Master’s introduction

An impression of the main events that have taken place over the past few months...

As we welcome our new students to St Catherine’s this term, the release of the Browne Report, followed in quick succession by the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), presents the College and the University of Oxford with new challenges. Whilst the details and their impact are yet to be finalised, what is already clear is that we as a College are determined to remain committed to offering the very best educational experience to our students, irrespective of their financial means. We also know that your continuing support will be more important now than ever, to safeguard the tutorial system, and allow those with the greatest potential to come here. The support of our alumni and friends has always been key to this goal, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for this. I would also like to make a special mention of our recent Telethon, in which nearly 600 alumni were contacted by a group of current students, and gave over £100,000. Many thanks again to all those who have donated.

In the light of the government’s proposals in the CSR, it becomes ever more important that we protect and support what we offer at St Catherine’s, so that we may continue to see our community of students succeed in all that they do.

This edition of CatzEye is, as ever, brimming with the recent achievements of this community. Academically, St Catz finalists thrived yet again last term, bringing the College to 14th place on the Norrington Table, two places higher than the previous year. We are particularly proud of two students, who achieved the highest marks in the University in English and Computer Science finals respectively – a great accolade indeed! The past year has also been one of our most successful sporting seasons recently, with the St Catz teams winning inter-collegiate competitions in Hockey, Lacrosse and Skiing, and over 20 of our students being awarded full or half Blues for excelling in their sport at University level. In addition the College is a hotbed of musical and dramatic talent, and I particularly look forward to the forthcoming Bullock Event, Peer Gynt, which promises to be a wonderful production (see page 4 for further details). I very much expect that this academic year, we will match, or even surpass the great successes of recent times.

As we near our fiftieth anniversary in 2012, our exciting programme of events is becoming fuller. I hope to meet many of you over the coming year at one of our forthcoming events and encourage you to turn to the back cover for more details.

I am delighted by the reception that our anniversary book, St Catherine’s College, Oxford: A 50th Anniversary Celebration, has received so far, and would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have already subscribed or contributed. See page 4 for further details on subscription to this picture-rich conspectus of St Catherine’s. Now is the time to subscribe, if you haven’t already done so!

Best wishes to you and your family for 2011.
College life

I expect to learn every bit as much as I teach.’

Trevor Nunn named as 20th Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor

Sir Trevor Nunn has been named as the 20th Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre based at St Catherine’s. He took up the post in October 2010, succeeding the writer and playwright Michael Frayn.

Trevor Nunn’s illustrious career, running first the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) and then the National Theatre, has seen him firmly in the centre of British cultural life since he became the youngest ever Artistic Director of the RSC. Whilst there, he directed most of the Shakespearean canon, alongside other productions such as Nicholas Nickleby and Les Misérables. His productions included world premieres of plays by Tom Stoppard and Tennessee Williams and revivals of plays by Shakespeare, Chekhov and Gorki, and of great musicals such as Oklahoma! and Anything Goes. He directed the original productions of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Cats, Starlight Express, Aspects of Love and Sunset Boulevard. He has also directed operas, films and television adaptations.

The Chair of Contemporary Theatre, founded through a grant from the Mackintosh Foundation to St Catherine’s College, aims to promote interest in, and the study and practice of, contemporary theatre. The Visiting Professorship has previously been held by actors, writers, directors, and producers. Speaking after his appointment, Sir Trevor said, ‘Having been invited to fulfil this role on two previous occasions, I am so pleased that this time the dates have worked out. The prospect of working with university students is immensely stimulating, and the year of work will give me the opportunity to get a lot of things off my chest. I expect to learn every bit as much as I teach.’

The Master was delighted to announce the appointment, saying, ‘We are really pleased that Sir Trevor Nunn has agreed to take on this role for a year. Despite his 18 years with the RSC, he has never tried to summarize the strong views he has formed on how approaches to Shakespeare develop in the context of productions. He has already indicated to me how enthusiastic he feels about the opportunity to share some of these views, and the interaction with Trevor in Oxford is anticipated with great relish.’

Trevor Nunn delivered his inaugural lecture – ‘All the World’s a Stage – Shakespeare the Player Poet’ – at St Catherine’s College on Monday 18 October. A full copy of the lecture will appear in The Year 2010.

St Catz DPhil students win Varsity Film competition

The 2010 Varsity Film competition was won by a short film by Robert Rapoport (DPhil, Fine Art) and David Shackleton (DPhil, English). The Varsity Film and Television Festival held in Corpus Christi Auditorium on Saturday 24 April, saw five short films from Oxford students battle it out against five from Cambridge. The panel of judges consisted of industry experts, and Robert and David’s film Faustus was crowned the winning entry. Faustus was filmed in the early hours of the morning in Merton Chapel, using just desk lamps and natural light. It is a silent black and white film, and was intended as a cross between early Hollywood slapstick and a darker expressionist style. It was described in a five-star review on the Oxford Theatre Review website as ‘faultless in its manipulation both of light and stop-motion.’

Two stills from Faustus, which was filmed in Merton Chapel in the early hours.
On 12 February 2011, the College will be transformed into a colourful ‘city of fun’ for the St Catz Ball 2011! The event will this year have a theme of all things surreal, and promises to be a party to remember, with top entertainment, delicious food and drink, and excellent company. The 2011 Ball is going to be the College’s biggest yet, with up to 2000 tickets to be sold. Crucially, the entire ball will be indoors so the ball committee guarantee that you will be warm all night!

Entertainment will include innovative rapper and beat boxer MC Xander, who will be playing the main stage at the St Catz Ball along with several other big-name acts.

For alumni only, tickets for the full five-course feast also include an exclusive drinks reception with the Master before the Ball. These tickets are £140 individually or alternatively, if you get together with a group of friends, buy a table of eight for £1000. These tickets will be selling fast, so do book now!

To purchase tickets and keep up-to-date with further details as they are released, visit the Ball website at www.stcatzball.com. For any ticketing enquiries, please email treasurer@stcatzball.com.

The 2011 St Catz Ball will be a party to remember!

Milly Ferracini retires

After working for the College as Kitchen Stock Keeper for over 22 years, Milly Ferracini, who started at St Catz in June 1988, retired this term. Over her many years of service she has played a vital role in ensuring that there are always the correct ingredients needed to produce the wonderful meals for which our kitchen team has a well-deserved reputation. For some time now Millie has been struggling with health problems, but she has been an inspiration to all in the way she has battled with her illness, always smiling and remaining positive. Her friends and colleagues at St Catherine’s joined to wish her a happy retirement in Hall on Friday 1 October.

Peer Gynt: The Bullock Event 2010

The Bullock Event 2010 is a new and ambitious production of Henrik Ibsen’s Peer Gynt. The production showcases the College’s own theatrical and musical talent, with third-year historians Radoslav Lolov and Sarah McCready as Director and Assistant Director. Music student Ben Holder is Musical Director, and several other Catz students are involved in the design and marketing as well as performing as part of the cast and orchestra.

The play will be performed at the Keble O’Reilly Theatre from 17-20 November with a 30-piece live orchestra playing Edward Grieg’s original score.

For more details, including ticketing information, please visit www.peergynt-oxford.co.uk. [5]

Milly Ferracini, who retired this term after working for St Catherine’s for over 23 years.

St Catherine’s 50th anniversary book:

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

We are exceptionally pleased by the response so far to our picture-rich anniversary book.

This multi-voiced volume is already beginning to take shape thanks to the wonderful contributions of reminiscences and memorabilia which have been submitted by so many of you.

The book will provide a comprehensive picture of St Catherine’s, from its beginnings as a Society and its foundation as a College, through to the present day as a thriving part of the University of Oxford.

We are still welcoming your subscriptions to the book, which will be published to coincide with the College’s golden jubilee in 2012. To take advantage of the special pre-publication subscription offer, please visit the publisher’s website at www.tmiltd.com/shop/home/pid/131. [5]

Milly Ferracini, who retired this term after working for St Catherine’s for over 23 years.
just before they'd been caught in transit by the volcanic eruption. Much to my amusement, they were therefore clad in the only clothes that the airport sold for under £100 - what seemed to be the entire set of promotional clothing for the South African World Cup (including the whistles) - and really getting into the spirit of the standby-passenger community - they bought the entire café four rounds of gin and tonics at what must have been nine in the morning. As the business-men paced up and down with their BlackBerry's, clearly in the grips of heart palpitations, those of us still clinging to the memories of our holidays relaxed and made friends, safe in the knowledge that home was being delayed for just that little bit longer... ♦

‘Scientists are artists – they just use a different toolbox’

Astrid Woolard (DPhil, Plant Sciences) has recently been awarded fifth place in a national design competition for one of her pieces of handmade jewellery. Her necklace ‘Elizabeth’ was up against strong competition from 130 other designers in the Swarovski & E-Beads European Design Competition 2010, but fought off many of the other entrants to be named one of the UK’s best jewellery designs. This recent award marks a highly successful year for Astrid’s new venture Angels Love Beauty, which has turned her hobby, jewellery design, into a flourishing business.

Astrid, who grew up in Vienna, has successfully combined her two passions, science and design, for many years. After studying for a Master’s degree in Microbiology and Genetics at the University of Vienna, she moved to the UK to study for a DPhil in Plant Sciences here at St Catz. Throughout this time, Astrid has continued designing jewellery, making pieces for family and friends. She sees her two passions as going hand-in-hand: ‘Jewellery design, just like science, allows a lot of room for imagination and creativity’, she says, ‘many people think they do not go well together but they actually do: in my opinion scientists are artists – they just use a different toolbox.’

It wasn’t until late 2009 that she visited her first craft fair near London to sell her unique designs. Astrid was overwhelmed with the response she received from the fair’s visitors and it was this day that marked the birth of her now flourishing business, Angels Love Beauty. Through this brand, Astrid aims to offer high-quality, unique, designer creations at affordable prices. She says: ‘Every piece of my jewellery is a passionate piece of art.’ For more details about Astrid’s jewellery, visit her website www.angels-love-beauty.com.
St Catz welcomes first Indigenous Australian student ever to study at Oxford

This Michaelmas Term, St Catherine’s welcomes one of the first two Indigenous Australians ever to study at Oxford University. Paul Gray (DPhil, Experimental Psychology) from Tahmoor, New South Wales (NSW), won one of the two inaugural Charlie Perkins Scholarships, established to support Indigenous Australians who gain a place to study at Oxford. The scholarships are named after Australian Indigenous leader Charlie Perkins (1936-2000), who was inspired to forge a contract with Manchester United and return home to pursue a university education after playing football against Oxford students in Britain in the 1960s. He was the first indigenous person to graduate from an Australian university in 1965 and went on to become a prominent Aboriginal leader who campaigned for civil rights reform and, amongst other roles, served as Secretary of Australia’s Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Two students, Paul Gray and Christian Thompson, have been awarded the very first of these scholarships, and have now begun their studies here at Oxford. We caught up with Paul after his first week at St Catz:

How does it feel to be one of the first two Indigenous Australian students to study at Oxford University?

Obviously this is a fantastic opportunity for me and Christian in our own work, but I think more importantly it’s about boosting the expectations and beliefs with regards to Indigenous Australian education. When Charlie Perkins came through here some 50 years ago and decided to return home and became one of the first Aboriginal Australians to go through an Australian university, he did more than just gain an education for himself: he showed the community that the University system was there as much for Aboriginal Australians as it was for anyone else. The numbers of Indigenous Australian students going to university seems to just keep rising. Hopefully, this scholarship will be a part of that trend, inspiring students to achieve and excel at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level.

What have your studies been prior to Oxford?

Prior to coming to Oxford, I studied Psychology at the University of Sydney. For the last two and a half years I’ve been training and working as a Psychologist with the New South Wales Department of Community Services, which is the statutory child protection service. In this role I provided support to children and young people who had been placed into foster care, and to their foster families, as well as general support and consultation to social workers and other staff.

What are you studying here at Oxford?

My studies here very much follow on from the work I’ve been doing with children in care, and I’m planning to work in partnership with the NSW Department of Community Services to achieve better outcomes for children in out-of-home care. The basic idea at this stage is to look at the way that experiences of childhood trauma impact on the developing brain, and how this in turn impacts on the way individuals perceive and interact with the world. I will be looking at the effect of childhood abuse and neglect on things like emotional functioning, cognitive processes such as attention, and social processing such as understanding social cues. The hope is that if we better understand the way children in care process the world around them, we can target interventions more effectively and hopefully reduce the risk of long-term mental health issues.

What are you most looking forward to about studying at Oxford?

I think I’m looking forward to the opportunity to be exposed to such a wide range of knowledge, not just in terms of the really interesting work that is happening in my Department, but also the work of other students around the College. It’s great to be able to listen to people talk about the work they are doing and broaden your own perspective, even if it is nowhere near your own area of study.

Where do you hope your studies at Oxford will lead you?

I hope my studies at Oxford will better equip me to make a significant difference to the lives of the vulnerable children I work with and to contribute to improving the way that child protection organisations provide services to children in care. I also hope that Christian and I can put the idea that these opportunities are out there in the minds of other Indigenous Australian children back home: and hopefully we’ll see plenty more Charlie Perkins Scholars coming through Oxford.

How are you finding life at St Catz?

St Catz has been good so far; it’s been really welcoming. It’s always tough moving such a long way, and there is only so much of home you can fit within the baggage restrictions, but I think the couples’ accommodation at St Catz’s is proving ideal for me and my wife. We’ve got our own little space to call home, and a good community nearby at the College, so we are settling in well. Coming from Australia, we aren’t really sure what to expect come winter though!

Finally, what are we most likely to find you doing away from your studies?

Spending time with my wife, catching up with family or playing football.

I hope my studies at Oxford will better equip me to make a significant difference to the lives of the vulnerable children I work with...
New Fellows

Dr Jonathan Healey

Dr Jonathan Healey completed his doctorate at Magdalen College, Oxford in 2008 and since then has held posts at Magdalen, the Universities of Hertfordshire and Cambridge, and St Hilda’s College, Oxford, before being elected to a fellowship at St Catherine’s in 2010. His doctoral thesis, on poverty and the early development of social welfare in early-modern Lancashire, was awarded the Think-Feinstein Dissertation Prize for 2008 by the Economic History Society.

Jonathan Healey’s research encompasses several aspects of English social and economic history from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, focusing in particular on the long-term development of the English economy and state, on rural history, and on the history of popular politics.

Current research includes work on early-modern economic crises and famine, on the politics of common resources, and on the changing relationship between village politics and the centralizing early-modern state. He also maintains an active interest in late-medieval and early-modern India, and is working on the seventeenth-century origins of British militarism in the East.

Professor Rochelle C Dreyfuss

Professor Rochelle C Dreyfuss is the Pauline Newman Professor of Law at New York University School of Law, and co-Director of the Engelberg Center on Innovation Law and Policy at NYU. She joined St Catz in Michaelmas Term 2010 as a Christensen Fellow. Her research interests include international and domestic intellectual property law and civil procedure. She holds BA and MS degrees in Chemistry and was a research chemist before entering Columbia University School of Law, where she served as Articles and Book Review Editor of the Law Review.

Professor Dreyfuss recently completed service on the Secretary of Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee on genetics, health and society and on its task force investigating the effect of gene patenting on the provision of health care. She is a past chair of the Intellectual Property Committee of the American Association of Law Schools, and is presently on the Academies’ Committee on Science, Technology, and Law. While at Oxford, Professor Dreyfuss is working on a book on the impact of the TRIPS Agreement on science policy with Professor Goreme D Dinwoodie, Director of the Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre, and a Professorial Fellow of St Peter’s College.

Professor Patrick Grant

Professor Patrick Grant

Professor Patrick Grant (Lookean Professor of Materials, Department of Materials), who was elected as Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in July this year. This election marks a well-deserved recognition of his reputation and standing in the scientific community.

Professor Grant received a BEng in Metallurgy and Materials Science from Nottingham University in 1987 and a DPhil in Materials from Oxford University in 1991. After holding a Royal Society University Research Fellowship and then Lectureship in the Department of Materials at Oxford, he became Cookson Professor of Materials in 2004. He is a Chartered Engineer (ICEng) and a Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (FIMMM). He is also one of the founding academics of the internationally recognised Begbroke Science Park at Oxford.

Richard Bailey

Richard Bailey’s work featured as ‘research highlight’ by Nature

Dr Richard Bailey’s (Tutor in Geography) paper on the analysis of vegetation patterns has been covered in the highly-respected magazine Nature. The paper, referred to in the October edition under ‘Research Highlights’, was first printed in a recent Royal Society journal. It covers Dr Bailey’s current research into the dramatic changes that many natural systems undergo over time.

Describing his work, he said, ‘Understanding and predicting these changes is an important problem. One such system, which directly supports over one third of the World’s population, is formed by drought-adapted vegetation in arid and semi-arid regions of the World. This work identifies a range of “early-warning signals”, involving both the spatial patterning of plant cover and changes in recovery times following small perturbations. Monitoring for these signals is practically feasible and would help identify highly-stressed areas of vegetation and forecast of impending changes.’
Pump Aid Malawi

Recent graduate Rossa O’Keeffe-O’Donovan (2007, PPE) is currently working in Malawi for British charity Pump Aid. Here he writes on his role as Monitoring and Evaluation Intern and his experiences in the country so far:

‘Excluding Madonna’s protracted adoption, Malawi doesn’t seem to be on many people’s radars – perhaps because of its post-colonial history of peace and political stability – but this beautiful country, with its huge lake, is by far the most welcoming and friendly place I have been. Halfway through my final exams I was offered the chance to work for Pump Aid Malawi on one of the University’s International Internships (UIIP); a few weeks later I was in Kamuzu International Airport trying to master the basics of Chichewa so as not to embarrass myself on my first day at work.

Pump Aid is a British NGO specializing in alleviating water and sanitation poverty in Malawi and Zimbabwe – my job, as Monitoring and Evaluation Intern, is to design and implement monitoring systems that allow us to track our progress, evaluate our procedures and get some broad measures of impact. Floundering in the metaphorical deep end, I soon realised that whilst Pump Aid had good records of all previous installations, the paper trail was a mess and we were only just beginning to get it on to an online database. My role is effectively that of a statistician, admittedly not the most glamorous of jobs, but one I actually very much enjoy; in my experience it is the people that make a job enjoyable and Malawian people are incredibly friendly, witty and welcoming. One of the perks of my job is the weekly field trips for which I travel to rural areas where Elephant Pumps have been installed – everywhere you go in this country people are smiling and welcoming, often in the face of the most trying of circumstances.

Whilst my initial stay with Pump Aid was meant to last only two months, after just a few days I knew that I was going to want to stay here for longer. Luckily, after I had been working for a few weeks, it transpired that Pump Aid shared that sentiment and I am now going to be working here for almost a year. This is the perfect experience for me upon completion of my studies!’

One of the perks of my job is the weekly field trips for which I travel to rural areas where Elephant Pumps have been installed.

Finalists excel with top firsts

With St Catz moving up to 14th on the Norrington Table this year, individual academic successes were also plentiful, with several of our finalists being awarded University prizes and accolades. One such achievement came for Max Bryant (2007, English Language and Literature), who came top in the year in English finals this summer and was awarded the prestigious Gibbs Prize. He is now at St John’s College, Cambridge, studying for an MPhil in Art History, looking specifically at 19th Century neoclassical British architecture. Citing his English tutors at St Catz as ‘the best at Oxford’, Max also says that his success was ‘no doubt enormously helped by the fact that I lived the whole three years less than a minute away from the English faculty’.

Thomas Gibson-Robinson (DPhil, Computing), who studied Computer Science, also achieved the top first in finals this summer. Gavin Lowe, Professor of Computer Science, said ‘Tom produced excellent work throughout his degree and thoroughly deserves this success’. Thomas is now back at St Catz studying for a DPhil in Computing. He is looking into techniques to prove the correctness of ‘multi-layered security protocols’ such as those used to secure a huge variety of things from card transactions or on-line banking to military communication systems.

Congratulations to Max and Thomas on these well-deserved accolades.
Six recent Catz graduates with a penchant for quizzes put together a team to take on the might of BBC 2’s famous Eggheads in a show aired on Monday 4 October. The quiz show pits challengers against a team of the best quiz brains in the country, including Judith Keppel – the famous first British winner of Who Wants to be a Millionaire – and winner of Mastermind, International Mastermind and Brain of Britain, Chris Hughes. Team captain Saul Moorhouse (2005, Chemistry), along with Russell Woolley (2005, Chemistry), Simon Shenton (2005, Chemistry), David Burfoot (2005, Chemistry), James Hindle (2005, Physics) and substitute Tim Rooney (2005, Chemistry) made up ‘The Periodically Able’.

The group decided to enter the quiz show as a result of their combined love for quizzes and their competitiveness with their general knowledge. They prepared for the show by regularly tackling the JCR quiz in the Catz bar and practising with online general knowledge quizzes. David said, ‘I don’t think my general knowledge will ever be as good as it was when we recorded the show’, adding, ‘the nerves definitely crept in with the knowledge that the whole thing was being recorded for national television!’ Team captain Saul said, ‘the conversations we had with the host and each other on screen seemed to go really well – apart from the occasional embarrassing omission’. ‘Yes, we frequently have races to complete the periodic table is a phrase that they had been hoping would be edited out!’

‘The Periodically Able’ didn’t win any money (there was a possible £4000 prize on offer), but did manage to knock two of the ‘Eggheads’ out of the ‘head-to-head’ rounds on their way to the final. Simon Shenton made a noble effort in the Arts and Literature round, despite not winning, all six enjoyed being on the show and are really pleased they took part. David was impressed with the team’s performance, saying ‘It was a shame to go home without the prize money but I think everyone will agree that it was really all about the experience’.

Josh Silver celebrated as ‘unsung hero’

Professor Josh Silver (1964, Physics) was featured this July in the Institute of Physics’ magazine Physics World, as an ‘unsung hero’ for his ground-breaking work in improving vision in the developing world through his Centre for Vision, based at St Catherine’s. As featured in The Year 2009, Josh invented self-adjustable glasses – named ‘Adspecs’ – which allow the wearer to easily ‘self-refract’ without the need of an eye-care specialist. The glasses allow the user to ‘tune’ the lenses to their own eyes, by turning the wheels on the small syringe mounted on each lens. This pumps more, or less, silicone oil into the lens, changing its shape.

Being cheap to produce, and easily adjusted by the wearer, these spectacles are beginning to revolutionize the treatment of vision problems in developing countries, with over 30,000 people currently benefiting from the ‘Adspecs’. Celebrating Josh as having made ‘immeasurable contributions to everyday life’, Physics World described his ‘brilliant insights’ as making ‘a mockery of the notion that physics and physicists are of no relevance to everyday life’.

The book is structured into seven chapters, each based on one of the seven ages of man’s life, as famously described in Shakespeare’s ‘all the world’s a stage’ speech from As You Like It. Speaking in the Mary Sunley Lecture Theatre, Simon introduced each of the stories that he came upon in writing his book.

For your chance to win a signed copy of Atlantic, hum to the back cover of this copy of CatzEye and enter our inaugural crossword competition.
Istanbul to South Africa...with a football

Ryan Taylor (2006, Law) and Jack Robinson (2006, Geography) made a seven-month, 22-country, 8,000-mile journey to see the World Cup this summer, playing in a police versus prisoners football match, helping at an orphanage and finding themselves under armed guard along the way. Here Ryan tells their story:

‘Jack and I met in our first week at St Catherine’s College during football trials and played together almost daily for three years, leading the team to a league title and a tour to Dublin. It was at the end of our second year that we hatched a plan to travel down the most interesting route possible to the 2010 World Cup. Therefore, in early January, Jack and I set off on an 8,000 mile journey over land from Istanbul through the Middle East and Africa to South Africa, convinced we were going to see England win the Jules Remy trophy on 11 July.

The first month was spent travelling through the Middle East, enabling us to explore the unvisited ruins and ancient cities of Syria and Jordan free of any other foreign visitors. The journey from Damascus (via one of the ancient wonders of the world, Petra) to the Wadi Rum desert to retrace the steps of Lawrence of Arabia was an absolute highlight which we would recommend to anyone.

From Jordan we headed into southern Egypt to dive in the Red Sea and then trekked up Mount Sinai overnight to see sunrise over the mountains where Moses received the Ten Commandments. On our descent in the morning we stopped to visit the ‘Burning Bush’ at St Catherine’s Monastery. Our arrival in the hectic capital of Cairo was timed perfectly; we were greeted by the street parties celebrating Egypt’s victory against fierce rivals Algeria in their semi-Final of the African Cup of Nations. We were then extremely privileged to be in the city centre as Egypt won the final against Ghana. Jack and I have never seen football scenes quite like it!

After descending Egypt along the Nile, our venture into the unknown commenced with the weekly Lake Nasser ferry into Africa’s largest country, Sudan. It was the next three months which were the most challenging of the trip. We travelled through the searing heat and desert of Sudan, into Ethiopia where we followed the ‘historical northern circuit’. Once in Addis Ababa, we decided to head off the beaten track and found ourselves under armed guard in Somaliland, the northern province of troubled Somalia, where, as the only western visitors, we were invited to the University and Supreme Courts of Justice!

After a well-needed rest in Tanzania, in the safari lands of Arusha and on the beautiful beaches of Zanzibar, we travelled briefly into Central-East Africa. From rafting on the Nile and helping in an orphanage in Uganda we headed down into Rwanda, the DRC and Burundi. This month of the journey was simply brilliant and our experience complete as we were able to sail down Lake Tanganyika aboard MV Liemba, a converted German World War One war-ship, which starred in the 1951 Hollywood classic African Queen.

The final stages of our African journey took us through Malawi, where we starred in a police vs. prisoners football match and spent time playing local schools. After marvelling, flying over and bungee jumping at the awesome Victoria Falls, we headed to Johannesburg for the start of football’s greatest event.

On arrival in South Africa we were surprised by the amount of interest in our story. The Times wrote an article titled ‘African Odyssey to the World Cup’, highlighting our positive experience of travelling through Africa as a refreshing variation from the negative pre-World Cup publicity. South Africa, despite the negativity and limited transport, created a wonderful atmosphere which even Rob Green & Co. couldn’t dampen.’
News in brief

Publications

Michael Kellogg (1977, Philosophy) had his first book, Three Questions we Never Stop Asking, published in July 2010. This introduction to the essential issues that have preoccupied philosophers throughout the centuries, provides fresh and engaging portraits of the greatest thinkers on each of these questions: What can I know? What may I hope? What ought I to do? The book looks at Plato and Wittgenstein on the possibility of philosophical knowledge, Kant and Nietzsche on the existence of God, and Aristotle and Heidegger on human virtue.

Mong Gyu Chung (1985, PPE) published a pictorial memory of his father, Se Yung Chung to commemorate the 5th anniversary of his passing in May 2010. The book documents Se Yung Chung's life and family history in pictures.

Having worked in publishing in London after graduating from Catz, Sara Hunt (1980, PPE), founded Saraband as a non-fiction publisher whilst living in New York in the early 1990s. This year she published the company's first novel, Making Shore by S Allerton. Sara says: 'Making Shore is the first foray Saraband has made into fiction and it's exciting to see it already garnering such strong accolades from some key media figures'. The novel has just been confirmed as the winner of the Summer 2010 People's Book Prize category for fiction.

Appointments

As of the beginning of May 2010, Kevin Jones (1981, Mathematics) has taken a position as Professor of Dependability and Security of Socio-Technical Systems in the Centre for Software Reliability at City University London (www.csr.city.ac.uk).

Births


Nick and Helen Wain, née Bray (2000, DPhil Materials Science & 2000, DPhil Geography) are celebrating the arrival of son Toby Turner Wain, who was born on 5 May 2010. Nick and Helen were married on 20 September 2008.

Darren Chadwick (2003, Human Sciences) organises Rowing Society drinks in London for boat club alumni on the second Tuesday of every month from 7:30 pm. Details of the four forthcoming events are as follows:

- 9 December 2010, The Angel (61-62 St. Giles High Street, London WC2H 8LE)
- 31 January 2011, The Glasshouse Stores (55 Brewer Street, London W1F 9UL)
- 10 February 2011, The Angel in the Field (37 Thayer Street, London W1U 2QY)
- 10 March 2011, The Red Lion (14 Kingly Street, London W1B 5PR)

For more information, please get in touch with Darren (darren.chadwick@brite-green.co.uk).

Other news

Three St Catherine’s alumni were rewarded for excelling in their services to various fields on the Queen’s Birthday Honours List 2010. Timothy Stone (1949, Chemistry) was awarded a CBE for services to the energy industry. Timothy currently works for KPMG, and is also Expert Chairman for the Office of Nuclear Development. Anthony Dent (1966, PPE), the diversity and human rights officer with the National Policing Improvement Agency, was awarded an MBE for services to the Police, and Radio Five Live’s Chief Football Correspondent Mike Ingham (1969, Mathematics) was awarded an MBE for services to sports broadcasting.
Prize crossword

CLUES ACROSS

17 Old Bullock's first letters spell it out for him – just a college, old boy, something elegantly near 1 (8)
20 See 4 down
21 Nevertheless, the one on RP and near a lad (5, 3)
23 Bucket investigated by the dead! (11)
24 Can't catch the attention of an Irish town (5, 10)
25 What you can teach a know-it-all? (5, 1, 3)
27 Painter – did he play? (2)
28 At the University of Sydney? (5)
29 His unit is tiny and curiously strong in the morning (8)
30 Cups and saucers from rogue estates (3, 4)
31 Hunting dog — or 1 across? (5, 4)
32 Curious old birds, no longer with us (5)
33 & 46 Source of ringing in the ears just before dinner? (4, 5)
34 Choose e.g. a new Master from a selection (5)
35 Stout liar found out in weekly workouts (9)
36 Found in the moat — and in the car park! (4)
37 & 51 Writer of horrid music (4, 7)
38 Proof of identity left behind on EP! (3, 1)
39 Honorary Fellow found in yon hammocks (4, 7)
40 This sort of boy has gone down (3)
41 His unit is tiny and curiously strong in the morning (8)
42 Swat of fruitfly splatter might say for one another? (5)
43 SBS 3 viewers (3)
44 Poacher confusing diagnoses (3)
45 See 33 across
46 Island writing — either half of book by 37ac & 51? (3, 3)
47 See 47
48 See 47
49 See 47
50 See 37 across
51 See 37 across
52 Sporty type found in narrower reaches of the Isis (5)
53 Boring part of macho humour (2-3)
54 Oddly antinestal — and continent (4)
55 Source of energy from Oriel, oddly! (3)
56 & 57 A past master — and the present one, too (5, 9)
58 Spoken examinations in viva voce? (5)
59 Wind instrument having remote name? (10)
60 Study of Brits down under! Barrie Juniper wrote on it (6)

CLUES DOWN

1 Author of Nine Chemicals New, perhaps? (5, 10)
2 This sort of partying is round-the-clock (3-4)
3 Student magazine rolling off the press in the 60s (5)
4 & 6ac Author of anonymously? (5)
5 What you can teach a know-it-all? (5, 1, 3)
6 It is childish writing ‘I am grown up’ (8)
7 A whole course? Or just a bite to eat (8)
8 It makes one feel good about oneself! (3, 4)
9 High priest and Old Testament poet who wrote about Celts (5)
10 It produces b-berries in the College gardens (8)
11 It – or 2 down? (4)
12 I sat and ate in order to satisfy appetite fully (7)
13 Bonging out the best in (only first lines of BT’s version) (3)
14 It hasn’t lost its marbles! (5)
15 It's childish writing ‘I am grown up’ (8)
16 A whole course? Or just a bite to eat (8)
17 It's childish writing ‘I am grown up’ (8)
18 High priest and Old Testament poet who wrote about Celts (5)
19 It produces b-berries in the College gardens (8)
20 It – or 2 down? (4)
21 Sort of depression you sit in during JCR debate (3)
22 Apple of tutor’s eye? (5)
23 Liar reads up for the bar (4)
24 It takes two to bongo (5)
25 It’s childish writing ‘I am grown up’ (8)
26 Startle any deer in college officer’s lair (7)
27 Our Cardinal has a point, says journalist (7)
28 Proof of identity left behind on EP! (3, 1)
29 Cup and saucer from rogue estates (3, 4)
30 Cups and saucers from rogue estates (3, 4)
31 Hunting dog — or 1 across? (5, 4)
32 Curious old birds, no longer with us (5)
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For your chance to win a signed copy of Simon Schama’s River of Sand, please contact Franca Potts.
Tel: 01285 281596
E-mail: franca.potts@stcatz.ox.ac.uk
Check the College website, www.stcatz.ox.ac.uk, for further details.

Dates for your diary

**NOVEMBER 2010**
Monday 22
The Alan Tovey Lecture, Martin Wood Lecture Theatre, Oxford

**DECEMBER 2010**
Thursday 2
St Catherine’s Carol Service, The University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford

**MARCH 2011**
Wednesday 2
Walter Watson Award Lecture, St Catherine’s College

Saturday 5
Rowing Society Dinner, St Catherine’s College

For further details, please email Ana Dudhia at dudhia@atm.ox.ac.uk

Thursday 24
Master’s Hong Kong Sevens drinks reception, Hong Kong – venue to be confirmed

**TUESDAY 29 – SATURDAY 2 APRIL**
North American events. For all Oxford alumni

**APRIL 2011**
Friday 8
Intercollegiate Golf Tournament, Fritford Heath Golf Course

**MAV 2011**
Friday 6 – Sunday 8
Oxford European Reunion, Paris – for all Oxford alumni

Saturday 7
Lunch for Legators, St Catherine’s College*

**THURSDAY 12**
London Party at the Inner Temple

**MAY 2011**
APRIL 2011
Golf Course Intercollegiate Golf Tournament, Frilford Heath

**FRIDAY 8**
Gaudy for 1990s Matriculands, St Catherine’s College*

**OCTOBER 2011**
Saturday 29
Benefactors’ Day, St Catherine’s College*

* Invitations will be sent out for starred events.

To book your place on any of these events, please contact Franca Potts.
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Check the College website, www.stcatz.ox.ac.uk, for further details.