemistry is the latest addition to a string of prizes endowed over the last few years.

Dragana Grant

Patrick Bevan is a third year Maths scholar, violinist and the Michael Williamson Instrumental Scholar. Over three years, he has contributed enormously to music at Queens’, playing many concertos with the MagSoc Symphony Orchestra, most recently the Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1, as well as performing at functions such as the Benefactors’ Ceremony and the Garden Party. Outside College, Patrick has also recently performed Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 2 with the City of Cambridge Symphony Orchestra and the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the University Symphony Orchestra. In 2018, he was the Leader of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

“Musical life at Queens has been fantastic over the past three years. I love being part of MagSoc and really enjoy performing in all our concerts. Having the Michael Williamson Instrumental Scholarship was something I never expected when I came to Queens. Together with support from Friends of Queens’ Music, it has helped me to continue having violin lessons with a world-class teacher, for which I am very grateful. I am really looking forward to my fourth year at Queens, when I will be doing the Maths Part III course and I will continue to be part of College and University music.”

Patrick Bevan

Extra-curricular

We are delighted to have completed fundraising for and endowed the Nelson Blues Fund. This Fund will support students who win Blues or half Blues, by helping them purchase their colours. More than 30 alumni and supporters, many of them Blues themselves, supported the campaign, which included a principal gift from Dr Mark Nelson (1983). Mark was a cricketer at Queens’, won a half Blue in Golf and is a member of the Hawks’ Club.

The G. A. Hayter

Last October Queens’ College Boat Club officially named and launched its new coxed four. The G. A. Hayter, purchased thanks to a generous bequest from George Hayter (1959). George was in the 1st May VIII between 1960 and 1962, rowing in the 1962 crew which went Head of the River in the 1962 May Bumps. The Club welcomed members of the Hayter family, along with other alumni and supporters of the Boat Club, to a naming ceremony at the Boat House. Speeches were given by Charlotte Hallam, GBC President, and Edward Hayter, George’s son, by whom the boat was “named”. It was then blessed by the College Chaplain, the Rev'd Max Bayliss.

Legacy gifts can have a transformative impact for the College. To find out more about leaving a lasting gift to Queens’, or if you have already made provision in your Will for the College, please contact Sam Davis on development@queens.cam.ac.uk or 01223 331944.
Last October, the College was honoured to host the fifth Queens’ Distinguished Lecture in Law, generously sponsored by Redress Solutions. The Lecture, entitled “What does it mean? Some thoughts on interpretation”, was given by The Rt. Hon Lord Justice Newey QC (1977), Lord Justice of Appeals.

September

1960 & Before Reunion Luncheon
Wednesday 23rd September 2020

October

1990 30th Anniversary Reunion Dinner
Saturday 24th October 2020

Distinguished Lecture in Law and Dinner (by invitation only)
Monday 26th October 2020
Speaker: Lady Arden of Heswall, Justice of the Supreme Court

40th Anniversary of the Matriculation of Women Celebratory Luncheon (by invitation only) followed by the 1980 40th Anniversary Reunion Dinner
Saturday 31st October 2020

November

Alumni High Table Dining for MA/MPhil/PhD/PGCEs etc.
Wednesday 4th November 2020

Women in Business Drinks Reception (by invitation only)
Wednesday 25th November 2020

December

The Varsity Matches
Thursday 10th December

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

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Queens’ social media following continues to grow and we are pleased that an independent survey in January showed us to have the third-largest Instagram following of all Cambridge colleges! Do follow the College online to keep up-to-date with all the news...

Follow us on Facebook QueensCollegeCambridge
Follow us on Twitter QueensCam
Follow us on LinkedIn Queens’ College Cambridge Members
Follow us on Instagram queens_college

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