



Jesus  
College  
OXFORD

# JESUS NEWS

2019

45

450

Celebrating 45 years of  
women at Jesus College



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# GREETING

*It is a great pleasure to introduce this special edition of the annual summer magazine, Jesus News, celebrating 45 years of women at Jesus College. Jesus was among the first group of five men's colleges to admit women as undergraduates in 1974 and the College feels a particular pride in all that our female alumni have gone on to achieve since then. The variety of careers which the contributors to this magazine have pursued – from surgery to interior design to wine-making – shows our current graduates what varied and exciting paths they can take with their degrees.*



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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Celebrating 45 years of  
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This year our finalists celebrate a spectacular set of results, with no less than 40% of them gaining Firsts. The outstanding academic achievements of our students have not prevented them from excelling in extra-curricular activities. This year has seen considerable achievements from College sportsmen and women, whether in football, cricket or croquet. It is excellent to see victories in some more unusual sports and to continue recognising the high level of participation from students at all levels. It has also been a pleasure to watch the brilliant performances of our student musicians and actors over the course of the year: the student-led Shakespearean performance for the 450th Anniversary Campaign in June was particularly special.

Listening to former students' memories of their time here is always very special and this issue of *Jesus News* reflects this, capturing the recollections of alumni who performed in plays such as the 1971 Miscellany, reminiscences of College rowing, and an insightful look into the history of Jesus women in College before 1974. We are also always interested to hear about the hobbies of our alumni, and this year's contributor talks about his passion for card collecting which began during his student days.

Jesus College continues to make exciting plans for its future. The Northgate development is now underway,

after work began on the site at the start of Trinity Term. With this project, we are expanding beyond our historic walls for the first time in over a century, to create modern, collaborative learning spaces that will bring together our students and researchers in inspiring and productive new ways. The result will be a more open and integrated College, forging new links across the University and the wider Oxford community. All of these plans rely on the generosity of our alumni community and we sincerely thank you for your support. We invite alumni to visit and witness progress first-hand, as well as seeing the detailed 3D model of the development on display in Hall (see page 60) and the fantastic hoardings artwork featured on Cornmarket and Market Street.

The College remains deeply committed to Access and we are determined to maintain our proud tradition of admissions from the widest range of economic and social backgrounds. This year, we have hosted the SEREN student summer school for the third year, allowing academically talented individuals from South Wales to experience all that Oxford has to offer. The history and reputation of Jesus College has always been shaped by those to whom it opens its doors. We are grateful to the many alumni volunteers who give their valuable time and energy to our Access and outreach programmes and hope that more alumni will be inspired to take part.

In addition to our regular schedule of alumni events this year, the College will launch the second year of the 450th Campaign with a fresh events programme starting in September. We hope you will join us for what promises to be a wonderful programme of alumni events; there are opportunities for everyone to take part.

*Nigel Shuibolly*



# WOMEN AND JESUS COLLEGE BEFORE 1974

ROBIN DARWALL-SMITH, COLLEGE ARCHIVIST



Earlier this year, to mark the 45th anniversary of the admission of women as students to Jesus College, I sought out in our archives documents with stories about the different kinds of relationships which women had with us before 1974, be it as founders, relatives, spouses, or members of staff. This inspired two exhibitions in the College, one of which takes place at the 45th Anniversary Dinner in October. Not everyone who reads *Jesus News* can easily make it to such events, and so I offer here a kind of 'virtual exhibition' of some of the highlights.

## WOMEN AS FOUNDERS OF COLLEGES: ELIZABETH I REMEMBERED IN 1740

Jesus College proudly calls Elizabeth I its Foundress (for all that she probably gave us nothing more than some timber), and images of her are all over the College, not least her splendid portrait in Hall. This image was created by the engraver George Vertue for the Oxford Almanack of 1740. The College appears in the background, and in the foreground stands the Queen, bestowing our foundation charter on our 'real' founder, Hugh Price, suitably kneeling. Around her stand some of our major benefactors, including Charles I to the left, and to the other side, from left to right, Sir Leoline Jenkins, Sir Eubule Thelwall, Francis Mansell, and Bishop Herbert Westphaling.

## WOMEN AS SCIENTISTS: MURIEL CHAPMAN AND THE LEOLINE JENKINS LABORATORY

In 1907, Jesus College built its own laboratory, called the Leoline Jenkins Laboratory. It trained generations of chemists until it was closed in 1947 and converted into the Meyricke Library.

Although the laboratory was intended for chemists at Jesus College and our then Chemistry Fellow David Chapman, students from elsewhere worked here too. Among them was an undergraduate from St. Anne's, Muriel Holmes (1894-1988), who came up in 1917.

Love blossomed in the laboratory: Holmes and Chapman married in 1918, and they had a daughter, Ruth. At that time, women like the new

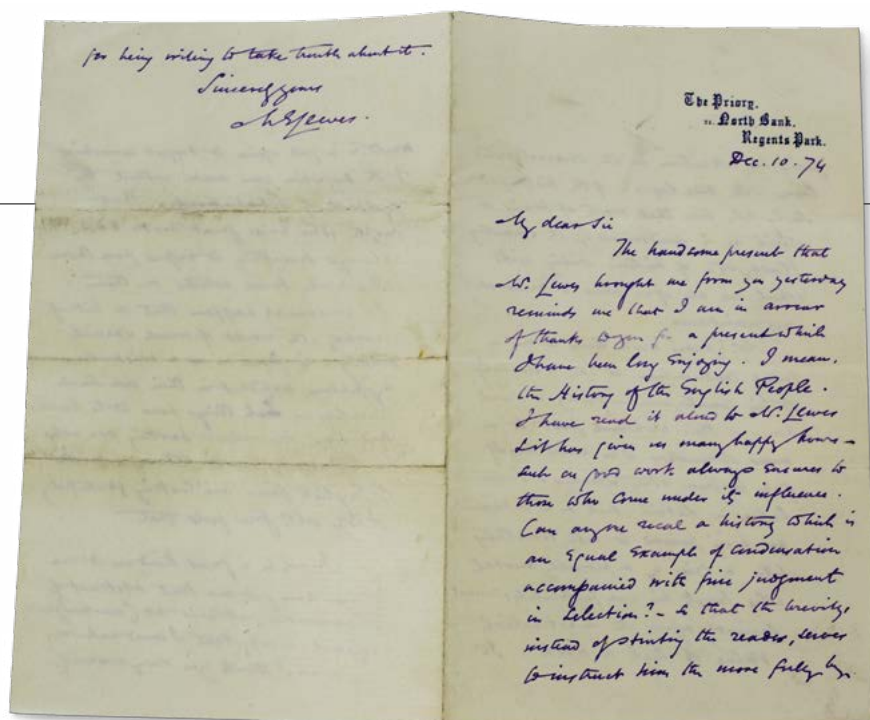
Mrs. Chapman were expected to resign their jobs after marriage, but Muriel continued to work in the Laboratory well into the 1930s, even publishing articles on her research, mainly into the reaction between hydrogen and chlorine.

## WOMEN AS FAMILY: THE COLLEGE BARGE DURING EIGHTS WEEK, 1902

Eights Week was a great social event in the Edwardian Oxford calendar, when undergraduates' families – especially their female relatives – visited Oxford.







A party atmosphere filled the university, and many outings, parties and balls were arranged for our visitors. This was a great opportunity for a middle-class Edwardian young lady to meet some potential suitors from among her brother's friends!

Above all there were the races on the Isis, and this photograph (left) shows the Jesus barge in Eights Week 1902 (this barge was later replaced). The top of our barge is filled with supporters, almost all women, clearly much enjoying their day out, as they watch the progress of 'their' College's crew.

### WOMEN AS CORRESPONDENTS AND CRITICS: GEORGE ELIOT WRITES TO J.R. GREEN, 1874

John Richard Green (1837-83) was one of Jesus's most celebrated Victorian alumni. Coming up in 1855, he became an extremely popular and respected historian, famous for his three-volume *Short History of the English People* (1869-74) and his four-volume *History of the English People* (1877-83). He was elected an Honorary Fellow of Jesus in 1878.

Jesus College owns many of Green's papers, and they include letters to him and his publisher praising his *Short History*. Among them is this letter to Green's publisher from Marian Lewes, better known under her pen name of 'George Eliot' as one of the greatest English novelists of any age. Lewes praises Green's book heartily, and encourages Green to ignore any small criticisms made of his work.

Green would undoubtedly have been delighted to receive such praise from so eminent a critic.

### WOMEN AS MEMBERS OF STAFF: A COLLEGE STAFF PHOTO FROM 1969

Women have been employed by Jesus College over many centuries. In early years, they would mainly have worked as freelance laundresses, but gradually they worked as scouts and kitchen staff and, especially in the 20th century, as administrators.

This photograph (below) of the College's domestic staff from 1969 shows how many women were then working for the College. A list of names is given in the *Jesus College Record* for that year but, frustratingly, does not say what each member of staff, male or female, actually did.

On Friday 4 October 2019, Jesus alumni will celebrate **45 Years of Jesus College Women**, enjoying a series of talks at the Ship Street Centre and a dinner in Hall. This event is now sold out, but please contact the Development Office to be added to the waiting list.  
E: [events@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:events@jesus.ox.ac.uk)  
T: +44 (0)1865 279743.



# A CAREER IN... HAND SURGERY

JILL ARROWSMITH (1984, MEDICINE)



Jill Arrowsmith studied Medicine at Jesus College, Oxford, graduating in 1990. She completed specialist training in Plastic Surgery before undertaking fellowships in her chosen sub-speciality of Hand Surgery. She joined the Pulvertaft Hand Centre in Derby as a Consultant in 2003. She is a Council Member of the British Society for Surgery of the Hand. She is married and has three children.

## **What did you study at Jesus?**

Medicine – physiological sciences BA and then stayed on for Clinical.

## **How has your time in Oxford shaped your career?**

I think that Oxford trains you to think. You learn to analyse critically and to question whilst assimilating vast amounts of knowledge. I'm very grateful to my tutors for their skill debating and discussing complex topics which has inspired lifelong interests. Tim Horder, our College tutor, also organised a regular presentation session between all the undergraduate

medics in College. That was both fun and excellent training for ward round presentations early on, and now for lectures and tutorials I give to surgical trainees. The clinical training is excellent and supported me immensely as a junior doctor. I made strong friendships with fellow students which have persisted through the years. While you're at Oxford, you come into regular contact with amazing people who have done or discovered incredible things. Later on, you realise how rare and privileged you were and that was.

## **When did you first decide that you wanted to be a hand surgeon?**

I knew I wanted to be a surgeon before I came up to study medicine. I was always curious about how the human body fitted together and how it all worked. My family GP arranged for me to tag along with a general surgeon friend of his when I was in the 6th form. I thoroughly enjoyed being in the theatre environment and having the privilege of peering inside the human body. I thought about hand surgery reasonably early on in my surgical career and fell in love with the variety and technical challenge of plastic surgery, which is one of the routes to hand surgery in the UK. Hand surgery remained my favourite aspect of my plastic surgery training. I enjoy the range of conditions and ages we manage in hand surgery, as well as the anatomy and functionality of the hand.

## **What advice would you give to women who want to work in surgery?**

Women make excellent surgeons. If you enjoy fixing things and doing things, go into surgery. If you feel at home in the operating theatre, go into surgery. If you love anatomy, go into surgery. Don't be put off by other people telling you the training is long and hard or that surgeons are misogynistic. The training is no longer or harder than other hospital specialities, and there are misogynists everywhere – fortunately fewer and fewer as time goes on. The misogynistic, pompous surgeon is definitely a thing of the past. Surgery also has a wide range of specialities which make different calls on your time and emotional



# LEADING THE WAY IN GLOBAL EDUCATION

LYDIA CHAN (2005, ED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY) –  
THE YEW CHUNG EDUCATION FOUNDATION

energy. You'll find a speciality which suits your personality and your family life.

## **How can we raise the profile of women in surgery?**

This is a very topical question and one that the surgical colleges and specialty societies are wrestling with at the moment. I think that women contemplating or starting a career in surgery need to be able to look ahead and see there are women who have managed to be happy and successful in both their careers and their personal lives. Although we are still a minority, there are more women becoming consultant surgeons. There are more women taking on roles in the surgical specialty societies, Royal Colleges, and surgical training and education. Hopefully, the fact that we've made it to a consultant level and are thriving will encourage other women to join us. If we can do it, so can you!

## **What has been the biggest challenge you have faced in your career so far?**

During my training, the national training scheme changed around me. That was really frustrating at the time and the plans I'd made all had to change. But I think I've been very lucky in my career and I've been fortunate to have mentors who have supported me at different stages.

## **What inspires you in your work every day?**

The team I work with and the patients I meet – and my rumbustious family!



Lydia Chan came up to Jesus in 2005 to read for a DPhil in the Department of Education (Department of Educational Studies at the time), supervised by Kathy Sylva (Emeritus Fellow, Jesus College, and Professor of Educational Psychology, Department of Education). Upon completion, she continued working in the Department of Education as a member of the Families, Early Learning & Literacy (FELL) Research Group, before returning home to Hong Kong to join the Yew Chung Education Foundation (YCEF).

## **When did you first get interested in working in education?**

My paternal grandmother, Madam Tsang Chor Hang, began teaching at the age of 16 and became Principal at 19. She founded the first Yew Chung School back in 1932 in Hong Kong, and passed the baton to her eldest daughter – my aunt, Dr Betty Chan – in the 1970s, when we became well known for pioneering progressive Early Childhood Education, and later also International Education. Unsurprisingly, I was enrolled

before my 2nd birthday, and graduated as part of the first cohort of Year 13 students at Yew Chung International School (YCIS) in 2002, before embarking upon my undergraduate studies at Cambridge. I'm not quite sure when I first got interested in working in education, but it's probably in my blood, more so than I would like to admit. There are apparently photos of me as a child 'teaching' Chinese characters to my older cousins from Hawaii (or bossing them around in 'teacher mode').

### **What does your work with the Yew Chung Education Foundation involve?**

The YCEF is a non-profit school sponsoring body in Hong Kong, and we operate schools from 'B to B' – or 'Babies to Bachelor Degrees' – offering Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary education. Our unique bilingual (Chinese and English) and bicultural (Eastern and Western) programmes cater for children as young as six months old, and we also train pre-service and in-service teachers in our Bachelor of Education (Honours) in Early Childhood Education programme. My current role is Chief Operating Officer and Assistant School Supervisor of our K-12 schools.

I also chair the Council of our Tertiary arm – the Yew Chung College of Early Childhood Education (YCCECE), as well as serve on its Board of Governors alongside Kathy Sylva. YCCECE is the first and only Higher Education institute to specialise in Early Childhood Education in Hong Kong and mainland China, if not Asia. We also became the first private institution to offer formal teacher training in 2014, which previously was monopolised by the public sector. In addition, we took inspiration from Australia, South Korea, and Singapore in creating Hong Kong's first 'Discovery Space' (pictured above) on our campus: an interactive adult-child play space catering for children from birth to age 8. We designed and constructed this unique space from scratch, and enjoyed our grand opening this year on 31st May. Since then, we have welcomed more than 600 young children and their families from all walks of life, as well



as groups of kindergarteners and their teachers/principals. Recently, I also assumed the role of Executive Director of our in-house research unit, named in loving memory of my late grandmother and founder – the Chor Hang Educational Research Institute (CHERI). Kathy Sylva and Iram Siraj are both members of our inaugural Advisory Board, and we consider them long-standing friends of our schools. For me personally it is always a joy and privilege to maintain ties with Oxford and Jesus College.

### **What skills did you pick up when you were at Oxford that have helped you in your career?**

Put simply, my years at Oxford as a DPhil student and post-doc

taught me everything I know about research, giving me a deep appreciation for both the art and science of education. However, I think I subconsciously learned even more important skills of leadership and mentoring by observing Kathy Sylva at work, as she was the Convenor of the then Families, Early Learning & Literacy (FELL) Research Group, which arguably was the most active and vibrant in the Department of Education. Her ability to identify young talent, and then to quietly but intentionally nurture it is rare and unparalleled: one often encounters leaders who might do a decent job spotting raw talent or potential, but then inadvertently squander it by failing to nurture it.



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### **What do you enjoy most about your job at the moment?**

The people; and it will always be the people – whether it's colleagues, students, parents, alumni, donors or friends. One can have the most glorious vision and laudable mission, as well as the required technical skills and resources, but without people willing and able to join you on your quest, and still support you during the inevitable challenges along the way, it would be mission impossible, or at the very least an incredibly unpleasant slog!

### **What has been the most exciting thing you have achieved so far in your career?**

The establishing of YCCECE is perhaps at the top of my list for now; not because I singlehandedly achieved anything in particular, but rather because it was a tremendous test of faith – both of myself and the organisation as a whole. This journey was many years in the making, and in hindsight, it was the result of three generations of blood, sweat and tears. My DPhil viva was a piece of cake in comparison to the successive rounds of 'oral defence' we went through for institutional and programme accreditation – and in many ways that was the easy part! So, in short, it was both exhausting and exhilarating.

### **What do you hope to do next or to achieve in the future?**

This might sound a bit lofty, but we genuinely aspire to democratise high quality education through high quality teacher/leadership training. In terms of the Hong Kong education system, there is often wishful thinking of an ultimate 'fix' or 'magic bullet', as if the next

education reform or curriculum revamp or additional funding would somehow solve everything. As a private, non-profit education provider, there is obviously a limit to what we can realistically do, but we firmly believe that we don't necessarily need to wait for the Government to take the lead; there is a role for the private/charitable sector and we can push boundaries and shift paradigms with the support of the community.

### **What drives and inspires you in your work every day?**

The students and our alumni – hearing their stories and how they're each impacting the world in their own unique and positive ways is always uplifting; reminds us of why we do what we do. And of course, my late grandmother – she was a force to be reckoned with, and her immutable determination, passion and faith will always be an inspiration.

### **What advice would you give to women who want to promote international education as part of their work?**

Whether men or women – if one wants to promote international education, begin by first understanding the concept, or defining/refining your understanding of the concept. The term 'international education' can be deceptively simplistic and sometimes misleading, just like the term 'international schools', which for decades has primarily meant national schools operating in overseas locations (e.g. British, American, French, German, Australian etc. International Schools all over the world, providing national curricula to expatriate

children), where 'International' was practically synonymous with 'Western'.

For our own schools, we were invited back in 2004 to share our specific approach to international education at the 'Alliance for International Education' (AIE) Conference in Düsseldorf, Germany. We spoke about the unique political and cultural context of Hong Kong, being a former British colony, and how it shaped our particular vision and definition of authentic International Education, where we place equal status and value on the two cultures (Eastern and Western, broadly speaking) and two world languages (English and Chinese), equating the notion of 'international' with an individual's internal transformation of their worldview, i.e. attaining 'international mindedness' and gaining 'global competencies'.

But philosophical or pedagogical musings aside, the proof is in the pudding. This summer, we were contacted by a former parent, who wrote to say that his daughter (Japanese-American) is now serving in the Peace Corps in Nepal, with no running water and other basic amenities we would take for granted. He said: "I thought you would like to know that the YCIS education prepared her well for this, with the concepts of love, charity, sustainable environment and living or helping others who have less or are in need." Heartwarming notes like these never fail to put a smile on our faces, and are the best testimony of international education.

# TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY ON THE 'INTELLIGENT ISLAND'

JACQUELINE POH (1994, PPE) IN CONVERSATION WITH NIGEL SHADBOLT



*Jacqueline is Deputy Secretary in the Singapore Prime Minister's Office Strategy Group, which leads and organises the Public Service to develop and implement the strategic priorities of the Government. She was previously founding Chief Executive of the Government Technology Agency of Singapore. She has also been Managing Director of the Infocommunications Development Authority.*

## **What is your role in the Prime Minister's office and what sort of advice does your team provide?**

I am currently the Deputy Secretary in charge of the overall government strategy, also futures and foresight, and population issues. As the centre of government, we were formed three years ago in acknowledgement that policy challenges have become increasingly interconnected, cutting across the traditional domains of economic, social, security, science and technology, and infrastructure planning. The trade-offs are also more acute across Singapore's limited strategic resources, as the constraints of land, population, fiscal resources, carbon and common space become tighter.

My job is to coordinate these resources across the Government, align them with our strategic plans, and proactively pursue a whole-of-government and long-term view of issues, even as we manage near-term issues. The Strategy Group helps Singapore's Prime Minister and Cabinet to establish government agenda and priorities, to strengthen strategic alignment across the Government, and organise the Public Service to implement these strategic priorities.

## **What skills, resources, and methods did you pick up during your time in College that you have found helpful in your work?**

I learned a great deal in College about analysis and presentation, and being discerning about what you read.

I also managed to make the best use of the College facilities. When



## SIR NIGEL SHADBOLT ASKS JACQUELINE POH ABOUT HER WORK WITH GOVTECH AND HOW WE CAN LEARN FROM SINGAPORE'S APPROACH TO DATA AND GOVERNANCE

I came up to Jesus in the mid-1990s, Oxford (and particularly the Humanities faculties within Oxford) were not known to be at the forefront of digital adoption. As a PPE-ist, many of my fellow students preferred to write essays by hand, and most tutors were amenable to engaging with them in that manner. Few students had their own laptops or PCs, and several adopted the attitude that these were unhelpful to the thought process. There was a room where you had access to computers and to send emails, but it was telling that it was in the basement of one of the quads. Around my second or third year, the College installed high speed (for those times) Ethernet ports across the main campus and also in my room in Ship Street. It was wonderful to get what amounted to a large data highway with what seemed like no one else on it.

Singapore, at that time, had been in an IT adoption drive since the 1980s. As a major semiconductor manufacturing centre, there was easy retail access to hardware (motherboards, chipsets) that was hard to obtain in the UK. So, when Singapore students went home for holidays it was not uncommon for us to rig our own CPUs and hand carry them back to Oxford, buy a monitor from Cowley Road, and then sell the equipment at the end of the year so we could start all over again with another CPU with better specs.

**Singapore is often called the 'intelligent island'; a country which makes the best use of the data that its citizens and public services generate. What are the challenges and opportunities of harnessing infocomm**

**technologies, networks, and big data to create tech-enabled solutions?**

Singapore has expressed its current vision and ambition to be a "Smart Nation" and much earlier, an 'intelligent island'. This is our way of harnessing the technologies of the 4th industrial revolution – a combination of high speed, low latency 5G communications, the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, blockchain, and cloud computing – to enable progress in a digital economy, a digital society, and a digital government. Much has already been achieved in terms of pervasive low-cost broadband in Singapore, and the extensive use of technologies for a slew of innovations, including cashless payments, autonomous driving, drone usage, robotic healthcare, and a government that aims to be digital to the core. Digital technologies have great potential to make governments put their users first, and design services around them rather than around government entities. By developing a government technology stack, we can also design platforms that help the public sector share KYC information data with the private sector and, through APIs, enable services to be delivered in a more seamless, data-driven manner.

**Often citizens are concerned at the power that government and corporations wield. What safeguards are in place to protect members of the public and to ensure that policies are designed to benefit them?**

This is something that the Singapore government is also concerned about. One major issue is whether personal data

obtained from individuals in the process of digital transactions belongs to the individual or the collector, and what rights accrue in the further fusion and use of the data. Nobody wants to feel that their data is actually the 'product' and yet they continue to provide it willingly in return for convenience and services. The Singapore government is working actively with other international bodies like the WEF (World Economic Forum), universities, and think tanks to work through what data rights and AI governance rules look like in practical application because we have so many 'live' cases in a Smart Nation. In Singapore, the Personal Data Protection Act ensures that personal data is protected when collected, used with permission, and disposed of correctly. Similar provisions apply for government data. Though there is a reasonable amount of trust that citizens have in government that data will be used for their benefit, that trust should be carefully nurtured by ensuring the cybersecurity is put in place and that we are transparent with the benefits of providing that data to government.

**Singapore was an early adopter of the idea that open data can be used to promote innovation. Can you name any examples which show this idea coming to fruition?**

Singapore shares government data openly through Data.gov.sg and a few other government data repositories where APIs are available. The sharing of data within government agencies was itself a journey of discovery and development because data silos can easily form, even within government

or any large organisation, as long as the benefits of sharing are viewed as less salient than the costs of doing so, e.g. in terms of data protection obligations. Ironically, most citizens believed and expected that government would share their data internally to serve them better. Unlocking the ability for government to share and use its own data was very useful to better policy-making and service delivery.

Opening datasets to the public and the private sector also unlocked sources of innovation, ranging from better transport apps, to better business planning based on demographics and other local attributes, to creating better real estate matches to geospatial analysis. Anonymised datasets could easily be made available and manipulatable, but we also made identifiable data available on condition that the individual must have access to that vault and to deliberately approve the release of any specific data to the private sector. Also, the datasets were not to reside in any one place but in a distributed architecture through APIs. For example, the national digital identity SingPass and MyInfo is shareable with the individuals themselves, who can see what government knows about them, their income taxes, pensions, qualifications, and they can share that deliberately with corporates who need that info to grant them loans or credit cards etc.

**Digital services in government are often promoted as a solution – how do we keep humans and human society in the loop?**

The key to effective government

digital services is a good understanding of what citizens need, and a good grasp of data and design skills in addition to engineering. For example, one of the most well-received initiatives include “no-filing” for income taxes – individual income data can be pulled together by Inland Revenue from various sources without the individual having to file taxes. Another is a Parking.sg app facilitating effective roadside parking without the use of meters or paper coupons. It tapped deep into the psychology of drivers who simply wanted an easy way to pay, without identifying themselves, and to get refunds if they drove off early.

**How will the Singaporean citizen experience GovTech in a few years’ time?**

At the moment, GovTech is working on a number of initiatives around developing services based on Moments of Life for citizens. These include having a baby and bringing up a child, or what to do when a loved one passes away, or how to find a job when you are unemployed. Many of these services use AI or blockchain but only incidentally, if these algorithms are helpful and essential to the process. For example, AI is used for law enforcement, investigations, valuing properties, or matching workers with skills and jobs. Blockchain is used in initiatives like OpenCerts, which is a platform to put all educational qualifications and skills qualifications on a distributed ledger. This not only helps employers verify educational and skills qualifications without having to bother the school, it can help the authorities verify foreign employees claiming to have graduated from a

particular institution. Oxford could definitely be a collaborator in this!

**Do you have any advice for Jesus College students thinking of a career at the interface of government, technology and policy?**

I have come to technology development and working with engineering teams in an accidental manner, but I have found it to be a fast-moving and frontier skillset. As tech becomes more infused in every part of life, every industry will have to face up to what we call an ‘ops tech’ challenge. That is, it will be as essential to have super users on the ops or line part of business who understand how to transform product and processes to make technology something that benefits the bottom line. There is no use relying on the CIO or CTO to figure out where the company should go or how to get there. The engineers will only be stymied by the bulk of the organisation that has no clue how to use the technology.

Governments will find that the nexus between policy, technology, and operations will tighten over time, and more so if tech ecosystems fragment more in future. On the regulatory front, more effort needs to be put on things like AI ethics and governance, regulation of digital giants, and treatment of data. On the services front, more attention will have to be placed on putting the citizen at the centre, whether the citizen is an individual or business. So service journeys (from clearing airport immigration to dealing with ageing) must complement tech journeys.





# CLIMATE RESEARCH AT JESUS COLLEGE

## TACKLING THE BIGGEST ISSUES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

**In 2018, Thomas Phillips gave a significant gift to College to establish a Junior Research Fellowship in Climate Physics.**

Following an international search which attracted a considerable number of first-rate applicants, the appointment was awarded to Kristian Strommen who will take up his post on 1 January 2020. Kristian holds a DPhil in Mathematics from Oxford, and is working in the frontier area of 'stochastic parameterization.' This class of techniques has shown great promise in improving the representation of complex physics (notably cloud effects) in climate simulations. Besides being a problem of considerable intrinsic interest from the standpoint of fundamental physics, inadequacies in the representation of such processes account for much of the current uncertainty in how much the Earth will warm as a result of human-caused increases in the

atmosphere's greenhouse gas content (notably carbon dioxide). Very similar processes are also of importance to the climates of other planets, including the growing catalogue of exoplanets. All at Jesus are looking forward to working with Kristian. He has wide-ranging interests and will be a great addition to the College community.

Thomas Phillips was the first Junior Research Fellow at Jesus College in 1963. Talking about his decision to establish the research fellowship, he notes: "That was a prestigious position, which gave me a good start in my early career. I was grateful for that opportunity and want to give another young researcher the same chance. Climate change is a complex problem facing the world today. It will take a huge effort to understand it and to learn how to deal with it. I was inspired to make a gift to Jesus College because of its early interest in atmospheric



Kristian Strommen

science. When I was a JRF, John Houghton (now Sir) was a Fellow at Jesus College. He became a Professor of Atmospheric Physics at Oxford, Director General of the Met Office, and played a key role in the development of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Now he is an Honorary Fellow of Jesus College. I decided to make this gift in my lifetime because that will allow me to watch it come to fruition".

*“Climate change is a defining issue of our age. However, it’s not enough that we try to cut our carbon emissions as quickly as possible, we must also ensure that society, particularly in the developing world, becomes as resilient as possible to the changing extremes of climate caused by past and ongoing emissions. However, having a clear picture of climate change at the regional level is an exceptionally complex problem and Jesus College academics lie at the forefront of this vital research.”*

*Timothy Palmer, Royal Society Research Professor in Climate Physics  
and Professorial Fellow, Jesus College*



# RESEARCHING THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND ITS SOLUTIONS

TATIANA SCHLOSSBERG (2013, MSt US HISTORY)

*Like many members of my generation, I always assumed that I knew about climate change and the environment, or knew enough anyway to say that I thought it was an “existential crisis facing humanity”. I had learned about the greenhouse gas effect in school; I knew that fossil fuel companies were to blame; and I knew some of the problems it was already causing and would make worse in the future – in the United States, that meant things like stronger hurricanes, more frequent droughts, and more voracious forest fires.*



It wasn't until I came to Oxford as a graduate student that I became interested in climate change and the environment as intellectual issues. In my coursework, I read works on environmental history that I hadn't been exposed to as an undergraduate in the U.S. In my seminar, one of the books we read was *The Mortal Sea: Fishing the Atlantic in the Age of Sail* by W. Jeffrey Bolster, which became formative for me. Reading about

centuries of exploitation of the ocean, combined with general human ignorance, made me realise that, while climate change may be an especially intense and new problem, we have been dealing with versions of it for as long as there have been people: that we take life and the planet for granted, but it is always changing and responding, often to the things we do, even if we are unaware of it. It's a dense, academic book, full of statistical information about historical fisheries which might not be for everyone, but it is vivid and urgent, and I wanted to keep telling that story, somehow.

And that's what I've tried to do in my book, *Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impact You Don't Know You Have*, building on my previous work as a science and climate reporter at the *New York Times*. I wanted to write about the environmental and climate impacts of the everyday stuff that many of us take for granted, and may not think has any connection to the environment,



in four areas – the Internet and technology, food, fashion, and fuel.

But my work is not about all of the bad things you're doing without realising it; I think the narrative of personal responsibility has been destructive, and lets the truly responsible forces – fossil fuel companies, industrial agriculture, manufacturing, and more – off the hook. Instead, I hope that my book can provide a context in which to understand the many different aspects of the climate crisis, and whether the solutions being offered are truly enough to make a meaningful difference.

If we want to have clean electricity, grow food, manufacture goods, and get around responsibly, we have to understand what it will take to get there and we are responsible for making sure it happens.

*Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impact You Don't Know You Have* is published by Grand Central Publishing. ISBN 978 1538747087.

# ARE WE ALONE?

## HOW ASTRONOMERS HOPE TO FIND LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE

SARAH RUGHEIMER, HUGH PRICE FELLOW

Sarah Rugheimer is an astrophysicist working on how to detect life on an exoplanet. Her research interests are modelling the atmosphere and climate of extrasolar planets with a particular focus on atmospheric biosignatures in Earth-like planets as well as modelling early Earth conditions. Sarah is an advocate for Women in STEM, hosting a resource page as well as mentoring students and co-hosting a podcast called “Self-care with Drs. Sarah” aimed at junior scientists navigating academia. She is a Hugh Price Fellow at Jesus College.

Are we alone in the Universe? For the first time in human history we are reaching the technological sophistication to detect evidence for life outside of our solar system. When we look at life on our own planet we find it everywhere, from the deepest subsurface of the Earth that we have drilled, to microbes eking out a living in the liquid water brine layers between ice crystals in Antarctica. Life has been present on Earth for most of its 4.55 billion year history. However, for much of that time, we probably wouldn't have been able to tell that our planet had life if we were an alien astronomer looking at Earth from afar.

To detect life on another planet we first need to find planets like Earth with geology and climates similar enough to ours that we can hope to understand. We have already begun this stage, and missions like Kepler and TESS have found many habitable worlds orbiting other stars. The second phase of observations in the coming decades will look for biosignatures, gases



Photo: Ben Gebro Photography

that indicate life, in the atmosphere of other planets.

We need larger telescopes to characterise the atmospheres of extrasolar planets through a technique called spectroscopy. Light interacts with molecules in very predictable ways, allowing us to determine what is in an atmosphere just by simply observing the absorption and emission of gases. By measuring the spectral features of an exoplanet atmosphere, we can start to piece together an understanding of the planet as a whole system.

It is an immensely difficult task. We typically only get one photon of light from the planet for every 10 billion photons from the star. This is the technological equivalent of trying to find a firefly crossing a spotlight halfway around the world. Amazingly though, telescopes capable of this are currently in development. The first to be able to make such a measurement will be NASA's James Webb Space Telescope launching in 2021, and

then there will be several large ground-based observatories such as the European Extremely Large Telescope coming online around 2025. These observatories will be the first to capture the light from habitable rocky planets orbiting nearby stars.

When the space probe Galileo looked back at Earth, it detected large amounts of oxygen and traces of methane, which would strongly indicate life to an outside observer. However, looking for life on other planets is not as simple as just looking for oxygen or methane. It is not enough to just detect a single biosignature gas in the atmosphere of a planet and say we have found life. There are many ways we know of to create false positive signals of oxygen and methane. Together though, we cannot think of a way for geology to produce large quantities of these gases. It is therefore a combination of gases that will provide the context needed to understand what we are seeing.





Photo: NASA

This is the work that I focus on at Jesus College and Oxford. My research looks at the impact of the star on the atmosphere and biosignatures of Earth-like exoplanets. I am interested to see if an active star with larger amounts of ultraviolet radiation changes our interpretation of our future measurements when determining if a planet has life on it or not.

These efforts are broadly part of a new field called astrobiology. Astrobiology melds multiple disciplines including astronomy, chemistry, biology, geology, and planetary science to answer two of humankind's oldest questions: are we alone in the Universe? And how did life start and evolve on our planet? Astrobiologists collaborate

across many fields to study the extreme conditions that life thrives in on Earth and then apply that knowledge to finding life on exoplanets or other Solar System objects such as Mars and Europa.

Our knowledge of specific molecules produced primarily by organisms is limited by the fact that we only have one example of life: Earth-life. There could be very different forms of life in the rest of the Universe, but we simply don't know what biomarkers might provide evidence for such exotic and hypothetical biology. Prebiotic chemists and synthetic biologists look for the chemical pathways that gave rise to life on Earth and search for potential alternative biochemistries. Ultimately we hope

to use these findings to explore more broadly our search for life that is unlike our own on Earth.

It is an exciting time to be following exoplanets, astrobiology, and astronomy research. In the next decade we will have several new telescopes capable for the first time of seeing the atmospheres of habitable exoplanets. We don't know yet what we will find. Will we find that we see signs of life on many planets, or on none? Either answer is humbling and terrifying to contemplate. I am excited by whatever we do find though as it will be foundational to our understanding of our place in the cosmos.

# CHAUCE – A EUROPEAN LIFE

MARION TURNER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND TUTORIAL FELLOW IN ENGLISH

*Marion Turner holds an MA and a DPhil from Oxford, as well as an MA from York. She was a Fellow by Examination (Prize Fellow) at Magdalen College, Oxford, and also taught at King's College London before returning to Oxford in 2007 to take up a Tutorial Fellowship at Jesus. She teaches and researches medieval literature, specialising in Chaucer, and is an elected Trustee of the New Chaucer Society.*



I've recently written a biography – *Chaucer: A European Life* – which was published by Princeton University Press in April this year. It is the first full biography of the poet for a generation and the first biography of Chaucer by a woman.

Geoffrey Chaucer lived in the 14th century and by any standards his life was extraordinary. Born the son of a wine-merchant in London a few years before the plague hit, he was taken prisoner in France and ransomed by the King, was living over Aldgate when rebels invaded London in 1381, travelled frequently to France, Italy, and Spain, was an MP in a chaotic parliament, and weathered some of the most dramatic political turbulence in English history. He was also the first English writer to read widely in 14th century Italian literature,

and his encounters with Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio changed what English poetry could do. Chaucer invented the pentameter, for instance, and wrote in almost every genre you could imagine.

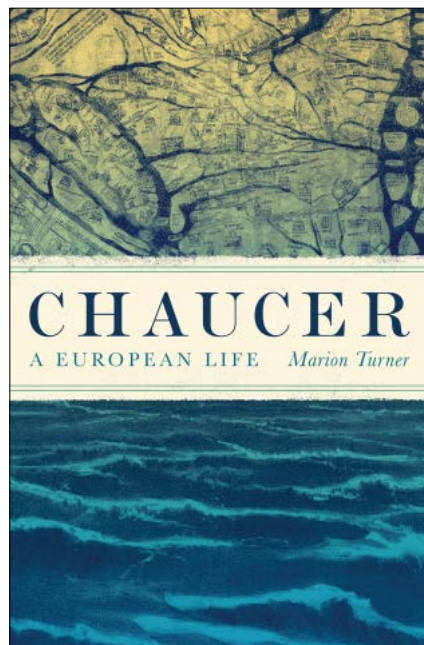
Many people think of Chaucer as the 'father of English literature,' the head of the canon, but this doesn't reflect how people thought about him during his lifetime – he was experimental, international, and in many ways radical. His life and his intellectual influences were European, and indeed global. In order to explore his imaginative development in new ways, I decided to approach his life through places and spaces. Each chapter focuses on a place – some of these are 'real' places (such as Florence, or Hainault, or the Tower of London), some are



conceptual spaces (such as the Inn, or the Garden, or the Great Household), and some are more imaginative spaces (such as Troy, or Thresholds, or Peripheries). The art and objects that Chaucer saw, the buildings in which he worked, the books he read, the structures in which he lived his life, are all part of his story. My biography broadens out from the life-records to explore Chaucer's imaginative and material contexts in forensic detail.

The European and global aspects of Chaucer's life are fundamental parts of his identity. Chaucer's intellectual life was profoundly multilingual. His influences ranged from late-antique philosophy to Arabic science (in Latin translation) to French love poetry to Tuscan sonnets and story collections. London itself was a global city, connected to the spice islands of Indonesia through extensive trade routes. Every week, many ships came in and out of the Thames, heavily laden with all kinds of produce. As a child, Chaucer lived in the London ward most densely populated by immigrants; his own wife was from a Hainault family. Chaucer himself travelled to places including Navarre, now in northern Spain, a country where Jews, Muslims, and Christians co-existed. And he saw the darkest side of the global system in Genoa, where slaves were for sale in the marketplace.

Trade, negotiations, treaties, and the circulation of objects, texts, and ideas underpinned Chaucer's working and his intellectual life. Rather than thinking of him in the traditional way as the 'father of English literature,' I consider him to be a great *European* thinker



and poet, a writer embedded in political, social and literary networks that stretched through Europe and beyond.

Over the last few months, a lot of the press attention that the book has received has focused on the fact that I'm the first female biographer of Chaucer. While I was writing the book I never thought about myself as 'first female biographer' of the poet, and I'm not sure how much that identity contributed to the kind of research that I do. But it is certainly true that previous biographers haven't been interested in finding out more about Chaucer's daughter, or about Chaucer's first female employer, for instance, both of whom are important in my book. The book has also attracted particular attention because of its (unexpected!) timeliness. I had been working on this book for some time – and well before June 2016 – but the book's focus on European contexts and identities has now turned out to resonate in our current political moment.

I even received a letter asking me if I was 'trying to sway popular sentiment for remain' (!).

While my previous work has been aimed at and read by a scholarly and student audience, this biography has reached broader audiences – it is being read by academics and students, but also by many other people, and its exposure on the radio, in newspapers, on podcasts, and at literary festivals has opened my work up. It is also available as an audiobook. Some of the best feedback that I've had has been from people who say that reading my book has prompted them to read Chaucer's own poetry, either for the first time or after a long break, people who say that they now see it in new ways.

In the next few months I'm working on bringing Chaucer to other groups: I'm working with Flash of Splendour, an educational arts charity to develop workshops for younger children and children with SEND (special educational needs and disability) to engage with Chaucer's tales, and I'm also collaborating with Creation Theatre to put on an adaptation of a *Canterbury Tale* this autumn in a number of locations around Oxford. Medieval literature is often perceived as inaccessible outside universities and schools – but that needn't be the case. Chaucer's poetry both speaks to many of our contemporary concerns and allows us to make an imaginative leap to a very different time and place.

*Chaucer: A European Life* is published by Princeton University Press.  
ISBN 978 0691160092

# INSPIRING INNOVATION

VERONIKI ZERVA (2019, GLOBAL BUSINESS) – RELOAD GREECE



**I first became interested in working with start-ups in 2012. I was in Greece working in communication services and media relations when I got involved in an organisation aiming to develop a start-up ecosystem in Greece. It was an exciting time to work with entrepreneurs – the start-up scene was really beginning to blossom across Europe and so it was great to get involved in this vibrant environment.**

Initially, working with start-ups was a passion which I pursued through volunteering but it eventually became my full-time job. I now work with Reload Greece, a UK registered charity which provides guidance and support to a new generation of entrepreneurs, helping them to create ventures which have a positive impact in their home countries. Our programmes harness the power of the diaspora, helping people to create sustainable ventures that give back to their home countries.

My most exciting work has involved designing the strategy for, and delivering, the workshops for our Young Entrepreneurs Programme, which encourages aspiring entrepreneurs and coaches them to develop their early stage ideas. It

has been fantastic to see how much of an impact young entrepreneurs can make – the winner of our most recent Young Entrepreneurs Programme passed straight into our Accelerator Programme, getting investment in just three months. So far the Foundation has generated over £5 million and created over 210 jobs so it is incredibly fulfilling to help others create such positive impacts and affect political and socio-economic change.

My biggest achievement has been to drive the expansion of our programmes all over the world. With my team, we managed to grow RG YEP from eight universities in the UK to 26, including the Netherlands, Germany, Greece, a pilot in the US, and the Balkan region by

establishing strategic partnerships and organising workshops (2,000 young students and professionals have been educated between 2017 and 2019). I am incredibly proud of the way we have forged links across regions, finding new donors, collaborators and partners.

Alongside this work, I am completing my Executive Diploma Degree in Global Business at the Saïd Business School. It's great to be part of an incredibly diverse cohort of students from all walks of life. It is incredible to work with people who have different career aspirations and experiences. In addition, given that most of our colleagues in class come from the corporate world, it is interesting to be the one to give fresh ideas that come from the start-up scene, to explore how they can be challenging their teams to become more creative and, finally, embed start-up features in their projects. The opportunity for collaboration that this programme opens up changes the mentality of those working in traditional industries and allows entrepreneurs to be more structured in their thinking.

Since becoming part of the entrepreneurial ecosystem I have been able to learn from other women about what it takes to thrive in this environment. I have also been able to watch women who are just starting out and to coach them on their own journeys. If I had to give one piece of advice, it would be to take risks! A lot of women start developing ideas for start-ups but don't accelerate these ideas – women need to feel confident that they can take on challenges and emerge successful.



# WINE ON THE TYNE

ELISE LANE (1999, CHEMISTRY) – CEO AT LANEBERG WINES



## **What did you study at Jesus? Has your time in Oxford shaped your career?**

I grew up in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and was state school educated. At Jesus I studied for a Master's in Chemistry (MChem), which is a four-year undergraduate course. First and foremost, when at Jesus I met the most wonderful people who are friends for life – it was the first time I met people who I totally 'got' and they 'got' me; such a difficult thing to find as a teenager.

My Jesus friends are doing the most impressive and fantastic things all around the world, but we still keep in touch and motivate each other to keep going and keep achieving whatever we've set our goals to be. We all love coming back to College for our Gaudy and to catch up. I

think at the time what I wanted to do was get the best education I could so I could be unrestricted in my future choices and my career. Jesus College undoubtedly gave me that and, whilst it was very hard work and an older me would definitely have worked harder, I think I came out of the experience a more rounded person.

## **When did you first get interested in wine?**

Some of my first experiences with wine were at Jesus, good and bad. I remember having a very bad oaked Chardonnay in our College corridor before a Friday night in the College bar. I couldn't drink Chardonnay after that until I was introduced to its beauty and versatility later during my 20s.



Whilst still at College, I attended a 'Chemistry of Wine' evening in Blackwell's Bookshop, run by someone in the Chemistry department and a Master of Wine. They brought round the actual chemical compounds that are in the wines and got us to smell them alongside the wine. It was fascinating and amazing. I still have the tasting notes at home somewhere.



### **How did this change to making it your full-time job?**

I moved to London to work for one of the Big 4 accountancy firms on graduation, having still not quite worked out how I could apply my Chemistry knowledge. I studied for a couple of WSET qualifications in my spare time but still hadn't really found my passion for wine. When I'd been in London about 12 years, and after I had my first son Max, I went back to work but just kept thinking about making wine, so I decided to quit my job and study for a postgraduate diploma in Viticulture and Oenology at Plumpton College. My Chemistry degree gave me the entry requirements, and allowed me to study winemaking and get practical winemaking experience in their commercial winery at the same time. Once I completed my studies I went on to be assistant winemaker there for the 2016 vintage. I was making wine but also teaching the students of the College, which was the best training I could get! We

decided to move back up north to be near family in 2017 and, with inspiration from the London urban wineries, I set up The Winery by Laneberg Wine in Gateshead. We buy good quality grapes from wherever has the variety we need and do all the processing on site.

### **What has been the most exciting thing you have achieved so far?**

So far I think the most exciting thing is having my own

winery, making my own wine, and having people drink it and enjoy it! We've already won two awards for our Bacchus (IWSC and WineGB Bronze) which is exciting, but so beyond what I expected for the first year it's almost surreal.

### **Has it been difficult balancing parenthood with running your business?**

I have two wonderful boys, Max (5) and Reuben (1½) and I made the decision to start this business at a very tricky time in their lives as they're so little. However, I did it because I wanted the time away from them to be doing something I was passionate about and excited to go and do every day. I definitely couldn't have done it without the wholehearted and enthusiastic support of my husband Nick, who has done all he can to help make this happen for me.

It has been difficult, but what I've found is that, as long as I'm trying my best at both my jobs, we all stay

happy! I've learned a great deal of acceptance: as an ambitious person it's hard not to be able to spend all day every day building the business, but this is the path I chose. My two boys get all the love and attention they need, and if that means the business grows more slowly then so be it. This is a family business and I want my boys to be proud of me, but also to know I love them with all my heart. The hardest part is trying to explain my odd working hours to people, and sometimes being less flexible than I'd like with my availability. But the more I do it the easier it gets, and I'm much better at compartmentalising my different roles than I was in my old job and before the kids, and I'm much happier for it!

### **What advice would you give to women who want to become founders or CEOs of their own businesses?**

Plan what you're going to do very well, do lots of research, and write a business plan before you start. As soon as you've done this, any questions and niggles about whether you're capable enough, or worries about being taken seriously, will most likely dissipate.

### **What drives and inspires you in your work every day?**

The thousands of wine bottles in the cellar and the thought that I did that; I made that happen. I want to keep on doing it and growing bigger and reaching out to more and more people.

*Both Elise and Sarah (see right) will be speakers at a drinks reception to celebrate 45 years of women at Jesus, taking place at The Lady of the Grapes in London on Tuesday 19 November. All alumni welcome.*



# SUNNYBANK VINE NURSERY

SARAH BELL (1980, GEOGRAPHY) & RICHARD STOW (1979, PPE) –  
OWNERS & FOUNDERS, SUNNYBANK VINE NURSERY

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**Sunnybank Vine Nursery is the largest Plant Heritage National Collection of vitis vinifera and hybrids in the UK. We hold over 480 cultivars planted in just over an acre on a south facing slope on the Herefordshire/Monmouthshire borders.**

Work on the vines is a year-round occupation, starting with winter pruning which marks the beginning of the vine's life cycle and is essential in keeping the vine in balance between fruiting and vegetative growth. Once the last spring frost has passed, we carry out bud rubbing and excess shoot thinning. Ongoing throughout the summer the canopy requires taming with leaf removal round the fruit zone, lateral removal and 'topping'. All this is essential to ensure light and air to reduce disease and ripen fruit and wood. During the growing season the grass is kept short and the under vine area is carefully strimmed to avoid weed competition in the canopy. Spraying is kept to a minimum.

The hardwood cuttings for rooting are taken during the winter pruning season. Once the vines are

dormant we will be lifting, packing, and despatching both rooted cuttings and bare wood cuttings for self-propagation. They are sold to enthusiasts across Europe for both fruit and wine production. The burgeoning English and Welsh wine industry means that there is

increased interest in growing grapes in the UK. With the right choice of cultivar you can successfully grow – and, more importantly, ripen! – grapes outdoors in most regions.

There is never a quiet time with vines! But we do relax over a glass or two of the excellent by-product. We stick to the horticulture and take our grapes to be vinified at Three Choirs of Newent, an award-winning vineyard and winery.



# THE GREAT INDOORS

JESSICA BUCKLEY (1998, METALLURGY & SCIENCE OF MATERIALS) –  
JESSICA BUCKLEY INTERIORS



## **How did you get into interior design? Were you interested in interior design when you were at Oxford?**

I have always loved beautiful homes and interiors but it never occurred to me when I was younger that it might be a vocation. The signs are there though: I was forever rearranging the furniture in my bedroom as a child and as a first year undergraduate I covered every inch of the walls in my room with images I had torn from magazines to detract from what I thought was rather dreary decor! I also recall taking down the curtains in the bedroom I had in my fourth year and re-hanging them inside out as I preferred to look at the cream lining fabric to the patterned curtain fabric... talk about decorating on

a shoe string! On a grander note, I do remember very vividly soaking up all the details of the magnificent rooms in Jesus and other colleges: the beautiful furnishings of the Principal's lodgings, or the impressive scale of the dining halls and the beauty of these spaces when they are set for a formal dinner with candles lit and gleaming silverware. I was fascinated by how all the individual elements of a room come together to create an incredible overall impression.

## **Explain a typical day in the life of an interior designer**

We typically have 15-20 projects running at any one time and they'll all be at different stages: one day we might go and visit a new client to see their home and

discuss their brief, then we'll work on design schemes for an existing client and order up items, or check progress of a project that's nearing completion. It doesn't sound very complicated but the attention to detail is what sets you apart as an excellent designer: anyone can choose a sofa, but how do you choose the best sofa?

## **Do you have any role models, artists, or other sources of inspiration that influence your work?**

Oh yes, absolutely! The greater the sphere of influence, the more varied and sophisticated your work becomes, and I think this is true of all creatives whether artists, designers, writers or thinkers. I have a vast library of design books which I dip in and out of all the time: the



subjects range from classic East coast American design to hotels in India to traditional English design of the Sibyl Colefax and John Fowler era, and I always find inspiration from those pages; whether it's the details for making exquisite curtains or finding a colour scheme I had not considered before.

Travel is a huge source of inspiration for me: my love of textiles stems from my travels around Asia collecting beautiful silks and embroideries – many of which I still own and are waiting for the perfect spot to be used for cushions or upholstery.

**What would you say have been some of your lessons learned as an entrepreneur?**

Learning to delegate has been a big lesson for me. When you start a company you quickly have to become adept at a whole manner of things that you may never have done before, such as accounts, tax returns, building a website, designing a brand – not to mention

*“Making my surroundings as beautiful as my means allow is something that has always been with me. For me, the idea of designing homes is so exciting: your home is the backdrop to your life, so why not make it as beautiful as you possibly can?”*

actually doing some client work. But, as the business grows and you take more people on and more and more client works comes in, you learn that you simply cannot do it all and it doesn't make sense

to do it all: you have to delegate. Making sure you surround yourself with smart, capable people who are there to help you is the key.

**How did you get people to believe in and invest in your business model?**

I set up my business with no outside investment as it was possible to operate on very low overheads for the first couple of years (I worked from home and barely paid myself).

I worked hard to attract my first few clients, and from then grew the business very gradually. Social media has been the biggest influence on our business and has allowed us to reach clients across the UK and further afield. I opened a small shop selling homewares and accessories in 2017, and having a shop front as well as the growing social media reach has been the turning point in the business. The old joke about having a seven-year overnight success has proved to be the case for us.

**How did your time at Jesus prepare you for this career?**

I think there are two key things which prepared me for my career: the first is I learned that there is always more work to be done and so it's up to you to create the work/life balance that works for you. The second thing that I gained from my time at Jesus was confidence and a sense of perspective: if you can get through the pressure of Oxford finals then you can certainly cope with the pressures of being an interior designer. Being a good designer doesn't require academic prowess (luckily for me) but it does require



confidence and the ability not to panic when things go awry from time to time.

***What is the most important lesson life has taught you?***

Learn to trust your instincts and not waste too much time on self-doubt. Also, invest in the best sofa you can afford!

***What advice would you give to young women looking to start their own business?***

I started my business when I was in my thirties, having spent several years in a job I thought I was supposed to do. I am ashamed to say that I didn't consider interior design to be a proper job when I was figuring out what to do when I left Oxford. I find it fascinating and terrifying in equal measure that so much pressure is put on young people to follow career paths which are seen to be prestigious or high earning, rather than taking the time to examine what really excites them and what they might find rewarding beyond the financial aspect. So, my advice to young and not-so-young women alike would be to let go of the fear and the expectations people may have for you and have the confidence to take the first step (remember that you don't have to have it all figured out on day one). Starting up a business doing something that you truly love will give you the autonomy to thrive, and your passion for the product or service you provide will drive you to get through the tougher times.

***What is the key to creating a beautiful room or house?***

I am always drawn to rooms which are designed for people to really relax and spend time in. Deep,



comfortable sofas you can sink into with a place to put your drink is always a good place to start when designing a sitting room: you would be surprised how many rooms look good but the sofa isn't very comfortable and there's nowhere to put your glass. Comfort is really the key aspect of a well-designed room; the colours and the exact fabrics you use are almost incidental. That said, I love to use lots of layers of colour and pattern, which I think makes a room really inviting and as though it has evolved gradually over time – and nothing should match exactly: I like my rooms to be perfectly imperfect.

***Any tips for designing on a budget – where is best to splurge and where can you save?***

The best rooms are those which have a mix of high and low, and it is always better to take this approach

rather than having everything from the middle ground. If we have a client with a particularly tight budget, we will use very economical fabric for items such as curtains (silk is surprisingly affordable), but have them made with a small trim which elevates them from the ordinary. We'll re-use a client's existing pieces where appropriate, and might have sofas or chairs re-covered in a beautiful fabric so that we can get the wow factor without blowing the budget on an entirely new piece. I also use antiques and vintage pieces: beautifully made Regency furniture is incredibly affordable if you are prepared to put in the leg work at the auction houses – much better than so many of the options you find at typical furniture stores. Finally, if you really don't have much budget at all, paint your room in a bold uplifting colour: the effect will be transformative.



# A SPOTLIGHT ON RETAIL

SUZY ROSS (1991, GEOGRAPHY) – SENIOR ADVISOR AT ACCENTURE

Suzy matriculated in 1991. She spent ten years with Price Waterhouse and then set up her own denim label, Radcliffe Denim. She is now a senior advisor to Accenture, is a specialist in retail, and focuses on harnessing the power of customer analytics.

## **What did you study at Jesus? How has your time in Oxford shaped your career?**

I studied Geography at Jesus from 1991-1994. I loved going on fieldtrips – I went to Nepal for four months and then Morocco – and these years really instilled a sense of adventure in me which I have drawn on throughout my professional career. In a lot of my work, there has been no real safety net and I've needed to tread an entrepreneurial path so having a sense of adventure was important.

## **When did you first get interested in retail?**

I wasn't initially interested in retail – my career has definitely not followed a straight line! I worked as a management consultant after graduating and then, in my late twenties, I decided that the corporate world was not for me. I wanted to move into retail, focusing on luxury products, which is when I started my own brand, Radcliffe Denim. When I graduated, leaving Oxford and going straight into retail would have been a very unusual move – I had to find my own way there.

## **Did you find it daunting launching your own denim brand?**

Not really. Interestingly, I think that not knowing too much about what I was going into may have helped because I couldn't talk myself out of the decision. I also had (youthful) confidence in my ability to work through any problems which could

come up. I also knew that I had a big enough network of people to support me.

## **What has your biggest achievement so far?**

Definitely having my two children. I realised that I could shape my own work and time around being a mother: I worked on projects when my children were little and didn't take on a large role at a large organisation. Then, when my daughter was five, I took on a big job again, back in the corporate world. The job felt manageable and was something different and exciting.

## **What advice would you give to women who want to work in retail, or to women who want to start their own businesses?**

For women who want to work in retail, I would say that it's best to start as early as possible. The more experience you can get, the better. Don't shy away from beginning work on the shop floor and working your way up from there. For women who want to start their own businesses, I would say that it helps to surround yourself with mentors. My own career was hugely influenced by mentors and friends. I particularly remember getting encouragement from Graham Beck, an entrepreneur in his 80s who had started working in coal mines in South Africa before working his way up until he owned his own mines. I would also say that if you're going to start a business, you should pick the right time in



your life when you can really give it your all and commit to making your idea a success.

## **What has been the biggest challenge you have faced in your career so far?**

A continuous challenge which I have faced throughout my career is choosing whether to work with the left or right side of my brain; focusing on being analytical and strategic or being creative. I've worked for traditional organisations and I've worked for myself as I've asked what kind of person I am and what kind of work I enjoy. Now I've found a role where I can do both and where I get to inspire and work with creative people and more data-driven individuals. I've actually been surprised at the degree to which I have been able to shape my own role at this stage in my career. I am not moulded into a particular pattern of work. I really believe that retailers need integrated processes to help them solve problems.

## **What inspires you in your work every day?**

Believing completely in what I do. I am extremely resilient because, even given setbacks, I have an absolute conviction in my work.





# TRIBE + GLORY

CARAGH BENNET (2014, GEOGRAPHY) – CO-FOUNDER, TRIBE + GLORY

The Tribe + Glory story started in the summer of 2016 during the 6 weeks of my Geography dissertation research in Uganda. My dissertation was a post-colonial feminist critique of a community development organisation which ran a women's empowerment programme, amongst other things. The programme was aiming to help women start up their own businesses to provide financial independence and stability, and it was run at the time by Loren, a friend of mine.



While my dissertation research really focused on the gendered subjectivities and complexities in the fairly barbed discourse of even the concept 'women's empowerment', it also unearthed a number of more practical learnings in the women's entrepreneurship space. Over the course of the summer and my research, I had the opportunity to meet and interview women in the programme and other women in the community, hearing at length their hopes and priorities for their lives and their families' lives. They spoke of innovative business concepts fulfilling specific niches they had noticed and how, with the profits, they would employ vulnerable adults. They wanted to reinvest profits to start savings groups, and

*Tribe + Glory's Class of 2018 (left).*

wanted to make education for the disabled a community priority.

The big barriers the women were facing were access to education and access to capital. It was not uncommon for women to tell us of how their parents couldn't afford their schooling past the age of 12 or 13, favouring their brothers to stay in school. In terms of capital, it was hard to see a model that avoided the dependencies of hand-outs and vulnerabilities of loans.

I came out of the research period, writing my dissertation on one question, but also wondering about another: was there a way to generate debt-free, dependency-free access to skills and capital towards entrepreneurship for women through international partnership and trade models?

I couldn't shake the question, and the result was a Facetime audio call in second quad of Jesus College to Loren back in Uganda where we decided to make the jump together, cancel our grad scheme applications, and run with the model that had been starting to take form over the summer.

Moving to a small town called Kamuli, one hour east of the Nile River, we founded Tribe + Glory on the single premise that investing in female entrepreneurs has the power to change the story of extreme poverty and gender inequality. Tribe + Glory works as a social enterprise selling a line of sustainable jewellery, which provides sufficient short-term salaries for women under the poverty line to not only support their own families but to save money towards their own start-up costs, activating women to lead successful economic growth in their communities, and in so doing to empower their own financial security and independence.

By providing jobs that could offer short term employment for 2-3 years, we built Tribe + Glory as a model where women could earn a salary where 60% would be saved towards their future business and 40% would give them enough money to live above the poverty line each month. At the same time, the daily working hours gave us the time to not only carry out production of our jewellery line, but also provided time for entrepreneurship training classes, literacy classes, and leadership mentoring.

In the two years we have been fully operational, the 21 T+G



women have between them sent 60 children to school for the first time. Six T+G women have learned to read and write for the first time, and over 120 individuals in our community are living above the poverty line due to their support. This summer we had the privilege of witnessing the first two inspiring graduates of the programme move into their new business premises, having developed their own business plan with our mentors and saved enough money over the last two years to cover their start-up costs: Harriet with a Charcoal company, and Eva with a Ceremonial dress shop.

Featured in *Vogue Italia*, *Marie Claire*, and *Harper's Bazaar*, we've also had some exciting traction with our line of jewellery and home goods. Our products are handcrafted from sustainably sourced Ankole Cattle Horn (a bi-product of the meat industry), and locally sourced brass. One of our biggest wins has been our partnership this summer with Bloomingdales in the US. More recently, we've been selected as one of the 5 Fellows of the CFDA Elaine Gold Launch Pad programme in New York, giving us the opportunity to access design mentoring from some fashion industry giants including Gucci and Tory Burch.

Ultimately, our hope is to grow our sales to expand our capacity, and allow us to partner with more Ugandan female entrepreneurs, like Eva and Harriet, who are changing the story of extreme poverty and gender inequality in their communities and for generations to come.

*Jewellery from the Tribe + Glory International Women's Day Suite*







# ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT JESUS COLLEGE

EMMA HUEPFL (1989, ENGLISH) – DIRECTOR OF LAXFIELD CAPITAL

*I read English at Jesus – and looking back it was a huge luxury to choose a degree based purely on what I enjoyed. Students today, and my own children still at school, are given more guidance on planning for their futures, which I think is a good thing. Skills I learnt at Jesus which I use every day are critical thinking and the ability to unpick complex sets of issues. The time management needed to combine my degree with competing for university sports teams was also a great ‘rest of life’ preparation.*



My entrepreneurial career came about with an opportunity to set up a business with a more experienced partner in a financial business related to commercial real estate. I am neither a finance expert nor real estate specialist, but responded to the challenge of setting something up, finding ways to make things happen and work out the strategic steps we needed to take – these things came naturally to me. Gradually I have taken over the management of the business, and we have brought the next generation into shareholder roles to plan for succession.

Fresh thinking often starts with the next generation, so it's very

natural for alumni to be interested in connecting with Jesus students and hear their ideas. To the extent the more experienced group can provide supportive challenge and refinement of these ideas, the benefits are mutual. Many innovators lose out to others who execute their ideas better, so advice from people who have made their mistakes can be invaluable. For students, the alumni network may yield introductions and the possibility of capital to invest in ideas with real potential.

I became involved in creating an entrepreneurship network via Brad Wilson who wanted to build a network of Jesus alumni who

had started their own businesses. His idea was for the College to create a group to provide mentoring to students interested in becoming entrepreneurs – whether for business or social change. Fortuitously, around this time the University also started to promote the same agenda, launching the Oxford Foundry entrepreneurial hub, and the Tri-Innovate competition. Jesus was therefore well positioned with a group of engaged alumni interested in supporting students with entrepreneurial ambitions.

The breadth of ideas is, as you would expect, broad and inspiring. Proposals I have reviewed on the Tri-Innovate panel include helping to end homelessness, targeted use of data to improve cancer outcomes, ecological preservation, and improved outcomes for disadvantaged social groups.

We receive a synopsis of all the different Jesus entrants and choose one to participate in the University-wide Tri-Innovate competition, which gives seed capital and support to the winners.

A good business concept should be explainable in simple terms. Whilst no expert in any of the ideas, I provide feedback about where things need to be clearer, challenge the business assumptions and suggest where they need to be better backed with information. We do this in a spirit of encouragement – no one should feel the process has dampened their enthusiasm. The point is that it's only through trying and trying again that you get anywhere – whether or not they win, it's all a great rehearsal.



# THE JESUS ENTREPRENEURS NETWORK

BRAD WILSON (1967, GEOGRAPHY)

“It’s stimulating and energising working with such a talented group of Jesus entrepreneurs”

*Brad Wilson (1967, Geography),  
who has facilitated the  
Jesus Entrepreneurship Network.*

Entrepreneurialism isn't easily defined, but I think to sum up my own experience, it involves:

- Thinking ahead, anticipating and responding to change
- Dealing with curve balls and challenges every day and keeping on carrying on
- Making decisions, being prepared to deal with uncomfortable ones
- Finding good people, developing them and entrusting them in key roles
- Not being afraid to ask, talk, and reshape ideas, and doing the same for others
- Getting involved in the issues of the business and its day, and speaking up for the business or industry
- Working out your values and using those guiding principles to shape how you deal with people, what you are prepared to do, where you are going next
- It's not a 9-5 deal, and it impacts holidays and weekends, but look after family and friendships because they are ultimately what matters.

*Emma is part of the Jesus Entrepreneurship Network, headed by alumnus Brad Wilson. See right for further information about how to join the Network.*



**The Jesus Entrepreneurship Network was set up over two years ago with the intention of creating a cohort of alumni whose energy and expertise could be harnessed in order to cultivate innovation and entrepreneurship within the College community. The scheme is facilitated by alumnus Brad Wilson (1967, Geography) and aims to dovetail into the University's entrepreneurial ecosystem – making the most of the well-resourced, processed and financed networks which already exist – whilst injecting a Jesus College flavour and retaining a distinct College identity.**

Since its establishment, the Network has built a clear sense of direction and now comprises a cohort of around 25 members. Members most notably mobilised in order to support DPhil student, Peter Liu, and his team in the University's "All Innovate" competition run by the Oxford Foundry. Peter's team and its pitch, DECancer.AI, was selected as the overall competition winner. This personalised diagnostic platform uses AI to detect early cancer through analysis of an affordable blood test, combined

with personalised medical history of the patient, allowing early treatment and cure. Drawing on the College's community spirit, and tapping into the wealth of talent and goodwill that exists amongst alumni, several members of the Jesus Entrepreneurship Network poured their energy into guiding and coaching Peter's team. Their support, engaging College alums with relevant expertise and knowledge, was crucial to ensuring the team's victory; no mean feat given that there were over 100 initial entries from all of Oxford's colleges.

Jesus hopes to build on this success, expanding the Network and taking on new projects. With the beginning of the Northgate project, in particular the focus on the new Digital Hub as a space of knowledge exchange, the Network has a real opportunity to make an impressive impact and to affect change at scale. Weaving entrepreneurship into the College's DNA will help to advance its already powerful status as a space of innovation and change.

If you would like to learn more about the Jesus Entrepreneur Network, would like to get involved in the scheme, or have ideas to put forward then please get in touch with the Development Office. We'd love to hear from you.

*Please get in touch with Ursula Saunders, Deputy Director of Development.*

*T: +44 (0) 1865 616812*

*E: [ursula.saunders@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ursula.saunders@jesus.ox.ac.uk)*

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

# AN ENTREPRENEUR

CHRISTER HOLLOMAN (2014, EMBA) – CEO OF DIVIDO



*Christer Holloman matriculated at Jesus to read for an EMBA in 2014, during his degree he co-founded Divido where he today is the CEO. Divido is a white label software platform for enterprise retailers and banks that want to offer monthly payment plans as an option to consumers at check-out, in-store and online. The company has to date raised over \$20m in venture capital from investors such as Mastercard, and licensed its platform to over 1,000 clients such as BMW, Lenovo, and BNP Paribas. Before starting Divido, Christer launched Silicon Valley-based Glassdoor.com in EMEA which was subsequently acquired for \$1.2bn in 2018. He is also the author of 'The Social Media MBA' series and How to Sell Online published by Wiley and Pearson respectively.*

## **What does a typical day mean for you?**

Someone once told me that companies don't fail because of a lack of good ideas, they fail because of a lack of revenue. I have taken this to heart, so I manage my diary by dividing each day into two blocks; the morning is dedicated to 'revenue today' and the afternoon to 'revenue tomorrow'. I plan my meetings and activities around these central concerns: anything that can yield revenue today gets priority over everything else. I also find this principle a useful way of recognising when a particular engagement does not correlate with my aims and can be declined.

## **What is the most exciting part of your day?**

Meeting new prospective clients. I get to meet senior leaders at a huge range of organisations, from global enterprise retailers to national banks and payment intermediaries, on a daily basis. The benefit of working with these types of businesses and people is that they are facing real and big challenges, which constantly forces us to validate that what we have to offer will help them.

## **Did you always want to be an entrepreneur?**

I think I always had the entrepreneurial spirit in me. I started my first business when I was 10 years old, setting up my own Rent-a-Santa Claus agency. In Sweden, where I grew up, Santa visits every household on Christmas Eve to meet the children who live there and hand out the gifts in person. I would get dressed up and go around different houses that had booked a slot, eventually hiring



friends to help me as business took off. I still have this entrepreneurial drive but my ideas have become a bit more sophisticated! At all of the corporate jobs I've had previously in my career I would help others launch new products and services and, when I was at the Saïd Business School, I had to do a module called the Entrepreneurial Project, which invited us to develop a new business plan for a business that was ours: my idea was Divido.

### **Do you have a most memorable day in your job so far?**

My two co-founders and myself had decided to work on Divido for 12 months before we gave up if it hadn't taken off. After 9 months the proposition was ready to be pitched to investors. I began to meet investors in January 2015: by March I had counted 50 'nos' and we were getting close to giving up. April came and I sold my car to free up some cash to pay my rent for a few more months, wondering if this had been a good use of the past year! Then I received a call back from an investor offering us £250,000, half of what we had asked for. With this endorsement and momentum we went back to all the other investors and asked if they would consider investing now. Within a week we closed a completely oversubscribed round by securing another £750,000, bringing the total to twice our original ask. That was the moment when things really took off.

### **How is your working day different now that you manage your own company?**

The main difference now is that I am an employer, not an employee, so before I had less responsibility

for my co-workers – I was more of a lone ranger. Now I am responsible for the wellbeing of everyone who works for me and for the company culture they work in. I want to create an environment where everyone feels stimulated, challenged, and rewarded so I spend a lot more time thinking about how to achieve this.

### **If you could go back in time and change one thing in your career what would it be?**

Initially, we were very quick to expand into new markets – we were basically running before we could crawl. This was good in a lot of ways, but it did mean that once we were established we had to go back and undo some of the less well thought-out decisions we had made in our attempts to speed up deployment. So, if I had my time again, I would go slower and more considerably.

### **What do you do on days away from work or at times when you're not working?**

I love getting outdoors, somewhere that is not my desk or a meeting room. I enjoy horse riding and hiking. I recently went away to Dorset where I spent time walking and eating some amazing seafood!

### **What is your favourite memory from your time at Jesus College?**

My graduation ceremony. My parents live in Sweden and travel less now that they are getting older, so they had not had an opportunity to visit me during my degree. However, they made the trip for my graduation and it was only then that I think it dawned on them that I had been a student at Oxford. I could see how proud they were of

me and it meant a lot to share that experience with them. They still have photos from that day up on the best shelf back at home.

### **What advice would you give to early-stage businesses looking to disrupt markets?**

My advice for people who have an early-stage idea or concept which they want to develop would be to get out and start sharing it! People are often scared to talk about their ideas in case they get stolen, but it's vital to test your plans on everyone you know. You never know who might be able to give you viable insights, validate your assumptions, or notify you of potential competitors. I began pitching Divido before it went live and found it a great way of sounding out problems.

### **What are you hoping to achieve in the future?**

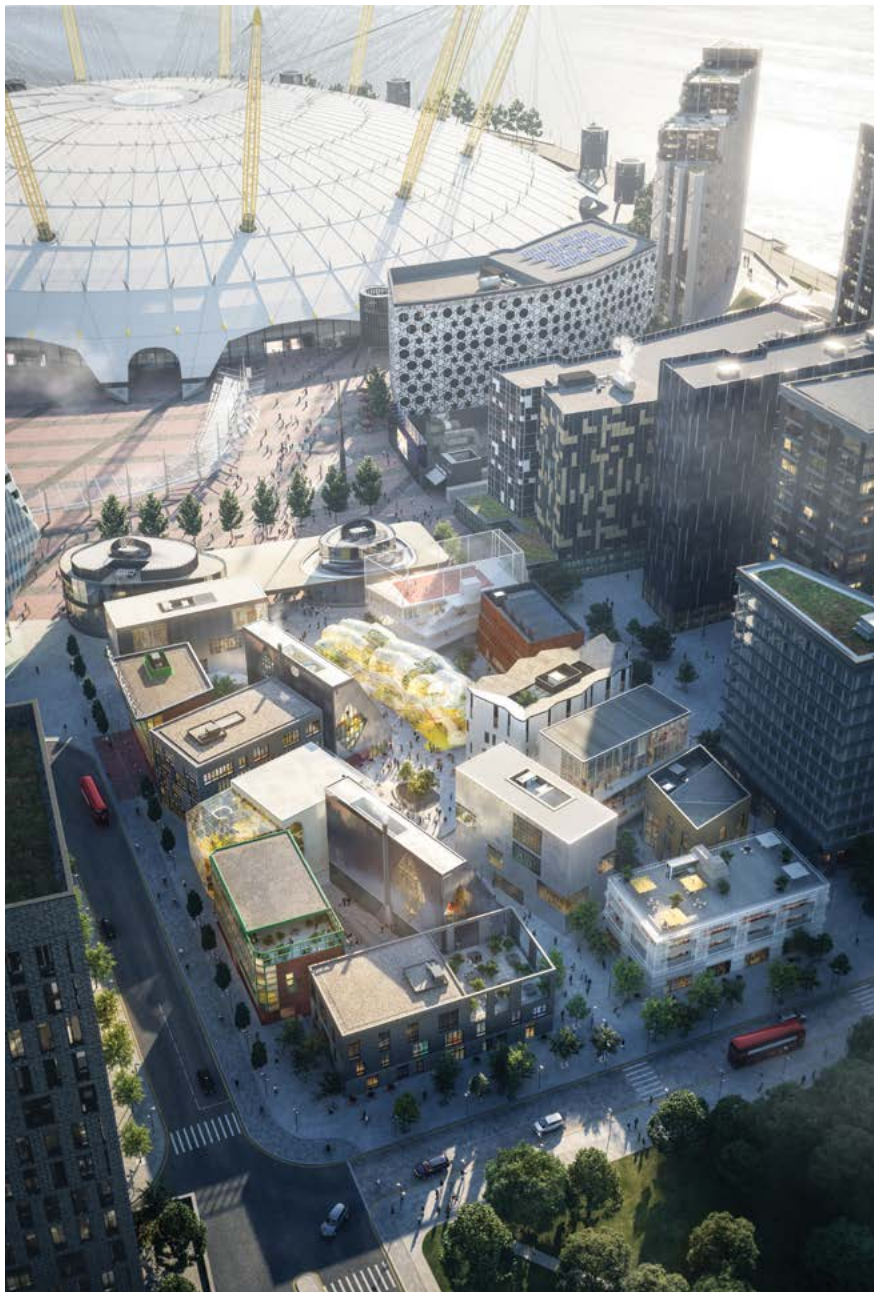
Our vision has always been to build the world's largest platform for point of sale finance, so we have a lot more work to do ahead of us! Just here in the UK, the past few months we have signed up some iconic British brands such as Lastminute.com, Brompton, and Triumph Motorbikes. We are now expanding in the Nordics, Germany, France, Spain, and Italy. As our clients are increasingly seeking global solutions, we are becoming more global every day.

# STUDENT INTERNSHIP

## KNIGHT DRAGON AND THE PENINSULA PROJECT

ADAM ROBINSON (2014, ENGINEERING)

Supported by the Jesus Entrepreneurship Network, current Jesus student Adam Robinson undertook an internship at Knight Dragon in July 2019. Owned by Dr Henry Cheng, the lead benefactor of the College's new Northgate project, Knight Dragon is a development company whose flagship project is the regeneration of the Greenwich Peninsula site in London. The project to transform the Greenwich Peninsula is already in motion, and has created more than 2,800 new homes and opportunities for affordable living. Greenwich Peninsula will introduce to London residents a new art and design district, including new spaces for retail and green spaces for sport and public leisure. It is scheduled to complete in 2040.



Staring across from the sleek, reflective towers of Canary Wharf, bound by the meandering Thames and embracing the O2, you can see Greenwich Peninsula. This Peninsula is possibly the very last blank canvas for a new district of London. Unbound by the confines of London's medieval street plan, an untamed 150-acre site sits like an island that has stymied ambitious developments and complete re-creation until now.

At the core of Engineering is problem solving, but below that is the creation of something new, a unique endeavour to change the way people work, move and live. New is hard, but what the Peninsula project offers is the potential for seven new neighbourhoods, 16,000 new homes, 13,000 new jobs, 2,000 school places, 35.5 acres of green space and over 5 kilometres of public waterfront. All this at the very centre of what is the beating heart of London. To experience how the body and soul of one of the world's most important cities is changing was an opportunity I could not miss. If not for Jesus College Alumni and the Development Office's outreach, it would never have been possible. A special thank you must go to Emma Huepfl, a Jesus College alumna and member of the Jesus Entrepreneurs network, who has been indispensable with advice, knowledge, and the generosity of her time.

The Design District and wider masterplan pull inspiration from historic works of British innovation and position them firmly in London's future. The transparent

*Aerial view of the Design District, Greenwich Peninsula.*





Market Hall and future construction on the Peninsula hint to the great architectural achievements of Brunel and Joseph Paxton. In particular Paxton's Crystal Palace that held the Great Exhibition of 1851, a prefabricated plate glass and cast-iron building three times the size of St Paul's Cathedral. It was Paxton's curation of the giant Amazon water lily during his time as a gardener at Chatsworth House that provided the structural inspiration for a technique we still use today. The deeply veined leaves and flexible cross panes of *Victoria amazonica* grow up to three metres in diameter and have been on display in Kew Garden's waterlily house since 1852.

The Market Hall will sit at the centre of the soon to be completed Design District, a hub for 1,800 leading creatives from all industries, a rooftop basketball court and modern flexible spaces buzzing with the activity of a traditional London market. The incorporation of the meridian line through Greenwich and the borrowed heritage of bioinspired design will propagate

through the Peninsula with multiple creations by Santiago Calatrava in his first UK project. A glass cupola shelters a winter garden forming an urban forest and flooding it with natural light. Beyond this, a vaulted arcade unfolds onto a promenade of pavement cafes, shops and restaurants. All leading to a footbridge that links up with a new Thames public park, complete with a meridian line sundial.

Making a place means creating spaces as well as homes. The Tide is London's first elevated linear park designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro co-designers of Manhattan's High Line, in collaboration with Neihesier Argros and landscape

architects GROSS.MAX. Positioned around the Tide are artworks by prestigious British artists including Allen Jones and Damien Hirst. To be nine metres off the ground surrounded by native silver birch, the rippling of grasses and the Thames beyond forms idyllic pockets of reflection that are part of the Peninsula's urban experience, not escapes from it.

The essence of the Greenwich Peninsula Project is about having a vision beyond bricks and mortar. It is about creating a place, not just property. A week spent cycling around every team within the Greenwich Peninsula Developer Knight Dragon would never be enough to understand the Masterplan, but it was the perfect length of time to fully comprehend their vision and fuel my ambition for a career in this future-forming sector. The stakes are high when a city like London is concerned, but a solution exists for the most significant private development in London for the last century. To be immersed within it has been incredible.





# PRIVATE PASSIONS: COLLECTING PLAYING CARDS

PAUL BOSTOCK (1978, PHYSICS) – CAMPAIGN BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2017



**My private passion grew out of playing card games, especially with my grandparents, with a growing curiosity about what the card designs ‘meant’ (the short answer is not much actually, but it took maybe twenty years to find that out!). By my mid-teens, my family and friends knew I was interested in cards and would pick some up if they went abroad and might also find something for my birthday or Christmas. By the time I came up to Jesus College in 1978 I had about 100 sets – so somehow, I had definitely become a collector.**

By then, I’d discovered that the Bodleian Library had some historic cards (in the Johnson and Douce Collections). It was very exciting to use my library card to see these collections for real. At the time, they were more or less several undocumented shoe-boxes full of cards and I had as much time as I wanted to take a good look. These also provided research ideas: I subsequently wrote a journal article about one pack in the Douce Collection made by Samuel Fullwood around 1700. No cards by this maker were known before.

By the turn of the Millennium I’d started to find specialists who had older cards, and I began to be able to afford some of the better ones. There are cards from all corners of the globe and quite a few different types: standard faces with different national and regional patterns, all kinds of non-standard designs, patterned backs, advertising backs, and so on. Just to have some focus, more serious collectors limit their field of interest and I chose Standard English cards (the familiar ones for games like bridge and poker). Although they are possibly the plainest of all standard designs, they are by far my favourite.

A frequent question is what is the most expensive single item I’ve bought? It’s this fragment of a Rouennais sheet, the ancestor of the English pattern, showing the maker ‘Vallrey F’. These date from c.1517 – the time of Henry VIII – and set me back £12,000. By good fortune, I had only one other part sheet like this, and it is by Jehan Faucil, c. 1540-55. I assume he’s the son of Vallrey as it is typical for one



*Part sheet of cards by Vallrey F (marked on J♣) and identifiable as Vallrey Faucil of Rouen, known as active in 1517.*



*Q♦ by Samuel Fulwood, Douce Collection, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford.*

or two families to dominate card making in each region.

While I don’t seek out other cards, every now and then something special comes along and it is great to have examples of other types. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, pictorial cards were very popular, particularly those showing historical events, or else general knowledge subjects like astronomy and geography. A year or so ago I got an almost complete set of Morden’s geographical cards with maps of the 52 counties of England and Wales (yes 52; someone was on the ball there). For this readership I have selected the cards showing Oxfordshire and Glamorgan.

Some of the qualities that make playing card games such an enduring pastime (they are first encountered in the 1370s) also make them very collectable – they don’t take up a lot of room and they don’t cost





much. That said, my collection has become a bit of a monster, greedy for both space and money!

Collecting cards has become more sociable as I've grown into it. For example, last year I visited the annual US Playing Card Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, where I spent a really enjoyable few days. We had card trading, talks, new decks designed for the club with the designers explaining their ideas, two auctions, a poker tournament, and lots of social time.

I am also a 'Court Assistant' of a City of London Livery Company, the grandly titled Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing

Cards. The Company is a little younger than the College, gaining its Charter from Charles I in 1628. Initially it represented the London card makers, who collected taxes on the cards in return for protection against the (cheaper and better!) foreign imports.

Nowadays it functions as a friendly home for those wanting a role in City life, as a Charity and as the owner of an extensive playing card collection. It is planned that I will be Master of the Company for the year 2021. We would be able to get a special pack made for the College's 450th Anniversary, if that appeals.

My childhood curiosity about cards

Morden's Map Cards 1676.

has led me to a lot of interesting research, not least in learning more about history, in addition to becoming an enriching personal pursuit.

In all, I have around 1,000 sets of cards and, if you're interested, many can be viewed on my website: [www.plainbacks.com](http://www.plainbacks.com). If you're interested in collecting or want to know more, please feel free to get in touch by email at E: [paul.bostock@gmail.com](mailto:paul.bostock@gmail.com); I would be more than happy to help you start your card collecting journey.



# THE BLESSÈD ROUND

## THE STORY BEHIND THE NEW CHORAL COMPOSITION PREMIERING IN JESUS COLLEGE

REBECCA BILKAU (1974, ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE)



Though I can't truly say that I wish I'd spent more time in the Library forty years ago, I'm not sure it's true. Equally, the responsibility for making the mixed college experiment work feels strong now, but back then it wasn't visible to the naked eye. But hand on heart, I do regret spending too little time, then and since, with the women who helped change Oxford University history by coming up to Jesus in 1974.

Thanks to Ruth Saunders and Fiona Greig, the chance to catch up a bit came at our 40th reunion in 2014. After four decades away, the gorgeousness of College, once hardly noticed, was freshly striking. The company too. By the time we arrived in Hall, my initial shyness had worn off. We were still somehow us, with more in common than I'd hoped. Sitting next to the composer Helen Roe (1974, Music) was an extra pleasure. As a Fresher, she too had worried

she'd 'only been let in because of an administrative mistake', despite being the offspring of a former College cox.

Her drive of course was music, which took her beyond the gates. 'There wasn't even a Music Fellow in Jesus at the time, so I was farmed out to tutors at other colleges, and my academic life was focused on the Faculty. I'd probably have been too shy to make friends at all if I hadn't been persuaded to join the

*The 1974 cohort 40th anniversary dinner in 2014, with Rebecca and Helen (right) circled.*

choir. Suffice to say Chapel soon provided me with my best friends and drinking companions.'

Professionally, Helen's 'first few compositions were so well received, almost without any effort on my part, that it took a while to realise that such a state of affairs couldn't be taken for granted... It's quite easy for a young composer, these days as then, to become flavour of the month, but you need to keep the ideas flowing, secure high-profile performances, *network*. Men understand this well, but women still tend to be embarrassed by it.' Climbing back into the limelight after a break to raise a



family, boringly frequent though the recitation of the difficulty is, remains hard.

Helen's half-proud, half-wistful tale of early success resonated roundly. In my twenties, like Helen, I almost accidentally wrote a book which captured the (not-so-pretty) zeitgeist of the early eighties. Expectations were high that I'd follow it up, but my aspirations were a bit more high-falutin' than the non-fiction humour category. Anyway, I was pretty sure I couldn't carry the trick off twice, even if I wanted to!

Initially, this bothered me. Success was bound up with fame and money, and I'm not knocking those now. However, starting to practise Buddhism in my late twenties led me down different paths and ultimately to working as a peacenik in Northern Ireland. It was also there that I won a scholarship at the Poets' House, and the slow but steadily growing confidence to write again.

By the time Helen and I were talking, I was living in Germany and facing, as she did, the horrors of the blank page. These are familiar to anyone scrabbling to translate idea to the comprehensible. Heebie-jeebies abate when, for the umpteenth time in your life, you know for absolute certain you'll never ever produce anything worthwhile again. If you ever did. Melodrama, you will note, goes with the malady.

As we sat there in Hall, I wondered if I'd ever have the courage to ask Helen if we might try a joint project: I'd always longed to work with a composer. Serendipitously,

Helen was wondering the same. It was four years later, as I was about to dash from another reunion I blurted out 'Let's write an opera, Helen, shall we?' She only said yes.

Opera's big potatoes though; we knew neither each other nor our work very well. Helen googled me and says now: 'Though I found your poetry original and your imagery beautiful and sometimes startling, it didn't cry out to be set to music – almost the opposite.' For my part, I found Helen's music stunning, breathtaking, and a long way from the comfort ground of this old Folkie. Baby steps were needed: why not try our style with a choral piece?

Helen's encouragement to find the subject matter myself was both generous and daunting. An earlier fascination with the centrality of buildings of worship, within even quite rudimentary settlements, came to the fore. In these places where people have performed the same tasks, with variations for generations, the cyclical and linear movements of human time seem clearer than elsewhere. All we needed now was a dramatic peg.

Thankfully Helen agreed that using the Beatitudes was a plan. Over the next couple of months different subjects presented themselves: a stone mason grappling with his fear of seeming to compete with his maker embodied the 'poor in spirit'; the cleaners came to personify those 'who hunger... for righteousness'. Eight poems in all with a topper and tailer, then over to Helen who had her work cut out for her. She was 'dismayed ... until I got to grips with the challenge

properly, liberated by your willingness to offer drastic changes in the interests of the music'. The flexibility on both sides is perhaps what served the project best: in the final version the lines of poetry are relatively intact, the score is magnificent.

My part is largely done now, though I've the pleasure of working with the porcelain maker Carys Davies on the booklet. Another alumna, she's kindly accepted the risk because, alongside her main work, she has made some beautiful films which capture – to whatever extent that is possible – time. To Helen falls the task of gathering soloists, choirs, musicians, pianos, organs – undaunted. Waving a calming and result-producing magic wand in the middle of it all is the project's fairy godmother, Ruth Saunders, who was in there, twinkling, from the start.

Now we're nearly there, I'm left wondering what made this experiment, conducted by email, with only two face-to-face meetings in forty years, work? It was dodgy professionally, and to some extent personally: it's hard to divorce work and self in a situation like this. Accepting the dare comes down to the Jesus College effect. We were there together at an extraordinary time, with a bunch of other women, and men too, who were prepared to give the radically new a go. Somewhere in that is the foundation of a creative trust that has unexpected traction.

You can catch *The Blessed Round* at College in the spring. We'll let you know about the opera!

# LET'S GO!

## AN ALUMNI GUIDE TO SWITZERLAND

### GRAHAM SIMONS (1959, JURISPRUDENCE)

*Graham Simons is an enthusiastic member of the British Residents' Association of Switzerland, a non-profit organisation for British, Commonwealth, and Irish citizens resident in Switzerland, dedicated to promoting friendship between its members and the people of Switzerland. He was Chairman of the Society from 1989 to 1992. He is also a member of Semi Circle, Basel's English language drama group.*

#### WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

I live in a flat in Klein Basel overlooking the Rhine and the superb old city buildings on the opposite side of the river (Gross Basel).

#### DO

Try the Bernese Oberland (Wengen, Mürren, Grindelwald) for not too challenging skiing in magnificent scenery – you can get there without the need of a car (train to Interlaken Ost and connecting trains to Wengen or Grindelwald (and a funicular from Lauterbrunnen in the case of Mürren). Verbier, Arosa and Crans



Montana are for higher and more challenging slopes. For the exotic and more expensive taste, try St Moritz or Zermatt.





## SEE

Not to miss are the Beyeler art gallery in Riehen (25 minutes by tram 6 to a northern suburb of Basel), and the city art gallery (Kunstmuseum) in central Basel (tram 2 from SBB) which has a great art collection, including many works by Picasso.

## WHERE TO EAT

Gourmet food is available a 20 minute tram ride into Baselland: Restaurant Schlüssel in Oberwil BL. Less exotic food in Basel at Hotel Krafft-am-Rhein, and for great Italian food, the restaurant Apulia close to the Spalentor (one of the mediaeval fortified gates to the walled city). From Basel SBB railway station, tram 10 to Oberwil, tram 8 to Rheingasse for the Krafft, tram 8 to Barfusserplatz and then tram 3 to Spalentor.

## TRAVEL

You can get to most Swiss towns and villages by train. Swiss trains run on time and at regular intervals 7 days a week (including 25th and 26th December!). Unlike SNCF in neighbouring France, you do not need to check whether a particular train runs on Thursdays during school holidays, or whether the published train timetable is being trashed by what the French euphemistically call a “mouvement social” (strike).

## FUN FACTS

The Swiss city (and half Kanton) of Basel has 4 names and is pronounced -

When here: In both High German and Swiss German, Basel is “Bar-zi”

In French, “Bâle” is pronounced “Baahl”

In Italian, Basel is called “Basilea” and pronounced with a delightful Italian accent

In English, “Basle” is pronounced “Barl”. It is an abomination to say “Bale” and a hanging offence to say “Basil”.

Swiss motorways are rather overcrowded because they frequently cannot cope with the volume of modern traffic, and you need to purchase a 40 franc yearly vignette to use them (even if your stay is short, which is a bit unfair).

The three main Swiss airports are Zürich and Basel/Mulhouse/Freiburg in German-speaking Switzerland, and Geneva for the Suisse Romande.

Alumni in Switzerland are welcome to join the Swiss Friends of Oxford which supports Oxford University and its colleges, academic departments, faculties, research centres and scholarship programmes. Please visit the website: [oxfordfriends.ch](http://oxfordfriends.ch)



## MARIA PLOUMAKI BIGLER (2012, GLOBAL BUSINESS)

*Maria Ploumaki Bigler was born and raised in Athens, where she studied and graduated with a Bachelors in Public Economics and a Masters in Industrial Systems Management. She then came up to Jesus College and graduated with a PgDip in Global Business. In 2010, she moved to Zurich and has lived there ever since, co-founding the Oxford Business Alumni Chapter in Switzerland.*



### WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

I live in Zürich, in a beautiful village in the suburbs with my husband and son.

### WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT IT?

Zurich's understated elegance and quality of life are paramount. It combines the best of both worlds, with the international environment of a large city and the familiarity of a small one. Nature is at our doorstep, with the lake of Zurich and the mountain Uetliberg surrounding the city. And of course, the people make a place more beautiful, and the Swiss are hospitable, efficient and kind. Zurich is one of the best cities to live in.





## LEARN ABOUT THE CITY

A dear friend who is a computer scientist has founded Free Walk Zurich. You can join one of his free walking tours when you arrive to learn about practical life and the history of the city from a local.

## IN THE VICINITY OF ZURICH

Above the canton of Zurich is the canton of Schaffhausen. You can visit the castle, visit the IWC Museum at its Schaffhausen headquarters and see the Rheinfall, the biggest waterfall in Europe.



## MY FAVOURITE RESTAURANTS

For brunch and lunch/dinner, Brasserie Schiller next to the Opera House by the lake. It is beautiful inside, has parking underground, which is quite rare for Zurich, and



the lake is next to it for taking a walk afterwards.

Close to Schiller is Kronenhalle at Rämistrasse with traditional Swiss cuisine, renowned for its art collection with paintings ranging from Chagall to Matisse. During the summer Fischtube directly on the lake is beautiful, either at the restaurant or at the Biergarten outside for something less formal.

## CAFÉS AND CHOCOLATE

You can enjoy a hot chocolate at Sprüngli or Schober. At Sprüngli and Läderach you can also buy some of their well-known chocolate.

## LAKE OR MOUNTAIN ACTIVITIES

You can take a boat ride to Rapperswil, visit the rose garden and watch the sunset over the lake.

For the more athletic ones, you can hike up the mountain Uetliberg and enjoy a meal at Uto Kulm on the top.

## MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY

The Kunsthaus has one of the largest art collections in Switzerland, with works from the 13th century to the present day. The Museum Rietberg, situated at a beautiful park, houses works of art from all over the world. For those who are more sport-inclined, there is the FIFA World Football Museum to learn more about football history. The Opera is beautiful, located by the lake and hosts wonderful plays.

## ONCE A YEAR EVENTS

Long Night of Museums is an event in September where you can visit many museums in Zurich from 6 pm to 2 am ([www.langenacht.ch](http://www.langenacht.ch)).

Whiskyschiff is an event lasting a few days in November, where you can taste wines and other spirits whilst on ship on the shores of Lake Zurich ([whiskyschiffzuerich.ch](http://whiskyschiffzuerich.ch)).

Swiss Digital Day in September for "experiencing digital together" introducing digitalisation topics to the Swiss ([www.digitaltag.swiss/en/](http://www.digitaltag.swiss/en/)).

Do you love your city? We're looking for alumni contributors to write a travel guide for the next edition of *Jesus News*. Please get in touch with the Development Office. E: [alumni@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@jesus.ox.ac.uk)

# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

## INSPIRING THE BRIGHTEST MINDS AND RECRUITING THE BEST TALENT

MATT WILLIAMS, ACCESS AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT FELLOW



Jesus College may impose itself at the heart of the city but, despite its physical centrality, it has from its founding been something of an Oxford outsider. The first male-only college to admit women, it was Barry-born Sir John Habakkuk who led Jesus and the other four Oxford colleges to this milestone. It was done in pursuit of a self-evident truth – that academic excellence is obtained through diverse voices coming together and learning from each other.

As we approach our 450th birthday in 2021, the College continues in its founding quest to offer world-beating educational opportunities to the best students, selected according to their merits rather than their privileges. A radical physical change is underway in the Northgate House project. This offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity for parallel infrastructural and intellectual transformations. With your support, we will build an expanded and vibrant College community through the funding of hardship bursaries and outreach programmes, focusing on attracting the brightest students from all backgrounds. We're not looking to overhaul our centuries-old priorities, but we cannot be complacent and pioneers have to keep moving forward.

### WHAT DO WE DO ...

We are specifically committed to raising aspirations and facilitating social mobility. The young people

we work with in our access programmes mostly come from South London, Wales and Oxfordshire. Some of these young scholars come from the poorest and most educationally deprived areas of Europe, let alone the UK. They, like the disadvantaged Welshmen identified by Hugh Price in the 16th century, have talent and drive in bucket loads, but simply don't have access to the range of opportunities their more privileged peers do. We will therefore expand our pioneering outreach work with state schools, to reach young people who may otherwise never consider studying at a leading university in the first place.

Our flagship intervention – the Seren Network Summer School – is the largest provision for Welsh comprehensive school students outside of Wales. We invite 75 students and 11 teachers to come and live with us in August for a week's authentic experience of life







as an Oxford student. This summer school model has been so successful that it is part-funded by the Welsh Government. Even better, it has now been secured in perpetuity by the fantastic generosity of an alumnus endowment. Not only do we commit our own money, but so too have other confident partners.

A more typical outreach engagement would involve us visiting schools or having schools visit us for a day. The content is tailored to various age groups, since we work with children aged 7 up to school leavers and beyond to mature students.

### THE RESULTS SO FAR

We are working hard and seeing good results. We are working with many more young people, and we are now ranked fifth

amongst colleges according to the proportion of our students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

By bringing students to Oxford and working in their schools, we become literally accessible, and that gives students the confidence to apply. Not all of the students apply, of course, but of the 9,000 we have seen in this past academic year we are bound to have had a substantial impact on those who statistically are highly unlikely to consider Oxford. Our summer school highlights this effect, with 10% of all applications from Wales to Oxford coming from summer school participants.

We also help students make more competitive applications. Besides problems with Oxford's image, many students from poorer

*The Seren Summer School, August 2019*

backgrounds have incomplete or incorrect information on how to be competitive. We address this with support in particular for personal statements, admissions tests and interviews. Again, students on our summer school had a 27% rate of conversion of applications to offers, as opposed to the usual 20%.

But there is so much more to be done. Despite being the first male College to admit women, we do not yet have gender balance. And we do not reflect the ethnic diversity of the country as well as other Colleges.

*If you would like to support the College's access and outreach activities, please email Matthew Williams  
E: [matthew.williams@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.williams@jesus.ox.ac.uk)*

# CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

## THE ROLE OF IDENTITY AND RED WELSH DRAGONS Y DDRAIG GOCH

KIM-MARIE SPENCE (2002, DEVELOPMENT STUDIES)



*Kim-Marie Spence read Development Studies at Oxford as a Jamaica Rhodes Scholar. She has worked in development both in her home country of Jamaica and internationally.*

Jesus College's Welsh identity impacted my view of cultural identity and development. Let me explain. I do not fit the stereotypical image of an Oxford graduate. I am an Afro-Caribbean woman from a poor family, an identity that continues to give me strength, purpose, and roots. My identity has shaped the terms with which I am willing to engage with Oxford institutions and traditions. I quit Oxford student politics after being told that LGBTIQ issues were more pressing than racial disparities, and so that particular student group could only address one kind of discrimination at a time. When I

was awarded the Jamaica Rhodes Scholarship, I felt conflicted about attending Oxford due to its elitist reputation (some have chosen not to attend).

At the time, I was working in Nazareth for an NGO supporting Palestinian survivors of domestic violence, had little financial resources, and hoped furthering my education would help launch a career dedicated to social change. The opportunities afforded by an Oxford education were undeniable. I therefore decided to accept, but to join a college, Jesus College, that treasured its Welsh identity

within an elite English institution just as I treasure my own, though it did help that Norman Manley, Jamaica Rhodes scholar and one of the architects of Jamaican independence, was a Jesus alumnus. While I never learnt Welsh (but did finally play football), I did learn that being Oxonian did not have to mean conformity, and I found ways in the world beyond Oxford to fly my version of the Welsh red dragon.

My red dragon standard was the importance of culture and identity in [economic] development. This direction was influenced by my study at the now Oxford Department of International Development led by Frances Stewart, one of the architects of the Human Development Index, and being advised by anthropologist Laura Rival. My thesis focused on the economic, social, and cultural impact of a UNESCO award given to India for Kutiyattam, a form of Sanskrit dance theatre historically performed by certain castes in Kerala. I wrote of the way the award exacerbated concerns and discussions on who could perform Kutiyattam, and female economic independence (especially with the popularity of Nangiar Koothu).

My research interests soon shifted from heritage to contemporary culture. I now focus on policy and cultural industries like reggae, dancehall, K-pop, and Bollywood and how public policy can effect economic and social development. This research requires me to also consider how technological change, such as streaming, translates (or not) into representation and diversity within the cultural



economy. The path from studying heritage to tracking reggae and K-pop charts around the world is one that the red dragon has in part empowered me to follow.

Shortly after Oxford, I was drawn back to my own cultural heritage when I was contracted by UNESCO to design a plan, in conjunction with the Institute of Jamaica, for safeguarding the intangible heritage of the Moore Town Maroons. Their ancestors had escaped slavery on sugar plantations and forced the British to agree to their independence in 1740 through guerrilla warfare. Yet the Maroons face some of the same problems that traditional Kutiyattam performers face; remoteness and outsiders having easier access to larger cultural markets.

Coming from Jamaica, a country that has given birth to seven musical genres – including ska, reggae, and dancehall – I knew that popular culture had offered social and economic mobility. Just as communities seek to capitalise on their communal heritage, individuals have (and continue to) leverage their skill in creating popular cultural artefacts to advance their personal dreams. Stars of Jamaican popular culture – Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, Usain Bolt, Beenie Man – are often from the lower classes. The street is the cultural lab of Jamaica. I was interested in how, and if, Jamaica's cultural exports could become a tool for economic development; and wondered why it had not done so before.

As Social Development Manager of Jamaica's Inner-City Housing Project in the mid-2000s, I hired popular street dance crews from



the various inner-city communities to prepare the children for the annual (Independence) Festival of Arts & Culture. These dancehall (street) dance crews were informal, with most members often lacking employment history and basic paperwork such as birth certificates. By hiring them, they achieved the kind of formal status that enabled them to continue their careers in dance, opening doors to international travel (as they could qualify for visas). It is not enough to create cultural forms – it is important to also facilitate access to the global cultural economy. For example, Jamaican dancers need to be able to tour or international choreographers could utilise their moves without attribution, as happened notably with Justin Bieber's Parris Goebel-choreographed 'Sorry' video. It is critically important that policy-makers and other development specialists take practical steps to ensure that Jamaican and other

Global South artists compete on an (more) equal playing field. Later as former Film Commissioner and Head of Creative Industries of Jamaica, I worked to ensure our artists could travel, and supported Jamaicans to earn more from our creative talent no matter the medium; and to move up the cultural economy value chain. One way was the pioneering of an animation industry initiative, expanding the media through which Jamaicans can tell their story, resulting in the still-existing animation festival, KingstOOOn, having been taught by mentor, ex-boss and former Prime Minister of Jamaica, Edward Seaga, that one has to create institutions, local institutions to sustain change.

Jesus College's Celtic Library also taught me the importance of writing one's story and somewhat led to my current academic turn. Now, as an academic, I contribute to my country's development through my research, writing, and



*Kingston Creative led by Andrea Dempster-Chung.*

political engagement. Being in government meant consultants, often foreign consultants. I tired of being written about and wanted to be the author, if not of my thoughts, of the stories and experiences of Global South creative industries within the global cultural economy. In my recent co-authored book, *Global Cultural Economy* (with Christiaan De Beukelaer, best co-author ever), we sought to put the various cultural industries on the same analytical plane according to themes such as ownership, diversity and sustainability – instead of the usual valorisation of the Euro-American cultural industries model. Much of the structure of the current global cultural economy was created in an era of colonialism and these historical origins still affect its political economy. One such example is copyright. Copyright legislation often assumes a single

owner in the tradition of the West. But many art forms such as the dancehall dances, Kutiyattam and the heritage of the Moore Town Maroons have multiple, communal owners. It is important to consider addressing these inequalities not only in policy, but in action – reggae archives, K-pop history, and books written from perspectives emanating in the Global South. An examination of history shows the tangible – the pyramids, the videos, the wall paintings, Jesus College's Celtic Library etc – lasts. And I continue to add to this stock. I am now writing an article about creative cities of the Global South. Now I have come full circle – back at development studies, no longer writing policies but writing the texts.

But this is not the end of my story. Who knows what will happen in ten years? The last few years have been filled with writing a

book, a thesis, and being involved in the fashion and music scenes of Australia, Jamaica and beyond. Recently, I have been lecturing in film studies (Hollywood, Bollywood, and Nollywood); researching on cultural cities, districts and policy; and supporting a fantastic cultural districts initiative, Kingston Creative, alongside its team led by Andrea Dempster-Chung. I am happy to be part of this volume commemorating the 45th anniversary of women at Jesus College. This volume exists because the definition of an Oxonian for a long time did not include women. Therefore I encourage you all to find your red dragon standard to fly and not be defined by where you are but by your vision, ambition and our responsibility to make the world better than we found it.

*For more about Kingston Creative, please visit [www.kingstoncreative.org](http://www.kingstoncreative.org)*



# A DREAM TOO BIG

## THE STORY OF AN IMPROBABLE JOURNEY FROM COMPTON TO OXFORD

CAYLIN MOORE (2017, MSc SOCIOLOGY)



**In this inspiring and provocative memoir, Caylin Moore tells the against-all-odds story of his rise from cruel poverty in gang-ridden Los Angeles to academic success at Oxford University. Caylin is a Rhodes Scholar, author, speaker, and role model for every child deprived of hope in downtrodden communities. *A Dream Too Big* is the story of his exodus from one of the most impoverished, gang-infested communities in the United States to the golden, dreaming spires of Oxford.**

After his mother gathered her three young children and fled an abusive husband of nine years, leaving behind a comfortable middle-class life, Caylin found himself in a bewildering and dangerous environment. His family lived in a neighbourhood ruled by the Bloods, and he often lay awake at night, terrified by the sounds of gunfire outside. When his father was convicted of murder and his

mother was sexually assaulted in the hospital while recovering from open-heart surgery, Caylin was forced to enter adulthood prematurely. Embracing his mother's steely faith in God and education, he skirted the gangs and the endemic violence of Compton to excel on the football field and in the classroom.

Academics and athletics led to college scholarships, which led to a Fulbright and eventually the Rhodes Scholarship.

Along the way, Caylin co-founded a student organisation that brought college athletes into underserved classrooms as inspirational speakers, role models, and mentors. His eye-opening, inspirational story proves

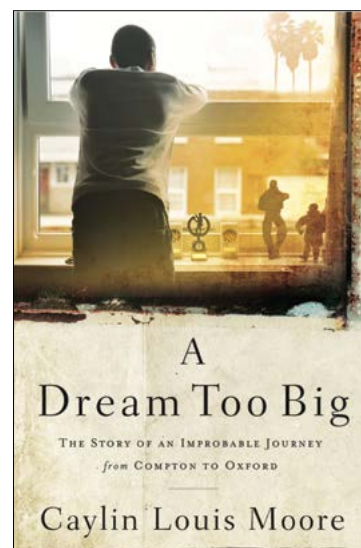
that, contrary to what others told him on his journey, there is no such thing as a dream too big.

Caylin sees his book as a way of challenging people to confront the social issues which stand in the way of achieving an education. He notes that 'in order for people to adopt social issues as their issues, you have to make them tangible. You must put them in plain sight, for all to see and empathise with. My hope is that this book does just that. We often live in our own silos of class and race and don't venture too far from them. I tell my story in the hopes that it will illuminate social issues that are in dire need of amelioration, while also reflecting on the transformative power of dreams. If you google the words Compton and Oxford, the only things that will associate these two places are connected to my name. And this book is the first step

towards changing that'.

Caylin will be applying to doctoral programmes in Sociology during Autumn 2019, with hopes of entering a doctoral cohort in 2020. His life experiences in impoverished urban environments inform his research interests and he is primarily interested

in researching how poverty informs experiences of race, gang violence, and other urban sociological issues.



*A Dream Too Big* is published by Thomas Nelson.  
ISBN 978 1400209910.

# SPORTS REPORTS



On 22 June, the **Women's Blues cricket team** beat Cambridge by 200 runs (Oxford 2/266; Cambridge 10/66) in the Varsity match. Team captain Vanessa Picker was top scorer with 135 not out. Vanessa was awarded joint Player

of the Match, and finished the season as the leading run scorer for the Women's Blues for two years running (608 runs at an average of 86.85), having captained the team to a 9 wicket victory against MCC at Lord's earlier in the term.



**Jesus College Boat Club** enjoyed a lively Eights Week, entering two men's and three women's crews. Having climbed up the rankings in recent years, the M1 ended the campaign as the 'sandwich crew' at the top of Division 2. After bumping and subsequently being bumped by Balliol, the Jesus W1 crew finished the week in style, bumping St John's in front of a packed Jesus boathouse and placing W1 in Division 1. A short film, featuring current and former Jesus rowers, was produced earlier this year which alumni can watch on the College's YouTube and Facebook pages.

The annual **Intercollegiate Dancesport Cuppers** competition took place on 25 May, with experienced dancers paired with new dancers. The Jesus team performed in style. In individual events, Schyan Zafar and Yiheng Yang were runners up in the Slow Waltz, Timothy Parker and Victoria Anichina were runners-up in the Quickstep, and Annie Lu was the runner-up in the Cha-Cha.

*Team captain Vanessa Picker (left).*





The **Jesus College croquet team** (right) also made incredible progress in the annual university-wide Cuppers competition this year, finishing in second place. The team, made up of Edward Whittaker, Sasha Thompson, Josh Thomas, Hamish Hatrick, and Charles Enoch, beat some fierce opposition from Pembroke, Keble and Trinity to qualify for the final where they lost only narrowly to New College.

The **Oxford University Intercollegiate Golf Tournament** has been held annually for the last 21 years on courses at Frilford Heath Golf Club, but Jesus has entered just twice. Last year, we did not have enough players to make up a full team, but our 4 players (Ollie Lowe, Sean Martin, John Thompson, and Nic Holladay) acquitted themselves well. Ollie did exceptionally well, coming second on the Red Course, and winning longest drive. We hope to field a full team in 2020 on Friday 17 April, playing for the Haigh Cup. There are individual prizes too.



Golf format is Stableford off full handicap and the number of places per College is unlimited. Players can be male or female, young or more advanced in years, current students at the College, or members of the academic staff.

Please register your interest in playing by contacting Rhiannon Lovell  
E: [rhiannon.lovell@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rhiannon.lovell@jesus.ox.ac.uk)  
in the Development Office  
or Nic Holladay  
E: [nic.holladay@gmail.com](mailto:nic.holladay@gmail.com).





**Jesuit College Women's 1st VIII**  
4 Eleanor Butler  
3 Elsie Hensford  
2 Elsie Hensford  
1 Elsie Hensford  
Coach: Michael Smith, Sals Borella Neillie  
Capt: Michael Smith, Sals Borella Neillie  
Sponsor: Trinity - Mansfield - Lucile - St. Anne's

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# REFLECTIONS OF JESUS COLLEGE

LUCY STEVENS (1991, GEOGRAPHY) ON SUMMER EIGHTS WEEK

I'm sure I remember breaking the ice in February just as much as the hazy summer days. There's a smell from hawthorns in flower that always takes me right back to those summer days on the river – just like seeing a wisteria in flower is evocative of the start of the summer term.

Eights Week was an important marker in my time at Jesus, especially as an undergraduate (matriculated in 1991 – and returned for a DPhil in 1998). I should never have been a rower really. I avoided the boat club to start with because at 5'2" and not

much more than 8 stone I thought they'd stick me to freeze in the cox's seat. But as it happened, I managed to row throughout my 1st year and half my 2nd. I think that

says it all about the opportunities we all had to join in and have a go at things we had never tried before, and it's part of what makes Oxford (and Jesus) special.



In Summer Eights 1992, I was part of the victorious blades-winning 2nd VIII, which included a glorious 'overbump' on St John's II right outside the boathouse. I was in the No. 2 seat so had a fantastic position as we gained on our rivals. You could hear and feel their panic as we drew level. You can't beat it for excitement and team spirit.

I rowed 1st VIII in my 2nd year in Torpids but stupidly broke my leg in a bike accident just before the summer term, so hobbled round on crutches for that year's Eights Week (more punting than rowing for me that term...).

And in my third year as a Geographer, my finals ended on Saturday of Eights Week, so celebrations that started in 2nd quad continued down to the boathouse! It was the perfect way to celebrate.

# BOB DYLAN AND THE BRITISH SIXTIES

## A CULTURAL HISTORY

TUDOR JONES (1964, PPE)

*Tudor Jones is a political historian. He is an Honorary Research Fellow in the History of Political Thought at Coventry University and a tutor in political history for the Department for Continuing Education, Oxford. He is the author of *The Revival of British Liberalism: From Grimond to Clegg* (2011), *Modern Political Thinkers and Ideas* (Routledge, 2002) and *Remaking the Labour Party: From Gaitskell to Blair* (Routledge, 1996). He is also a lifelong admirer of Bob Dylan.*

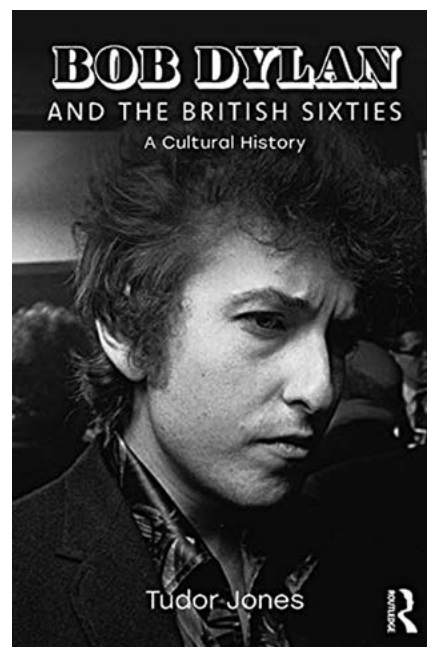


My interest in Bob Dylan's music was ignited before I came up to Oxford and Jesus College in October 1964. I had been impressed and enthralled by Dylan's first three studio albums in the early 1960s, which I had heard in Harrow, north-west London, where I grew up. Looking back now over 50 years, what do Dylan's music and lyrics evoke for me about my years as an undergraduate at Jesus (I read

PPE after Classics mods) between October 1964 and the summer of 1968?

Well, I recall many conversations with my friends at Jesus – Richard Evans, Chris Cooper, Andrew Haynes, Kerry Renshaw, and Tom Woodman, as well as with Roger Griffin at Oriel, listening to Dylan's albums, and often quoting and dissecting at length his remarkable lyrics. I recall, too, hearing, almost I think for the first time, Dylan's song 'All I Really Want to Do' streaming impressively from Brian Savin's voice and acoustic guitar, out of his open window in the second quad, a good few months after it had been released on Dylan's fourth album in summer 1964.

Indeed that album, together with Dylan's great albums of 1965–66 – 'Bringing It all Back Home', 'Highway 61 Revisited', and 'Blonde on Blonde' – what have been called his 'amphetamine trilogy', really provided the soundtrack for our years at Jesus during those years. All of that was supplemented of course by The Beatles' albums of that period, notably 'Rubber Soul', 'Revolver', and 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band', along with The Rolling Stones' inspired and highly



charged rock singles 'Satisfaction', 'The Last Time' 'Paint it Black', and many others.

Then, after a strange, enigmatic 18-month period of seclusion and silence from Dylan following his motorcycle accident in late July 1966, I remember listening in great anticipation in early 1968 – in a record shop booth on the High Street where I think All-Bar-One is today – to Dylan's new, eighth album 'John Wesley Harding', at the time a record very much against the current musically with its terse, dark, allegorical lyrics and its sparse, semi-acoustic sound. I was still enthralled. It completed for me much of the soundtrack of those transient yet memorable years of my time at Jesus College, some of which I've tried to recapture in my book, *Bob Dylan and the British Sixties: A Cultural History*.

*Bob Dylan and the British Sixties: A Cultural History* is published by Routledge.  
ISBN: 978 1138341296.



# THE JESUS QUATERCENTENARY MISCELLANY

CHRISTOPHER MUTTUKUMARU (1970, JURISPRUDENCE)

*Christopher Muttukumaru was educated at school in Australia, coming to the UK to read for his degree at Jesus College, Oxford. He attended City to study Law and was called to the Bar in 1974.*



'All the world's a stage... [and] all the men and women merely players...' We had our exits and our entrances in the College Hall. Most actors played many parts. Our acts were the many ages of the College. Its ages had begun in 1571. It would reach a venerable age in 1971.

The Quatercentenary Miscellany had its genesis in 1969. At a meeting of the College Quatercentenary Celebrations Committee on 28 June 1969, it was decided that there would be a buffet supper and a College play to be performed on successive nights in the summer of 1971. The minutes record that 'Mr TDJ Cleverdon very kindly agreed to produce the script'.

## THE CAROLINE SOCIETY

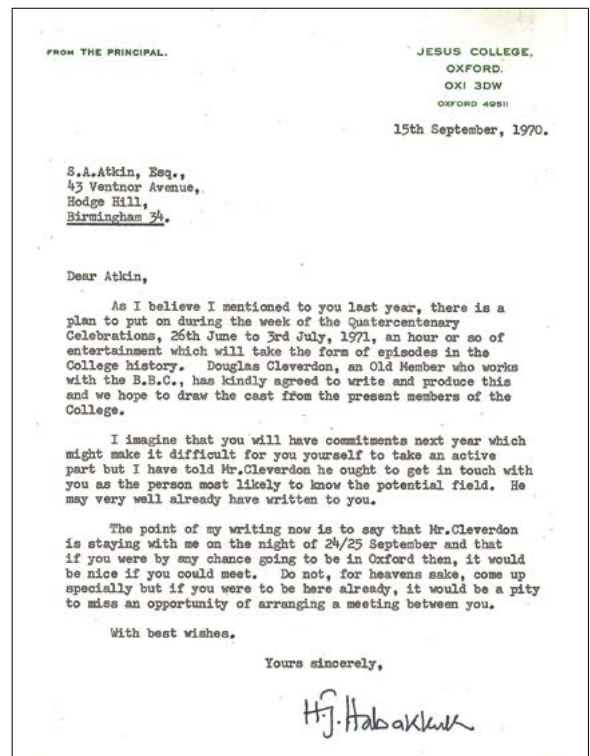
Subsequently, by letter of 15 September 1970 to Stuart Atkins,

the outgoing President of the Caroline Society (the Jesus/LMH Drama Society), the Principal wrote: 'Dear Atkins, ... there is a plan to put on during the week of the Quatercentenary celebrations, 26th June to 3rd July 1971, an hour or so of entertainment which will take the form of episodes in the College history. Douglas

Cleverdon, an old Member who works for the BBC, has kindly agreed to write and produce this and we hope to draw the cast from the present members of the College.'

The Caroline Society was a thriving drama group. It had a long tradition of putting on significant productions of existing plays and new works. In the summer of 1970, the Society had mounted a production of a play called 'King Arthur', written by Stuart Atkins and Christopher Schenk. The play was performed in the Rose Garden at Lady Margaret Hall, with a rose-bed Round Table and the King finally heading off down the river in a punt by torchlight, much to the amazement of strollers in the Parks.

The year before, again in the Rose Garden, the society had performed 'Alice through the Looking Glass'. That tradition had continued in



1971 with 'Alice in Wonderland', and it would be followed by 'Volpone' in 1972. Oxford outdoor productions were of course at risk of British summer weather and, in both 1971 and 1972, the numbers of performances had to be halved as a result of heavy rain.

## DOUGLAS CLEVERDON

Douglas Cleverdon had matriculated in 1922. His Jesus College was an institution in which the Welsh connection was evident, not least in the College signage, which was in English and Welsh. He was not only a BBC Radio producer but also a bookseller and a friend of a number of prominent artists, such as Eric Gill. He was a man with a hinterland. By the time of the Miscellany, he was selling limited edition engravings. One of those which he brought to the College during the summer of 1971 was decidedly risqué.

Cleverdon's connection with Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood* led to a famous law suit in the English High Court. The play had been commissioned by the BBC during the war. Unfortunately, however, Thomas was continually late in completing the manuscript. Cleverdon, who had been asked to produce the play on BBC Radio (later broadcast with Richard Burton as the First Voice), forced the pace and coaxed Thomas through to its completion. The manuscript was finally delivered on 15 October 1953. Cleverdon's secretary typed the manuscript onto stencils and handed the original back to Thomas.

Thomas was due to fly to the USA for a reading tour on the following

Monday (Thomas died in the USA a few days later). During the intervening weekend, Thomas lost the manuscript in a public house in the West End. At Victoria Air Terminal on the Monday, Thomas realised that he no longer had the manuscript. He telephoned Cleverdon who arranged for copies to be delivered to Thomas. Thomas said that, if Douglas could find the original, he could keep it. He gave Cleverdon the names of the pubs which he had visited over the weekend. That led Cleverdon to his own pub crawl in search of the manuscript: it was found under a counter in one of the pubs. Subsequently, Cleverdon was sued by Thomas' widow, Caitlin, for the return of the manuscript, but

the judge decided in Cleverdon's favour, saying: 'Mr Cleverdon got possession of the manuscript from the Soho public house in which it had been left by Dylan Thomas. That, in my judgement, is sufficient delivery to perfect a gift in Mr Cleverdon's favour'.

### THE CAST

Stuart Atkin was ideally placed to select the cast, a task made a little tricky by the anticipated demands to be made on those who would be involved in the summer with Schools, Moderations and vivas, himself included. He was eager to include thespians from different years and also brought in non-Jesus students who had nevertheless been closely involved in Caroline Society activities.

*The cast with Donald Cleverdon (centre) and the author (back row left)*





So far as technical expertise was concerned, Christopher Schenk's view was quite firm: 'It was impossible to conceive of any production without Crispian Strachan', who had been the staging and lighting guru for previous productions.

### THE FIRE IN STAIRCASE V ABOVE THE HALL

Other than Schools and Moderations, it seemed that little else would stand in the way of a countdown to Quatercentenary Week in June 1971. Then disaster struck the College. On 26 January 1971, a serious fire broke out in staircase V above the ceiling in the Hall. The fire swept through the corridor. The Jacobean plaster ceiling in the hall which had been added in 1741, and which hid the original hammerbeam frame, was at imminent risk of collapse as a result of both the fire and the water jets being used by the fire brigade. Students were called to arms by the then Home Bursar, Major General Hutton. The paintings in the Hall were taken out one by one by the long haired students of the day. Their rescue efforts were surprisingly adventurous, resulting more from a lack of imagination about the risks of the collapse of the ceiling than a surfeit of bravery.

The Oxford Mail headline read as follows: 'Students save Jesus College art treasures... As smoke poured from the roof at Jesus College, Oxford, this afternoon, students and staff removed valuable paintings... from the hall'

BBC Radio 4 also reported the news on its midnight news bulletin. According to the report, a number



of portraits had been rescued from the Hall, including a portrait of King Charles I by van Gogh (pace Sir Anthony van Dyck). In the event, the Hall and the staircase above were saved and the extensive remedial work was completed by the time of the Miscellany.

Other celebrations of the Quatercentenary included a new composition by Peter Maxwell Davies who set a poem by George Mackay Brown, 'From stone to thorn', to music for mezzo soprano and small instrumental ensemble. It was first performed in the Holywell Music Room on 30 June 1971.

### THE MISCELLANY ITSELF

There were several rehearsals, both in the Harper Room and in the Hall. The preparation schedule

was punishing. Given the shortage of time between the end of term and the first performance, the rehearsals were intensive. In the midst of the rehearsal roller coaster, BBC Wales filmed a rehearsal.

The actors used scripts. The cast was dressed in casual dress, largely in black. The stage was the dais where High Table is situated. A rostrum was added. Flats and stage curtains were erected on either side of the dais. The lighting was installed on scaffolding in the body of the Hall. It was simple but highly atmospheric: there were two blue and two yellow lights.

Between 27 June and 3 July, there were six performances in all. The script was a collection of vignettes about the College. These vignettes were based on three main sources:



the College archives, the history of the College by JNL Baker, and pieces written over the centuries by people who were either linked to the College, such as TE Lawrence, or who were writing about Oxford University more generally.

The script was both serious and mischievous. Unsurprisingly, Cleverdon began with the Charter of Queen Elizabeth in 1571: 'We of our particular grace have decreed that a College of learning in the sciences, in philosophy, in the humane arts, and in the Hebrew, Greek and Latin tongues, for the ultimate purpose of the profession of Sacred theology, be created, built, endowed and firmly established ....'. But in response to this gracious decree, the fiery Welshman (a character in the Miscellany) furiously addressed the

audience in Welsh: 'Objurgations ad lib....Queen Elizabeth's foundation! The English taking all the credit as usual. It was Hugh ap Price from Brecon who founded the College for the Welsh.'

The Welsh theme ran mercilessly throughout Cleverdon's text. By the 19th century, Sir John Rhys was the Principal. Commenting on the provision of modern plumbing in the College, Cleverdon records his answer: 'What do [the men] want baths for? Elspeth and I go to Tenby every summer ...'

The famous poet, Henry Vaughan, came up in 1638, together with his twin brother, Thomas. 'I spent two years or more in logicals under a noted tutor, but stayed not to take a degree, for I was sent to London, being then designed by my father for the study of the Law, which the

sudden eruption of our civil wars wholly frustrated'.

Cleverdon exploited the sharp irony of Shepilinda's *Memoirs of the City and University of Oxford*: 'To Jesus now I must turn my Wandering eyes, the college of ancient Britons. In this college, everyone is a Gentleman by birth; they have not many valuable curiosities, for they are not very great lovers of Antiquity, being all persons of too great passions to be long pleased with anything – Sir Watkin Williams Wynne was of this College and when he left it (knowing that all the members were lamentably afflicted with a Thirst), he gave a prodigious large Silver punch bowl, big enough almost for the members to swim in'.

Cleverdon's attention to historical context was a clear thread running through the Miscellany. But he had a



knack of creating dramatic intensity, as is evident in the following extract from the scene reflecting TE Lawrence's time at Jesus College:

"...Voice I: By 1913, the number of undergraduates in residence had risen to 136, of whom 55 were Welsh. The best known man of the period was TE Lawrence. There's a description of him by a Jesus contemporary, ATP Williams, who later became head master of Winchester. Voice V: I have never felt anything like the extraordinary fascination which Lawrence's curious, penetrating knowledge of mediaeval poetry and buildings, had for me. Even then, when he was only nineteen or twenty, he had wandered all over France on his bicycle, living on milk and apples..."

The lure of Lawrence was irresistible and Cleverdon's drama

took a lyrical turn: 'Voice I: for the subject of his thesis, Lawrence chose the Crusader Castles; this led to his explorations in the Middle East ... Voice IX: Between Aleppo and Hamath... Voice II: you are come to see the palace Ibu Wardeni ...this is the Jasmine Court...Voice IX: ...And as I stood to draw breath and look about its emptiness, I was aware of a soft pervading scent of half faded jasmine blossoms. The old Arab took our horses to their stalls... and with his boy, we passed up a ruinous flight of steps into the rose chamber. Voice II: Here was the gist of the harem: the rest is swept away'.

Cleverdon finished the written script with a whimsical scene from what, in 1971, was the recent past. A Jesus undergraduate, Dom Moraes, son of the Editor of the Times of India, had taken unauthorised time to try to join the Hungarian revolt. Upon return, a chastened Moraes was saved from rustication by the avuncular Principal, John Christie. At the end of that year, Moraes was awarded the Hawthornden Prize for poetry, its youngest ever recipient and the first non-white person to win it.

We now know from Moraes' autobiography, published in 1992,

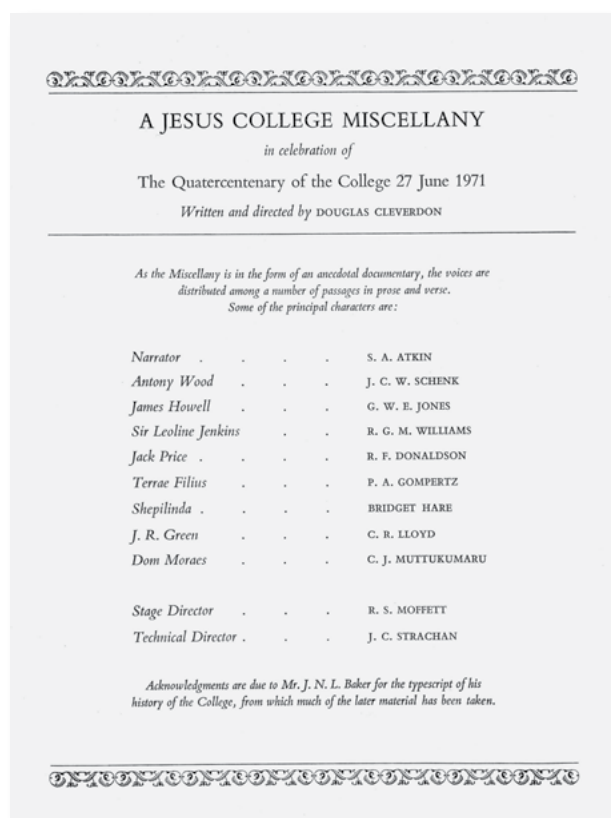
that WH Auden and Stephen Spender had met Moraes in Bombay in 1953 when Moraes was 15, and that they had praised his poetry. Spender published it in *Encounter*. Moraes continued the story in 1992: 'Four years later, as I was walking down the High in Oxford, Lord David Cecil strolled towards me ... As usual, he wore a white suit and a straw boater with a New College ribbon fluttering from the brim, almost parallel with his long and kindly nose. I knew him, but not very well. He said: 'A word, dear boy,' and whispered on: 'Your first book (which I had recently published) has won the Hawthornden Prize. Don't tell anyone, will you?' If only Cleverdon had known this story.

According to the College records, a total of 656 Old Members attended the celebrations. Since most Old Members attended with their wives, the College estimated that over 1,200 people had attended. On Sunday 27 June 1971, the date of the 400th anniversary, Harold and Mary Wilson attended. One cast member recalls that the former Prime Minister congratulated the team on their performance.

The actors had wondered whether the play had been too solemn and too unfashionable to succeed, but the audiences loved it. Cleverdon knew his people. Each performance of the Miscellany was cheered to the rafters.

And, now, a new age dawns – a sliver of silver from the east: 2021 and a 450th birthday.

*The author wishes to credit Stuart Atkin, Dame Julia Cleverdon, Gordon Jones, Christopher Schenk, and Crispian Strachan for their invaluable comments.*



# CAMPAIGN NEWS

## AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

BRITTANY WELLNER JAMES, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



*We are sincerely grateful to the many alumni and friends who have given to the 450th Campaign this year. Since publicly launching our campaign in September 2018, we have raised an impressive £2 million towards the final £10 million of our original £45 million target.*



Northgate project 3D model currently on display in Hall.



During this period, over 1,000 alumni made a gift to College and an equal number showed their support by attending events as far afield as Singapore, Los Angeles and Tokyo, as well as much closer to home in Oxford, Cardiff and London. As we look forward to raising the final £8 million, we are encouraged by the renewed dedication and warmth shown by Jesus alumni and friends. Your commitment to College as we approach our milestone anniversary in 2021 is something for us all to celebrate.

We are excited to announce that construction at the new Northgate site is now underway. If you have visited College recently, you will have seen our hoardings on Cornmarket and Market Street.

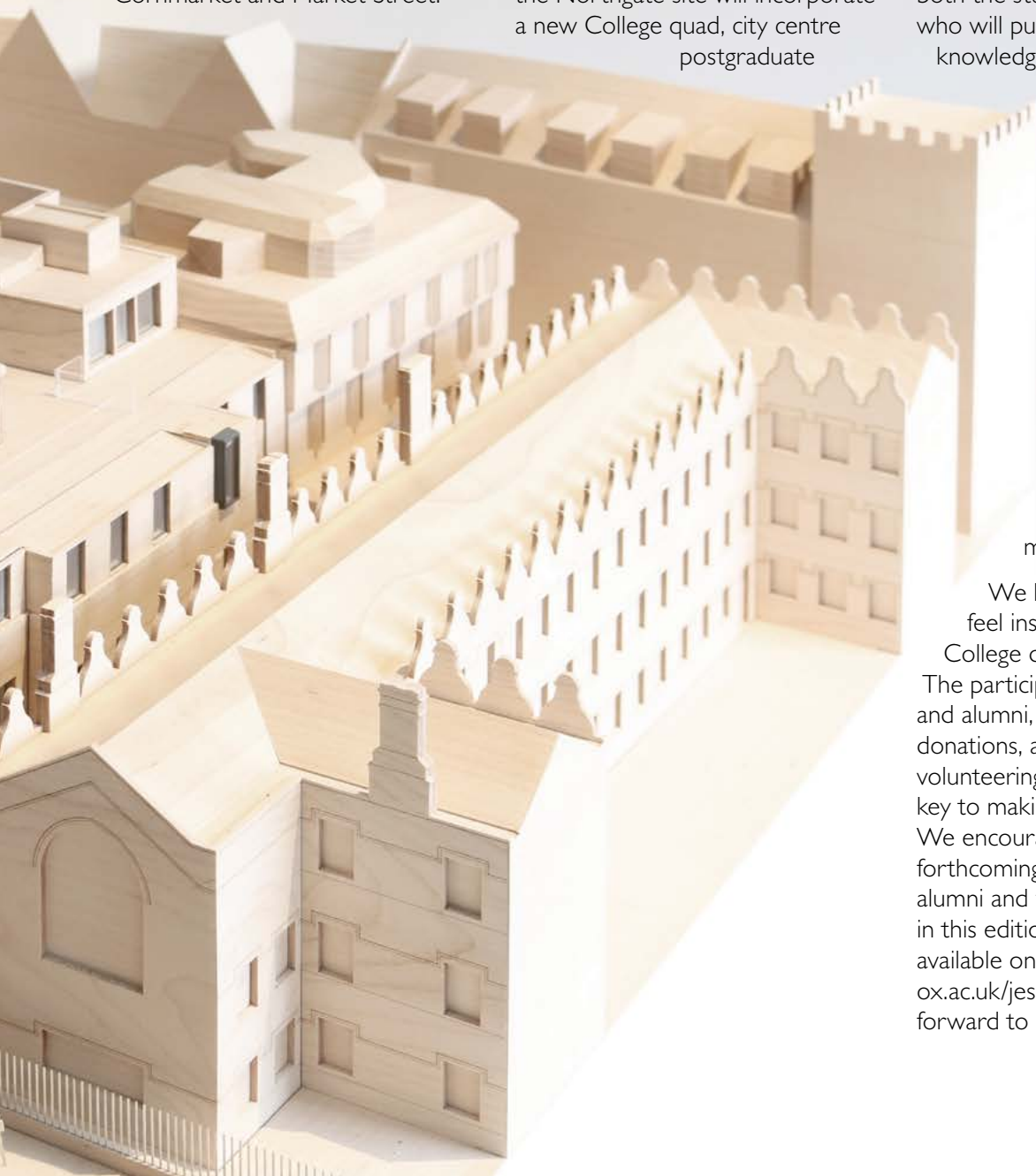
These tell the story of the College from its Elizabethan foundation to the present day, and share our excitement for what is to come. The pioneering redevelopment of the Northgate site will incorporate a new College quad, city centre postgraduate

accommodation, and inspiring multi-purpose teaching and learning spaces. It will enable the College's exceptional students and researchers to engage across disciplines, share their research, and explore the most pressing challenges of the 21st century.

With the funding for construction of the Northgate building secured, our focus now moves to the people who will work and think there. This means attracting and sustaining both the students and researchers who will push the boundaries of knowledge, and the teachers

who will inspire a new generation of learning. The further £8 million of philanthropic support we now seek will be used to bring to Jesus the minds who will harness the potential of the new building and secure Jesus College's place as a world-leading institution of study and research for another century and more.

We hope that you will feel inspired to support the College during this campaign. The participation of our donors and alumni, whether through donations, attending events, or volunteering your time and skills, is key to making this project a success. We encourage you to note the forthcoming events programme for alumni and friends – both printed in this edition of *Jesus News* and available online ([www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/jesus/events](http://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/jesus/events)) – and look forward to seeing you soon!









# CAMPAIGN NEWS

## AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

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On a sunny Monday in August, Jesus Development Director Brittany Wellner James met with the new 450th Campaign Co-Chairs Ruth Saunders (left, 1974, English) and Angela Jackson (1980, French & German) at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. Here they discuss with Brittany what the campaign means for them and what they hope to achieve in the year ahead.

### **How long have you served on the Campaign Board?**

**Angela:** One year, during which I was instrumental in securing a partnership with Penhaligon's perfumers for their Elisabethan Rose fragrance to enhance the Tudor Feast campaign launch in September 2018. I relished the opportunity to think outside the box to make new connections for the College. It came about through initially being asked to help with an event to raise funds for the Jesus Chair of Celtic, in which I secured sponsorship from Penderlyn

Distillery for the Welsh whisky known as "The Celt", and a table gift from Halen Môn of Anglesey sea salt.

**Ruth:** A while! I was asked to join the Campaign Board in 2013. I was previously working with the College and the University Alumni Association to devise some of the commemorations for the 40th anniversary of the 'Jesus Plan' in 2014. Last year, my Campaign contribution largely focused on the Jesus Chair of Celtic, and the plan to mark its successful completion with an event to come in 2020.

### **What excites you most about taking on the co-chairing role?**

**Angela:** The chance to experiment! To allow meetings with fellow alumni to become an ideas factory where you can back your ideas for social outreach and see them take flight. To highlight the new Northgate development as a building for the future for graduate and undergraduate studies. And to see investments being rewarded through the success of the College.

**Ruth:** I am delighted to be offered the chance to co-chair with Angela. This will definitely be an exciting year for the Campaign, offering new opportunities to pursue lateral thoughts and widening our horizons. One of my challenges will be to keep up with Angela's torrent of ideas!

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**What do you hope to achieve this year?**

**Angela:** For our alumni to reconnect with the College, especially under the rubric “it’s been a while...”

**Ruth:** I would count it a success if we bring more alumni back to College to feel part of its life today. To make that happen, we need to spread the word about the range of programmes on offer, from lectures highlighting new research, to extracurricular activities, to concerts – there is so much new activity going on in College for alumni to take part! I would also be delighted if our discussions translated into some new projects, which in turn brought in donations or sponsorship for the Campaign.

**What is your hope for alumni in the 45th anniversary year for women in 2019?**

**Angela:** For all alumni to know that the College is always there for them – just as it was in the past, it will be in the 21st century (and we hope beyond!), through the ever-increasing pace of change towards Artificial Intelligence, when collegiate qualities of teamwork, empathy, creativity – and humour – will be even more at a premium.

**Ruth:** I hope that women who have studied at Jesus College take note of this milestone and the vital role of our then Principal (Sir John Habakkuk) in making the case that

co-education across the University was long overdue. What’s more, I hope that all Old Members feel a valued and valuable part of the College – and will be inspired to play a role in its future.

**What key messages about the 450th Campaign do you want all alumni to know?**

**Angela:** That we have enjoyed the benefit of funding by earlier generations, so now “pay it forward”.

**Ruth:** The Campaign was planned to mark the 450th anniversary of our College in 2021, but no-one could have foreseen that it would also coincide with a time when big questions are being asked of our country. Among those questions, the value of university education – who should have access to it and what should be taught – are all on the agenda. I see the Campaign as a chance to take a hard look at the future and focus on what has always been important. We will have a new building and we hope to fund tutorial fellows, postgraduate scholarships and access bursaries for undergraduates – to bring that building to life, bring disciplines and people together and fill it with intellectual endeavour.

**What Campaign activities are you particularly excited about this year?**

**Angela:** There are so many activities to choose from, but I think

I am most excited about some creative workshops to design a few surprises for the big anniversary year in 2021...

**Ruth:** I’m looking forward to seeing if the Restoration and Georgian weekend can outdo the wonderful Tudor Feast we had last year. And I will be delighted to see the Hall full of women coming back to College for the sell-out 45th anniversary dinner in October. My friends and fellow alumnae – Helen Roe (1974, Music) and Rebecca Bilkau (1974, English Language and Literature) – co-wrote the music and lyrics so it will be thrilling to hear its premiere in Chapel and to have current Jesus students involved! My sister Carys Davies (1976, Engineering) is also supplying the artwork for this event.

*With very special thanks to Stephen Walker (1968, History), who served as Campaign Chair from 2015-2019 and is currently acting as special adviser to the Campaign.*

**YOU’RE INVITED TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION!**

Are you interested to learn more about our 450th Campaign activities and how you could help or become a volunteer? Please contact Angela and Ruth with any questions at E: [campaign.chair450@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:campaign.chair450@jesus.ox.ac.uk) – they would be delighted to hear from you.

*“I hope that all Old Members feel a valued and valuable part of the College – and will be inspired to play a role in its future.”*

*Ruth Saunders (1974, English)*





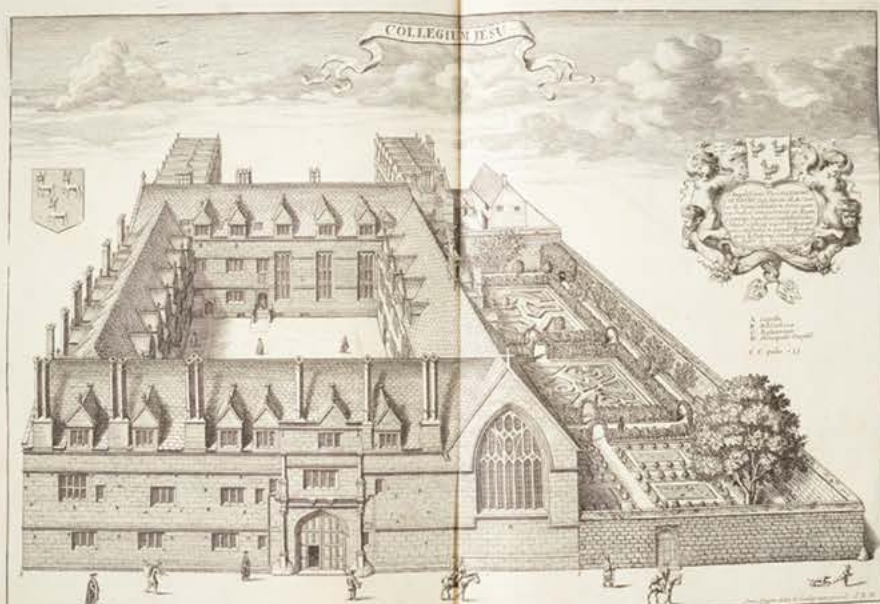


# JESUS COLLEGE, OXFORD 'OF QUEEN ELIZABETH'S FOUNDATION'

## THE FIRST 450 YEARS

We are celebrating the 450th anniversary of the College's foundation with an exciting new illustrated history book. It has been written by a team of Jesus academics and alumni, telling the story of our remarkable institution. Above all it will focus upon the people – the principals, dons, and students – who have lived and worked in this 'little College on the Turl'. We have drawn extensively on our own archives, many of them used for the first time, and on information from Jesubites past and present. Chapters on places and treasures – architecture, portraits and libraries – complement the historical narrative.

The volume will be lavishly produced, with over 200 images. We are offering all alumni a unique chance to become a subscriber to the history. Each subscriber will have their name printed in the book and will receive a discounted first edition copy. Details about this opportunity, including a subscription link, will be sent out to alumni by email later this year.



*Engraving of the College building, showing the main facade and the courtyard. The title 'COLLEGIUM JESU' is visible at the top.*



# CHAMPIONING JESUS WOMEN

## THE STORY OF THE FIRST 100 BURSARY



In 2014, to mark the 40th anniversary of women matriculating at Jesus, the College established a Bursary in celebration of the first 100 pioneering women who crossed the threshold as students.

Thanks to the generous support of fellow alumni, the First 100 Bursary has already supported two female undergraduates since its establishment. Its endowment continues to ensure that eligible female students have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the women who came before them.

In anticipation of the 50th anniversary of women in 2024, we now set our sights on raising funds over the next five years to support a female graduate student.

*If you are interested in hearing more about this opportunity, please contact the Director of Development, Brittany Wellner James.  
E: [brittany.wellnerjames@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:brittany.wellnerjames@jesus.ox.ac.uk)*



“The financial support received from the First 100 Women Bursary has allowed me to focus on my law degree, and on getting involved in extra-curricular programmes and the JCR Committee, by helping to mitigate against the financial stresses of attending University. As I am completely financially independent during term time, the bursary has allowed me to focus on spending time with my family during the holidays without the pressure of needing to make money to pay for my next term at Oxford.”

*Olivia Campbell (2017, Law)*







# JESUS COLLEGE

# ALUMNI EVENTS CALENDAR

Please find details of events in the forthcoming academic year. Further information will be sent out about individual events in due course, including details of how to book. Please note that we are unable to take early bookings for events.

## Annual Events Programme for 2019-20

### FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2019

- » Gaudy (1959, 1974, 1979, 1989, 2004)

### FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2019

- » Cadwallader Club Dinner

### FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2019

- » Jesus College 'Happy Hour'  
Bow Street Tavern, London

### WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2019

- » Christmas Carols and Donor Reception

### FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2020

- » St David's Day Celebrations

### SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2020

- » The Quinquennial Bahram Dehqani-Tafti Concert

### FRIDAY 3 APRIL 2020

- » Gaudy (1960, 1975, 1990, 2010, 2015)

### TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2020

- » Commemoration of Benefactors' Dinner

### SATURDAY 30 MAY 2020

- » Summer Eight

### SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2020

- » Legacy Lunch

### FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2020

- » Gaudy (1955 and before, 1963, 1970, 1995 and 2000)

## XL Network Events

The XL network organises a variety of events throughout the year. Please enquire for more details or visit the Network website: [jomg.org/](http://jomg.org/)

## ALUMNI ACCOMMODATION

We are pleased to offer accommodation, out of term time, to alumni at a discounted bed and breakfast rate. For further information and to book, please visit: [www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/visitors/accommodation](http://www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/visitors/accommodation)

## Campaign Events Programme for 2019-20

As we begin the second year of the 450th Anniversary Campaign, we are delighted to announce a programme of events that is inspired by the themes of 'Celebrating the Restoration and Georgian College', 'Celebrating the Enlightened College Today', and 'Celebrating 45 years of Jesus Women'.

### FRI 6 & SAT 7 SEPTEMBER 2019

- » Celebrating the Restoration and Georgian College: A Weekend of Experiences, Oxford

### FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2019

- » Celebrating 45 years of Jesus Women: Dinner, Oxford

### TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2019

- » Celebrating 45 years of Jesus Women: Drinks, The Lady of the Grapes, London

### SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2020

- » Celebrating 45 years of Jesus Women: Première of new choral composition, Oxford

### SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2020

- » Celebrating the Restoration and Georgian College: Jane Austen and Women in Performance, Oxford Playhouse

### FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2020

- » Celebrating the Enlightened College: All Alumni Dinner, Oxford

### TUESDAY 5 MAY 2020

- » Celebrating the Restoration and Georgian College: Annual Donor Reception, Dulwich Picture Gallery, London

### SATURDAY 20 JUNE 2020

- » Celebrating the Enlightened College: Interdisciplinary Symposium, Oxford

“A real reminder of the pleasure of learning. We'll be at the front of the queue if you set up anything else like this which we can get to.”

“I now appreciate why it is such a wonderful life-changing opportunity for young people to experience.”

“I was able to reconnect with several of my cohort – clearly the event had great appeal to younger and older alumni.”

For further information or to book events, please contact Peter Sutton

T: +44 (0) 1865 616810

E: [peter.sutton@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:peter.sutton@jesus.ox.ac.uk)

For regular events updates, please visit our alumni events website: [www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/jesus/events](http://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/jesus/events)

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