Master’s Introduction

Welcome to the Trinity Term 2015 edition of CatzEye...

Since the last edition of CatzEye, life at St Catherine’s has been as busy as ever, for our students, Fellows, and alumni alike.

It was with great sadness that I announced the deaths of two of our Emeritus Fellows earlier in the year, both of a good age. John Simopoulos, a familiar face to many of you from his role as Dean of Degrees – alumni and students will remember him from the matriculation ceremony each Michaelmas Term, and the ten degree ceremonies per year, for which he was responsible – died on 2 March 2015 at the age of 91. John Bayley, the first Warun Professor of English Literature at the University and Fellow in English at St Catherine’s from 1973-1992, died on 12 January 2015 aged 89. We will remember both of them with great fondness.

In Hilary Term, we welcomed Simon Russell Beale to College as the Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre. His Inaugural Lecture, which focused on the Shakespearean roles that he has performed, was very well received. A podcast of this can be viewed online at https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/everythings-made-shovel-and-spade-playing-shakespeare-simon-russell-beale. The JCR and MCR Reports, which you can read on page 7, give a further glimpse into the vibrant life of our current undergraduate and graduate communities here in College.

I am always delighted, though rarely surprised, to hear of the links that continue to be forged between current Catz students and our alumni. Two of our current students have hosted events this year, with the kind support of our alumni. Daniel Shao (2013, Music) organised a charity music concert in aid of the Oxford branch of ‘Crisis’ the national charity for single homeless people, in which many of our talented alumni performed alongside current students. Robert Blackwell (2012, History & Politics) teamed up with Catz alumnus Zoe Stern (1998, History) to organise a panel discussion around the topic of voter disengagement, as part of the Sky News ‘Stand Up Be Counted’ campaign. You can read more about these events on page 5.

We have been fortunate to welcome many of you to events, including our Hong Kong reunion, our London Party at The Worshipful Company of Innholders, our Dean Kitchen Circle Lunch (for those who have kindly chosen to make a gift to College in their Wills), and most recently our Gaudy for 1973-1982 matriculands. I would like to thank all those who were able to make it along to one of these occasions, and I hope to see many more of you at future events!

Our Fellowship continues to thrive, and we were very proud indeed to hear that Professor Eleanor Stride, Fellow in Engineering, had won the prestigious Institution of Engineering and Technology A. F. Harvey Engineering Research Prize of £300,000, which will be used to further her research into targeted drug delivery. Equally impressive are the achievements of our alumni, and we were delighted to see James Marsh (1982, English) receive the Outstanding British Film Bafta for his Stephen Hawking biopic The Theory of Everything.

In this edition’s alumni interview feature, we hear from Chris Anderson (1975, PPE), the curator of the TED Conference, which he has since developed into a wider platform for identifying and disseminating ideas worth spreading.

I hope that you enjoy this issue of CatzEye and, as ever, please do get in touch if you have any news that you would like to share. It is always most welcome.
John Simopoulos 1923-2015

The College is deeply saddened to announce that John Simopoulos (BPhil, MA), Emeritus Fellow and Dean of Degrees, died on 4 March 2015 aged 91.

Tutor in Philosophy at St Catherine’s Society from 1953-60, he was a Founding Fellow of St Catherine’s College from 1960, before becoming an Emeritus Fellow upon his retirement in 1988. John served as the College’s Dean of Degrees until his death. As Fellow in Philosophy at St Catherine’s, he was interested primarily in logic and probability. As another Fellow put it, ‘he was never fooled by Philosophy; this sounds to be a little thing. But he was also able to teach others not to be fooled by it either; that is a big thing’.

A Thanksgiving Service will be held on 10 October 2015 at the University Church.

John Bayley 1925-2015

The College is deeply saddened to announce that Professor John Bayley, former Warne Professor of English Literature and Professorial Fellow of the College, died on 12 January 2015 aged 89.

John came to the College in 1973 and retired in 1992, when he became an Emeritus Fellow. He was a colourful and much-loved character around the College, bringing much joy to many people. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1990, and appointed CBE in 1999. An influential literary critic, he was the widower of the late Iris Murdoch, and leaves behind him his widow Audi.

A Thanksgiving Service will be held on 9 November 2015 at St Catherine’s College.

Full obituaries will appear in The Year. If you would like to attend either of the Services, please email development.office@stcatz.ox.ac.uk

Simon Russell Beale delivers his Inaugural Lecture

The College was delighted to host actor and music historian Simon Russell Beale in Hilary Term to deliver his Inaugural Lecture as the 24th Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre.

Simon, who is well known for his Shakespearean roles and who has been hailed as ‘the greatest stage actor of his generation’, delivered his lecture in the Bernard Sunley Lecture Theatre on Monday 2 March 2015.

He appeared in conversation with broadcaster, Libby Purves, and spoke around the lecture title ‘Everyday’s remake/With shovel and spade: Playing Shakespeare with Simon Russell Beale’. He talked about his distinguished career in the theatre, with a focus on his Shakespearean roles in contemporary theatre.

Simon’s lecture is available as a podcast for all to enjoy via both iTunes and the University’s podcasts page at https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/everythings-re made-shovel-and-spade-playing-shakespeare-simon-russell-beale.
Wallace Watson Award Winner Announced

Tom Joy (2013, Engineering Science) has been named as the winner of the 2015 Wallace Watson Award. The Wallace Watson Award is awarded to an undergraduate or graduate member of the College to undertake an expedition or travel of a challenging nature in a mountainous and/or remote region anywhere in the world. Wallace Watson (2000, Chemistry) was an undergraduate at St Catherine’s who achieved much in his short life through combining determination with a consideration for others, and success with modesty and humour. The Wallace Watson Award was established in 2001 to give others the opportunities that Wallace had grasped with both hands.

Tom is planning a solo coast to coast trek across the Pyrenees, journeying from Hendaye to Banyuls-sur-Mer along the Franco-Spanish border. He hopes to conquer several peaks en route, including the Pic du Taillon, Pico de Aneto, Pic de Montardo and Pica d’Estats.

The winner was announced at the Wallace Watson Award Lecture on 12 March 2015, at which last year’s winners Tom Gaisford (2013, Human Sciences), Jack Hampton (2013, PPE), and Dylan Lynch (2013, PPE) spoke about their expeditions to Zimbabwe and Scandinavia.

Dr Wilfred Wong matches Gifts to the College

The College would like to express its deepest thanks to alumnus Dr Wilfred Wong (m. 1976), who has generously offered to inspire support for the College by matching donations that are made to St Catherine’s this year. Single gifts will be doubled, and regular gifts will be tripled!

The Wilfred Wong Challenge, as this wonderful matching gift opportunity is known, is open to anyone who has not donated since 1 April 2014. If you would like to make a gift to St Catherine’s, or if you would like further information, please visit www.stcatz.ox.ac.uk/wongchallenge.

We are very grateful indeed to all who have chosen to support St Catherine’s so far by making a special matched donation. All gifts add up to make a great impact at the College and help our students to thrive. Thank you!

Dean Kitchin Circle Lunch for Legators

The College was delighted to host the Dean Kitchin Circle Lunch on Saturday, 25 April 2015. Formerly known as the Lunch for Legators, the event has been renamed after Rev G. W. Kitchin, who was the first sole Censor of the Delegacy for Unattached Students (as St Catherine’s was previously known) from 1868 to 1883.

Matriculands ranging from 1941 to 2004 attended the biennial Lunch, which allows us to thank those who have made the very personal commitment of remembering St Catherine’s in their Will. Our community of Legators currently stands at around 180, and during the last five years, we have received over £1.5 million from Legacies, for which we are very grateful.

From funding scholarships for students, to helping finance the construction of award-winning buildings, Legacies play an enormous role in securing the College’s future. We are proud to have a community of Legators whose far-sighted generosity will help secure our College for generations to come.

We look forward to welcoming more of our Legators to the next Dean Kitchin Circle Lunch, which will be held in 2017.
Catz Student hosts ‘Stand Up Be Counted’ Event

Catz student, Robert Blackwell (2012, History & Politics) teamed up with Catz alumnus Zoe Stern (1998, History) to organise a panel discussion around the topic of voter disengagement, as part of the Sky News ‘Stand Up Be Counted’ campaign, which gives 16-25 year olds a national platform to voice their views. The event was held at the Oxford Martin School in Hilary Term.

Robert, who was the President of the Oxford International Relations Society in Hilary Term, planned the event following a work experience placement alongside Zoe Stern in Sky’s Public Affairs & Policy department. The discussion was held in conjunction with the Sky News ‘Stand Up Be Counted’ campaign, and centred on the question ‘Do we only care about the vote when we don’t have it?’

The panel was chaired by Sky News anchor Andrew Wilson and comprised Professor Helen Margetts, Director of the Oxford Internet Institute, Areeq Chowdhury, Founder and Chief Executive of WebRoots Democracy, and Baroness Falkner of Margravine, member of the House of Lords and Chairman of the Liberal Democrats Parliamentary Policy Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The panelists shared their thoughts on why people don’t vote, what we should be doing about it, and who the responsibility should lie with. A focal point of the discussion was the failure of prominent political figures to engage with young voters, and the possibility of online voting.

Catz Charity Music Concert

Catz student Daniel Shao (2013, Music) and Cayenna Ponchione (2011, Music) organised a successful charity music concert, which raised money for the Oxford branch of ‘Crisis’ (the national charity for single homeless people). The concert took place on 11 May 2015 at the Holywell Music Room in Oxford, and showcased the wealth of musical talent that abounds among the Catz community, with both current students and alumni participating in the performance.


The concert raised over £300 for ‘Crisis’, and Daniel would like to thank all those who contributed to its success!
Catz Student participates in International Law Moot

Catz Student Sakinah Sat (2013, Law), has successfully competed in the 56th Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, the world’s largest moot court competition with participants from over 550 law schools in more than eighty countries. The Competition is a simulation of a fictional dispute between countries before the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the United Nations.

The team from Oxford, which included Sakinah, competed in the Grand Final of the United Kingdom national rounds of the Competition, which was held at Gray’s Inn, London on Sunday 1 March 2015. Oxford was defeated in a close final by LSE, but progressed to the international rounds of the Competition, which were held in Washington DC in April, where they made it to the semi-finals, losing against Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.

Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the foundations of Public International Law prior to the Competition, and they benefit from rigorous instruction and training in memorial drafting and advocacy skills.

Kirubin Pillay (2014, Engineering Science) receiving the Blackwood Student Design Award for his eye-controlled wheelchair design, February 2015.

Catz Student wins National Student Design Award

Kirubin Pillay (2014, Engineering Science) has won a national student design award for his eye-controlled wheelchair design. Kirubin is currently studying for his DPhil in Healthcare Innovation, and completed the project as part of his Master’s at Imperial College London.

The Blackwood Student Design Competition is organised by Blackwood, a leading housing and care provider. The Competition aims to discover, and champion, innovative ideas that aim to improve standards of living for those with physical or mental disabilities.

Designs from across the world were presented to a panel of judges. Kirubin’s design, based on a type of existing electric wheelchair, includes an electric module which has been incorporated into the chair’s frame and converts eye-movements acquired from an eye-tracker and laptop that is attached to the back of the wheelchair, into directional commands. The design would enable people with severe physical difficulties to control wheelchair using only their eyes.

Kirubin will now receive funding from Blackwood in order to turn his design into reality. Commenting on the Blackwood Student Design Award, Kirubin said, “I admire Blackwood’s openness in accepting new ideas no matter how apparently outlandish they may seem at first to be, and it shows that they give all new designs a fair chance for success no matter what state of development they are in.”

Sakinah Sat (2013, Law) (centre) and her Oxford teammates in Washington DC at the 56th Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, in which the Oxford team reached the semi-finals, April 2015.
The JCR Report

This has been an exciting year for the JCR, with many new projects, ranging from free games equipment to staircase kitchen improvements, finals feedback, suspended-status-student support, bike-borrowing schemes and greater JCR budget autonomy all underway. Open-meeting debates, on issues such as policies towards Israel and newspaper subscriptions, have seen the JCR pit crammed on Saturday nights.

JCR dynamism has been matched on the clubs and societies front, with clubs being established for table football, women’s cricket, lacrosse and the arts. Achievement has accompanied dynamism, with mixed hockey narrowly losing to Keble in the Cuppers final, women’s football steamrolling Division Two without conceding a goal, the men’s football 1st XI finishing second in Division One, and women’s tennis making the Cuppers semi-finals!

The first two terms saw a focus on promoting equality, understanding, and respect between all genders. Catz led consent and good-lad workshops, and also provided sexual health support via an active welfare team. The newly founded feminist society, (which boasted over 100 members within its first day), has held debates and reading and discussion groups.

Trinity Term saw the return of Catz Arts Week, a University-wide affair, and an incredible array of events. This, combined with our new stash range, demonstrates the JCR’s desire to display our legendary Catz creativity to the world!

Watching the student body successfully mobilise on important issues, whilst still outstripping the other colleges in both sport and culture, has been the greatest pleasure of my tenure as JCR President. We truly are a wonderful community, and one which I will be forever proud to have led!

Jack Hampton (2013, PPE)

The MCR Report

The past year has been a highly successful one for our ever-growing MCR. On the back of a bright and busy freshers’ week, our new members have taken straight to MCR life, filling the bursting social calendar with the well-known Catz spirit.

This success is down to the unerring hard work of our outing committee; co-presidents Stephanie Drum (2012, Medical Sciences) and Martin Garthwaite (2013, Continuing Education), secretary John Kenny (2013, Politics & International Relations) and treasurer Francesco Ferroni (2012, Materials). Also, social secretaries Carla Verdi (2013, Materials), Alex Barbaro (2013, Materials), Serkan Birgel (2014, Geography & Environment), James Aglio (2013, Classics), Nick Lehn (2013, Social & Cultural Anthropology), bar manager Emma Osborn (2013, Computer Science) and IT manager Jan Vonk (2011, Mathematics). Thank you all for your huge efforts.

A real focus on meeting and forming links with other colleges has led to a diverse range of events, including two joint BOPs, which were a great success and enjoyed (and commented on) by graduates from across the University. Dinner and drinks exchanges have gone from strength to strength, with guests consistently impressed by our wonderful food, atmosphere, and College.

Alongside improvements to the common room itself, in the form of new dimmable lighting and a revamped bar, our regular yoga sessions and waffle brunches have continued their popularity. Ben Abraham (2014, International Development) has won a Blue in Basketball. Finally, the annual Charities and Cocktails Night raised over £1,200 for our MCR Scholarship, thanks to the generosity of our members. With so much happening on every front, we’re looking forward to an exciting year as co-presidents.

Pete Forsyth (2009, Engineering) and Elizabeth Smethurst (2013, Medical Sciences)
Eleanor Stride Wins Major Engineering Research Prize

Catz Fellow and Associate Professor in Law, Professor Eleanor Stride, a world expert in biomedical engineering, has been awarded a prestigious international prize from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET). Professor Stride won the £300,000 IET A. F. Harvey Engineering Research Prize in January 2015, having been chosen due to her outstanding contributions to biomedical engineering and her research into the treatment of major diseases.

Professor Stride’s ‘targeted drug delivery’ research concerns the treatment of major diseases such as cancer and stroke, where there is a pressing need to target drugs to specific parts of the body in order to minimise exposure of healthy tissue, and the £300,000 IET international prize will be used to further this research.

Fellows’ Publications

Paul Davies, Fellow and Associate Professor in Law, has published Accessory Liability (Hart Publishing, 2015). The book brings clarity to a major category of civil liability and suggests that, by looking across boundaries in the private law, the nature and principles of accessory liability can be better understood.

Andrew Dickinson, Fellow and Professor in Law, has published Australian Law for the 21st Century: Facing Outwards (Hart Publishing, 2014). The collection examines the state, and future, of Australian private international law against the background of the recent review of this area by the Australian Attorney-General.

Bill Fulford, Fellow by Special Election, has published The Oxford Handbook of Psychiatric Ethics (Oxford University Press, 2015) the most comprehensive treatment of the field in history. Written and edited by an international team of experts, it provides a powerful and compelling review of psychiatric ethics in the 21st century.

Geneviève Helleringer, Fellow by Special Election, has published Towards a European Legal Culture (Hart Publishing, 2014). The book explores, in different legal areas, the pluralistic structure of European law and the way in which this diversity constitutes a new understanding of European legal culture.

Fiona McConnell, Fellow and Associate Professor in Human Geography, has published Geographies of Peace (I. B. Tauris, 2014). The book, which encourages the reader to think more expansively and critically about what peace means and what geographies of peace may entail, draws on recent advances in social and political theory, and detailed empirical research, covering four continents.

Marc Mulholland, Fellow and Associate Professor in Modern History, has published Terence O’Neill (University College Dublin Press, 2013). Based upon exhaustive research, the study argues for the centrality of Terence O’Neill, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland from 1963, to modern Irish history.

Gervase Rosser, Fellow and Professor in History of Art, has published The Art of Solidarity in the Middle Ages: Guilds in England 1250-1550 (Oxford University Press, 2015). The book explores the motives and experiences of the many thousands of men and women who joined together in these voluntary, family-like societies in medieval Europe.

Kirsten Shepherd-Barr, Fellow in English and Associate Professor in Modern Drama, has published Theatre and Evolution from Ibsen to Beckett (Columbia University Press, 2015). The study, which was supported by a Leverhulme Research Fellowship, traces how the central ideas of evolutionary theory have made their way on to the stage since the 1820s.

David Womersley, Fellow and Warton Professor of English Literature, has published James II: The Last Catholic King (Penguin, 2015). The book, which is part of the Penguin Monarchs series, charts the short yet action-packed reign of James II [1685-88], which is generally seen as one of the most catastrophic in British history.
Catz Alumnus Wins Bafta

Catz alumnus and film director, James Marsh (1982, English), has been awarded the Outstanding British Film Bafta for his Stephen Hawking biopic The Theory of Everything.

The film received multiple Bafta nominations, including Best Film, Outstanding British Film, Best Actor, and Best Actress. Winners were announced at the Bafta Film Awards ceremony, hosted by Stephen Fry, on 8 February 2015. Eddie Redmayne took home the award for Best Actor for his role as Professor Stephen Hawking in the film, which also won the award for best Adapted Screenplay.

This is the second time that James has been awarded the Outstanding British Film Bafta, having previously won it with his film Man On Wire in 2009.

The film also received multiple Oscar nominations, including Best Picture, Best Actor (Eddie Redmayne), Best Actress (Felicity Jones), Original Score and Adapted Screenplay.

Alumni Honours

The College would like to congratulate the following alumni on their recent achievements:

Fred Jarvis (1949, PPE) was awarded the CBE in the 2015 New Year Honours List, for parliamentary and political services. Fred was the President of the National Union of Students in the 1950s, and is also the former General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers. He has been involved in education for more than sixty years.

David Gulfoyle (1969, Physics) was awarded the OBE in the 2015 Queen’s New Year Honours List, for services to the community, particularly Young People in Belfast. David is currently the Chief Executive at the Youth Council for Northern Ireland, a position he has held since 1990.

Sir Ian Dove (1982, Law) has been appointed a High Court judge at a ceremony at the Royal Courts of Justice. The Queen conferred a Knighthood on him. Ian first began his career in Law at No5 Chambers twenty-eight years ago. He has been described by Legal 500 as ‘an excellent strategist and advocate’ and was elevated to Queen’s Counsel in 2003.

Lisa Roberts (1988, English) has been appointed Queen’s Counsel in the 2015 Silk appointments. Lisa, a member of Lincoln House Chambers in Manchester, has a practice in serious crime and regulatory law, and is widely recognised as a leading advocate in her field of expertise. She is described as ‘outstandingly able’ in Health and Safety and Environmental Law, and regularly acts for the Police Federation on behalf of serving police officers in Crown Court and misconduct hearings.

Andrew George (1992, English) has been appointed Queen’s Counsel in the 2015 Silk appointments. Since 1997, Andrew has practiced at Blackstone Chambers in London, specialising in commercial, financial services, and media law. He has acted in a number of high-profile cases arising out of the 2008 financial crisis, and regularly appears in complex international claims for and against parties from, for example, Russia, Iran, Iraq, and Libya.

Family News

Bonnie Nicolle (nee Butler) (1999, Physics) is proud to announce the birth of her daughter, Aria Nicolle. She arrived on 18 November 2014 and is a sister to Albert.

Paul Davies, Fellow and Associate Professor in Law, is proud to announce the birth of his daughter, Emma溶ene Davies (right), who arrived on 18 February 2015.

Saira Uppal, Fellow & Director of Development, is proud to announce the birth of her twins, Elise and Théodore Letellier, who arrived on 8 April 2015.

Ceri James (2005, English) and Saul Moorhouse (2005, Chemistry) are delighted to announce their recent marriage. Their wedding took place on 25 October 2014 at Wick Farm, in Farleigh Hungerford, near Bath.
Alumni Publications

Rob Ryan (1951, Geology) has published *Beats Working For a Living: My Life as a Geologist* (Jaibiru, 2014), which covers his early life in Kenya, his educational years in England, and his work as a mineral geologist in many parts of the world.

Tony Elder (1953, History) has published *It's Been an Education* (Brown Dog Books, 2015), a personal, and often humorous, account of his life, with particular insights into his career in education.

Peter Raina (1960, History) has published *House of Lords Reform: a History: 1971-2014: The Exclusion of Hereditary Peers* (Volume 4), which deals with the banishment of hereditary peers from the House in the name of democracy, and brings the history up to the end of 2014.

John Jervis (1965, PPE) has published *Sensational Subjects and Sympathetic Sentiments* (Bloomsbury, 2015). *Sensational Subjects* explores the themes that underlie the sensationalising of events, while *Sympathetic Sentiments* uncovers the patterns that both reproduce our capacity for sympathetic sentiments while revealing the inherent underlying tensions.

Jonathan Wilson (1974, English) has published *Kick and Run: Memoir with Soccer Ball* (Bloomsbury, 2013), an account of his life, growing up Jewish in London, and how his love for playing football became such an important part of his life.

Piers Torday (1993, English) has published *The Wild Beyond* (Quercus, 2015), the final instalment in his The Last Wild Trilogy, about a boy named Kester who has brought the animals of his world back from the brink of disaster, and believes there is hope on the other side.

Edward Clarke (1995, English) has published *The Vagabond Spirit of Poetry* (FF Books, 2014), a wide-ranging tribute to some of the wisest poets through the ages, and a guide to the spiritual benefits of engaging with poetry.


Thomas Povey (1996, Physics) has published *Professor Povey's Perplexing Problems* (Oneworld, 2015), a collection of over one hundred of his favourite problems in physics and maths, which is dedicated to Mike Leask, Fellow in Physics 1965-2000.

Jessica Barnes (1997, Geography) has published *Cultivating the Nile: The Everyday Politics of Water in Egypt* (Duke University Press, 2014), an ethnographic study in which she examines the everyday practices of farmers, government engineers, and international donors as they interact with the waters of the Nile.

Jana Bakunina (1999, Economics & Management) has published *Babushka and Me: Memories from a Soviet Childhood* (Self-published on Amazon, 2014), a collection of short stories about her Soviet childhood that are a tribute to her grandmother.

Sam Berkson (2001, English Language & Literature) has published *Settled Wanderers* (Influx Press, 2015), a collection of poems (interpreted from Hassaniya to English) from the greatest living poets of the Western Sahara.

Steve Burley (2001, English Language & Literature) has published *Hazlitt the Dissenter: Religion, Philosophy, and Politics, 1766-1816* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), first multi-disciplinary account of one of the great English prose writers, providing a new insight into the literary, intellectual, political and religious culture of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century.

Georgia Gould (2005, History & Politics) has published *Wasted: How Misunderstanding Young Britain Threatens Our Future* (Little Brown, 2015), an account, based on detailed research and interviews with an array of young people throughout the UK, that makes the case for stronger dialogue between the generations.
CatzEye meets TED Curator Chris Anderson (1975, PPE)

Following a long career in journalism, Chris Anderson (1975, PPE), became the curator of the TED Conference in 2002, which he has since developed into a wider platform for identifying and disseminating ideas worth spreading.

When you were studying at Catz, did you have any idea what career path you wanted to take?

I started out at Catz reading Physics and dreaming of, one day, being a quirky-but-lovable pipe-smoking professor, offering gems of wonder about the universe to adoring students...Then they made me do experiments with cathode ray oscilloscopes. I hated cathode ray oscilloscopes. I realised what I loved about Physics was the dreamy part, not the actual useful part! So I sidestepped into Philosophy - well, PPE, to be precise.

Before my final year I worked out that I wouldn't be qualified to do anything of societal value, so I decided to become a journalist. To boost my chances of getting a job, I thought I'd start a College magazine (using state-of-the-art technology for 1977, a golf-ball typewriter, Letraset headlines, and a paste-up layout... Google them, and weep!) The only problem was trying to figure out a name - The Bi-Weekly Catz? Catz Pause? Catz Tale? No wait... there had to be something better. Thus it was that the first CatzEye, lovingly photocopied on two sides of blue-tinted A3, came into being!

In your opinion, what has been TED's greatest achievement?

Stopping me from publishing computer magazines? Oh, you want a serious answer. Let's see. I think it's proved that curiosity, and the desire for lifelong learning, are alive and well in our world. It truly amazes me that every day something like three million people watch a TED Talk.

TED operates via multiple channels, with much content available for free online. Were there ever any concerns over the expansion of TED in this way?

Certainly. Back in 2006, when we experimented putting some talks free online, some of the people paying $4,000 for their TED passes weren't immediately thrilled - but surprisingly, most of them were. They wanted to be able to share the talks with their friends and colleagues. The talks went viral, and demand for the conference rose rather than fell - nice evidence that, in the connected age, generosity can be the smartest strategy.

What has surprised you the most about TED's rapid expansion?

Maybe it's proving that you don't need big money, or a huge organisation, to make an impact in our connected world. TED grew out of a small conference in California, but because we made something that you could share freely online, our little team suddenly found itself with a global audience in the millions. Pre-internet, the magazine company I'd built had 2,000 employees and sold around 50 million magazines a year. TED has 150 employees and generates 50 million TED Talk views every two weeks!

Which TED talks would you recommend to Catz leavers who are about to begin their careers?

That's hard. Mostly I'd recommend going to www.ted.com and searching the website for words that interest you. I wish I'd known that there were careers to be had in virus hunting, space archaeology, and robot choreography when I was younger! But more generally, hmmm... Meg Jay on how not to waste your twenties, or Amy Cuddy on getting your body language right for that interview. Come to think of it, there's a playlist devoted to countenintuitive career advice! When I was asked to speak to Harvard architecture graduates, I ended up telling them... DON'T follow your passion. Not yet. Instead pursue knowledge, pursue discipline, and pursue generosity. I stand by that.
For your chance to win a signed copy of Professor Tom Povey’s Perplexing Problems by Tom Povey (1996, Physics), have a go at this editor’s prize crossword by College Alumna Chris Mihalik (1973, Physics).

To enter the draw, send your completed crossword by Monday 21 September 2015 to:
The Editor
CatzEye
St Catherine’s College
Manser Road
Oxford
OX1 3UB

CLUES ACROSS

1. Smallest meaningful unit of language discovered in home perm (8)
6. The Worshipful Company of—, our hosts for the Catz London Party this year (10)
13. Column in Greek dialect? (5)
14. Lexicon from “Huts Are Us” (9)
15. Moans about builder (5)
16. Device by means of which lecturer throws up images that are over everyone’s head (6, 9)
18. Is it everything to a shoemaker? (2)
19. Where you might see “C” or “H” in pantos (2, 3)
21. Exit from stage (5)
23. Hard makes? (3)
25. Choose tools for excavation (5)
27. Acts of generosity from SS? (9)
29. Desire for currency (5)
30. Old-style undergrad— and where to keep it (7)
31. Herbs Anne’s brought back (5)
32. Would it make a suitable parting gift? (4)
33. Put up by Byron’s room-mate (6)
35. Produce a seal and a cure for the gloss-half-full brigade (3-2)

CLUES DOWN

2. Light-weight cat (5)
3. A small picture of a prince, oddly (3)
4. Background player (5)
5. Feature of patterned ironically due to The Blind Watchmaker? (7)
6. To some the state of the genitourinary to others of the potato (5)
7. Scandinavian— might be worn in age (9)
8. Start of something unpleasant in Convict (5)
9. Refusal of doctor to cage flightless bird (5)
10. Bob Marley “Snoop Dogg, allegedly”— a star admits (5)
11. John—, dedicatee of his Wundocks The Bell (10)
12. Philosophy magazine under intellectual scrutiny (11, 11)
17. Does it join words— of keep them apart? (11)
20. Great film director— off again into a rant (9)
21. He is a noble one (5)
22. Heavens above, we hear— it’s an island (4)
24. Duck down? (5)
25. Chesty member— gone, but messages still arrive (7, 4)
26. Lo! A carpet rolled up with this queen inside (9)
28. Figure I am in ancient Rome (3)
32. Hidden part of a church (5)
34. Age of the Railroad Camera? (5)
36. Cyrus briefly maps herd of inoffensive creatures (10)
37. Fish complain (4)
38. Four-letter word? it’s not great (8)
39. Nutty lubricant to find an in an old joke (6, 3)
41. Play with remaining odd parts of a toadstool (3)
45. What Prince Philip is to the College? (7)
48. Two Greek letters read out in ancient capital? (5)
49. Nola’s open up to her place of want (5)
50. Macho sort of drink (5)
51. Unethical level of interest (5)
52. More about Aeolian sediment and less about nothing (5)
53. A race meeting— one North of the border (5)
56. Possess as of now (3)