

# JESUS NEWS

2022



Jesus  
College  
OXFORD

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# Welcome from the Principal

Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt FRS FREng FBCS



Photo by Bev Shadbolt.

**It is a great pleasure to introduce this special edition of *Jesus News* in celebration of the completion of our spectacular new Cheng Yu Tung Building, during a year in which the College has once again demonstrated the pioneering spirit that makes our community so unique and special.**

It has been exactly a decade since we launched our 450th Anniversary Campaign to raise £45m in support of the College's academic ambitions, and nearly three years since we broke ground on the Northgate House site. Our plan was to create opportunities to position Jesus as a leading college for teaching and research at Oxford, utilising the latest digital technologies and exceptional learning spaces to enable our students and academics to thrive. Our ambition was also to develop a new Digital Hub that would become a locus for collaborative academic endeavour across the university and beyond, and make Jesus more open and accessible to the public and also global academic communities.

As you read about the building and quad in this edition of *Jesus News*, we hope you will begin to see how the

exceptionally-crafted facilities will shape the future of Jesus College, and the members of our community who use them, for decades to come. Across these pages, as we reflect on how far the project has come, we are delighted to share new vistas of the development. We also explore the potential of the Digital Hub as a fulcrum for learning, research and public engagement in the digital age, as told by Dr Janina Schupp, SOUTHWORKS Career Development Fellow of the Digital Hub (see p. 28).

We wish to thank our alumni and friends for the generosity and unwavering support you have shown and continue to show College – support that has allowed us to successfully complete our 450th Anniversary Campaign. Your contributions towards the campaign and its initiatives have created many exciting opportunities for our academic community, not just in terms of our impressive new building, but also in supporting our people with the creation of undergraduate bursaries and graduate studentships, Junior Research and Career Development Fellowships, endowed lectureships, new statutory chairs and the restoration of the historic Chair of Celtic. You can find out more about our campaign success in the Director of Development's update (see p. 61).

In addition, we have been able to expand our access and outreach programmes significantly, including the endowment of our Welsh Summer School. Attracting and supporting the brightest students to achieve their full academic potential remains intrinsic to our purpose, and it is with gratitude for your commitment that we have been able to continue and grow such programmes over the period of the campaign.

The strides we have made in such a relatively short period have been both significant and inspiring. Now, with the opening of the Digital Hub and new teaching spaces in the Cheng Yu Tung Building this coming Michaelmas, we are firmly focused on the future of Jesus College – a future which your continued support will help to shape. We greatly look forward to welcoming you back to College soon, to explore for yourselves this exciting addition to our historic site.

All best wishes

*Nigel Shadbolt*





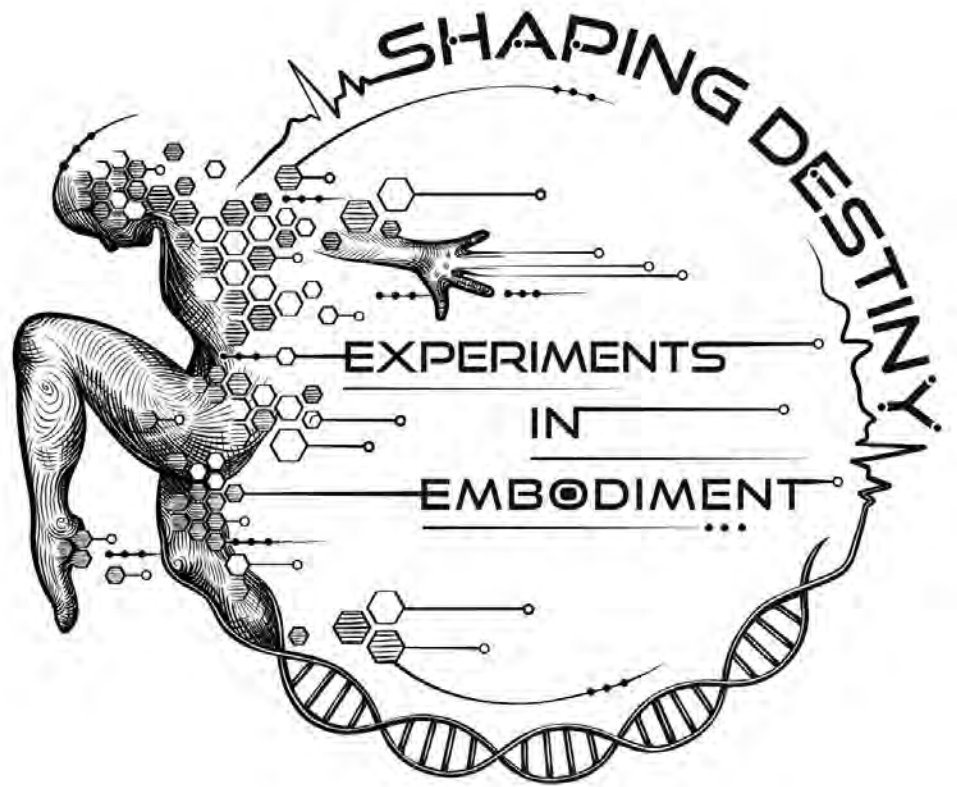
*Chaotic Body Strange Attractor.*

*Photo courtesy of Alexander Whitley*



# Shaping Destiny: Experiments in Embodiment

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**An innovative co-creation project that will showcase key Oxford University science and humanities research is using virtual reality, dance and theatre to explore and convey the biological and societal concepts of embodiment and destiny.**

The Srinivas Group, led by Jesus College Zeitlyn Fellow and Tutor in Medicine Professor Shankar Srinivas, has been awarded a £188,185 Wellcome Foundation Enriching Engagement grant to develop Shaping Destiny: Experiments in Embodiment, a major interdisciplinary collaboration between the University's Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics (DPAG) and The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH).

Aimed at encouraging engagement with a wider audience, the Shaping Destiny project is using dance, theatre, and virtual reality to explore the intersecting ideas of embodiment, physical form, and the social norms which determine and shape human destiny.

From a biomedical perspective, embodiment is primarily a material idea, relating to the generation and shaping of cells, tissues, and organs. Humanities researchers, however, view embodiment as a lived experience, defined by having bodies with a range of capacities and attributes which are embedded in historical, social and cultural contexts.

The project's science side, led by Shankar and the team at DPAG, explores the concept of



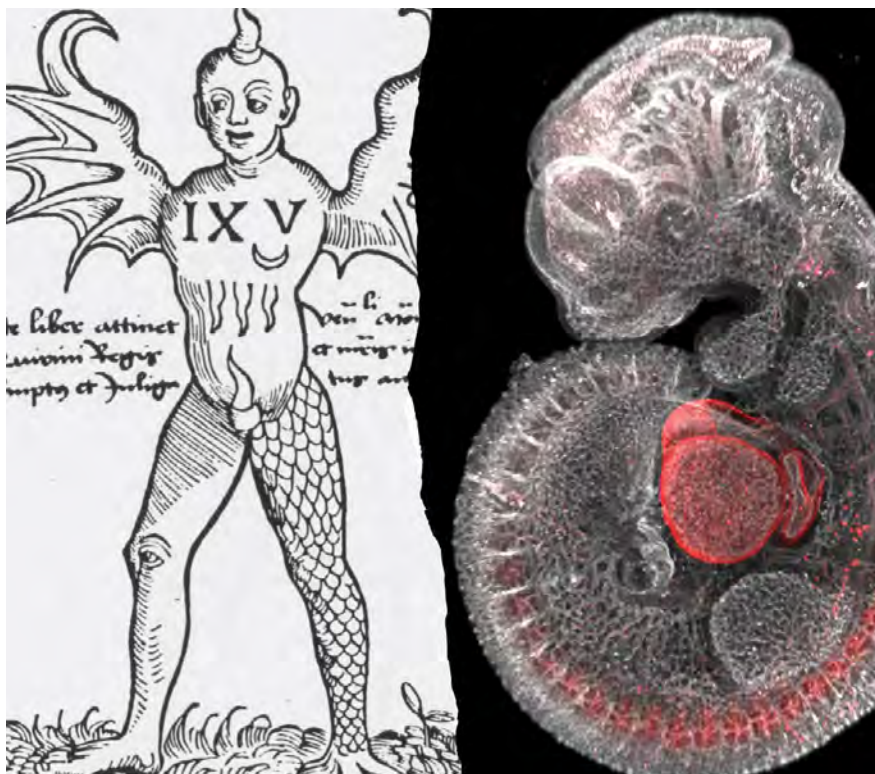


Shankar Srinivas.

'determinism' and how certain cells are destined to create body parts (for example, heart cells are destined to form a heart). While genes play an important role in this there are limits, and the project investigates how other factors such as the external environment influence our destiny and embodiment.

On the humanities side, Director of TORCH Professor Wes Williams studies the idea of the human 'norm', examining human differences throughout history. For example, how in the past society explained congenital defects as the work of devilish or divine intervention, or the actions or thoughts of the mother during pregnancy.

The project lead is Dr Tomoko Watanabe of DPAG, who is coordinating the activities of a number of external partners and community groups, including non-profit dance theatre company Body Politic; the Parasol Project – an Oxford-based charity working with differently-abled young people; Alexander Whitley, a digital dance choreographer; and Kostas Pataridis, a specialist in Virtual Reality.



Drawing, above left, is an early sixteenth century depiction of 'The Monster of Ravenna'. At right: an image of a mouse embryo, with blood vessels in grey and the heart in red.

Embryo image: Richard Tyser, Srinivas Group.



Young people from Body Politic.





*Wes with Parasol Project dancers.*

“Co-creation and co-production are at the root of the Shaping Destiny project,” comments Tomoko. “Using participatory mediums like dance and theatre is a much more powerful way to capture and convey the dynamism of the work we are undertaking at the University and present it to a wider audience”.

During the first phase of Shaping Destiny, choreographed dance pieces performed by young dancers from Body Politic and the Parasol Project will be recorded using motion capture to produce 3D scans, which will then be transformed into digital animations and VR art. Later this year, a



*Right: Shankar with the project's dancers.*





*Sophie preparing Parasol dancers for digital scanning session.*

dance sharing session will take place at Jesus College's newly-opened Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub, where the dancers will perform their creations, and the project's partners will discuss their experiences and outcomes to date. It's hoped that the project's finished VR presentation will premiere in October at the science and ideas festival, IF Oxford.

Sophie Stanley, choreographer at the Parasol Project, sees the Shaping Destiny project as a unique opportunity to bring together groups who wouldn't usually work together, "We'll be learning about the research undertaken at DPAG, and using our love of dance to bring to life the stories of the processes that underpin our form." She



*Kostas test scanning with Kinect Azures.*

explains, “I hope it will provide an opportunity for the Parasol Project and Body Politic dancers to feel both enthused by, and meaningfully connected to, the amazing research that happens in their home town, as I have personally experienced in preparing to deliver the sessions. Dance has the capacity to reveal commonalities between groups of people who would not ordinarily collaborate. It will be a great joy to set this feedback loop between science, technology, humanities, and dance in motion.”

The second phase of the Shaping Destiny project will roll on into 2023, and aims to transform the learnings, ideas, and insights of phase one into community theatre performances, to include participation in SOUTHWORKS Career Development Fellow Janina Schupp’s curated exhibition at the Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub in early 2023.

Readers can follow the project, which is being documented on social media channels Twitter and Instagram @ShapingDestinyx, and on its website: [shapingdestiny.art](http://shapingdestiny.art). The entire Shaping Destiny: Experiments in Embodiment project is also being captured on film by Man in a Hat filmmaker Gary Tanner for a future documentary. *Jesus News* hopes to revisit Shaping Destiny in next year’s magazine, reporting on the second phase of this ground-breaking co-production project.

To find out more about the Shaping Destiny project, please contact: Tomoko Watanabe, Department of Physiology Anatomy and Genetics, University of Oxford  
E: [tomoko.watanabe@dpag.ox.ac.uk](mailto:tomoko.watanabe@dpag.ox.ac.uk)

## The Key Players

### Shaping Destiny: Experiments in Embodiment



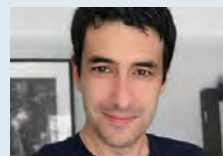
**Shankar Srinivas**, Zeitlyn Fellow and Tutor in Medicine, Jesus College. Professor of Development Biology, Department of Physiology, Anatomy & Genetics (DPAG).



**Alexander Whitley**, Digital Dance Choreographer, Artistic Director, Alexander Whitley Dance Company – a leading choreographer exploring the interface of dance and digital art.



**Wes Williams**, Associate Professor and Fellow in French, St Edmund Hall. Director of TORCH, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities.



**Kostas Pataridis**, Andromeda Software Development. VR coding specialist and award-winning digital artist.



**Tomoko Watanabe**, Project Lead, DPAG Outreach & Public Engagement Working Group.



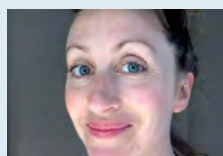
**Gary Tanner**, Director of Photography, Film maker, videographer, Editor, Man in a Hat Production.



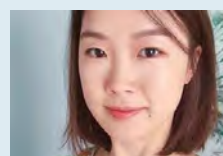
**Emma-Jane Greig**, Artistic Director, Body Politic. A not-for-profit dance company working with socially disadvantaged and marginalised communities.



**Philippa Sims**, MA Digital Publishing Student at Oxford Brookes University, and the project’s digital storyteller.

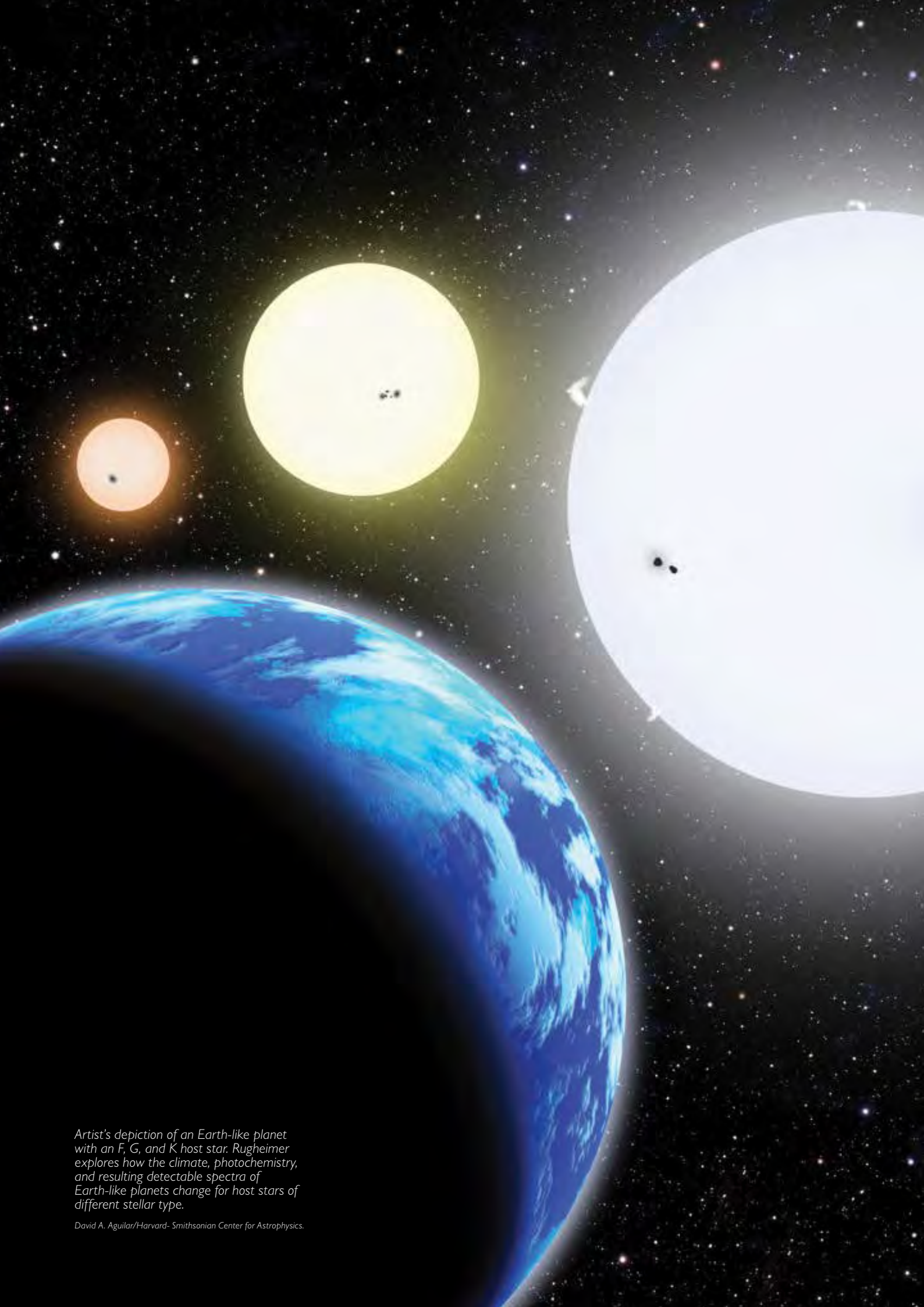


**Sophie Stanley**, Choreographer, Parasol Project – an Oxford charity working to enrich the lives of disadvantaged, differently abled and vulnerable young people.



**Amy Hong**, Project Evaluator. Amy conducts evaluation to capture outcome and impact of the Shaping Destiny project, and contributes to soundscapes.





Artist's depiction of an Earth-like planet with an F, G, and K host star. Rugheimer explores how the climate, photochemistry, and resulting detectable spectra of Earth-like planets change for host stars of different stellar type.

David A. Aguilar/Harvard- Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

# Are We Alone?

An interview with astrophysicist  
Sarah Rugheimer



Sarah Rugheimer. Photo credit: Bret Hartman.

**Astrophysicist, TED Fellow, author, and until recently Junior Research and Hugh Price Fellow at Jesus, Dr Sarah Rugheimer's early interest in astrophysics took her to Harvard, St Andrews, and eventually to Jesus College. Her TED Talk, *The Search for Microscopic Aliens*, has been watched by over 1.6m viewers.**

As an advocate for women in science, she hosts the podcast *Self-care with Drs Sarah* with fellow scientist and best friend, Dr Sarah Ballard, which features wide-ranging conversations around navigating science culture and the importance of self-care for women scientists.

In 2022, Sarah leaves Jesus College to take up the Allan I. Carswell Chair for the public understanding of astronomy at York University in Toronto.

## ***Tell us a little about your upbringing, family, and your education.***

I grew up in a small town in Montana. For me, Oxford is quite large for a city, larger than any town we have in the entire state. For comparison, Montana is the size of Germany and has only one million people. The town I am from, one of the largest in the state, has 25,000 people. I never expected to live in other countries, get a PhD from Harvard, or end up at Oxford. It has been an unexpected joy to have these global experiences and opportunities. Physics does seem to run in my family though; my dad was a physics professor at Montana State University and my brother is a physics professor there now.

## ***Why astrophysics?***

Originally, I had no intention of doing astrophysics. I thought I would do a medical physics degree, perhaps an MD and a PhD, to conduct research in a clinical setting. However, after finishing my physics bachelor's degree I sat in on a conference session about detecting extraterrestrial life and I was hooked. I couldn't believe that we were reaching the technological capability to answer this fundamental human question of whether we are alone in the Universe. I changed direction completely and applied only to astrophysics PhD programmes, having never taken an astronomy class.

## ***Describe your research activities while you've been at Oxford, and what you're most proud of.***

In addition to finding signs of life, I am also curious to see if we can detect planets that are earlier in



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their evolution, ready for the origins of life, or planets that perhaps represent a failed biosphere, where they never quite got off the ground to have a global biosphere. I am also actively part of a European initiative called LIFE – the Large Interferometer for Exoplanets – a future telescope that will be able to look for biosignatures in dozens of habitable planets. This is the next step since the currently-planned missions will only be able to measure the atmospheres of a few habitable worlds.

### ***It's an obvious one, but are we alone?***

I am betting my career we are not! But I am not making a distinction here between intelligent and microscopic life. It is much easier to detect microbial life. Microbes make most of the biosignature gasses in our atmosphere, and they have been around billions of years longer than humans. Additionally, we have signs of microscopic life dating back to some of the earliest rocks on Earth, so it seems likely that primitive life at least started very quickly, whereas complex life took much longer. I am optimistic we will detect signs of microbial life in the next few decades if not earlier.

### ***Do you believe in the viability of colonising other planets? And how can astrophysics improve life on earth?***

There is the question of viability and the question of ethics. Given how cavalier and harmful especially Western humans have been in colonising other places on Earth, we should be alerted to the ethical implications and have those conversations as a globe, rather than a few (wealthy) individuals.

The viability question is a separate issue and perhaps easier to answer than the ethics. Mars is the likeliest place for humans to visit or live, however it must be emphatically stated that the most inhospitable place on Earth, say Antarctica in their winter, is infinitely more friendly to humans than the balmiest place on Mars. Mars has no atmosphere to speak of, toxic soil, and high radiation. So I don't think we should consider it a "Planet B". Earth is the planet we need to protect and nurture. Exoplanets are even more far-fetched. The nearest exoplanet would take thousands of years to get to - it is not an option in our technologically-conceivable time horizon.

Before humans go to any habitable environment, I hope we first give scientists ample room to explore any life past or present in that environment. Earth-life has highly evolved over the last 4 billion years and could contaminate other environments, perhaps overwriting any signs of life or causing its extinction. Microbes on Mars might not have moral status yet; certainly we don't care about microbes on Earth in the same way. But if microbes are the only life in that tough Martian environment, I think it deserves extra care and a solid conversation on the ethics of tampering with that environment since we only have one chance to get it right.

***Your podcast, Selfcare with Drs Sarah, focusses on self-care for women in science, and includes some weighty topics including imposter syndrome, body image, and cognitive distortions. What's your***

### ***definition of self-care and how do you practise it?***

I first really learned self-care in the mountains. On a long and remote expedition, you must take care to eat, drink, sleep, and breathe first. It's best to take care of any hot spots quickly before they turn into blisters, not after. We often push ourselves past healthy limits because of perceived obligations and stress. However, mountains are unforgiving. For me, this led to the realisation that self-care is also a pre-requisite to success in our work lives as well, not a luxury. We need to exercise, sleep, and manage stress to perform our best. When we are healthy and happy, we do our best work. Decades of neuroscience and psychology research have supported this conclusion.

So, how do we then put it into practise, particularly with the ever-increasing demands on our time and resources? One nugget of wisdom I have taken to heart is from my mentor: "Take care of the body first. That means good sleep comes before work. Exercise comes before work. Eating healthy comes before work." By putting these as priorities, I am able to work more sustainably and my mental health is also bolstered. Kevin Kelly, the founding executive editor of *Wired*, said it another way: "The best work ethic requires a good rest ethic."

### ***It's refreshing to have influential women scientists use their voice to empower future scientists: what would you say to encourage more women into science?***

We know that diverse teams (gender/racial/neurotypes/age/class

etc) provide the best outcomes. We are more likely to see new creative solutions when there is a diversity of voices. So, we need you to do the best science! If you are curious and interested, science is a wonderful career. Astronomy has taken me all over the globe and has challenged me (and sometimes frustrated me), while also being incredibly rewarding.

**Name your Top Five Females to Follow: women you believe have made, or will make, an impact on science previously and in the future.**

There are of course your classic answers like Marie Curie – and her daughter Irène who also won the Nobel Prize, the only mother/daughter duo – or more recently Dame Sarah Gilbert of the Oxford vaccine, but I am going to highlight less well-known scientists because it isn't just the well-known scientists who have a large impact. In fact, the contributions of women scientists have largely been left out of history, as is highlighted in the excellent popular science book by fellow Oxfordian Prof. Suzie Sheehy, *The Matter of Everything: Twelve Experiments that Changed Our World*.

Here are some women you probably haven't heard of:

**Professor Aomawa Shields** has had a winding career path; first an actress and then later going back to grad school to get her PhD in astrophysics. She also studies exoplanets and leads a group in modelling climate and habitability. She is a TED Fellow, a Kavli Fellow, and is the Founder & Director of Rising Stargirls, among many other accolades.

**Dr Karin Hellner** at the University's Department of Women's Health & Reproductive Medicine is leading a vaccine trial to help prevent cervical cancer with a vaccine to clear persistent HPV infections. Similar to the AstraZeneca vaccine technology, this vaccine would work in tandem with previous vaccines like Gardasil to improve women's health.

**Professor Colleen Hayes** is recently retired from the University of Wisconsin, and she tirelessly led decades of research to show the influence of vitamin D in autoimmunity. At first this research wasn't widely accepted, but in the last decade the paradigm has shifted and it is now standard protocol in the care of many autoimmune diseases. She entered this field 40 years ago when a professor of hers said that, since autoimmunity predominantly impacts women, men don't study it so she should.

**Professor Clara Sousa-Silva** is a quantum astrochemist and first proposed the idea that phosphine would be a unique biosignature in terrestrial exoplanets while she was at UCL. At MIT she furthered this idea and is now creating a rapid spectral database to get the line lists for molecules that astronomers will want to use to interpret and plan future observations.

**Dr Donna Blackmond** studies the chemistry that led to the origin of life, and in particular how life has its strange handedness (chirality). In the field of Origins there have been relatively few women, and Blackmond has been a pioneer in the study of some of the basic chemistry that underpins our biology.

**Who has been your biggest influence, professionally or personally?**

I have had a life mentor since I was 13 years old, Sally Conrad. She has been there through all the ups and downs over the past 25 years and she is by far the biggest influence on my life, even though she does something completely different for her work – she trains horses and is an adaptive riding teacher for kids with disabilities. Her speciality is providing pithy nuggets of wisdom for any situation. For example, "Take care of the body first", or "You don't need a plan, you need priorities". Two pieces of wisdom I often reference.

**If you had an unlimited research grant, where would you focus next?**

If I had a truly unlimited research grant, I'd build the LIFE mission, the Large Interferometer for Exoplanets, which is a mission team where I am a co-PI. I'd make it even larger than it is currently hoped for (why not, with this magic wand?) so that we could guarantee the capability of detecting a statistically significant number of Earth analogue planets. This would cost several billion dollars, but it is our best chance of answering the question, "Are we alone in the Universe?" before I die.

**What's next for you?**

I am moving to York University in Toronto to take up the Allan I Carswell Chair for the public understanding of astronomy. I will start my research group, have recently hired my first graduate student, and have been awarded my first Canadian research grant. Jesus College has been a launching pad for my career, and I will dearly miss my colleagues and friends here, Fellows and alumni.



# Advancing Research in Early Childhood Education and Care

Lydia L.S. Chan, (2005, DPhil) Yew Chung College of Early Childhood Education

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A new Junior Research Fellowship focused on early childhood education and care (ECEC) has been established by Oxford University's Department of Education in collaboration with Jesus College. Made possible by a generous gift from alumna Dr Lydia L.S. Chan (2005, DPhil), the Sylva-Chan Junior Research Fellowship ensures continued momentum for research in this important field.



*Dr Lydia L.S. Chan.*

Lydia L.S. Chan came up to Jesus in 2005 to read for a DPhil in the Department of Education, supervised by Professor Kathy Sylva, Emeritus Fellow and Professor of Educational Psychology, Department of Education. Now Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the non-profit Yew Chung Education Foundation (YCEF) and Member of the Board of Governors and Chairlady of the Council of the Yew Chung College of Early Childhood Education (YCCECE) in Hong Kong, Lydia's interest in progressive education was piqued initially by her paternal grandmother, Madam Chan-Tsang Chor Hang. Madam Chan-Tsang

founded the first Yew Chung School in Hong Kong in 1932, later passing the baton to her eldest daughter (Lydia's aunt), Dr Betty Chan Po-king, in the 1970s.

The YCEF philanthropically operates a wide spectrum of education provision from "Babies to Bachelor Degrees", spanning Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary education. The Yew Chung International Schools and Kindergartens are well-known for their pioneering bilingual (Chinese and English) and co-cultural (Eastern and

Western) programmes, catering for children as young as six months old. The YCCECE, which is the first and only Higher Education Institution specialising in the Early Years in Hong Kong, also made history as the first private non-profit organisation to train teachers and child care practitioners. Apart from its pre-service and in-service programmes, YCCECE is active in research and community projects, most notably through its flagship Pamela Peck Discovery Space – an innovative learning-through-play centre designed for children from birth to age eight.

Lydia has maintained strong ties with Oxford and Jesus College,

emphasising that her years as a DPhil student and post-doc taught her everything she knows about research, as well as giving her a deep appreciation for the art and science of education. But it is the important skills of leadership and mentoring which she attributes directly to observing Kathy Sylva, the Convenor of the then Families, Early Learning & Literacy (FELL) Research Group at Oxford, that had the greatest impact on Lydia. According to Lydia, it was Kathy's ability to spot and quietly nurture young talent that set her apart from others in the field. It is fitting therefore that the establishment of the new Sylva-Chan Junior Research Fellowship acknowledges the important contribution that Kathy Sylva has made in informing policy and practice in the UK and beyond,



*Professor Kathy Sylva, Emeritus Fellow and Professor of Educational Psychology, Department of Education.*



*Katharina Ereky-Stevens, the new Sylva-Chan Junior Research Fellow.*

for which she was awarded an OBE, and pays tribute to her enduring impact on the next generation of scholars.

The new Sylva-Chan Junior Research Fellow, Dr Katharina Ereky-Stevens, took up her post in May 2022 and is focusing on expanding ECEC research within the University's Department of Education. Her research explores the quality of young children's relationships and interactions with caregivers, and Katharina has a particular interest in the provision of support for disadvantaged families and their young children.

A former DPhil student of Kathy Sylva, Katharina is working under the mentorship of Iram Siraj, Professor of Child Development and Education, who was also joint researcher with Kathy Sylva on many previous landmark studies. Commenting on her appointment, Katharina said, "I am honoured to have been selected as the recipient of the Sylva-Chan Fellowship... It will be real privilege to honour Kathy's contribution to this research field, and I will strive to add to

what we have learned about the importance of good quality early childhood education and care for young children, and the benefits it can have for children's development, wellbeing and their future lives. I am hoping that the findings of the research through this Fellowship will help to make a difference in the future."

Talking to *Jesus News* about the JRF Lydia said, "It is a real privilege to be able to honour Professor Sylva and her unparalleled contributions to Early Childhood Education through this JRF, which will hopefully strengthen such research at Oxford, and inspire other gifts toward the same goal. I also wished to pay tribute to my own family of distinguished educators, beginning with my late grandmother, Madam Chan-Tsang Chor-hang, the Founder of our Yew Chung Schools, and to celebrate the lifelong friendship of Professor Sylva and my Aunt, Dr Betty Chan Po-king.

"They first met in 1989 in Hong

Kong, when my Aunt hosted the 'Childhood in the 21st Century' International Conference on Early Education and Development, bringing together researchers and practitioners from East Asia and the West for the very first time. Their joint passion and dedication to education ultimately led to me following in their footsteps, even though I had no idea that the professor I first met at the age of six in Oxford, when tagging along on one of my Aunt's business trips, would be my future doctoral supervisor and boss!

"I have also long admired Katharina since my DPhil days, and am most grateful for the support and friendship of Iram too. I very much look forward to witnessing the wonderful work that will be generated in the coming years, and wish them every success."

To read more, please visit: [www.development.ox.ac.uk/news/post-to-help-advance-research-in-early-childhood-education-and-care](http://www.development.ox.ac.uk/news/post-to-help-advance-research-in-early-childhood-education-and-care).



*Kathy (right) with Lydia (foreground), pictured in Oxford in 1990.*





# Life Upon the Wicked Stage

Alex Scott Fairley | 1996 | English



Photo by Isaac Perol.

**Alex Scott Fairley (1996, English) is a stage actor whose versatility has brought him roles in productions as diverse as *Chicago*, *The Gruffalo* and *Twelfth Night*. He is also a proof-reader, translator, writer and teacher, often delivering drama workshops for theatre companies. He recently relocated to Highland Perthshire, to pursue his hobbies of botany and mountain climbing. Here, he reflects on his career path following his time at Oxford.**

"You mustn't; you simply mustn't" was the reiterated plea of one of my tutors, Rosemary Pountney (Lecturer in English, 1984-2002), whenever it came to light that, alongside the study I was *supposed* to be doing, I was working on another play or musical. This came to light fairly often, since I was usually involved in three or four a term, and they would often be plays we were discussing in tutorial, and my hair would often be a different colour depending on what role I was playing. ("It doesn't suit you," she remarked once, of my peroxidised hair).

University was an unknown quantity for me; no-one in my family had ever attended one, and I'm not sure I navigated it terribly well. The one thing I think I did take full advantage of was the ability to embrace theatre. I don't think I realised at the time the immense privilege of being able to work with professional crews in venues like the Playhouse or Old Fire Station, on shows that ranged from *Cabaret* and *The Wizard of Oz*, to *Peer Gynt* and *Richard III*. I think I understood even less how truly extraordinary it was to meet people like Douglas Adams, be directed by Peter Shaffer, or be part of workshops led by Fiona Shaw or Selina Cadell.

I don't really know how my relationship with theatre started. Certainly none of my family were remotely connected with it but my late mum, having heard an advert on the radio in 1989, had sent me to an audition at a local repertory theatre for a musical production of *Matilda* (decidedly not the version that's currently running in London). I'm fairly sure my audition was dreadful but there was one boy to every twenty girls, so I was given a role in the child chorus and I immediately fell in love with being someone I wasn't. It was altogether more comfortable than being myself, and an escape from a not altogether harmonious home life. On top of that, I was entranced by these grown-ups who got to make a living by telling stories, and making people laugh, cry, and think.

I've now been acting professionally for almost a quarter of a century. I'm a stage actor so, no, I probably haven't been in anything you've seen. I have no ambition for fame or fortune, even if those avenues were

available to me. I'm merely what used to be called 'a journeyman actor', and I'm immensely proud of that.

I've been exceptionally fortunate in the variety of my career and I suppose if I have a strong suit, it's versatility. I've performed with repertory theatre companies, in plays by Ayckbourn, Beckett, J.M. Barrie, Wilde, and Stoppard; in site-specific Shakespeare plays; in national tours of Canada, the USA, and South East Asia in children's shows such as *The Gruffalo* and *Room on the Broom*; in over a dozen pantomimes; and in West End and regional productions of musicals such as *Blood Brothers*, *The Shakespeare Revue*, *High Society*, and *Chicago*. The last is probably one of the roles I'm proudest of, since the technically challenging part of Mary Sunshine involves coloratura soprano. I'm currently preparing to work in Coventry, playing Iago in a deconstructed retelling of *Othello*.

As I write, it's a profoundly uneasy time for my industry. Like most of the rest of the world, we are in a period of flux. There are some long-standing, iniquitous institutional practices that are only now, slowly, being dismantled. Added to this, the pandemic has dealt what might yet prove to be mortal wounds to some parts of our sector. Whilst flagship buildings have – with well-publicised funding – weathered the storm, countless freelancers like me have found themselves ineligible for support and bereft of work opportunities. Theatre is collaborative. When you can't be with other people, it is much harder to collaborate. Innovative, accessible virtual work has been an upside of





*An Inspector Calls.*

the pandemic, but it will never be a full replacement for live work.

I call myself an actor, as it's always been my main line of work, but I'm also a proof-reader and translator. I work for my husband's office-based business, and my sister's construction-based business, and I also facilitate and design workshops and teaching, both for drama and regular schools. Without these 'day jobs', I would simply be unable to practice my craft. Other actor friends of mine do everything from bar work to landscape gardening, because we simply have to, in order to survive.

I'm very lucky that I enjoy my secondary streams of work, and they're often reciprocal to my stage work. Many of my proof-reading

clients are academics, and I recently finished working on Robert Marsden's *Inside the Rehearsal Room*; some of the contributions I proof-read were by Tiffany Stern, one of the most brilliant tutors who taught me at Oxford. I also adore teaching. Children are very honest, and their creativity and bravery know fewer bounds than those of self-censoring grown-ups, continually surprising and delighting me by finding new perspectives on the oldest of stories.

Much of an actor's life is quite humdrum, but I do have one anecdote that I cling to when I wonder what the point of all this poncing about in costumes is for. During my time touring with *The Gruffalo*, we were asked to perform a show to an audience of

three: two parents, and their son, who had an acute combination of severe physical and mental issues, including compromised immunity, which meant being in a full auditorium was impossible. We gave a rather surreal performance to this tiny audience, and received the most heartfelt thanks afterwards.

Some six years later, we received a letter from the boy's father, which ran, in part, "...you have been in my thoughts, and the great kindness you did for my son. One of the highlights of his short life was to see his beloved 'Gruffalo' and it was you who made that so. Thank you for providing us with such a wonderful memory of our son. It shines out amongst the many, many challenging ones we have."

To touch people's lives like that – to lead them to joy, to respite, to new thought, to empathy, or merely to be a proxy by which they can explore a world that they themselves cannot inhabit, is a rare thing indeed.

I should end this by admitting that I am not the most faithful of alumni! I may be excused, now living in Highland Perthshire, for my lack of attendance at reunions, though I still have very close friends from College, some of whom have unflinchingly sat through some of

my lesser work. But I will always be immensely thankful to the people – staff, tutors and students alike – for encouraging me to find myself through theatre, and for my study, which allowed me to pick all the drama texts out of the Literary Canon.

And I know that Rosemary Pountney, herself an actress, was secretly glad that I had done all of that drama. In 2011, I worked for Creation Theatre, in a site-responsive staging of *Doctor Faustus* at Blackwell's Bookshop. I was

especially delighted on one night – whilst dressed as Pope Adrian, and receiving a custard pie in the face – to see Rosemary in the audience. I had tea with her later that week, and it was a wonderful chance to speak to her as an actress and not as a tutor.

And, most politely, she didn't even comment on the colour of my hair.

*You can read more about Alex at [www.alexscottfairley.com](http://www.alexscottfairley.com).*

*Beauty & The Beast. Photo by Martin Smith.*







The Cheng Yu Tung Building. Photo: John Cairns.

# Introducing the Cheng Yu Tung Building

## A new chapter in College history

Jude Eades | Communications Manager



As we open the doors of our new Cheng Yu Tung Building – Jesus College’s largest physical transformation since the 18th century when Second Quad was finally completed – a quotation from Sir Winston Churchill comes to mind. During a speech about the rebuilding of the bombed-out House of Commons, given in the House of Lords in October 1943, he said “*We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us*”.

The vision that has guided the innovative design of our new building, and the purpose for which it will be used, is not so distant from Churchill’s eloquent summary of the impact of architecture on the self, on a community of people and on those who view it from a wider urban, geographical and historical perspective.

Combining spacious teaching facilities, an elevated Fourth Quad, new tower, graduate accommodation, and Digital Hub, and built using the highest-quality materials and craftsmanship, the Cheng Yu Tung Building reflects a College that values tradition but also has its feet firmly positioned in the 21st century.



As we now begin to explore and inhabit this exciting new addition to the College estate, there is no doubt that it will shape how we teach, how our students learn, and how we conduct our world-leading research in the decades to come.

### A new vision, a new strategy

It is 21 years since the College purchased the Grade II-listed Northgate House, on the corner of Cornmarket and Market Street, adjacent to our historic site. The four-storey concrete building,

*A glimpse of the Welsh Access Fund Quad from the elegant new staircase which connects the historic Third Quad with our new building. Photo: John Cairns.*

architecturally synonymous with the 1960s utilitarian aesthetic, had served as a comfortable home to generations of retail tenants including Marks & Spencer and the Co-Op. And so it continued in the early years of the College’s ownership, although thought was already being given as to how the site might be enhanced to benefit both the College and the city in the future.









*The new Fourth Quad – to be known as the Welsh Access Fund Quad – is a welcoming space in which members of our community can enjoy a chat with colleagues and friends, read or study, or simply enjoy the sunshine on a summer's day.* Photo: John Cairns.





Roll forward to 2016, and the development of our Strategic Plan 2016-2021 enabled those thoughts to evolve into an ambitious plan. With a flourishing academic and student community but limited architectural footprint, we needed additional research and teaching spaces. We also needed new facilities and accommodation to grow our postgraduate student numbers, in line with the University's goal to increase graduate study opportunities at Oxford.

*One of several spaces in the new building where our students and researchers can read or study. Photo: John Cairns.*

Beyond this was a vision to create a more open and accessible College, to become an outward-facing institution where the latest digital technologies and research methodologies could be harnessed to enhance our interdisciplinary academic pursuits, to facilitate our pioneering access and outreach programmes, and to engage with new audiences about our work

and people. As Jesus Principal Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt wrote in his afterword to the new College history in 2020, *"The ambition is that this new space will provide an outward-facing aspect, presenting an open College to the wider world."*

### The 450th Anniversary Campaign

Of course, none of our brave intentions would see fruition without a significant fundraising effort. In 2012, the College had launched its 450th Anniversary campaign to raise £45m towards future academic endeavours. Now that campaign took on an additional purpose. With a strapline *'Shaping the future of learning'*, the new messaging was powerful:

*"This development 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. It is also about the people – the current and future generations of academics and students – who will fill these spaces with their intellect, energy and creativity."*

The strength of this call to action reached generous supporters across the globe, helped in no small way by our Fellows, many of whom lent their voice to the campaign. In early 2017, thanks to an initiative instigated by Classics Fellow Professor Armand D'Angour, we secured a transformational donation of £15m from Hong Kong entrepreneur and philanthropist Dr Henry Cheng, through his London-based property company Knight Dragon. Dr Cheng's philanthropy gave us the security



and confidence to lay the physical foundations of the project, and it is a privilege to be able to name our building in honour of his father Cheng Yu Tung, and the Digital Hub after Dr Cheng himself.

Over the next year, working groups were formed, fact-finding missions were undertaken and a brief for the development of a new building on the Northgate House site was drawn up. Fifteen architects were

invited to respond to the brief and submit designs that reflected our unique and innovative plans. Two were shortlisted and MICA Architects Ltd was appointed.

### Turning a vision into reality

From the outset, MICA understood that the building would need to service many requirements, not just for the College but for central

*Our postgraduate students enjoy one of the best views of Oxford from the Postgraduate Lounge on the fourth floor of the new building.*

*Photo: John Cairns.*

Oxford and the local community too. With the opening of the new Westgate Centre, the focus of the retail district had shifted away from Cornmarket to the detriment of those shops, restaurants and cafés that remained. The new development needed to present an appealing prospect for retailers



*MICA's contemporary design enhances the existing retail shops and restaurants on Cornmarket, and integrates a brand new NHS health centre for 20,000 city's residents on the lower ground floor. Photo: John Cairns.*



and shoppers alike. There was also an opportunity to open up Market Street, to create a new vista that would encourage more visitors to explore the beautiful Covered Market – our neighbours since the late 18th century.

MICA appreciated the historical character of the College and our pride in its buildings, and sought to contemporise and integrate many of the characteristics that make Jesus so special. The challenge of juxtaposing classic and modern architecture gave rise to a design where everything from stonework and roof heights, to entrance ways and the sun-lit Fourth Quad echoed or complimented existing and much-loved historic features. Inspired by our vision to be more open and accessible, they also contrived a building full of light and

warmth; a building that would be inviting and welcoming to visitors and College members alike.

At the heart of their design and the College's vision was the Digital Hub. A first for any Oxford college, the Hub would integrate the latest digital technologies into open-plan convening areas, teaching spaces and meeting rooms, to enable our students and academics at all stages of their career to seize the exceptional opportunities presented in the digital age; to study using innovative digital tools and methodologies, and to work in collaboration across disciplines, institutes and time zones on research that had a global impact. Centred on a sweeping curved staircase rising three storeys high, the Hub would become a fulcrum for collective academic endeavour.

## Sustainability

Environmental sustainability was also imperative to the project's success – the design should integrate the latest high-performance materials and renewable energy technologies to make the new building net zero carbon. To achieve this, materials would be procured from a range of recycled or sustainable sources; for example, cross-laminated timber derived from sustainable forests in Germany to form the structure of the upper floors; and recycled aggregates (a by-product of the construction industry) to be mixed with the concrete in the building's floor slabs to maximise strength, and minimise concrete usage. Ground source heat pumps, photovoltaic panels and a heat recovery and cooling system





The attention to detail in MICA's design is showcased in the hand-crafted panelling and ceiling of the new Buchanan Tower Room and Rosaline Wong Gallery. Photo: John Cairns.



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would all be utilised to produce energy. Bespoke window design, in combination with the building's physical orientation, would enable natural light to flood the building all year round, reducing the need for artificial illumination.

## Work begins

In August 2018, following months of carefully-navigated discussions and consultations, planning permission was granted. Eye-catching hoardings were erected around the Northgate site boundary, and by December 2019 the majority of the existing building had been demolished by our construction partners BAM. In early 2020, development work began in earnest.

No one could have predicted what happened next – a worldwide pandemic the likes of which had not been experienced since the devastating march of Spanish Flu across Europe in the early 20th century – but, while the College closed its gates and our students and Fellows adapted to an academic life conducted mostly online, construction work was permitted to continue. In a few short months, BAM transformed what many saw as a 'hole in the ground in the middle of town' into something tangible; the steel framework of the lower floors was in position and the emerging structure quickly became cloaked in scaffolding.

## A new NHS medical centre is announced

In December 2020, we announced that planning consent had been given to Jesus and the partners of three local GP practices for work to commence on the integration

of a state-of-the-art NHS Primary Care Centre in the lower ground floor of the development. The new Northgate Health Centre, accessible via Market Street, would house the three practices under one roof, improving primary care access and other healthcare services for 20,000 Oxford residents, including students, in purpose-built facilities. The news was met with approval by the local community, and gave the College an opportunity to showcase the wider project to new audiences. Work began on the NHS centre in spring 2021.

The ebbs and flows of the pandemic continued throughout the year, as did BAM's commitment to continue working despite the often-changing COVID-19 restrictions in place. The timber frame of the upper floors was installed, and sustainable pre-fabricated concrete walls were fixed in place. By summer 2021, with most of the roof complete and both Clipsham limestone cladding and glazing underway, we were able to enjoy our first views of the new building in all its glory. The views were further improved in the autumn, when the striking of the scaffolding began and the focus of the development moved to completing the vast and beautiful interiors that MICA had so skilfully crafted.

## Our first residents

At the dawn of 2022, our attentions turned to the first residents of the Cheng Yu Tung Building – our postgraduate students. The four new postgraduate accommodation blocks, created to enjoy the most stunning views of Fourth Quad and Oxford's famous skyline, had

originally been scheduled to open with the rest of the building the previous summer. The pandemic however dictated otherwise, and so the construction programme was revised to ensure the development could be completed safely in the changed circumstances, and to the high standards of quality we expected.

By March the new en-suite bedrooms, kitchens, laundry and graduate study room were ready for occupation. Expectations were high and, as they rolled their weighty suitcases into their new rooms, our students could not have been more thrilled. As one remarked, *"Wow! My room is fantastic and the view is amazing. If I look up, I can see all the way to Boar's Hill. If I look down, I can watch the shoppers on Cornmarket."* Another said, *"It's amazing to be located in the middle of Oxford, yet in a space that's so quiet"*.

The positive buzz from our students, plus the knowledge that the end of the project was in sight, energised the whole Jesus community. In May 2022, we announced that the new Fourth Quad would be dedicated in honour of our Welsh access programme and the generous £1m gift to College by alumnus Oliver Thomas (2000, Economics & Management) and his family towards the future of our flagship Welsh Access Summer School. We were also delighted to announce the naming of the Tower Room in honour of alumnus Angus Buchanan VC (1913, Classics), thanks to a £1m gift towards graduate study at Jesus by alumnus Christopher Richey (1984, MPhil Management Studies)



and his family. This space will also be used for art exhibitions, and on such occasions will be known as the Rosaline Wong Gallery, with thanks to the generosity of Rosaline Wong and her family.

We are now delighted to be able to share with you a preview of this incredible addition to Jesus

College. Innovative, complementary and pragmatic in design, open and inclusive in nature, the Cheng Yu Tung Building will truly shape the future of learning and secure Jesus College's place as a world-leading institution for study and research *'for all future times'*. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to everyone who has been involved in, and

supported, the project, and we dedicate its success to each of you. In particular, we thank Dr Henry Cheng for his belief in our vision, and for his transformational gift to College that enabled that vision to metamorphose into the beautiful building we present across these pages.







The Digital Hub (with Tower Room).  
Photos: Jude Eades.



# Charging up the Digital Hub

## A first year of new initiatives

Janina Schupp | SOUTHWORKS Career Development Fellow of the Digital Hub



Janina Schupp.

**The new Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub at Jesus College will open its doors soon. Here, SOUTHWORKS Career Development Fellow of the Digital Hub, Dr Janina Schupp, reflects on the first year of Digital Hub initiatives developed under her curation.**

Since joining Jesus in the summer of 2021 as the SOUTHWORKS Career Development Fellow of the Digital Hub – a position supported by the generosity of Jesus College and Saïd Business School Associate Alumnus Alejandro Jack (2011, PGDip Global Business) and his SOUTHWORKS business partner Jonathan Halife – I have been working with members of our community to generate a landscape of original activities themed around scholarship and research in the digital age.

The Digital Hub Programme of curated events provides an exceptional opportunity to discover how technological progress is impacting research and the world all around us. Collaboratively created, the programme aims to think outside the box to generate new bridges between academic disciplines, create knowledge

exchange opportunities, and foster new collective approaches and innovation. Through a range of distinctive events, we explore how digital advancements enable us to rediscover the past in new ways, empower us to question the present, and enable all of us to define the future together.

Over this first year, our digitally-centred programme has already begun to showcase the potential of the Digital Hub and the College more widely as a unique nucleus of collective innovation in the digital era; giving just a preview of more great things to come.

In Michaelmas Term 2021 we launched our first initiative – the ongoing Digital Bootcamp – which provides workshops for the College community to boost their digital skills and personal development, and to discover cutting-edge technologies. These workshops provide a rare opportunity to learn more about the enormous potential of new interdisciplinary methods, tools and technologies, and how digital tech and processes can be utilised across a wide range of applications. Many students, staff,

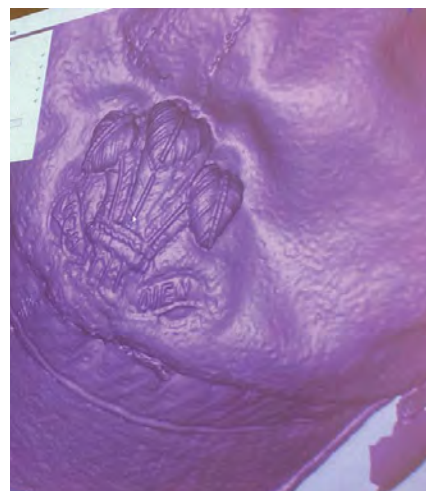
and Fellows have enthusiastically joined these sessions to gain insights into digital text editing and digital film production, and to benefit from the College's first personal development training sessions, including *Public Speaking in the Digital Age*. The feedback collected has been wonderful, with participants commenting that they learnt useful new skills, and hope to join more workshops in the future.

It has been especially rewarding to see how these hands-on workshops are enabling new connections across our community, including first year undergraduates collaborating with postgraduate students close to submission – and fresh bridges being formed across subjects as diverse as law, medicine, history, international development, computer sciences, and modern languages. My personal favourite so far, was our workshop on 3D object scanning, during which we produced digital twins of various real objects from the College collections.

These included a wax seal, a clock, and a rugby cap (pictured below) that belonged to alumnus



3D scanning of a rugby cap during the Digital Bootcamp workshop.







Interior of the Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub. Photo John Cairns.

William Edward Jones (1916, Theology), who later went on to become Dean of Brecon Cathedral (1950-64). Using the latest cutting-edge scanning technology, we manufactured digital models of these physical objects, accurately reflecting their texture, colours, and geometry, and preserved them in the virtual realm.

This inaugural year of Digital Hub activities has also seen the launch of the Digital Hub Reading Club, a fun, dynamic and accessible space for

discovering contemporary fiction on AI, robots, and everything digital. The Reading Club initiative is particularly exciting as it was created by the recently-established Digital Hub Student Committee. It also responds to wishes from the wider College community to come together in an informal way to discuss fictional narratives around the theme of technological progress (with the addition of some nice cakes and tea/coffee by the College catering team, of course).

The sessions are led by two brilliant current postgraduate students, Sarah Fengler and Andrzej Stuart-Thompson, and they chose to focus on Jeanette Winterson's *Frankissstein. A Love Story* (longlisted for the Booker Prize 2021) in the first session, followed by Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun* (2021, longlisted for the Booker Prize 2021) in the current term. As well as generating incredibly enjoyable and engaging conversations on important topics, the Reading Club also provides an important social function; bringing together staff, Fellows, and students in an informal setting to explore a shared passion, and removing perceived boundaries between different parts of our community.

With pandemic restrictions easing in Trinity Term 2022, we have been able to begin hosting our first Digital Hub public events, joining forces with a number of external collaborators. The opening public event – *Evolving Earth: An Interdisciplinary Challenge* – brought together interdisciplinary perspectives around the changes affecting our planet, and was organised in partnership with our wonderful DPhil student Harriet McKinley-Smith. With climate change and natural disasters never far from the news headlines, and our planet's fate resting very much in our hands, this in-person event heard from zoologists, chemists, geographers, art historians and more, who are adopting a variety of new approaches to tackle, or make sense of, our planet's most pressing environmental and societal challenges. It is especially rewarding to see that new collaborations are already being forged across



*Left: VR technology in action at the Immers-eXpo event.*

academic disciplines from the novel connections made at this event.

Our most recent public event was a large-scale showcase of the latest uses of immersive technology in academia and industry. As an in-person event, our Immers-eXpo: Immersive Research and the Metaverse enabled participants to explore advancements in immersive technologies, experience live demonstrations, and enjoy

lightning talks from academics and industry partners who are using these technologies in a variety of disciplines and settings across science, education, medicine, mental health, oriental studies, art, history, and cultural heritage. This event was also our first big collaboration with the University's IT Services, the Oxford X-Reality Hub, and several departments. With over 100 participants (and

a long waiting list) from around Oxford and beyond, the event proved extremely popular; and firmly placed Jesus College's new Digital Hub on the map for original digital-centred activities. A great sign of things to come as we move into our new venue in the Cheng Yu Tung building.

The first year of 'charging up' our new Digital Hub has been a wonderful opportunity for me to collaborate with the College community, and create exciting activities illuminating current work and future possibilities in the digital age. Many more activities are in the pipeline for the next academic year, including digital art exhibitions, hands-on public events, book launches, and a hackathon. We very much hope to see you join us.

Some of the exciting programmes we are running in the Digital Hub, as well as my post, are generously funded by alumni donations and corporate partners. and we also very much enjoy bringing in alumni for creative Hub collaborations. We welcome fresh ideas for Hub activities, partnerships, seminars and programmes. If you would like to be a part of the College's future by supporting our unique initiatives, we warmly invite you to consider ways you can collaborate with us and make an impact in the Digital Hub. Contact the Development Director; [brittany.wellnerjames@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:brittany.wellnerjames@jesus.ox.ac.uk), to find out more and discuss how you might like to get involved.



*Left: The Immers-eXpo event provided an opportunity for participants to network with like-minded colleagues from across the University.*









# Ancient Greek Literature: A six-week course for alumni

Armand D'Angour | Fellow and Tutor in Classics



**Who was Homer and are his epics worth reading? What's the big deal about Greek tragedy? Does Greek philosophy still have anything to teach us?**

These kinds of questions might well arise in the minds of those whose education and experience has left them with a lively sense of the contribution of the Classics to European culture, but who have enjoyed nothing of the deep contact with Classical life and literature that the undergraduate course at Oxford known traditionally as “Lit. Hum.” (standing for *Literae Humaniores*, “literature concerning humanity”, originally in distinction to theological studies) has offered *par excellence* since the University’s medieval foundation. They are the kind of questions that I, as a Professor of Classics, should be in a good position to try and answer, even if I’m rarely called upon to justify the subject in these terms. But even if one had a compelling desire to prove that

what has come down to us from the Classical world constitutes some of the greatest literature ever created, how could one reduce that into a short course that might be rewarding to attend, reasonably representative of Greek writings, and an encouragement to further reading in the area?

This was the challenge I set myself when I learned that sixteen alumni (or alumni-related candidates) had signed up to learn about Greek literature via a weekly online meeting, once a week for six weeks on Monday evenings in early 2022. The age-range spanned late teens to early 70s, with professions ranging from scientists and IT professionals to artists and former classicists. I didn’t want to overwhelm busy people with reading, but there would be little point in talking about literature every week without requiring some study in advance. While reading the ancient texts themselves without knowing much about their contexts might be a little bewildering for some, reading scholarship on Greek literature would be far less rewarding than encountering the originals. But those originals would have to be in translations that were both accurate and accessible; questions of translation were bound to arise, and did.

The massive breadth of classical literature – hundreds of books and authors from classical Greece over the 400-year period from 750 to 350 BC – makes selection a daunting task. It seemed to me best to work chronologically, and there could be only one place to begin: Homer. For millennia it was thought that the great bard sprang fully

*Left: Sappho and Erinna in a Garden at Mytilene, 1864; Simeon Solomon.*

Photo © Tate.  
[www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/solomon-sappho-and-erinna-in-a-garden-at-mytilene-t03063](http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/solomon-sappho-and-erinna-in-a-garden-at-mytilene-t03063)  
CC-BY-NC-ND 3.0 (Unported).



armed into existence, producing his great epics the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* with apparently no dependence on any previous literature – indeed that these were the first European poems to be written down at all, with the creation of the Greek alphabet in the eighth century BC. While scholarship has made inroads into the questions of Homer's literary background and models (particularly in the Near East), the dominant influence of Homer on all subsequent Western literature is beyond doubt.

The two epics of Homer consist of 24 books each with around 28,000 verses combined. How much could be read before our first session? I decided that it would be best to limit reading assignments to something that could be read in a single sitting of not more than three hours; introductory reading was available for those who had more time to spend. In the case of Homer, I chose Book 6 of the *Iliad*, in Caroline Alexander's loose verse translation: 529 lines of verse that portray Greeks and Trojans, men and women, fighting on the battlefield, conversing on and off it, displaying heroic attitudes and assumptions, and being presented in brilliant moments of pathos and affection. The full course schedule was given to all takers as follows, in each case with a couple of questions for readers to think about or to raise in the group for discussion.

### **800-700 BC: The Epic of Homer: *Iliad* Book 6.**

- a) What do you think is meant by the 'Heroic Age'?
- b) How does Epic deal with fate and death?

### **700-600 BC: The Age of Lyric: The fragments of Sappho.**

- a) "Love is to Sappho what War is to Homer". Discuss.
- b) Is Sappho's poetry autobiographical?

### **600-500 BC: The Advent of Philosophy: The Poems of Parmenides and Empedocles.**

- a) Does Parmenides' monism make sense?
- b) Is the philosophy of nature just primitive science?

### **500-400 BC: The Golden Age (I): Herodotus Histories Book I.**

- a) What do we mean by "history"?
- b) Herodotus is called the first historian, but was he a historian?

### **500-400 BC: The Golden Age (II): Sophocles *Antigone*.**

- a) Does *Antigone* represent a conflict between human and divine law?
- b) Who is the tragic figure in *Antigone*?

### **400-300 BC: The Philosophy of Plato: Symposium (selections).**

- a) Is Aristophanes' picture of Love unsatisfactory?
- b) Is the reader expected to believe Diotima's doctrine of love?

Given the numbers of students involved, rather than the standard tutorial hour I set the sessions at 75 minutes so that I could give a 20 or 30-minute introduction to the texts and their historical and

literary contexts, and then host a discussion in which everyone was invited to comment or ask questions. A few technical glitches with Zoom were eventually overcome and, very pleasingly, there was no sense of inhibition in the group: it felt as if everyone had a chance to say or ask something.

Among other questions we discussed the oral nature of the early texts, notions of philosophical progress, the meaning of fate and free will, and what might be lost in translation. A number of non-classicists expressed surprise at the sophistication and power of some of the thinking they encountered, and one (Fred Means) wondered whether Classics tended to undersell itself, as many of the questions it raised seemed so relevant to today's issues. Some declared themselves to be particularly taken with the poetry of Homer and Sappho, while others felt that the obscurity of the presocratics and of Plato's strange disquisition on Love made Greek philosophy less attractive than the literature.

At the end of the course it felt that yet more discussion was needed, but a further session for general discussion had to be aborted after my puppy went AWOL in the park and had me chasing around for an hour longer than I had planned. But there was vigorous consensus that reading (or rereading) the selected passages of Greek literature had been enlightening and pleasurable, and that the course had been a success – so by general acclamation I'm now working on "400 Years of Latin Literature" to be run (puppy allowing) at roughly the same time next year.

*If you are interested in joining the future course **400 Years of Latin Literature**, please contact the Development Events Team.*







# Active Latin Programme at Jesus

Melinda Letts | Tutor in Latin & Greek



Melinda Letts. Photo courtesy Oxford Latinitas.

**A pioneering project initiated by two Jesus academics is transforming how ancient languages are taught and learnt at Jesus. Dr Melinda Letts OBE, Tutor in Latin and Greek and Chair of Oxford Latinitas, explains how the use of Active Latin and Greek is enabling students from all backgrounds to enjoy ancient literature and philosophy.**

Classics was once viewed as a subject for the elite, for those who had had the benefit of learning Latin or Greek as part of a private education. Until 1960, O-Level Latin was an entrance requirement for all subjects at Oxford, and it was not until fifteen years later that Classics undergraduates were permitted to enter without prior knowledge of Ancient Greek. Today, Oxford has the largest Classics Faculty and programme of courses in the world, and thanks to the University's tireless efforts to encourage young people from wider backgrounds to apply to Oxford, a student's school background is no longer a barrier to pursuing the subject they love. Over the past three years,

around 40 percent of Classics undergraduates have come up to the University from UK state schools.\*

The flip side of this is that many Classics undergraduates now begin their Oxford experience with little or no knowledge of the ancient languages, or indeed of studying any foreign language at all. Developing the best possible language skills is vital to being able to read and interpret the ancient texts independently and with confidence, rather than relying on translations made by other people; but to do this from scratch over the course of four years is quite a big ask, and can leave such students at a significant disadvantage compared to those who were lucky enough to do Greek and Latin at school. Our students choose Classics because they're passionate about the subject, and watching them become demoralised as they struggled to understand their texts sentence by sentence, rather than reading and enjoying the beauty and insight of the literature, was becoming intolerable to me. After all, I'm passionate about the subject too, and I want to help every student enjoy it to the fullest possible extent.

In 2017, I was introduced to a brilliant student organisation – the Oxford Latinitas Project (OLP) – which was teaching Latin through spoken pedagogy (using Latin as the language of the classroom). Their classes, which were entirely extra-curricular, were proving very popular with undergraduates, and they were organising a week-long spoken Latin trip to Rome. I decided to join it.

The trip was revelatory. Much like a Modern Languages course, we immersed ourselves fully in Active Latin through intensive classes involving reading and discussing literature, developing prose composition skills, and teaching metre through singing. I was enormously impressed by how the students responded to grammar and texts when speaking the language. Even in a week I could see its potential for accelerating language acquisition in beginners and developing fluency in intermediate and advanced students. Having learnt the methodology myself, and with the help and insights of the OLP leadership, I started to think about how I might integrate this new teaching method to benefit our students at Jesus.



Adam Wilson.

We began to promote Active Latin to all Jesus classicists in Michaelmas 2019, by encouraging them to attend OLP classes. The following year we formalised it in our teaching with the help of Jenny Rallens, founding President of the OLP, and her successor Brian Lapsa.

Our 2020 intake included one complete beginner, Adam Wilson (pictured left), and, while he did attend the Elementary Latin classes that the Classics Faculty provides for beginners, we also added an hour a day of Active Latin to his timetable, taught by me twice a week and Brian on the other three days.

From his first day, therefore, Adam was speaking Latin in our classes, and we are hugely proud that he has just achieved a First in Mods, with exceptionally high marks in his Latin translation papers. He tells me that it was in his Active Latin classes that he really began to understand the language. Meanwhile Jenny gave Cicero reading classes to the other two Mods Latinists, Alec and Reuben, both of whom had A-level Latin but had never spoken it, while I used Active Latin for unseen comprehension and some set text reading. Armand D'Angour taught metre using the same method. By speaking and reading Latin most of the time during the classes, all three students were able to develop superior grammar and syntax skills, improve their vocabulary, and understand the ancient texts more comprehensively. Alec and Reuben have also just achieved Firsts in Mods, also with very high marks in their Latin language papers.

In Michaelmas 2021, we officially launched the Active Greek and Latin at Jesus Programme. This programme has been made possible by a generous gift from alumnus John Jagger (1957, BA Modern Languages). John was keen to support Classics at his old college and has given us £30k over three years to develop the programme.



*Krasimir Ivanov.*

His gift has enabled College to recruit a new member of teaching staff to assist us: Bulgarian academic Krasimir Ivanov, a fluent Latin speaker with several years of experience teaching through the Active Method. With Krasimir on board, we made the decision to withdraw our three 2021 Classics Freshers (all of whom were Latin beginners) from the Elementary Latin course at the Classics Faculty and teach them entirely in College. They have been fully immersed in Active Latin from day one, under Krasimir's tutelage, and, at the time of writing, had just done extremely well in their Trinity Term collections and were fully in the swing of reading the term's set texts: Vergil, Catullus, Propertius and Caesar. Next, they move on to Cicero, Juvenal, Petronius and Lucretius. Building on this promising start, we are now planning the introduction of Active Greek in Michaelmas Term 2022, to be taught by fluent Hellenist Jason Webber.

Our students' immersive experience with the ancient languages is not confined to the classroom. As Senior Member of

the student-run Oxford Ancient Languages Society, and with the enthusiastic support of Krasimir, Jason and others, I've been hosting fortnightly term-time Noctes Musarum (Nights of the Muses) on Saturday evenings. These are purely social occasions, held almost entirely in Latin, and open to everyone. We chat, enjoy drinks and canapés, play games, and sing Latin poetry, including settings of Vergil, Ovid, Horace, and various medieval works. Scansion tends not to be taught at school these days, and many students never learn it well, which means they miss out on experiencing the full beauty of the poetry they study; singing is a terrific way to get the sound of the poetry into students' heads, and incentivise them to learn the more technical aspects of varied metrical schemes.

The three Firsts our Latinists recently achieved in Mods were a record for Jesus, and the best Mods results for thirty years. Though obviously it's too soon to draw firm conclusions, it would be surprising if this terrific set of results was entirely coincidental, and we are enormously grateful to John Jagger for enabling us to introduce the new pedagogy. Active Latin and Greek have yet to become an official part of the University's Classics teaching, but we are hopeful that this is the start of an exciting new chapter in the history of teaching and studying ancient languages at Jesus.

*If you would like to support teaching or a specific subject at Jesus, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the College Development Team.*

\*University of Oxford Annual Admissions Statistical Report 2022.



# A Day in the Life of ...

## Rebecca Marriott, Opera Singer



Becca in the poster for *La bohème* at the Trafalgar Studios, West End.

**Becca Marriott (2005, English) is a critically-acclaimed lyric-spinto soprano who has performed in operas across the world, including roles in *La bohème*, *Tosca*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Die Walküre*, *Zanetto*, and *A Florentine Tragedy*.**

Becca is a lecture recitalist for Opera Prelude, and delivers masterclasses and lectures on both opera and literature. She is also a co-founder of The Opera Makers, whose mission is to dispel the myth that opera is an elitist art form, and who work to support emerging artists and make opera more accessible to audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

### **Tell us a little about yourself**

I grew up in North London. My father was a lecturer in cryptography and passionate amateur musician, and my mother had been a ballet dancer and was a wonderful and dedicated stay-at-home mum. I remember that after my parents divorced in the early 90's we had very little money, but that there was always enough for music lessons. For my parents, learning to play an instrument and to read musical score was non-negotiable. While my sister excelled

on violin and viola, I was always a bit of a disappointment – struggling to keep up and not really interested in my slow-progressing career as a school orchestral player at The Latymer Grammar in Edmonton, a school renowned for its music department and with a chamber orchestra which went on an annual international tour. I loved singing and began studying it aged 14, but I never seemed able to get into the top choirs because I just couldn't sight-sing (pick up a piece of music and sing it without learning the tune first). This didn't stop me however, and by age 17 I had achieved grade eight with merit. Yet, what I thought I really wanted was to be a 'proper' actress. By age 18 I had abandoned classical singing in favour of Shakespeare and Ibsen. I vividly recall my meeting with our school's universities and careers advisor. I told him I wanted to act, he replied that I had the grades to go to Oxford or Cambridge where

most actors start off anyway. Then he called his son: "Which Oxford college should you apply for if you want to mess around on stage... Magdalen?... OK. Remember to put the chicken in the oven." And so I applied to Magdalen College Oxford before being snaffled up by Jesus in 2005.

### **What happened after Oxford: what brought you to opera?**

During my time at Jesus, I followed my acting plan – taking a rather unconventional detour into improvised comedy. I performed with, and in my final year, directed, The Oxford Imps. This was a wonderful journey, and some of my closest friends at Oxford are now the comedians gracing your TV screens. I also performed in plays from Chekhov to Peter Morris' *The Guardians*, in which I took on a character based on Lindy England, the American soldier filmed torturing prisoners of war in Abu Graib. None of these experiences led me directly to opera, but they all enhanced my passion for performance. Upon graduating,



Becca performing in *Hopes & Fears*.

Photo credit Mark Gascoigne.

I returned to London and started looking for acting work, doing what most actors do and working in hospitality to pay the rent. By sheer coincidence, I was offered an opera chorus role through my membership of The National Youth Theatre, and I thought: I could do this opera thing, why not? After two years of singing lessons, I won a place on the Masters of Vocal Performance course at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. As I began my Masters, I was also offered the role of Tosca in Puccini's masterpiece, with up-coming off West End opera company, Opera Up Close. This role began my relationship with the King's Head Theatre, for which I went on to write and co-create three award-nominated and award-winning opera adaptations, including a production of *La bohème* which toured to the West End and was nominated for an Olivier Award in 2017.

### **How might a 'typical' day play out for you, both professionally and personally?**

One of the beauties of a freelance life is that you never know quite what is coming. However, since having a baby (now a toddler) I can safely expect my day to start around 6am, if not before. A typical day will include at least an hour - if not two - of practise and learning repertoire. It will also include at least two hours of admin and email-sending on behalf of the opera company which I co-founded in 2019, The Opera Makers. Sometimes I will have artistic work to complete for the company as well - writing new libretto, casting performers, curating programmes etc. Audition days are always

busy, with an obligatory long hot shower to steam the vocal cords, thirty-minute warm up, and the joy of choosing the right outfit and transforming myself from mother to diva in front of a vanity mirror, usually with the toddler trying to apply my blusher for me.

A harder aspect of freelance life is that to make ends meet one generally must have what most performers refer to as a "side hustle." For me, this has always been tutoring, and most days I will tutor one or two students in English literature (my degree has come in handy after all), plus there's toddler dressing, feeding, playing, and ferrying. With freelance income and work so precarious we rely heavily on family for childcare, so there's a fair amount of logistics to be handled on that front.

I include all this, because I think it is important for people to understand the realities of working in the arts, and how passionate those who choose to do so have to be. It is not an easy life choice, and most artists will juggle days and jobs in ways that leave them exhausted, but hopefully, fulfilled.

### **Your favourite role to perform/interpret?**

My absolute favourite role is that of Floria Tosca. Perhaps this is because it was my first professional engagement, but also because she is an absolute exercise in having heart and passion. Vocally and dramatically, this role is a glorious challenge. Lover, temptress, jealousy-driven weapon, murderess and protector; Tosca really is a force to be created.



Becca and Adam Spreadbury Mayer attending the Olivier Awards in 2017 for their production of *La bohème*.

### **Challenges and barriers: what advice would you give to aspiring singers and musicians?**

This will sound very boring, but my number one piece of advice would be: be sure. What do I mean by this? Well, as outlined above, most musicians will not achieve a steady life of fame and fortune and regular income. They will have portfolio careers – mixing performance, teaching, creating work, administration, and life together in a large, and usually underpaid, melting pot. If you do not love singing or playing enough, you are unlikely to survive. Be absolutely sure that music is your driver and that it is what you need from life.

Advice two would be: be realistic. By which I mean, have great expectations, but also have ideas to bolster your career around the main gamble of "performer, performer, performer." Make yourself as indispensable a musician and colleague as you can be. This might mean having great keyboard skills, excellent language skills,



dance, acting etc. Some people will have careers that allow them to just sing or just play their primary instrument, but the vast majority of performers have to have other strings to their bows. Investigate the careers of those you admire and be realistic about how you can get where you want to be.

My final piece of advice is go for it. Perhaps this is a slight contradiction to the other two and a bit more frivolous, but an artist's life is full of contradictions. Once you are sure, once you know the realities, you really must take the gamble and throw yourself in head-first. A career in classical music isn't something you can 'half do'. Yes, you may end up juggling many jobs and your personal life, but you must go for it 100% where and whenever possible, and be prepared to drop everything if the knock on the door comes.

**The Opera Makers is working to bring opera to the masses: how are you achieving that, and could it be modelled across the arts?**

For all performances at The Royal Opera House, one can buy tickets for under £10 if you are quick off the mark. This is not true of musical theatre or rock concerts or even many comedy clubs. What distances opera from the masses is not high prices, but perceived entertainment value and enduring perceptions of elitism.

The Opera Makers look to explode these notions by performing opera in relaxed and trendy venues, and by recreating classical and iconic works with adaptations that catapult them into the modern world, or which highlight their comic



Becca with Panaretos Kyriatzidis and Helena Jackson after collecting the Off West End Award for best opera production.

potential and really focus on great storytelling and entertainment. We forge partnerships with other organisations, including charities and social enterprises whose work mirrors the themes of the operas we are looking to stage, or is relevant to attracting and inspiring the audiences we wish to reach. For example, on our last production, *Hopes and Fears*, we partnered with Shine Cancer Support to enhance the narrative of our opera with the genuine voices of those living with a cancer diagnosis. Their stories inspired the work, but also added humour and grit to the lyricism of Debussy's music. This exemplifies what we want to do with opera: bring it back to reality and entwine it with the truth of peoples' lives.

**How did your experience at Oxford influence or shape your career?**

It wasn't until three years after leaving Oxford that I really settled on what I wanted to do. While I can't say that Oxford brought me to opera, what I can say is that

studying somewhere so iconic has given me the confidence I have needed to take the plunge in such a competitive world. It has given me the guts to say yes to things which might have daunted other creatives, including writing my first libretto when I had no real experience of this, and to always push myself.

**What's next for you?**

The Opera Makers are gearing up for their Halloween Gala on 27 October, which will celebrate all things gothic and gruesome in opera (early bird tickets now on sale [www.theoperamakers.com](http://www.theoperamakers.com)), at which I will be portraying some of opera's scariest ladies. We're also raising funds for an absolutely epic adaptation of Puccini's *Turandot*, due to premier in 2023 and created in partnership with Ellandar Productions, a British East and Southeast Asian theatre company.

As a singer, I am currently honing my audition package for 2023. As a mum...potty training!

*Wisteria in Second Quad. Photo: Bev Shadbolt.*







# Online Hate Speech: International Law and Policy

Talita de Souza Dias | Shaw Foundation Junior Research Fellow in Law

A powerful new documentary produced by Jesus College JRF Talita de Souza Dias aims to highlight and empower change to online behaviours.



Talita de Souza Dias.

Online hate speech is a pervasive phenomenon in a world where most social interactions take place over the internet at an unprecedented speed and reach. Yet, although online hate speech has led to real harms globally, states, tech companies and users have struggled to find an appropriate balance between countering online hate and protecting user freedom of expression.

In partnership with the University's Law Faculty and the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC), Shaw Foundation Junior Research Fellow in Law Dr Talita de Souza Dias has spent the first half of 2022 researching and producing a short documentary entitled *Online Hate Speech: International Law and Policy* which explores legal categories of online speech under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) – defined as

prohibited, limited, and protected – and presents their implications for relevant stakeholders.

Featuring powerful animations, video footage, and interviews with leading experts on the topic, the film takes the audience on a journey from general legal provisions to real-world examples of the tension between countering online hatred and protecting free speech. Examples include the role of Facebook in enabling violence against the Rohingya in Myanmar, Donald Trump's tweets and their influence on the 2021 attack on Washington DC's Capitol Building, and more recent instances of online hate speech in the context of the Russia-Ukraine war. The film also delivers guidance on online best practices to ensure respect for fundamental human rights.

Although the project is primarily targeted at users and other individuals affected by hate speech on online platforms, such as social media and messaging applications, it is also addressed to technology companies, civil society organisations, and policymakers in government, including legislative bodies, government ministries, regulatory agencies, courts and tribunals.

"This topic has never been more relevant," comments Talita. "Given the scale, speed and reach of social media platforms, states around the world – including the UK – have struggled to strike the appropriate balance between safety and freedom of expression online.

## Legal categories of online speech

**Prohibited speech** consists of advocacy of hatred that amounts to incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence on the basis of protected characteristics such as race, nationality, religion, gender and sexual orientation, as well as all ideas or theories of racial superiority. According to Article 20 of the ICCPR, states must prohibit these speech acts and criminalise their most serious manifestations, such as incitement to violence.

**Limited speech** acts are those that states may restrict to achieve specific legitimate aims: namely, to protect the rights or reputations of others, national security, public order, public health, or morals. Any such restrictions must be introduced by clear and accessible laws in a necessary and proportionate manner, in line with Article 19(3) ICCPR.

**Protected speech** comprises all content that is neither prohibited nor limited and therefore must be protected, including content that may be perceived as offensive or contain harsh criticism of political or cultural institutions.

"Our ambitions for *Online Hate Speech* are to unpack the different ways in which speech can be used to spread hate, violence and cause



*The 2021 Storming of Capitol Hill.*  
Tyler Merbler. CC by 2.0.

other types of harm to individuals. The film pieces together the rules of international law that apply to different types of online hate speech, informing users, online platforms, and states about their rights and responsibilities with regards to online content, and it proposes new regulatory and business models consistent with international law. I believe that, by informing and educating those stakeholders, the film also has the potential to shape their behaviour in the online environment.”

Talita has extensive research and public engagement experience

in related topics, including due diligence duties with respect to information and communications technologies and artificial intelligence, international protections against malicious cyber operations, legality and fair labelling in international law, and prosecutorial discretion. As well as publishing a range of academic articles in leading international law and human rights journals, Talita has given written and oral testimony before UK Parliamentary Committees, and delivered workshops, presentations and training sessions to state diplomats and legal advisors. She has also collaborated with technology companies, including Microsoft.

*Online Hate Speech: International Law and Policy* will be premiered at Jesus College’s brand new Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub, and will be published online on the project and departmental websites ([justspeech.org/](https://justspeech.org/) and [www.law.ox.ac.uk/](https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/)), as well as social media platforms, including YouTube.

*With special thanks to the Shaw Foundation, and especially to Harold Shaw, for supporting this Fellowship at Jesus. Support for JRF research across all subjects and disciplines is a College academic priority. Please contact the Development Office if you would like to find out more about this opportunity.*



# Private Passions... Bar Billiards

Mark Trafford | Sales Ledger Officer | Jesus College Accounts Team



Mark winning the Grand Prix in 2019. Only the 5th person to win the "Triple Crown" of World Title, Grand Prix, and All England Singles.

Mark Trafford joined Jesus College in 2019 as Sales Ledger Officer in the Accounts Team. In his spare time Mark's private passion, bar billiards, has grown from pub hobby to winning the World Championship three times, most recently in November 2021. Before Jesus News went to press, Mark won the National Pairs Tournament with Matt Jones from the High Wycombe league, and on 12 June he won the Sussex Open tournament for the first time..

I was born in November 1977 in Oxford, where I have lived all my life. I was football mad growing up and played for the local Kennington men's team for 15 years. I also play cricket in the summer, playing for Kennington for many years (Captaining them for about 10 years) until the team folded.

My Dad used to compete in Banger Racing and won many championships. I have two sisters: my older sister has two girls, one of whom is in the GB Gymnastics squad, and the other has recently started competing in kickboxing

competitions, winning a tournament earlier this year. My younger sister has twin boys who are also into kickboxing and football.

I was made redundant at my last company, where I had worked for nearly 14 years. After an offer of some temp work at Jesus College for a couple of weeks, I am still here three years later! When I was presented with the opportunity to become a full-time member of staff, it did not take very long to decide to accept as it is such a good place to work, with a great environment

and fantastic people to work alongside.

## **Why bar billiards, and when did your passion start?**

I was playing for a pool team in my local pub in Kennington with someone who played bar billiards, and he asked if I fancied playing with him in a League. I said yes and the rest, as they say, is history. This was in 2004. Unfortunately, my friend and mentor passed away in 2008, aged 44. I think about him each and every time I lift a trophy.



Mark's table in his home venue, the Oracle Snooker Club.

I only played on a Tuesday night to begin with and then I gave up playing a lot of pool in 2006 and joined a team playing billiards on a Thursday night.

**For those of us who don't know, can you explain the history of the game and also its rules?**

The game of bar billiards developed originally from the French billiard which, because of the expensive tables made in the 15th century, was played only by the French monarchy and the very rich. The game was transformed into Billiard Russe during the 16th century for Russian tsars and was a derivative of Bagatelle played by French royalty. Bar billiards first appeared in the UK during the early 1930s.

**Describe your practise regime**

Because there's no longer a table in our local pub, I do not do an awful lot of practising. When we have home matches, we will generally get to the venue an hour and a half before the start time to have a practise. I will always spend time playing various shots on the table. Unlike most other cue sports, when playing away from home, you are not allowed to practise on the table before the match starts.

**Best and worst part of the game/tournaments?**

The best part of going to tournaments is definitely the atmosphere. The bar billiards community is like a big family and you only get to see these people when playing in the big tournaments. It's always great to meet up with them all; it's such a friendly environment.

The worst part of the game is



*Mark (left) winning the National Pairs Tournament in March this year with Matt Jones.*

the dwindling numbers and teams involved in the game now. The pubs don't want billiards tables, preferring to use the space for food tables, and youngsters seem to prefer playing on their computers, so there are not so many people taking up the game now.

The Oxford League is the oldest known league in the world, starting in 1936. The most teams ever entered was in 1967 when there were 108 teams (5 players in a team). This season, there are 10 teams (3 players a team).

**Top tips for would-be world champions?**

Practise! Most people will just say practise, practise, practise. For me, practise is only worthwhile if you

are learning. There is no point in practising if you are not learning the game, so if you play with people who are a similar level or better, you will always learn something. There are always shots to learn to play different ways!

**Who are your sporting heroes and why?**

Growing up, I always liked watching Jimmy White play snooker. He had a presence around the table and brought a little fun to the game. Then later, it was the same with Ronnie O'Sullivan.

I don't really have any bar billiards heroes as

it wasn't something I watched before playing but it's hard to not appreciate the achievements of Kevin Tunstall, who has won 76 National Singles tournaments, including six World Titles. I am currently sixth on this list, with 14 National Singles Titles tournaments up to the end of 2021.

**What's next for you, both personally and professionally?**

Winning a few more titles would be great! Hopefully we will be able to have a full programme of National Tournaments this year for the first time since 2019. Let's hope that people have had enough of staying at home and we get increased numbers for all the competitions this year.

I am thoroughly enjoying working at Jesus College too and hope this will continue for a long time.









# The Landmark Trust: Holidays in History

Caroline Stanford (1977, Modern History, née Ord) initially took her Modern History BA into market research before eventually turning to the heritage sector. Since 2001, she has been in-house Historian for building preservation charity the Landmark Trust, carrying out the historical research on all their restoration projects.



*Caroline Stanford.*

As an organisation, the Landmark Trust is one of a kind. It was founded in 1965 by the late John Smith (New) and his wife Christian (St Anne's). Smith was a financier and landowner who set up his own private trust fund, The Manifold Trust. This enabled many an Oxford project, not least funding the conservation of Morris, Burne-Jones and Rossetti's murals in the library of the Oxford Union, in gratitude for which the Landmark Trust was granted a lease on the former Steward's House there.

Landmark is the Manifold's most enduring legacy. Concerned at the disappearance of too many small, but good, old buildings, Smith had the then novel idea that people would pay to stay in interesting

old buildings and that the income so generated could fund their maintenance. The Landmark Trust was the result: a charity which rescues and restores significant historic buildings that have slipped deep into negative equity, their repair completely beyond normal economics but worth saving for their cultural and historical resonance.

Landmark's virtuous circle of financial sustainability is a unique social business model in its sector, every stay helping to preserve historic buildings. Any surplus goes towards further building rescues, but most restoration funds must now be raised charitably (Smith set the charity free in 1990). What sets Landmark's buildings apart from the crowded holiday field is its rigour of operational standards, the conservation practice applied, the intellectual content underpinning the restorations, and the knowledge that this includes the History Album I write for each building, giving a full account of its history and restoration for those who stay.

Today, Landmark has saved more than 200 buildings across England, Scotland, Wales, and a few in Italy. The vast majority are available for self-catering holiday lets, in a sector that has grown exponentially since the 1960s, not least with the advent of the internet. The Landmark portfolio forms a *vade mecum* for the entire country, and on average two or three more buildings are added each year.

*Left: The dining room at 15th-century Llwyn Celyn, one of the Landmark Trust's most recent projects, set in the Llanthony Valley.*





*Fairburn Tower before restoration.*

As I write, we are onsite near Inverness with Fairburn Tower (pictured), a 16th-century tower house for a Gentleman to the Bedchamber of James V, and in Leeds at Calverley Old Hall, an evolved medieval manor house with a fascinating and sometimes lurid history, and where we have recently discovered exceptional Tudor wall paintings. We are gestating projects to save the Station Master's House for the world's first passenger railway in Manchester; a concrete WW2 control tower in Hampshire and a Gothic Revival Mayor's Parlour by William Burges in Dover. Still more cluster in the wings. The breadth is self-evident: Landmark truly has a building for every taste, and I am perpetually grateful for the breadth of the Faculty's three English History papers I took in the 1970s! Learning more about the histories of Wales and Scotland – and even a bit of Italy's – count as major perks of the job.

An unlooked-for pleasure in my work is the occasional Jesus

College connection in a building's research. Who knew that 18th-century fired artificial stone entrepreneur Mrs Eleanor Coade was a respected subtenant on the Lambeth holdings, known as The Hopes and bequeathed to College by Sir Leoline Jenkins, lawyer and Principal from 1661-73 (when the head lease was being renewed in 1804, the Fellows instructed that 'The College would wish ... Mrs

*Dolbelydr before restoration.*



Coade's [lease] to be attended to as before'). Mrs Coade's seaside villa, Belmont in Lyme Regis, is among Landmark's most popular buildings.

Then there was an encounter with Henry Salesbury, who wrote the first Welsh grammar, *Grammatica Britannica* (1593), at Dolbelydr near Denbigh in North Wales. Dolbelydr was restored from total ruination by Landmark in 2002. Salesbury's *Grammatica* analysed the famously phonetic Welsh language on the same footing as classical tongues for the first time. It was an essential first step towards ensuring the survival of the Welsh language against the onslaught of the Tudor administrators, although only half a dozen copies have survived (I'm sure the College would be delighted were one to be donated!)

Research on one of our most recent projects, 15th-century Llwyn Celyn in the beautiful Llanthony Valley, brought me face to face with the effigy of College founder and first Principal David Lewis, in St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny. Lewis would not have approved of



the survivalist Catholic recusancy in the area, but certainly many of the college's early undergraduates made their way to Oxford from the area. Llwyn Celyn held mysteries of its own, not least its very early construction date (1421), a time when the fires of Owain Glyn Dwr's Rising were barely extinguished. This date

was unlocked through cutting-edge oxygen isotope analysis of its timbers by Swansea University. Part of the UK Oak Project, this brought the building's story right into the 21st century.

These days, I'm often asked by history graduates how to get a job in the heritage sector. All I can



*Dolbelydr after restoration.*



*Llwyn Celyn.*

say is don't give up. My own path was circuitous in the extreme: I left Oxford for market research with Unilever, and it was only after motherhood and an MSc in Historic Conservation at Oxford Brookes that I stumbled on the Landmark Trust. My own role is one of a kind but illustrates that it is worth keeping faith in a subject that fascinates almost everyone at some level. The popularity of the Landmark Trust's buildings certainly confirms the appetite to experience historic settings.

Every job has its bad days, but I can guarantee that whenever one rears its head, I meet someone who says: 'you have such a wonderful job'. It's a timely reminder just how lucky I am to have found a role where I can apply my passion to practical effect and, just as importantly, continue to learn about the subject I love.

*More information about all of Landmark's buildings can be found at [www.landmarktrust.org.uk](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk).*



# Escape to ... Dubai

With just under 3.5 million inhabitants, Dubai is the most populated city in the UAE. Originally a small fishing village, it has grown rapidly to become one of the world's most popular tourist destinations. Dubai is second only to London in its number of five-star hotels and hosts the tallest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa. Work continues on the Dubai Creek Tower which, once complete, will become the tallest supported tower in the world. Here, four Jesus alumni give their insights and tips for visiting, living, and working in Dubai.

## HARDEEP S. PLAHE | 1995 | BA JURISPRUDENCE



After graduating from Jesus, Hardeep trained as a solicitor in London, joining the global law firm Linklaters where he worked from 2001-2012. In 2006, he received an

internal email calling for a senior corporate associate to set up an office in Dubai, so he and his wife went to Dubai for a weekend and loved it. They moved there in 2009 for what was intended to be a two-year stint: the family moved back to the UK in 2021.

### Impressions

2006 was an exciting time. The city was full of construction but some of the big landmarks had not been built, including the Burj Khalifa, the tallest tower in the world.

We lived on Sheikh Zayed Road, a six-lane road reputed to be the longest in the UAE. There was no way to cross the road then, but now bridges and the overground

metro have transformed how you get around the city. I worked in the area known as the Dubai International Financial Centre; all





the foreign banks and law firms are there. It was very convenient but, although my office was just across the road, the only way to get there was by car so my commute ended up being seven minutes each morning!

### Must see

Downtown, the Burj Khalifa and the area surrounding it. The majesty of the tallest tower is best viewed from the bottom looking up!

The Palm Jumeirah is an archipelago of artificial islands shaped like a palm tree, and created from land reclamation which extends into the Persian Gulf. It is full of hotel resorts, including the famous Atlantis Resort, as well as lots of houses and apartments.

Dubai is a long stretch along a waterfront of natural and manicured beaches with hotels scattered along the shoreline. Expats often check into a beach hotel for a weekend, or phone in the morning for beach access.

Water sports and extreme sports are

huge in Dubai. Skydive Dubai is a very popular activity; in fact, my wife did it just before we left (I was a bit too timid to try). Deep Dive Dubai is the deepest diving pool in the world, and there is an indoor ski resort attached to Mall of the Emirates. Most expats go on the slopes in Dubai before they return to Europe for the ski season. There is a running theme of the tallest tower, biggest pool, longest zipline: pretty much any activity you can find here will promise to be the biggest, fastest, tallest insert activity here!

### My favourite place

A favourite place for my wife and me is Old Dubai. Dubai was an old pearl diving and fishing town – there is a creek that runs down and joins the ocean. Before the crazy development it was still used as a traditional fishing transportation hub. It was a trade route to Iran and India and vice versa, and natural pearls and gold are traded from Gold Souk, a traditional market comprising nearly 400 jewellery traders. Old wooden fishing and

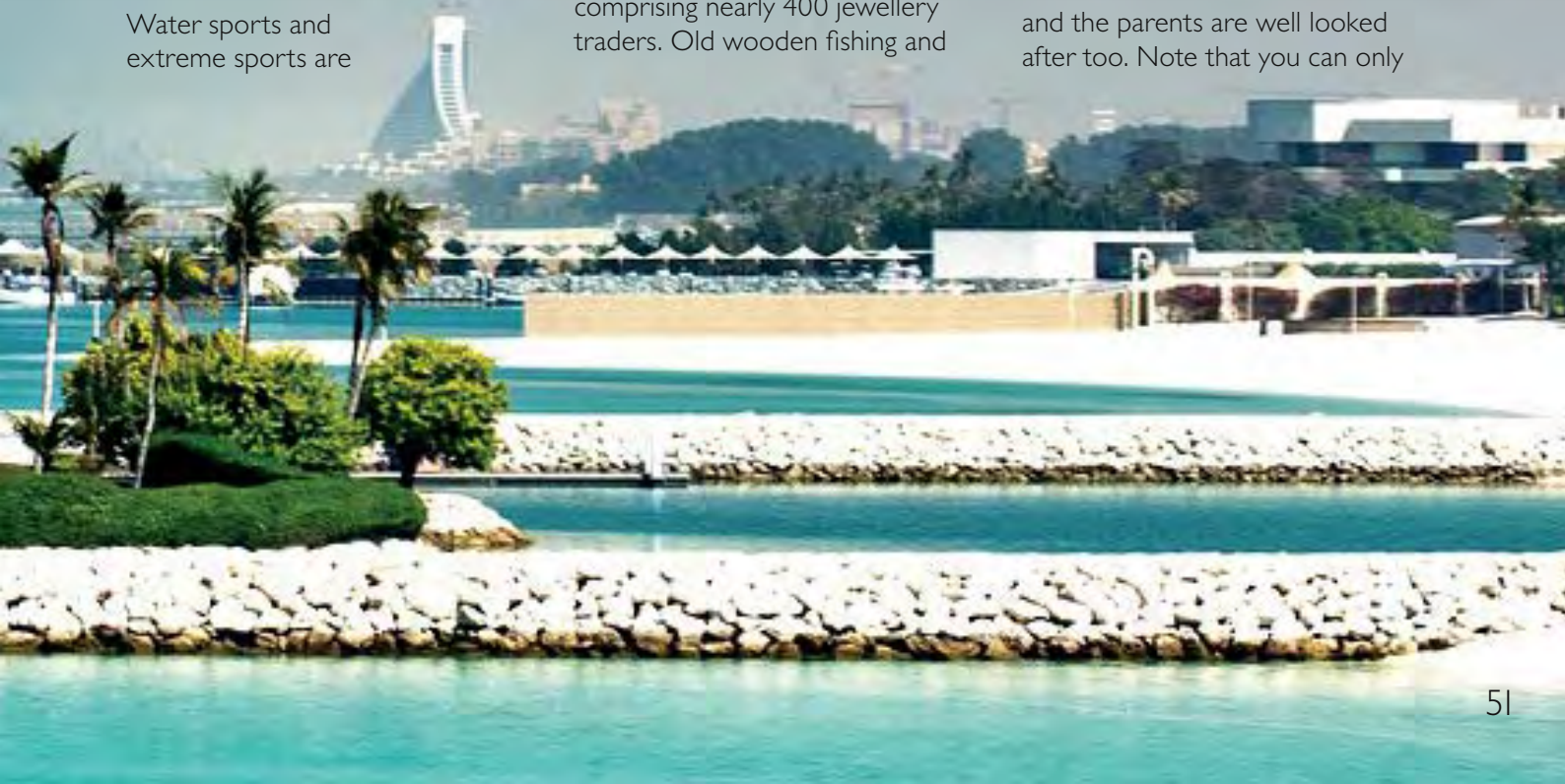


*Dubai – old vs new.*

transportation boats leave from here for India. Michael Palin covered this in his television series, *Around the World in 80 Days* – this is the real Dubai.

### Must do

A must-do is the 'Dubai Brunch' – most hotels have an all-you-can-eat/all-you-can-drink menu. These are very over-the-top Champagne brunches, which run from about 12pm to 5pm. This is a Dubai tradition; a way to celebrate the weekend with friends or colleagues. It is perfect for young families as there are activities for children and the parents are well looked after too. Note that you can only





drink alcohol in hotels or within restaurants on hotel grounds.

There is no really traditional food or drink in Dubai because it is such a melting pot of cultures, but this is what makes it great. With a big Indian and Pakistani population, there are great authentic foods and flavours and the ingredients are flown in.

### Activities

Sport is very big in Dubai and, as a popular stopover for musicians and entertainers, there is a lot going on all the time. Dubai is not as conservative as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Oman, so people come for a weekend.

### Top Tips for visiting

- Get around the city in an Uber because the Metro does not link everything up and it is not like a normal city grid.
- Appreciate one place at a time, spending time to take it all in.
- Visit the Museum of the Future, an exhibition of futuristic ideologies, products and services.
- Visit Old Dubai (Bur Dubai) around the creek, and take a ride in an Abra, a traditional wooden boat.
- Try an outlandish Dubai Brunch in one of the many hotels.

- Visit from late October to March when it is warm but not overbearing. Dubai in the summer is 50 degrees Celsius.

### Take away

Dubai is so family-friendly. It's a perfect place for a holiday: go to a beach resort, experience the warm, clear sea, visit the many amusement parks, and take part in all the varied activities the city has to offer. If you are interested in living and working in Dubai, I would highly recommend it. It is important to note though that visas come with your job, so there was always a lingering sense of impermanence to it despite the fact that we lived there for so many years.

## CLAIRE KHALIQ | 1984 | BA ENGINEERING SCIENCE



After leaving College, Claire completed a Masters in Engineering and worked as a water engineer in several developing countries before becoming a teacher. She and her family moved to Dubai in 2004 and for 10 years Claire taught Science at a school for Emirati girls. Claire's husband is a restaurateur and owns the Pakistani restaurant Bar B Q Tonight.

### Impressions

I moved to Dubai from Karachi and obviously that influenced my initial impressions. I found Dubai a much easier place to live; everything works, the infrastructure is very good, and the city is very safe. Dubai also offers excellent educational opportunities. My children were at school with 40 or 50 different nationalities, and what I appreciate most about Dubai is its very tolerant multinational community. We have been able to buy a house here. Earlier foreigners could not own property, but in the early 2000s the law changed and lots of new communities sprang up. However, you need a visa to live here and, since it is quite difficult to obtain a visa after you retire, we will probably need to move then.

### Must see

It is definitely worth visiting the Burj Khalifa for the view and an impression of the city. The iconic Dubai Opera building is on the lakefront below, and at night the fountains dance to music and lights.

Jumeirah Mosque offers a very informative talk about Islam as part of the mosque tour. It's a great opportunity for non-Muslims to learn about the religion and have some of their questions answered.

Also, don't miss out on visiting the desert and the mountains – there is more to Dubai than the beach!

### My favourite place

My favourite place is Hatta in the mountains – it is about an hour's drive from the city and has a very peaceful hotel decorated in traditional Arab style. It is such







Jumeirah Mosque.

a pleasant contrast to the bustle of Dubai: you are surrounded by natural beauty and can walk and bike from the hotel and canoe at nearby Hatta Dam.

### Activities

A drive out to Fujairah, which is on the other side of the peninsula, makes the perfect day trip. As well as the beaches and mangroves, the historic Al Hayl Fort and fifteenth century Al Bidya Mosque are worth

visiting. I would also recommend a desert safari. This is an evening trip, driving over the sand dunes at sunset to reach a desert camp where you can sample local food and music.

### Top Tips for visiting

- When to visit: come between November and February, but avoid Christmas and New Year because the prices spike.
- Clothing: ideally, you should cover your shoulders, the tops of your arms and down to your knees. It is fine to wear a bikini on the beach and gym clothes for the gym, but generally, for going around the city, it's better to be a bit more covered. It also gets cool in the evening in the winter so you need to pack a jumper.
- Alcohol: As a visitor, you can only consume alcohol on licensed premises.
- Medicines: note that some prescription drugs are prohibited here, so you need to travel with your prescription and a letter



Al Hayl Fort.

from you doctor explaining why you need it.

- Getting around: taxis are fairly cheap, and probably the best option. I would not recommend taking public buses. The metro is good, but the network is quite limited.

### Take away

Dubai may seem a very modern city but I think you will understand it better if you know a little about its history and about the Emirati culture and traditions that are its foundations. A visit to Dubai Museum is a good place to start.

## ALBERTO ANTONINI | 2014 | PGDIP GLOBAL BUSINESS



Alberto Antonini had already relocated to Dubai from Buenos Aires when he came up to Oxford to study for a Postgraduate Diploma in Global Business at Jesus in 2013. He had moved to Dubai in 2010 with his young family, planning to stay for three years: almost 12 years later, they still live there. Alberto works for a multinational company that provides products and services to protect clean water, safe food, healthy environments, and abundant energy.

### Impressions of Dubai

Dubai is a very cosmopolitan city that offers a true multicultural experience. For that same reason it's also a city of contrasts. It is remarkable that so many people, coming from different backgrounds, religions, ethnicities, nationalities, and cultures, can work and live in peace and harmony. It's a city that feels incredibly safe.

## Must see

The list is very long, but I hope I cover the most important ones here:

- The Dancing Fountains at the Dubai Mall.
- The old part of the city – Spice and Gold Souks are a must.
- A walk around The Beach in JBR and Bluewaters Island and visiting Ain Dubai.
- Don't miss a trip to the top observation deck on the 124th floor of the Burj Khalifa.
- Visit the biggest manmade island in the world – the Palm Jumeirah – and walk around the iconic Atlantic hotel. Visit The Pointe for waterside dining with a view.
- In the city that has the only seven-star hotel in the world, you have to take that photo with the Burj Al Arab Hotel in the background.
- Madinat Jumeirah is a dining and shopping destination, built as an old souk with waterways.
- Standing at 150 meters, Dubai Frame provides a bird's eye view of the city's famous skyline, from which you can see views of old and new Dubai.
- The City Walk area close to Downtown Dubai is a good night out for dining and shopping.
- For skiers, it's worth visiting the indoor ski slope in Mall of the Emirates.
- For children, the Dubai Parks including Legoland, Motiongate and Bollywood Parks are a must.
- If you have never done it before, go on a desert safari.

- Book lovers cannot miss the Kinokunya Store in the Dubai Mall, with books from all over the world.
- If you like the theatre, the Dubai Opera is one of a kind.
- Lastly, the recently-opened Museum of the Future is quickly becoming a favourite. The building alone is an incredible work of art.

## Your favourite place

It's hard to pick just one. The dancing fountains at the Dubai Mall certainly are at the top of my list, followed closely by the Bluewater Island where the Ferris Wheel, Ain Dubai, is located.

## Activities

Over the last two decades, Dubai has transformed itself into an all-year-round tourist destination, and tourism has become one of the largest sources of income for the Emirate. If you have never been to the desert, Dubai's desert experience typically includes dune bashing, falconry, sunset views, and dinner inside a tent under a starry sky.

For those who love food, Dubai offers a massive array of international cuisine, many nestled within beautiful settings or boasting incredible views.

If you want a beach holiday you will be spoilt for choice, with beach hotels and pristine beach destinations that host restaurants and activities for the entire family.

If shopping is your thing, Dubai has almost every brand present in any of the many shopping malls across the Emirate. The malls offer more than just a shopping experience,

so you can enjoy aquariums, fountains, immersive art museums, roller coasters, ice rinks, and even an indoor ski slope among other attractions.

If you're looking for a more adventurous holiday, there are plenty of options catering to different adrenaline levels, from skydiving to quad bikes, zip lines, diving, and mountain biking.

Finally, if you are visiting as a family with young kids, the amusement and water parks should be top of your list.

## Top Tips for visiting

- I highly recommend avoiding the summer months.



*Museum of the Future.*



- Location is also important, and that will depend on what type of holiday you are looking for.
- The UAE's currency is pegged to the US dollar so budget

accordingly, although I believe most people will find options to suit their budgets without breaking the bank.

- It's crucial that you define ahead

of time what you want to do and prepare a proper plan to make the best use of the time you will spend in the city.

- Finally, if you have enough time,





extend your trip to Abu Dhabi, just an hour's drive from Dubai, and visit the Grand Mosque, the Louvre Abu Dhabi and some of the best beaches in UAE at Saadiyat Island.

### Take away

Dubai has done its homework to become one of the top tourist destinations in the world. It's a vibrant city full of positive energy

with countless options to ensure you get a proper break. There is something from everyone in Dubai, and with proper planning and research, I am convinced your trip will be unforgettable.



## JESSICA LEE | 2002 | BA EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY



Jessica read Experimental Psychology at Jesus. On graduation she moved to Australia to pursue a doctorate in Clinical Psychology, and on completion she moved back to Dubai.

### Impressions of Dubai

I've lived in Dubai since 1986. I did all of my schooling in Dubai before coming up to Oxford. Dubai has always been my home so I see it that way. I have a very different experience to that of tourists.

### Must see

The desert. It's worth taking a trip to see that landscape and the camels! The coastline is also worth travelling. There are rocky mountainous areas of the UAE too.

### Your favourite place

Nessnass beach. It's one of the last undeveloped beaches with natural grasses still growing and an excellent café.

### Activities

There's really an incredible variety here. There are so many different nationalities here so they bring the best of their home countries to Dubai.

### Top Tips for visiting

There's something for everyone here. There's so much information online about Dubai. If you're interested in a family holiday, head to a resort. If you're young and free, there are beach clubs, restaurants and shopping.

### Take away

This is my home, not just a tourist destination!



# Access Update

Matt Williams | Access Fellow



*Matt Williams.*

**Access is a contact sport. We need to meet prospective students from under-represented backgrounds. They in turn need to visit us and to feel comfortable in Oxford. More than that, they need to picture themselves working alongside us.**

However, extending the metaphor, our field of play changed for good with the pandemic, even if the game remains in essence one of contact. The last couple of years have hence felt rather like trying to play rugby over Zoom. Our goal has been to engage a sceptical audience that we are deadly serious in our desire to encourage and enable their applications to competitive universities, including Oxford. We have had to engage in this psychological exercise without ever meeting face to face. Impossible, you might think.

On the most crude of metrics, our output never dipped during the pandemic. Indeed, our rate of work increased by virtually being several places at once. We worked with 10,000 prospective students in both 2020 and in 2021. And we have reached out to the rural

and coastal communities of Wales whose physical remoteness had previously discouraged both sides from engaging.

But what about impact? We could just shove leaflets through doors and increase our numbers whilst doing nothing for impact. Again, it's a contact sport, not a numbers game. But, feedback suggests that we were able to connect with pixels alone. Our approach to online access has been to combine information with empowerment. Prospective students on our programmes are told not only what they are able to do, but how to go about it.

We can give disadvantaged students the tools to be competitive because the College's access work is led by a practising academic with admissions experience. In short, I can tell them what admissions tutors really want. We rip up the floorboards to discuss meta cognition, then build up confidence with sessions on personal statements, admissions tests, and interviews.

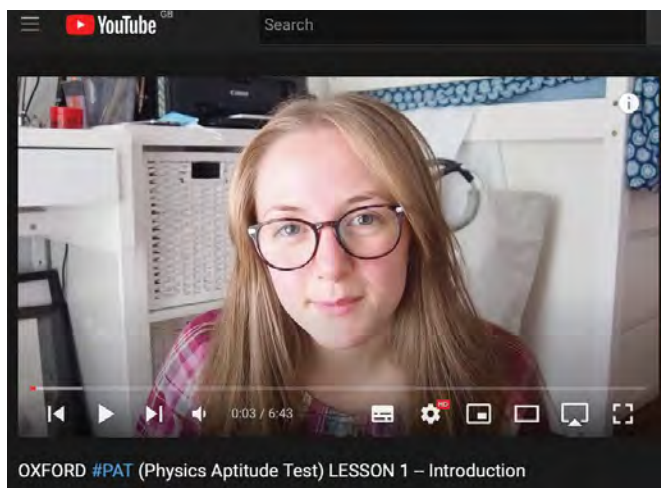
In other words, we have opened up the 'rule book' on how to be a competitive Oxbridge applicant. This has been led through hundreds of webinars delivered to thousands of people, as well as YouTube videos that have been watched by millions.

We now easily have the largest YouTube channel of any Oxford or Cambridge college. Our content is more than just informative, it is empowering, which is what the audience wants and needs.

We have made the best of a terrible situation, and demonstrated that excellent access work can be delivered by remote contact. Central to this have been our digital internships. Thanks to a hugely generous donation from an alumnus, we have been able to hire three undergraduate interns to help for six weeks each summer. The donation will last us for five years. After just one year, these wonderful students put together hugely impactful videos, sharing their skills with others.



*Duke's Aldridge Academy.*

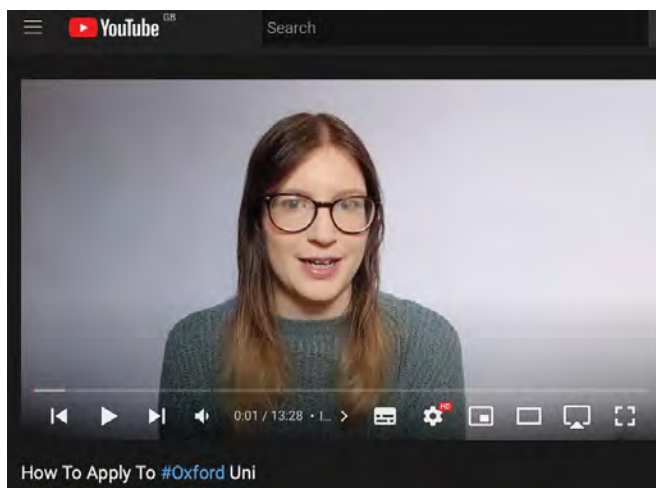


Angharad Davies (2019, Engineering Science) produced an invaluable set of videos on the Physics Aptitude Test.

For example, Hannah produced this fantastic playlist of videos covering key aspects of the admissions process for our YouTube channel – <https://bit.ly/3kWrtdm>.

Angharad made a playlist more targeted at prospective physics and engineering students, giving them an invaluable guide to the notoriously tough Physics Aptitude Test – <https://bit.ly/3wdlrBM>.

Apart from the enormous benefits that these internships have brought to our access work, we were able to offer three undergraduates some valuable income and work



Hannah Blackmore (2019, History) made some excellent videos on the foundations of making a competitive application.

experience. Arron O'Connor (2018, English), for example, used the internship after he had finished finals to pay for his accommodation in Oxford whilst looking for jobs. The experience also helped him transition into the access role at Oriel College shortly after finishing with us.

This year our interns will be able to make use of the new digital hub in the Cheng Yu Tung building. They will also have responsibilities to help us with our scheme of summer schools, which this year will be catering to a record-busting 500 young people.

It has been a tragic couple of years. And we can never go back to the purely analogue past. We will take the best of both worlds – the wide-ranging efficiency of remote access, with, where possible, the truer connection of face to face events. For example, our access summer schools have been scaled to over 500 people – more than any other college – by combining in person with online events. And everything that can be will be recorded and shared as open data on YouTube.

Access is all about improving academic standards by recruiting from the widest possible pools of talent. We have provided information and empowerment to thousands, from putting ourselves on the radars of primary pupils, to supporting mature students back into education. As ever, we are immensely grateful to College members past and present for their support – material and emotional. After all, besides being a contact sport, access is also a team sport.

For more information, and to support our work, please contact [matthew.williams@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.williams@jesus.ox.ac.uk).



Adedamilola Tariuwa (2019, Engineering, pictured here) and two other engineering students helped judge the "Future School" concepts designed by three Cumbrian primary schools.







# Development Update

Brittany Wellner James | Director of Development



*Brittany and Deputy Director of Development Georgie Plunkett joined the Jesus College Dragon Boat for a race in memory of alumnus Dr Sean McGrady (1982, Chemistry) and to support his family foundation.*

**In 2012 Jesus College launched a campaign to raise £45 million for its 450th Anniversary. Over the last 10 years, many alumni and friends participated in this effort, and I am delighted to report that in July we reached our goal. It was a privilege to join College at this special time, and to help Jesus reach this impressive milestone. Your collective support of the campaign has been remarkable to see, and shows how a relatively small college can achieve great things as a community.**

It is my pleasure to tell you what we have been able to achieve together. The College's four campaign priorities were teaching and research, College fabric and environment, student support, and access and outreach. These priorities are no less important now that the campaign has finished, but it is important that we celebrate what we have been able to accomplish so far. An incredible £45 million was raised in total towards these priorities, and it is

exciting to see how your support over the years took shape.

Together your donations have created life-changing opportunities for Jesus students through the establishment of eight new endowed and four spend-down bursaries. Bursaries pave the way for the Jesus experience to be equitable and enjoyable for all of our students and, as long as the College remains steadfastly committed to providing opportunities to students from all backgrounds, there is no cap for the student support we can provide. Your gifts to graduate studentships during this period have also fuelled intellectual curiosity and creativity at College and, crucially as support for graduate studentships decreases on a national scale, we hope to continue to offer competitively funded places to the next generation of talented researchers at Jesus.

Your support of teaching Fellowships helps protect the Jesus tutorial system that both current students and alumni share. We are so grateful for the 12 teaching Fellowships that were endowed over the last decade, and the five spend-down Fellowships we received to help subsidise this cost to College. Our teaching Fellows are some of the most brilliant educators and thinkers in their respective disciplines, and we want to be able to continue to attract and retain these invaluable members of the College Fellowship for many years to come.

We are also immensely proud of the new research we have been able to fund through the creation of new JRFs and Career

Development Fellows. Over the last decade, we have created exciting JRF opportunities in Climate Science, Law, and Applied Data Science. With thanks to alumnus Alejandro Jack (2011, PGDip Global Business) and his business partner, Johnny Halife, we also appointed a curator of our new Digital Hub. Dr Janina Schupp joined us from the University of Cambridge last year and has already created a full programme of Hub events, which you can read more about in this issue (see p. 28).

The academic strength of our Fellowship has helped position Jesus as a leading college for pivotal research in STEM, Social Sciences, and the Humanities. Because of your ongoing support, our academic community continues to thrive and grow. Over £28 million was raised over the last decade to support students, teaching and research at Jesus and it is clear the intellectual life of College was an important priority for you too.

In 2016, College also formed a dedicated Access and Outreach programme, led by Dr Matt Williams and Shelley Knowles. Your support for our outreach work in London and Wales has enabled our access team to reach 10,000 young persons a year. Thanks to a significant gift from Oliver Thomas (2000, BA Economics and Management) and his family, we have also been able to endow our Welsh summer school in perpetuity, allowing over 70 bright Welsh students to experience life at Jesus each August. The creativity of your support has taken many forms, including the development of our Access and Outreach YouTube





channel and the delivery of a virtual reality College experience to schools that are too distant to make the journey to Oxford. We have also given our access students internship opportunities, allowing them to create their own digital outreach content for perspective students. Our virtual reach is making an impact on state school applications to Oxford. Our channel now has more than 500,000 views and over 11,000 subscribers, and we are proudly the most watched access channel across Oxbridge! Since it began, we have raised over

£1.6 million in support for our access and outreach programmes. Thanks to the growth of digital outreach and the College's soon to open Digital Hub, we are only scratching the surface of what we can do.

Last but by no means least, the addition of the Cheng Yu Tung Building on the old Northgate site is a great physical testament to the success of this campaign. The pages we have dedicated in this issue to celebrate the new building we hope will give you an impression of the scale of this project and

what it means for College. Thanks to you, an exciting new chapter in how we deliver teaching and share research at Jesus is about to be written. The £15 million gift from Dr Henry Cheng and his family has created much-needed graduate student accommodation, new teaching spaces, and our fantastic Digital Hub. We are excited that current and future generations of academics and students will soon fill these spaces with their intellect and enthusiasm. Members of the Jesus XL Network had a peek at the new building on 25 June,





*Introducing the detailed plans of the new Cheng Building with alumnus John Jagger (1957, Modern Languages) and his wife Jane.*

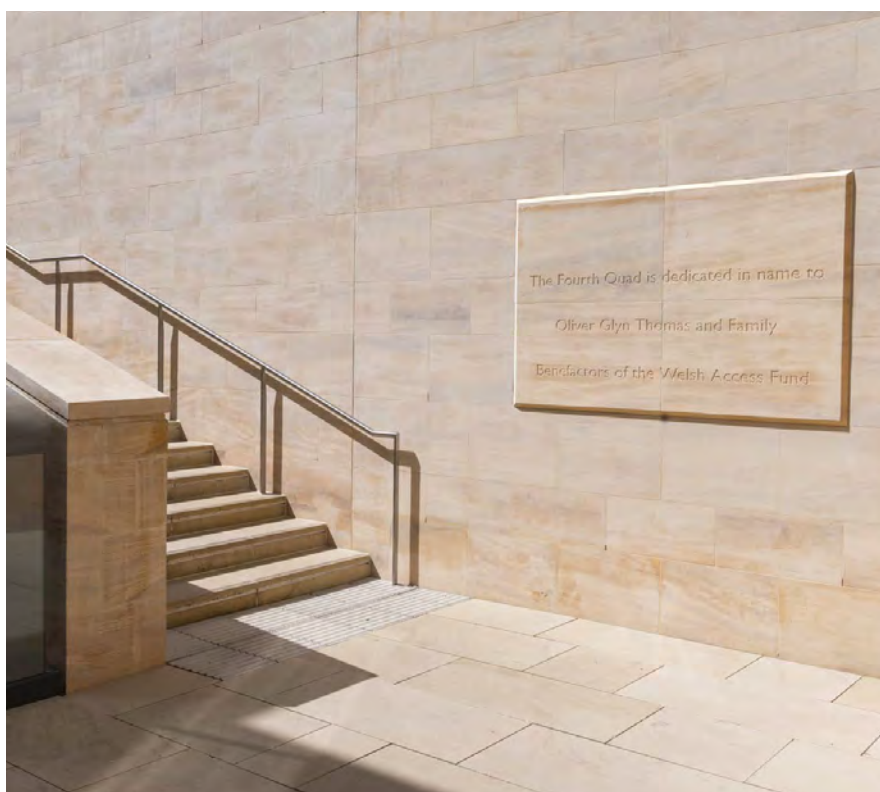
and we were also excited to have the opportunity to invite alumni supporters to preview the new building and some of its dedicated spaces on 23 July. We look forward to the official dedication and opening of the Digital Hub this Michaelmas, and hope that many of you will make a plan to visit College soon to reconnect and experience this incredible new building for yourselves.

We hope that the true marker of the success of this campaign can be the beginning of a new shared philanthropic aim for College. There is still important work that needs to be done to fulfil our academic and access ambitions. We also have in our sights the wish for our historic College to move towards a more sustainable future. These projects are not possible without the steady commitment of our alumni and friends. If there is anything to learn from the past decade, it is that supporting Jesus comes in all forms, shape and sizes: from donating, to volunteering, to attending our many special alumni events and gaudies. There is no one-size-fits-all model for your support, and as we excitedly plan for what the next decade might look like for Jesus, we encourage you to connect with College in a way that feels most right for you.

Thank you, as ever, for the generosity you have shown Jesus College.

Floreat Collegium Jesu!

*Carving detail of the Welsh Access Fund Fourth Quad plaque, with thanks to Oliver Thomas (2000, BA Economics and Management) and his family.*





# An Interview with Oxford Blue David Ambler

David Ambler | 2021 | MSc Social Science of the Internet



David Ambler.

David Ambler (2021, MSc Social Science of the Internet) was selected to row second oar in the Dark Blues' winning boat at this year's Boat Race.

A committed athlete, David started rowing aged 11 when he joined his local club, Tideway Scullers in Chiswick, and continued rowing through school and then later at Harvard, where he studied for an undergraduate degree in Psychology & Economics. While at Harvard David competed for GB three times, winning a gold medal in the U23 Men's Coxless 4 at the 2019 World Rowing Championships. He has just completed a Master's degree in the Social Science of the Internet at Jesus.

***Eat, sleep, row, repeat. What's a typical day and how did you find time for your academic studies?***

A typical day at Oxford was certainly hectic and full-on. With training sessions twice a day, six

days a week, it was a balancing act to fit an elite-level training programme with an intense academic schedule. A typical day would involve an early morning training session in the gym followed by a mad scramble to lectures, with breakfast somewhere on the way. After finishing class for the day, the team would then drive down to Wallingford each afternoon for long water sessions before returning to Oxford in the evening. If people had time we'd often get dinner as a team, but for some any free time would be spent trying to stay on top of academic work.

***If you had a whole new run at rowing, what would you do differently? And what would you advise those keen to get into the sport?***

Reflecting on my rowing career so far, I don't think there is much I would change. There are certainly races I've lost that I wished I could have won, but, ultimately losing is part of sport. All the losses I've had in my career have shaped my progress and made me better for it. If there was one thing I could tell a younger version of myself it would be to make sure that I enjoy it all. I've had both my best experiences and results when I've been a part of teams that enjoy what they're doing and have great fun doing it. For those looking to get into the sport I would simply say to not take it too seriously, have some fun with it and see where that takes you.

***Best sporting moment for you?***

Winning the Boat Race was very special to me. I've wanted to do the race since I first started rowing at the age of 11. Now 24, it is incredible to have been able to race



for Oxford and win against a strong Cambridge boat. Working towards this one goal with a fantastic team of men and women was a great experience made even more so by the result. Not only did we win the blue boat but the reserve boat and spare pair also won that day. The fact that the whole team could celebrate each other and an incredible year together made it an incredibly memorable experience.



### **How has rowing helped you outside the sport?**

I think rowing has influenced my life outside of sport for the better in a number of ways. I've learnt a huge amount about working with others as part of a team as well as how to manage my time and get the most out of each day. However, I think one of the biggest things I've learned from sports is that there

is no substitute for hard work. Whether in sport, a profession, or any other area, I will take with me the lessons learned about how to work towards your goals in life.

### **Are you ready for rowing to take a backseat to a professional career, or will rowing take centre stage for you over the next few years?**

For the next few years, I want

*The Dark Blues win The 2022 Boat Race.*

*Photo: Naomi Baker*

to commit fully to pursuing a professional career in rowing. I would love to represent Great Britain at the senior level and am dedicated to training towards this goal. The team is incredibly strong so it will be a massive challenge, but one I am looking forward to taking on.



# Sport at Jesus



## Football

Adam Shaffer | 2020 | Engineering

Last summer the JCFC veterans (aka third years) started what would soon become an infamous movement uni-wide. They posed in a Instagram picture with their hands in a C shape indicating that the Stags were setting their eyes on only one thing: Cuppers glory. Jesus last won Cuppers in 1998 and before that 1930 so this was bold to say the least, but everyone knew we had talent in the ranks.

Upon arrival in Oxford, the Principal Nigel Shadbolt introduced me to his summer signings, and he didn't disappoint. With a strong Fresher intake, the dream was on. We beat our Turl Street rivals Exeter 7-1 in the first game of Cuppers, beat St Anne's (who?) 10-0 in the round of 16, and a Keble team armed with dirty tactics 5-0 in the quarterfinals.

In the semi-finals we were set to face St Hugh's. With both sides giving a lot of chat on the respective club Instagram accounts there was a lot of pride on the line. I'll again spare any match details, we won 4-1, and by this point the post-match Allez, Allez, Allez! chants were getting almost obnoxiously loud, almost...

And so came the Final vs Balliol College (the date was 5 March 2022 for the record books). Playing under the lights at a sold-out Iffley Stadium is what dreams are made of, but would the nerves get to us? Spoiler: they didn't. The Jesus crowd were in full force as friends, foes and families all flocked in for the big occasion and the boys in green did not disappoint. We dispatched Balliol 6-2 and were officially crowned Champions.

Cuppers was my personal highlight, but this club has also grown into

a fantastic community on so many other fronts. Stash has been developed, social accounts have been booming, so many events throughout the year have taken place (including playing at Selhurst Park!) and multiple teams were playing league/cup/friendly games every week. Such a large group of people has helped make it become a special club and this will no doubt continue next season as we seek to defend our title. #bleedgreen

## Rowing

Lisa Zillig | 2019 |

Interdisciplinary Bioscience

James Perkins | 2020 | History

The last time JCBC reported to Jesus News, the club had endured a tough 2020-1 season, kept largely off the water by various lockdowns and restrictions. However, from the moment we were able to get back into the swing of things, it has been a brilliant year for Jesus rowing.

In 2021's Summer Torpids we were able to put out a fiercely competitive Women's Eight. Despite only a few weeks of training, the crew rowed fantastically and climbed into the First Division of the Torpids chart. The Women's crew continued their fine form into the 2021-2 season, as semi-finalists in Autumn Fours, runners up in Nephthys Regatta, and topping several editions of the Isis Winter League head races. Torpids 2022 started with a shock – the rudder broke off the boat during the first race – but the crew instantly bounced back for the rest of the week, securing four bumps (net gain +2) to cement their place as a Division One crew. Together with the heights reached in 2017, the Women's Torpid now sits at its highest point (9th) on the river since the late 1980s. Success continued in Summer Eights, bumping up into Division One and cementing their spot here to finish 11th on the river and +2 for the week. The 2nd Women's Eight also successfully 'Rowed On' (qualified)

for Summer Eights, putting in an exhilarating escape from Keble II on Saturday to finish the week with a Row Over.

The Men's side has had a productive 2021-2 season. A fresh batch of Jesus rowers won the novice Christchurch Regatta in December, and the First Eight gradually climbed the Isis Winter League results, winning the final edition. The crew also won the College Eights category at Bedford Head in February 2022, and competed in the Head of the River Race on the Tideway in March. Torpids 2022 was a great success for the 1st Torpid, bumping on three of four days and never being caught by another crew. The Men's Eight maintained this unblemished record in Summer Eights. After bumping Lady Margaret Hall to top Division Two, the crew became stuck in the sandwich boat position. Magdalen narrowly escaped on day one, while on the following days, having rowed over comfortably at the head of Division Two, crews

ahead in Division One almost immediately bumped out of the race, leaving considerable clear water that could never quite be made up. In all, the crew rowed the course eight times – double the standard bumps campaign – and finished +1 at 13th on the river. The 2nd Eight bounced back from a tough spoons-winning Torpids draw, to match the quality of the crews around them in Division Four, bumping Trinity II on day one and unfortunately coming off bumped in a tight three-boat chase with Trinity II and Wolfson II on day four.

In the first Summer Eights since 2019, it was a thrill to welcome back alumni, both to support our crews at the boathouse and to compete in the Viking Eight. The Vikings, a composite of veterans, finalists, novices, and even College staff, dominated their part of the river and cruised their way to winning blades. As always, the club is enormously grateful for the support of past members via the Cadwallader Club. This support has facilitated things like high quality coaching, funds for new boats, and a January Tideway training camp.

The 2021-2 season has been a fantastic resurrection for JCBC, and we look forward to carrying on training for success next year. We should also congratulate and draw readers' attention to Benedict Carroll (cox) and Helena Pickford for their participation in the Lightweight Women's Boat Race, and to David Ambler who was part of the triumphant Oxford Blue Boat (see p. 64).







## Dancesport

Schyan Zafar | 2018 | DPhil Statistics

The inter-college Dancesport Cuppers competition took place on 29th May, and Jesus College participated in style! Four Jesus couples entered the competition, each dancing one of the waltz, cha cha, quickstep or jive. Jesus finished in fourth place overall, whereas individually Schyan Zafar and Tiffany Walmsley (pictured) were runners-up in the quickstep and Gregory Herne and Rachel Smyth finished third in the cha-cha.



## Rugby

Dan Rolles | 2020 | Geography

This academic year marked the return of College rugby, which has been affected over the last two years, like most other sports, due to the pandemic. Taking over from my predecessor Ryan Walshaw as club captain, our focus was on rebuilding the strong College rugby culture at Jesus and winning some silverware. The highlight of the season was our victory in the College Bowl competition.

In the first round of the Cuppers competition, we narrowly lost to a strong St. Hilda's. Following our first-round loss, we entered the College Bowl competition, with a team comprised of both experienced and novice players. In the quarterfinals we breezed past the combined might of Merton-Mansfield and secured a tight victory over Queen's in the semi-finals. Our successful run to the final meant we played Worcester College for the trophy of our knock-out division.

On May 7, we kicked off against a Worcester team, who the referee admittedly told us were better on paper. As always, rugby is a team game, which was exemplified by the Jesus performance during the final. Following an early conceded try, the team in green pulled together to score four tries and convert three, comfortably securing the lead. The match ended 26-14, leading to us lifting the brand-new Bowl trophy for the 2021/2022 academic year. Having laid the foundations with our Bowl victory, our hope is that the College rugby club will continue to compete for silverware.

Beyond College rugby, it is also a pleasure to celebrate our three Blues who competed in this year's Varsity Matches. Congratulations to Charlie Papworth and Tom Humberstone (Men's Varsity) and Milo Cohen (Women's and Non-Binary Varsity), for their respective victory and draw against the Tabs.



## Netball

Charlie Leach | 2020 | PPE

As predicted in the last issue of this magazine, Jesus College Netball Club pulled off a huge promotion in the college leagues at the end of Michaelmas 2021 to reach the lofty heights of Division 3. Hilary saw us reach the top half of the table – an impressive feat considering the recent promotion, and a position that we will aim to continue to improve upon in the next league. In Trinity, the team will also take part in Cuppers and Mixed Cuppers tournaments which will be the first time they are run since pre-Covid, so should be an exciting new experience for all on the team.

## Lacrosse

Anna Carse | 2019 | Biology

Nicola Green | 2020 | Classics & English

After the fun day that was lacrosse Cuppers back in Trinity Term 2021, it was with great excitement that we saw a return to college lacrosse in Michaelmas. It's been great to

get so many new people involved while meeting fellow players from Magdalen College, with whom we've been paired for inter-collegiate games. The highlight of Michaelmas came with our defeat of Jesus College Cambridge at the annual Jesus-Jesus Varsity. The game was incredibly close but the superior Jesus College came out on top with a golden goal, just as the light was disappearing. With this victory in our belts, we prepared

for success at Cuppers in Trinity Term. Starting off early on Saturday morning, we slowly worked our way to the finals, winning match after match. Ultimately, Jesus managed to come second overall – a massive accomplishment for our players (some of whom had never picked up a stick before this term!). Overall, it's been a great year of College lacrosse and we hope to see the team continue to excel next year!





# 'For All Future Times': An Alumni Events Forecast

Peter Sutton | Alumni Engagement Manager



*Peter Sutton, Alumni Engagement Manager.*

**Since the public launch of our Anniversary Campaign in September 2018 with an Elizabethan Feast, the alumni events programme has had a strong focus on the 450 years that have made Jesus College what it is today.**

Not only have we examined the times of our Elizabethan forbears, we have also seen huge interest in exploring later periods, especially with our series of events celebrating 45 years of Jesus women in 2019-2020. In December 2021 we hosted our first-ever London Carol Service for all our donors at St George's, Hanover Square as the final event of our Anniversary year. We intend to make this spectacular and historic Church the annual home for the alumni service in the coming years and hope many of you will be able to join us.

Moreover, since the advent of Zoom our events have reached far beyond our local alumni community, none more so than when Rory Stewart spoke with immense

passion and candour about one of our most famous alumni, T E Lawrence in June last year. At the time of writing, the recording of this event has now been watched over 13,000 times on our Alumni YouTube channel!

As we draw to the end of our 450th Anniversary Campaign, we continue to find new ways to celebrate the history of College by examining the opportunities and challenges that are in our contemporary world and that of the future. As part of the flagship #JesusFutures virtual event series we have run in the first half of 2022, we have been joined by a diverse range of members from across our Jesus academic and alumni bodies. Commencing with a conversation about the future of AI and Ethics between the Principal and Professor John Tasioulas, Director of the Institute of Ethics in AI at the University of Oxford, the series has considered the future of a number of topics that reflect on the research interests and topics of our academics. The complete series, including fascinating talks from our Fellows ranging from regenerative medicine to business and enterprise, will be available online shortly. We have been delighted with the response from all our alumni and supporters to this series and are grateful to the wide range of speakers from across our College community who have volunteered their time to contribute towards its success.

In March, the #JesusFutures series also had a special nod to our Welsh heritage month with an insight into the workings of the Senedd featuring alumni Manon Antoniazzi

(1987, Celtic Studies), Anna Daniel (1994, Jurisprudence), and Huw Williams (1972, Jurisprudence). One of the flagship events of our 2022/2023 programme is our long weekend of activities planned in Cardiff in March 2023. This is the first time that we have hosted events in Wales for many years due to the pandemic interruption and we anticipate that the reception and tour of the Welsh Senedd will be a highlight of the programme.

One of the undoubted joys of this academic year has been welcoming alumni back on site for our major annual events in College, including the All Alumni Dinner, St David's Day tea, and Gaudies, as well as specific donor events such as the Commemoration of Benefactors and 1571 Society Legacy Luncheon. The sense of sheer happiness at these events returning was palpable and tremendously encouraging. We are delighted to be able to offer these much-missed College traditions to you again.



*Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd.*



Fire dancers from the Benefactors' Gala Dinner 2021.

We are especially delighted to have launched the Jesus College Shakespeare Project this year with three early comedies (*The Comedy of Errors*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*). Performed by students from across the university community, and in collaboration with our Access and Outreach teams, these plays have been enjoyed by schools' audiences, both from Oxfordshire and from Wales, as well as by our alumni and supporters. This coming academic year we will continue on our roughly chronological journey through Shakespeare's Complete Works by tackling the epic *Henry VI* trilogy, followed by *Richard III* in November 2023. Engaging with the devastating effects of war, populism, and social injustice, before ending with a savagely comic depiction of the rise and fall of a tyrant, we hope these plays will inspire and challenge all our audiences. We are also very grateful to alumna Julie Bowdler (1975, Biochemistry) for her generous support for the project.

This year we also have an opportunity to celebrate student performances of the past with a special 60th anniversary reunion for the casts of the Jesus-St Anne's Music Society productions of

*Out-Patience* and *The Mikado*, led by David Seddon (1961, English). Alongside alumni and current members of the Oxford University Gilbert and Sullivan Society, we hope that as many of the original casts, orchestras, and production teams can join us for a day of musical fun and frivolity!

So, what does the future hold for alumni events? We are committed to providing as broad a programme as possible and hope that all our alumni will find events that inspire them to reconnect with College. In particular, the Cheng Yu Tung building on the old Northgate site will provide a brand new venue with boundless potential that we will explore in the years to come.

We are also committed to maintaining our connections with alumni across the globe. The global reach of our Zoom events has inspired our next series that will run monthly between October 2022 and March 2023 – #JesusInternational. Following on from #JesusFutures, this series will embrace the international dimensions of our academics' research as well as those of our community spread across the world. A sister series, #JENInternational, will also explore the opportunities for global trade and entrepreneurship.

We hope that you are as excited as we are about the forthcoming alumni events programme. Whichever year you were here, whatever subject you studied, and whether you regularly attend alumni events or have not reconnected with College since you finished your degree, we would love to welcome you, whether that be here in Oxford, elsewhere across the UK, or virtually via Zoom. Do please make sure to sign up to events e-mails to keep up to date with the latest events news. We look forward to seeing you soon!



The cast of *Taming of the Shrew*.





Second Quad. Photo by John Cairns.



# 2022/2023 In-Person Events Calendar

For your convenience, and to help the environment, we now send all events invitations electronically via our events mailing list. These invitations contain details of when and how to book.

## In-Person Events at College

- **Friday 16 September 2022**  
Cadwallader Club Dinner
- **Saturday 17 September 2022**  
Cheng Yu Tung Building Visiting Day
- **Friday 30 September 2022**  
Gaudy (1965, 1980, 1985, 2005)
- **Saturday 26 November 2022**  
Jesus College Shakespeare Project: *Henry VI, part one*
- **Saturday 3 December 2022**  
Jesus-St Anne's Music Society alumni Gilbert and Sullivan lunch
- **Saturday 17 February 2023**  
Jesus College Shakespeare Project: *Henry VI, part two*
- **Wednesday 1 March 2023**  
St David's Day Celebrations
- **Friday 31 March 2023**  
All Alumni Dinner
- **Saturday 1 April 2023**  
Postgraduate Research Coffee Morning
- **Friday 14 April 2023**  
Gaudy (1961, 1996, 2011, 2016)
- **Tuesday 25 April 2023**  
Commemoration of Benefactors
- **Saturday 13 May 2023**  
Jesus College Shakespeare Project: *Henry VI, part three*
- **Saturday 27 May 2023**  
Summer Eights at the College boathouse
- **Saturday 10 June 2023**  
1571 Society Legacy Luncheon
- **Friday 23 June 2023**  
Gaudy (1958 and before, 1971, 1976, 1986, 1991)

## In-Person Events in London and Cardiff

- **Friday 14 October 2022**  
London Drinks: Happy Hour at Bow Street Tavern
- **Wednesday 30 November 2022**  
Donor Carols and Reception at St George's, Hanover Square
- **Thursday 23 March to Sunday 26 March 2023**  
Celebrating Modern Wales: Alumni Weekend in Cardiff
- **Saturday 24 June 2023**  
XL Network (JOMG) day

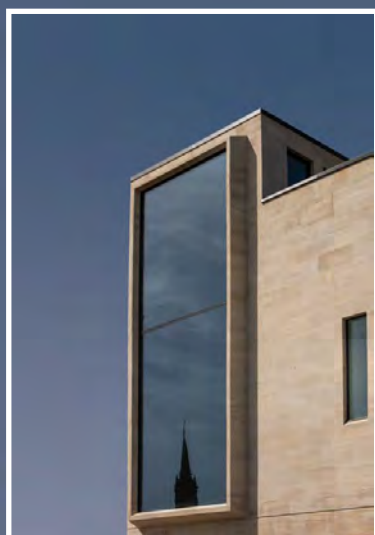
## Graduations

- **Saturday 10 September 2022**
- **Saturday 24 September 2022**
- **Saturday 5 November 2022**
- **Saturday 25 February 2023**
- **Saturday 15 July 2023**
- **Tuesday 25 July 2023**



Keep a look out for emails about our virtual events programme in the autumn, including our flagship #JesusInternational and #JENInternational series.





**Front cover**  
Jesus College Cheng Building  
*Photograph by John Cairns.*

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