Warden’s Message

The College has just held, on Saturday 29 October, a memorial meeting to celebrate the life and work of Sir Richard Doll, our founding Warden, who died on 24 July at the age of 92. We were privileged to arrange the meeting together with Richard’s close family, Catherine and Nicholas Doll, in a large marquee on the main lawn in the College gardens, in the shadow of the Radcliffe Observatory which Richard loved so well. Some three hundred people attended: relatives, friends, members and friends of his College, colleagues and admirers of Richard drawn from all periods and aspects of his extraordinary life - several of whom had not seen each other, or Richard, for many years.

We met in common cause, to remember the life and achievements of a very uncommon man and to listen to music played by members of the Green College Music Society - Richard had been a regular attender at the informal concerts in the Common Room. I had the opportunity to speak first about his Wardenship of Green College and the years of his Regius Professorship during which Oxford medicine came of age. Ann McPherson, Richard’s friend and physician for so many years, then spoke movingly of his early and formative years, the intellectual and political influences through which Richard navigated en route to adulthood and into his career in medicine. Finally Richard Peto explained the immensity of Richard’s contribution to epidemiology, with a clarity which enabled some of us to understand for the first time precisely what it was that made his work so exceptional. The new edition of the College Record which will be published in December will contain a full obituary by Julian Britton (Emeritus and Founding Fellow).

To many of us that afternoon in the marquee seemed to be a moment of transition. After Richard stepped down from his Wardenship he never really left the College. He was still living in a College house when he died. Now the College plans for its future without him but strengthened by the memory of his outstanding qualities. The Fellows have decided to make that memory permanent by naming the new quadrangle we intend to build the ‘Richard Doll Quadrangle’. A few weeks before he died, Richard told me how important he felt it was for the College to build its new buildings which will take it to maturity. He gave a substantial sum of money as a lead donation to the fundraising campaign. The Fellows have now decided that, since the quadrangle will be his permanent memorial, the name of the fund will be ‘The Richard Doll Memorial Fund’.

Oxford Preservation Trust Environment Award – The Radcliffe Observatory praised

The Radcliffe Observatory was honoured at the environmental awards in September 2005 with a plaque. Green College was praised for an outstanding conservation project, which included the restoration of the external stonework and decorations.

The judges said “The Observatory can now be seen in all its glory from miles around. It is the most beautiful of buildings and the careful restoration work that has been happened makes a huge contribution to the city”.
McGovern Annual Lecture in the History of Medicine

‘Medieval Surgery - one could do worse’

Under that appealing title Professor Michael McVaugh delivered the 2005 McGovern Annual Lecture in the History of Medicine on 27 October to a rapt audience and was the recipient of the McGovern Commemoration Medal. The E P Abraham Lecture Theatre was filled to capacity and the questions flowed - unsurprisingly as Michael is a world authority on medieval surgery and its place in medieval learning and is himself no stranger to Oxford.

Professor McVaugh is the William Smith Wells Professor of History at the University of North Carolina. Green College is grateful to him for returning to Oxford to deliver a fine, and finely illustrated, McGovern Lecture.

Professor S Donald Gonson gives Green College Academic Seminar

A Green College audience was treated to an academic seminar given by Prof S Donald Gonson, Visiting Scholar of Green College and Prof of International Law at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. Professor Gonson, who spent the 2004-2005 academic year in residence at the College, received his AB degree from Columbia University, a JD degree from the Harvard Law School, was a student at the London School of Economics, and a Fulbright Scholar to India. He joined the Boston law firm of Hale and Dorr (now Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale and Dorr) one of the leading technological law firms in the world, with branch offices in Oxford and London, and rose to Senior Partner, with a specialization in international law and counsel to technological companies.

Prof Gonson’s seminar was entitled ‘Aligning Interests and Rights: Re-establishing a Framework for the Ownership of Intellectual Property’. During the course of his presentation he made two related points, which he hoped would be considered in the current international colloquy concerning the breadth of intellectual property rights (IPR). First, as a matter of legal analysis, Prof Gonson argued that the characterization of intellectual property rights as ‘property’ is inappropriate and misleading, especially in light of the increasing failure to recognize the nature of property rights as a balance between the prerogatives of the holders of such property rights and the interests of society. Secondly, Prof Gonson suggests that the three principal objectives of IPR are: encouraging innovation, disclosure, and efficient distribution and utilization of protected information. He maintained that, as a matter of economic analysis, to the extent the breadth of particular IPR exceeds what is necessary to achieve these objectives, they may actually have the perverse consequences of compromising economic development and inhibiting innovation. In this case, it would be a burden on the efficient performance of the free market system, which may have unfortunate implications for developing countries that have more limited economic resources and whose development is recognized as important for world stability.

Prof Gonson plans in the immediate future to continue this analysis and broaden it to areas of bio-technology and interactions with the academic community. With Prof Don Chambers and Dr Sue Dobson of the Said Business School he will help to design and build programs that relate intellectual property, bio-technology and academe between Green College, the Said Business School and the Division of Medical Sciences.

Prof Donald Chambers

Heritage Open Days 2005

Green College opened its doors on Sunday 11 September and welcomed visitors to the Radcliffe Observatory in association with HODs. Having held a very successful open day on 16 May 2004, one year on from beginning restoration work, the College wished to continue to allow access to the Observatory, thus enabling visitors see the restoration work to date and enjoy the views of Oxford from the tower. Joining HODs, a well recognised and established scheme, allowed us to reach a wide spectrum of people – some of whom were visiting us for the second time and some for the first. Professor Jeffery Burley gave powerpoint presentations of the history of the Observatory and Mr Michael Pirie gave garden tours. We had a very busy and successful day with very positive feedback from all who visited us. We hope to continue with the scheme into 2006.
Berkeley Dean gives Reuters Lecture on US Media

The US television networks were pronounced “in an advanced state of disrepair” by the Dean of the Berkeley School of Journalism, Orville Schell, in his Reuters Foundation lecture earlier this term. Americans still watch on average a staggering 4½ hours of television per day, yet in recent years crime shows have tripled while international news coverage has halved.

Speaking to his lecture title, “Patriotism, Politics, Profit and American Broadcast News”, Schell delivered a powerful critique of the current US broadcasting scene, pointing out that US channels had conspicuously failed to debate going to war in Iraq.

Dean Schell is in a strong position to make such an assessment. Berkeley is considered one of the leading journalism schools in the USA, indeed in the world, and Schell has been in charge of it for most of the past decade. His own credentials are a rare combination of academic expertise (in Chinese studies – nine of his 14 books have concerned China, including “Virtual Tibet” and “Mandate of Heaven”) and award-winning journalism (mainly for CBS “Sixty Minutes” and WGBH “Frontline”). He has also written widely for the New York Times, the New York Review of Books, the New Yorker and Newsweek among other publications.

In his Oxford lecture Schell underlined the market-driven character of the main US networks and cable stations. This had intensified due to the broadcasting deregulation measures brought in under the Bush administration but Schell was also critical of Wall Street’s expectation of a 40% return on profit from television networks which he judged excessive. Schell was most concerned, however, about new levels of state manipulation of the media and government public relations efforts to ensure journalists kept “on message”. Failure to conform meant that access to information could be withheld and this, in Schell’s view, led to a loss of media nerve.

Schell contends that most US journalists want to do a good job and know how to go about this but are increasingly too constrained to be effective. In a democracy where most people derive essential information from the mainstream media this failing represents a serious crisis for the political system and Schell argues that universities have to have a stake in its resolution. Who else, he asks, is in a position to hold the media to account?

Paddy Coulter
Director, Reuters Foundation Programme
Dr Oliver Impey, Governing Body Fellow

Dr Impey was a Governing Body Fellow of the College from 1988 until 2003 when he was elected to Emeritus Fellowship. With his death the College lost an outstanding academic and friend.

His initial interest in plants and animals led him to Merton College and the Department of Zoology at Oxford University. He completed an outstanding doctorate on reptilian skulls and was employed as an Assistant Demonstrator in the Department of Zoology.

He then made the decision to change direction and moved from animals to art and gained employment with Sotheby and Co of London in the department of furniture and textiles as a cataloguer and auctioneer. In 1967 he moved back to Oxford to become Assistant Keeper at the Ashmolean Museum in the Department of Eastern Art and progressed through the department until he became Acting Keeper in 1995.

In June this year he received the R C Hills Gold Medal of the Oriental Ceramic Society which is awarded every three or four years “to a distinguished scholar in the field of oriental art.”
Green College Ball 2005 Report

On 16 July 2005, after a week of glorious summer weather, hundreds of ball-goers replete in 1920s garb flocked to Green College; molls jostled with gangsters to be the first to enter the Bootleggers’ Ball. Upon passing into the ‘speakeasy’, classic 20s jazz drifted over the beautiful College gardens, slowly easing the crowd into the evening’s festivities as they sipped their first glass of champagne, while being entertained by the magician and soaking up the atmosphere of a bygone era. As the night progressed, the mob dispersed into different arenas: either entering the Observatory to dance to an eclectic mix of funky Jazz bands while trying their luck at the casino; or opting for the more contemporary music of the main marquee and underground dance floor; or for those less rhythmically inclined, the bucking-bronco and bouncy castle provided alternative amusing sources of entertainment. To keep energy levels high, the revellers gorged themselves on pizzas, barbecued delights, ice-cream, popcorn and candy-floss, all washed down with an unlimited supply of fine liqueur.

Building upon a great tradition of Green College summer balls in the last few years, the Bootleggers’ Ball was a spectacular success, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, and with the added bonus of making a handsome donation to our designated charity: Oxford Aid to the Balkans. Thank you to the ball committee and all those people who made it happen.

Henry Meier
Ball Committee President

Diary of Future Seminars and Lectures

Green College Lectures 2006:
Climate Change – Evidence, Effects and Evasive Action

Monday 16 January
Global Warming in the 21st Century – Certain science or just another dodgy weather forecast?
DR TIM PALMER
Division Director, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts

Monday 23 January
Impacts of rapid climate change on fauna, flora and biological communities
PROFESSOR JEREMY THOMAS
Director, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Dorset

Monday 30 January
Climate Change and Human Health: Potential impacts, vulnerability and adaptation
PROFESSOR SIR ANDY HAINES
Director, The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Monday 6 February
Energy and Climate – Time for doing rather than talking
LORD OXBURGH OF LIVERPOOL
Retiring Chairman of Shell

All to be held in Witts Lecture Theatre: Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road, Oxford at 6.00pm.

News International Broadcast Media Lectures 2006
‘British TV Comedy: Dead or Alive’

SPEAKER: MR ARMANDO IANNucci,
Comic writer, performer, director and producer.

As the eighth News International Visiting Professor of Broadcast Media, Armando will give four lectures at Oxford.
24 January and 31 January at St Anne’s, Woodstock Road, Oxford
7 February and 14 February at Green College – venue to be confirmed.
The Green College MCR has had a wonderful fall this year, welcoming 160 new students from 35 nations into the Green College Community. Since the beginning of term a number of successful events have been organised including: a walking history of Green College, which was kindly conducted by Green College Fellow, Prof Jeff Burley, exchange dinners with St Hugh’s College and Teddy Hall, and a wonderful Guy Fawkes Night Fireworks display, all in addition to the highly successful Green College “Bops” hosted in the College Bar.

The MCR welcomed four new members to the committee this term, elected at the mid-term hustings in October to bring the committee back to its full complement of 16. The incoming members are Co-Bar Manager - Gregory Karelas, Environmental Officer - Alison Ashlin, OUSU Rep - Rachel Irwin and Women’s Officer - Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland. We welcome the energy and enthusiasm of our new members, and hope that they have many opportunities to help foster a vibrant collegiate atmosphere here at Green. Mid-Term elections brought a ban on smoking in the College Bar. The students of Green College strongly ratified a proposal by the MCR Committee, originally put in motion by last year’s MCR Committee and finalised by this year’s.

In another long-term project, the MCR successfully worked with Osler House to create a new Osler-Green Society and Clubs Funding system. Put in place this fall and approved by the Governing Body, it will provide a fair and well-organised system for the utilisation of funds, and ultimately a higher standard of life for students at Green College. In its first year of use, the number of clubs requesting budgets over doubled from the previous year to over 20 societies and clubs.

On behalf of the MCR Committee, I would like to wish all members of the Green College family a happy holiday season, and all the best in the New Year.

Jamie Salo
MCR President

It is a special night when one can gather together with friends and great music at an entertaining event, while simultaneously supporting people that make a positive difference in the world. For many here at Green College these are the reasons the fundraising events prove to be the most wholly enjoyable evenings of the year.

Following on an active and successful 2004-05 fundraising year, this MCR, along with talented organisers from the Green student-body, got off to an early start holding two events in the first two weeks of Michaelmas term. People from throughout the college, university, and local community attended, and together grossed over £2500 to be donated to three organisations.

In the first week, a benefit concert was organised by Green MCR in conjunction with Rhodes and Marshall Scholars as well as ‘Democrats Abroad’. Carnegie Hall caliber artists performed gospel, blues, and jazz as well as spoken word from the Delta region of the US. A bourbon and snack reception was held after the show. All proceeds from the show went to Second Harvest, a food distribution organisation in the US; funds raised at the reception will be sent to assist earthquake relief in Pakistan.

In week two, the MCR and the Global Health Group co-organised the Green annual charity dinner in the style of a ‘rich-poor dinner’. A lucky few were able to dine on a four-course meal, while the majority ate vegetable pilaf. The charities benefited were The Russ Foundation, located in Tamil Nadu, India, and the Oxford Homeless Medical Fund; speakers representing the two organisations gave presentations about their work. Throughout the evening, guests were serenaded by Green’s own talented jazz pianist, Adrian Yudan, and after dinner, solo singers/guitarists warmed up the crowd for the fantastic 8-piece funk band, the Red Soul Brigade. No one was sitting by the end of the night.

The theme for last year’s charities was centered around work that empowered women. This year the theme will be ‘addressing inequalities’. Inequalities, rather than lack of resources, are the cause of most human suffering that continues within every nation, without exception, worldwide. As Charities officer this year, I warmly encourage people from our Green College community to come forward to organise fundraising events and continue to creatively call attention to important issues that affect us as citizens of this world.

Lesley Demchenko, Charities and Development Chair
Alumni Focus

Dr Jeanette Garwood
Green College 1986-1990

I left Oxford to work at Manchester University in October 1990, and greatly enjoyed my graduation ceremony in summer 1991, made so memorable by the wonderful preparations at College, and the care taken on the day itself. Since working at Manchester Victoria for my Post Doc I have worked at a variety of institutions, including teaching psychology to Speech and Language students at Manchester Poly (as it still was in 1991). I have been a government scientist working for the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSE), where I had the grand (and as yet unequalled) title of ‘Behavioural Toxicologist’. The interdisciplinary ethos at Green certainly made me very at home with the various science teams at HSL – from the Biochemists working on ‘vibration white finger’, through the microbiologists seeking to develop an Anthrax laboratory (farsighted as this was the early 1990’s) through to the immunologists checking on the ricin content of Oxfam castor bean necklaces (definitely NOT for teething). After this interlude I returned to HE – perhaps slightly safer as an environment – in Kirklees, at the University of Huddersfield. I worked there, both within Behavioural Sciences and the Allied Health Professions, in all for eight and a half years. Whilst at Huddersfield I moved into my main area of research now – the psychology of Bad Behaviour. This was a result of beginning to undertake work with the Applied Criminology Group. I also managed the rare opportunity of getting my employer to pay for my MSc in Forensic and Legal Psychology. Currently working at Leeds Metropolitan University where I have been involved in the validation of four new degrees in the last 2 years, all crime/forensic related.

I live in Barnsley with my husband, Stephen and two Russian Hamsters, Romanov and Nikita. We will celebrate our tenth wedding anniversary in April 2006 (that is Stephen and myself, not the hamsters).

We would welcome alumni news for future newsletters. Please send your articles to Mrs Sharan Attar, Development Officer, Green College at the Radcliffe Observatory, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6HG or email to sharan.attar@green.ox.ac.uk.

Honours for Fellows

Professor Neville Osborne, Fellow of Green College has been awarded the Frankhauser Medal by the Association of Continuous Education in Ophthalmology of Switzerland. Professor Osborne will be the second recipient of the medal for his “outstanding achievement in research and education in ophthalmology”, the first being in 2000.

Dr Raghib Ali for his excellent work for the Graduate Entry medical students.

Dr Andrew Parker, Research Fellow of Green College has been awarded the prestigious L’Oreal Art and Science of Colour Award 2005 for his research into ascertaining the original colour in extinct animals. This high-profile award comes with 20,000 euros prize money and was announced on 21 October in Kyoto, Japan.

Honours for Students

Yasir Al-Wakeel and Keith Wu were jointly awarded the Renwick Vickers Prize in Dermatology 2005.

Helen Bould was awarded the Emanoel Lee Prize for the best elective essay 2005.

The following were awarded distinctions in taught MSc courses: Michael Constantine – MSc in Criminology & Criminal Justice; Tomas Carbonell, Angela Falconer and Katherine Meehan – MSc in Environmental Change and Management; Joshua Forgetson, Veronique Marx and Kate McGeevor – MSc in Nature, Society and Environmental Policy.

Ali Murad and Adam Shardlow have been awarded Hobson/Mann Memorial Scholarships tenable for the second and final year of the clinical course. Proxime Accessit: Michael Carter.

The following have been awarded distinctions for courses taken in 2004/05:

Miquel Roquette – MBA, Claire Fantus – MSc in Medical Anthropology, Samantha Dowling and Loke Min Foo – MSc in Evidence-Based Social Work.
Oxford University Society Travel Programme 2006

The OUS travel programme is open to all Oxford alumni, family and friends. Many new trips have been added this year to inspire you and all are accompanied by expert scholars. New trips include the Himalayas, Peru and Bolivia. Or you may decided to go on a safari in Namibia, cruise around Turkey or the Greek Islands or visit Sri Lanka. By travelling with the OUS Travel Programme, you will be supporting Oxford, as the tour operators make a donation to OUS for each booking.

Full details of all the trips can be found www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/services/travel/index.shtml or if you would like to join the email travel database and receive travel news and information from OUS please send an email to travel@ousoc.ox.ac.uk

Green College Clubs and Societies

Green College Medical Anthropology Discussion Group

The Green College Medical Anthropology Discussion Group provides an informal forum primarily for students who have work experience or research interests in conventional and non-conventional medicine, and any other form of health care. It meets on Mondays in even weeks of term time, from 5.00-6.00 in the Committee Room; 30 minutes of presentation are followed by half an hour of discussion.

The group was founded four years ago when two senior fellows, Prof Terence Ryan and Prof Jeffery Burley encouraged me, the newly appointed lecturer in Medical Anthropology, to create an interdisciplinary study group on medicinal ethnobotany and complementary and alternative medicine. The group, which initially was kept alive with the help of a pre-clinical student interested in CAM, Leslie-Anne Goodisson, went through several incarnations, and now centers on health care in different cultural settings.

Mostly, but by no means exclusively, Masters students in Medical Anthropology reported on their often remarkable life and work experiences with: Itza Maya ethnobotany, Tibetan medicine, homeopathy in Britain and Japan, acupuncture in the NHS, and also: aid work during the massacres in Rwanda, voluntary work in children’s homes of Eastern Europe, AIDS prevention in Zanzibar, and care for the elderly in England. This group engages them in a dialogue with well-established researchers, apart from giving them an opportunity to develop their presentation style. Rachel Irwin, 2nd year MPhil student, is the current co-convenor, and can be contacted if you wish to contribute to or obtain the detailed programme: rachel.irwin@anthro.ox.ac.uk

Elisabeth Hsu and Rachel Irwin

Green College Book Club

The two books that we have read this term could scarcely have been more different. On 6 October 2005 we had a wonderful discussion of Vladimir Nabokov’s ‘Lolita’. Katherine Peters gave us a concise, insightful and passionate introduction to what she thinks is a very good novel. This led to an, at times, impassioned debate with a remarkably wide range of strongly-held views. Perhaps we did generally agree that Nabokov is a brilliant writer with a remarkable skill in seducing his reader.

On 24 November Patricia Kearney lead a discussion of ‘The Master’ by Colm Toibin. This ‘factional’ novel is about five years in the later life of the American novelist, Henry James, when he was living in England. The discussion centred on James’s idiosyncratic character (as presented in this novel) and his devotion to his art. We agreed that Toibin is a wonderful writer, who brilliantly adopts James’s style in presenting a particular view of this renowned author.

Dates and books for the remainder of the academic year are:
30 March – ‘Family Matters’ by Rohinton Mistry presented by Beryl Selkon (date subject to change depending on other College meetings).
11 May
6 July

Meetings are open to all members of College and their guests, and are held in the small room off the Common Room starting at 6.00pm.

All new attendees, including students, will find a very warm welcome, sherry or orange juice and a lively discussion.

Paul Bankier and Mary McMenamin