It is the end of October as I write and expectations are that it will have been the warmest Oxford October on record. I will remember it for all sorts of other reasons, too. I took office as Warden at the beginning of the month, and almost everything that I have done since then has been for the first time.

A first Freshers' dinner; the first Governing Body meeting of term; a first Degree Day lunch; the first meeting of this Committee and of that; the first McGovern lecture I've attended - and this evening the first Collections of the year. But while these may have provided me with new experiences on a daily basis, they also echoed older and well established rhythms: the unfolding of a new academic year at Oxford, and the sequence of College events in Michaelmas term. I found this hugely reassuring. No matter how hectic my day might seem, no matter how hazy I was about what the next one held, the university and the college calendar spooled out calmly, clearly, confidently. Oxford does continuity and stability very well!

And yet, of course, one of the secrets of the University's longevity and continuity is its ability to evolve, to change, and to adapt. A very particular change is under way at the moment - and it is one of considerable importance to graduate colleges like Green. The University has approved a policy that will peg undergraduate numbers but continue to grow the numbers of graduate students. Indeed, this year, for the first time ever, the University welcomed more new graduate students (some 3250) than newly enrolled undergraduates (3200). In addition to growing numbers of graduate students, the university and its colleges are also committed to enhancing the nature of the graduate student experience, improving the support (financial and social) offered to graduates. This is quite a dramatic shift in the academic priorities of 'old' Oxford. It means that Green College, very much part of 'new' Oxford, will spend time deliberating how best it can support its students, its research community, its Fellows and other members. These deliberations will require careful thought and good judgement - but also will require our collective imagination and shared vision. There will be crucial discussions about the future in the months to come. I look forward very much to being part of them.

My predecessor, Sir John Hanson, did a great deal for Green College during his eight years as Warden. Perhaps above all, he deepened its sense of itself as a community. Under his leadership, and because of his passion for the place, the Green College community became especially close-knit, coherent and comradely. The ethos of a college is intangible and difficult to describe; but there is no mistaking it when it is successful and positive. It is a wonderful legacy to have inherited.

It may, as I said, turn out to be the warmest October as measured by the daily readings taken on the lawns in front of the Observatory. But I want to place on record that the warmth of the welcome that I have experienced at Green College is also exceptional. Thanks to all of you who wished me well so cordially and unstintingly. I shall do my best to live up to it.

**RICS Awards 2006**

These awards are an annual celebration of built and natural environment projects that demonstrate excellence in the categories and a commitment to value for money and sustainability. The Building Conservation award honours conservation in all its forms and the judges have paid particular attention to the construction materials/techniques used, conservation achievements, background research undertaken and the projects long-term prospects.

The Radcliffe Observatory won the Building Conservation category for the South-East region and joint overall winners with the Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth of the South-East region.

We were then short-listed for the Building Conservation category and Global Project of the Year in the grand final which had entries from all around the world. The Observatory received a Commended Award for the work.

Debbie Dance, judge said “This is an outstanding piece of conservation. It has put the building back in the public domain and is now an instantly recognisable feature of the Oxford skyline, known to all”.

**Warden’s Message**

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Sir John Hanson retires

Sir John Hanson retired on 30 September after nearly nine years as Warden of our College. In recognising the contributions that John made to Green College during his period of Wardenhip, I start by asking that we do not forget the significant part played by Margaret until her death in May 2003. Together they made students, Fellows, their guests and visitors feel welcome and wanted in Green College.

John was also prominent in supporting the students in various sporting and other collegiate activities. He worked hard to cement the relationship between Green College and William Osler House on both a managerially and financially sound basis. Back at base, John moved Green College along its pathway towards the restoration of the Tower of the Winds. This is not yet complete, but we can see the beauty of the work carried out so far on the main tower and south-facing buildings. He also achieved his aim of increasing the size of Green College by obtaining outline planning permission for a building programme focused on the tennis court site. The new University Strategy for Graduate Colleges placed other challenges in John's way as he approached retirement, as he strove to think imaginatively of ways of increasing student numbers and raising the profile of Green College in the future University.

In all of his dealings on behalf of Green College, John brought stature and gravitas to the College, as well as broadening its outline and activities such that Green College is now recognised as an important academic player through its lecture series, seminar programmes, and links with overseas institutions and industry. But in spite of all these initiatives, John repeatedly reminded the Fellows that the key players in any college are its students.

John has recently bought a house off the Woodstock Road and the Fellows look forward to welcoming him back to College as an Honorary Fellow. We hope John enjoys his well-earned retirement.

John Sear, Vice-Warden

Annual McGovern lecture 2006

The McGovern Lecture on the History of Medicine is an important annual event on the College calendar. The lecture has been delivered by distinguished historians of medicine since its inception five years ago and this year's lecture was no exception. However, it was the first time that the McGovern Lecturer has been a Fellow of the College. Professor Mark Harrison, Director of the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine and a Governing Body Fellow, gave a well-attended lecture entitled “War, Epidemics and Empire: The British Army in the Middle East during the First World War”. He provided a fascinating account of how the British army in Egypt and the trans-Jordan theatre sought to control sanitation and disease - and how its efforts were shaped by prevailing beliefs on ethnicity, identity and hygiene.

Doll Fellows win award for excellence in teaching

The excellence of the College's academic support for medical students has been recognised by a teaching award. The Medical Sciences Board recently made nine awards to recognise those who demonstrated Excellence in Teaching, to “express the parity of esteem accorded to teaching and research”. The Panel making the awards “was extremely impressed by the way in which the Doll Fellows at Green College have successfully planned and implemented great improvements and innovation in the College teaching programme for its medical students”. Given the size of the Medical Sciences Division and the large number of clearly excellent teachers in the faculty, the Doll Fellows are especially delighted with this award.

The College community congratulates Dr Laurence Leaver and his colleagues on the teaching programme. The award comes at a moment when the College's support for medical students goes from strength to strength. This year the College has a full intake of 29 new standard course clinical students - all of whom put the College as their first choice.

Fellow visits Wellcome Unit

Major General John Pearn, Honorary Visiting Fellow of Green College, spent time with Dr Mark Harrison, Fellow of Green College and Director of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine during his annual visit to College. Dr Harrison's recent work on the international history of quarantine has complemented Professor Pearn's historical research on naval medicine and in particular his research on the first doctors of the Pacific. Professor Pearn is a member of the Committee of the International Society of the History of Medicine and a Founder, Past-President and Honorary Life Member of the Australian & New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine.
One in 10 teenagers self-harms, according to the largest ever study of self-harm among 15-16 year olds, led by Professor Keith Hawton of Oxford's Centre for Suicide Research and Governing Body Fellow of Green College. The research took place in 41 schools across Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Birmingham in 2000 and 2001, and surveyed 6,000 teenagers. Pupils were asked to complete a questionnaire which explored issues surrounding self-harm and suicidal thoughts, together with other factors such as depression, anxiety, impulsiveness and self-esteem.

The survey found that 11 per cent of girls had self-harmed in the last year, and three per cent of boys. Thirteen per cent of the self-harming incidents resulted in a hospital visit.

Motives given for self-harming included wanting relief from a terrible state of mind, wanting to punish oneself, and wanting to die.

The majority of those who said they self-harmed said that it was an impulsive act rather than something they had thought about for a long time.

For both sexes, deliberate self-harm was correlated with consumption of cigarettes, alcohol and drug use. Self-harm was more common in pupils who had been bullied and was very common in those who had been physically or sexually abused.

Professor Hawton said: 'Deliberate self-harm is one of the most important health issues in adolescents. While the behaviour will for many individuals be a temporary phenomenon, we now know that self-harm in adolescence often foretells mental health problems and further self-harm in young adulthood. Preventive initiatives, which are discussed in the book, are therefore crucial.'

For further information about the book, go to the publisher’s website: http://www.jkp.com/

Oxford researchers have shown that high doses of some commonly used painkillers could increase the risk of heart attacks. The study was based on the results of 138 randomised trials involving 140,000 patients and found that some so-called Non-steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDS), like ibuprofen or diclofenac, increased the risk.

The study was carried out for the Medical Research Council by researchers at the Clinical Trial Service Unit and Epidemiological Studies Unit (CTSU) at the University of Oxford, in collaboration with the University of Rome.

The research team found that the NSAIDS, when taken in relatively high doses, carried the same risk as COX-2 inhibitors such as Vioxx®. Vioxx® was withdrawn in 2004 after it was shown to increase the risk of heart disease. They examined the results of all trials in which the cardiovascular effects of selective COX-2 inhibitors (also known as coxibs) and NSAIDS had been studied. By combining these results, they were able to calculate the effects of these drugs more reliably than in the individual trials, which were too small to study this question. The researchers stress, however, that the risk of taking coxibs and some NSAIDS is modest for those who do not have vascular disease already - the equivalent to about three extra heart attacks per 1,000 people taking the drug each year.

Dr Colin Baigent, Research Director from the CTSU, a former Research Fellow to Green College and now a Member of Common Room said: 'Many patients with severe chronic arthritis depend on these drugs to stay physically active, so it is important that they and their doctors can weigh up their benefits and harms.'

Progress is being made in annotating the Alastair Robb-Smith archives to which much was added following the death last year of his wife Peggy Pickles. The final closure of the Radcliffe Infirmary has also stimulated an assessment of its history by several departments that have been housed therein and some of its contents are of permanent historic interest. The focus of the Osler "museum" in Oxford is becoming "Public Health and Oxford Medicine before during and after Osler". It includes for example a substantial collection relevant to the history of leprosy to which Oxford has contributed. I have chosen this theme so as to be different from McGill!

I am negotiating an exchange of books and papers with a number of libraries, mostly within Oxford, as we have many duplicates. I will keep special gifts and especially if they were given by people of significance in the Osler context. I am pleased to have collected a number of photographs of Osler's contemporaries in Oxford and as most libraries do not keep old text books I thought we should collect textbooks written by Osler's contemporaries as it gives a better background of the knowledge of his competitors.

Professor Terence Ryan
Book wins awards

Over the last few years Professor Alan Emery, Honorary Fellow of Green College and his wife Marcia have written three books concerning historical developments in medicine, surgery, obstetrics and paediatrics as reflected in works of art. Each carries a Foreward by Sir John Hanson. The first in the series 'Medicine and Art' was published in 2003 and has been reprinted and translated into Italian and Turkish.

The second 'Surgical and Medical Treatment in Art' was published last year and was Winner of the BMA Illustrated Book Award and Highly Commended in the Basics of Medicine category. It was also Highly Commended by the Society of Authors. The third book in the series 'Mother and Child Care in Art' has just recently been published.

Recognition of Distinction for Green College members

The University of Oxford annually recognises outstanding academic distinction by awards of Readerships and Fellowships.

Dr Colin Baigent
Common Room Member and ex Research Fellow: Professor of Epidemiology

Dr Mark Harrison
Governing Body Fellow: Professor of the History of Medicine

Dr Carolyn Hoyle
Governing Body Fellow: Reader in Criminology

Dr Elisabeth Hsu
Governing Body Fellow: Reader in Social Anthropology

Dr John Lennox
Governing Body Fellow: Reader in Mathematics

Dr Martin Seeleib-Kaiser
Governing Body Fellow: Reader in Comparative Social Policy and Politics

Student awards

Ali Murad was awarded the Renwick Vickers Prize in Dermatology 2006

Marie-Helen Maras for Proxime Accessit to the Roger Hood prize for the Best Performance in the MCs Criminology and Criminal Justice 2006

Distinctions for courses completed in 2006

Carsten Burger, Nicholas Chabee, Vladimir Todres, Matthew Willan, April Gallwey, Tuukka Toivonen, Laura Jockers, Marie-Helen Maras, Katherine Norton, Sasha Sud, Jenny O’inions, Allison Gilmore, Yuki Imoto

Award for Dr Alexander Gatherer

Congratulations to Dr Alexander Gatherer, a former Honorary Visiting Fellow to Green College, and now a Member of Common Room who has been awarded the Alwyn Smith Prize Medal 2006 for distinguished service to the public health by the Faculty of Public Health of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom.

He was the Director of Public Health for Oxford for 20 years. Since his retirement in 1994, he has been the temporary adviser to the World Health Organisation (Europe) Health in Prisons Projects, drawing attention to the public health issues of health in prisons throughout Europe.

OUS Travel Programme 2007

The OUS travel programme is open to all Oxford alumni, family and friends. By travelling with the OUS Travel Programme, you will be supporting Oxford, as the tour operators make a donation to OUS for each booking.

The new travel brochure for trips throughout 2007 and early 2008 will be available from October. There is a wide choice of unusual and interesting destinations, from Antarctica to Italy. Travel with like-minded people, accompanied by expert trip scholars. For a copy of the new brochure, please email travel@ousoc.ox.ac.uk or see our website: http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk.
The Dunhill Medical Trust has awarded the University of Oxford £1.5 million for stroke research, prevention and treatment. The money will go towards clinical projects that work directly with stroke patients, taking world-leading research to the hospital.

The world-class stroke experts at Oxford leading the programme are Peter Rothwell, Professor of Clinical Neurology; Alastair Buchan, Professor of Clinical Geratology and Governing Body Fellows of Green College; and Peter Jezzard, Herbert Dunhill Professor of Neuroimaging.

The grant will help fund the Oxford Stroke Programme, an ambitious project that will bring together different strands of stroke research from across the University to develop a research-driven care programme for stroke patients within Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital. It is hoped that the model for prevention and treatment it develops will become a template for nationwide care.

Every year, over 130,000 people in the UK suffer a stroke - one person every five minutes. It is the third largest cause of premature death in the developed world, the single biggest cause of neurological disability, and a major cause of epilepsy, depression, and dementia.

Prevention is, of course, the ideal, and £564,904 of the Dunhill Medical Trust grant over six years will help the Stroke Prevention Research Unit to continue the Oxford Vascular Study (OXVASC). Started in 2002, OXVASC is a detailed study of all patients with acute vascular events, such as strokes and heart attacks, in a population of nearly 100,000 in nine GP practices in Oxfordshire. By collecting data on risk factors for stroke, clinical researchers can intervene early to prevent a major stroke. Professor Peter Rothwell, who runs OXVASC and also leads the stroke prevention module of the National Stroke Strategy, argues: 'Despite being more common, stroke has in the past been a very poor relation of coronary heart disease in terms of research funding. Consequently, much simple but clinically important work still remains to be done. For example, building on recent successes with data from studies like OXVASC, we aim to develop risk scores to allow GPs to reliably identify individuals who are at particularly high risk of stroke and to target preventive treatment therefore.'

When treating stroke, time is crucial. An important aspect of the Oxford Stroke Programme is a medical imaging centre (the Acute Vascular Imaging Centre) to be built next to the Emergency Department at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital. It will be led by Professor Alastair Buchan, a stroke expert, and Professor Peter Jezzard, an expert in brain imaging techniques.

'During a stroke the brain can age three weeks a second,' says Professor Buchan. 'Stroke is an emergency.' By using techniques to image the brain, such as computerised tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and angiography, stroke specialists can target treatment. Having this imaging available onsite as the patient is rushed in will mean that no time is lost. 'Stroke fundamentally changes people,' says Professor Buchan. 'We not only have to prevent stroke from killing, but also limit the damage it causes so those who suffer from stroke can go on to have a good quality of life. The generous gift from the Dunhill Medical Trust is helping us to do that.'

Heritage Open Day - Sunday 10th September 2006

On behalf of the Warden and Fellows may I thank everyone who assisted in the preparation and delivery of another outstandingly successful Open Day. Various College members and partners made cakes, served teas, washed up, sold merchandise, operated the till, welcomed our visitors, guided them in the Tower of the Winds and generally made their experience enjoyable. Some 500 people visited the College and its Gardens; they contributed towards the continued conservation of the Observatory by buying refreshments and merchandise and by voluntary donations which totaled approximately £730.00.

Mr Charlie Barclay, a member of Common Room and Visitor in the Department of Astrophysics joined me in giving four paired talks about the History of the Observatory and related Astronomy which were attended by about 60 people at each. His talks reinforced the links between Green College, the Department of Astrophysics and Marlborough College. Mr Michael Pirie led two tours of the College Gardens which attracted groups of about 50 people each.

In particular I wish to thank Mrs Sharan Attar who shouldered the major burden of organising and co-ordinating the event.

Professor Jeff Burley
The University is due to announce shortly the appointment of BBC Four Controller Janice Hadlow as the News International Visiting Professor of Broadcast Media for 2006/7. This post is associated with Green College, and recent previous appointments have included Armando Iannucci and Stewart Purvis whose lecture series (on television comedy and broadcast news respectively) have drawn very large audiences in Oxford and attracted extensive coverage in the national media.

In her four-part lecture series to be delivered in the first part of Hilary term, Professor Hadlow will address the question of whether it is possible for a mass medium like television to be serious and if so how this can be maintained in a multi-media and multi-channel environment. The lectures are likely to generate much argument and controversy as the “media dumbing down” debate is already raging.

Janice Hadlow is particularly well equipped to tackle this subject having held key senior commissioning posts in our leading public service broadcasters including Head of Specialist Factual at Channel 4 Television and joint Head of BBC History where she commissioned Simon Schama's “A History of Britain”. Other credits include David Starkey's “Six Wives” and “Elizabeth”, “The 1940s House” and “The First World War” along with science, medical, arts and performance programmes (her production of the “Death of Klinghoffer” opera won a much-coveted Emmy award).

The first two lectures in the series which is entitled “The Importance of Being Serious” will be held at St Anne's and the last two at Green College. They will all run at 5.30pm on consecutive Tuesday evenings, starting on 23 January 2007.

Paddy Coulter, Reuters Institute

Welcome New College Members

Governing Body Fellowship

Dr Sarmila Bose
Director of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

Dr Bose obtained her PhD in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University and has held teaching and research positions at Harvard, Warwick University, George Washington University and Tata Institute of Social Sciences. She has also been assistant editor and senior political writer with the ABP Group of newspapers in India. Her research and writing interests are electoral politics, and public policy issues in South Asia.

Dr Xiaolan Fu
University Lecturer in Development Services

Dr Fu is principal investigator of two EPSRC funded projects on 'The role of management practices in closing the productivity gap' (EP/D503973/1) and 'Rural e-services' (EP/E026052/1). She is also principal investigator and researcher of a series of projects funded by: UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Department of Trade and Industry, UK Trade & Investment, regional (UNCTAD), Department of Trade and Industry, UK Trade & Investment, regional and private firms.

Professor Roger Zetter
Director of the Refugees Studies Centre

Professor Zetter is the fourth Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, and took up his appointment in October 2006. His long association with RSC commenced when he became Founding Editor of the Journal of Refugee Studies hosted by RSC and published by Oxford University Press, a position he held from 1988-2001.

Research Fellowship

Dr Emily Boyd, Environmental Change Institute

Dr Junko Iida, Kawasaki Medical Foundation

Mr Geoff Lye (ECI/Green College Teaching Fellow), Environmental Change Institute

Research Associateship

Dr Matt Jarvis, Department of Astrophysics

Dr Ian Lewis, Department of Astrophysics

Dr Eve Bertelsen

Common Room Members

Mr Charles Barclay
Director of the Blackett Observatory, Marlborough and Visitor in the Department of Astrophysics, Oxford

Dr Patricia Kearney
Clinical Trial Service Unit, Oxford University

Mr Nigel Winser
Executive Director, Earthwatch Institute (Europe), Oxford

New Finance/Admissions Co-ordinator

Debbie Tolond joined the College in September as Finance/Admissions Co-ordinator. She replaces Patricia Gilbert, who left to work at a hotel nearer to home. Debbie is having to learn quickly about College life and is rising to the challenges of her new role. We welcome Debbie and wish Patricia well in her new job.

Robert Turner Visiting Scholar

Dr Patricia Pérez-Matute

Patricia has just been appointed as the next Robert Turner Scholar. She is a postdoctoral scientist from Pamplona, Spain who has joined the Oxford Laboratory for Integrative Physiology in the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDM) at the Churchill Hospital. She is supported by a 1-year scholarship from the Rafael del Pino Foundation.

Reuters Journalist Fellows

Mr Soek Bae An (South Korea)
Ms Yuqing Cui (China)
Mr John Dyer (USA)
Mr Luke Harding (UK)
Ms Ekaterina Kravchenko (Russia)
Mr James Painter (Americas and Europe)
Ms Barbara Peranic (Croatia)
Mr Kim Sang Woo (South Korea)
Mr Yasoumi Sawa (Japan)
Ms Alexandra Seno (Philippines)
Mr Bernard Tabaire (Uganda)
New Institute for the Study of Journalism

The new Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism began operations at 13 Norham Gardens with the arrival in September of the Director Sarmila Bose, Director of Journalism John Lloyd, Administrator Rima Dapous and Administrative Officer Kate Hanneford-Smith. The Institute integrates and builds on the Reuters Fellowship programme for visiting journalists which continues to be headed by Paddy Coulter. The Institute, based at the Department of Politics and International Relations, brings together academics and journalists to study the content of news media globally. Its plans for short and long-term research projects are complemented by seminars, workshops, conferences and collaborative relationships with other centres.

The Institute's new Wednesday lunch-time seminars at Green College proved a draw for a wide range of University members, often running to spill-over audiences in the committee room. A special talk by M J Akbar, editor of The Asian Age, in association with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on 'Veils, Islam and the West', sparked a lively discussion in a packed room. Eleven visiting journalist fellows, from China, Croatia, Japan, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Uganda, UK and USA are engaged in individual research projects.

The formal opening of the Institute took place on 20 November, presided by the Chancellor Lord Patten and co-hosted by Green College and St Anne's College featuring a keynote address by Leonard Downie, Executive Editor, The Washington Post, on 'Journalism after Iraq', followed by a discussion by Wadar Khanfar, Managing Director, Al Jazeera, Helen Boaden, Director of News, BBC and Professor Timothy Garton Ash and concluding remarks by Geert Linnebank, Editor-in-Chief of Reuters.

Dr Sarmila Bose

Green College Society Summer Event

College members from around the world attended the Garden Party and Dinner on the 24 June. The weather was glorious and the day enjoyed by all.

Professor Derek Jewell, Dr John Diggens, Professor Donald Chambers, Mrs Barbara Jewell & Dr Stephen Ensminger

This year's Green College Society Lecture was delivered by Dr Andrew Parker, EP Abraham Research Fellow of Green College and Royal Society University Research Fellow, Department of Zoology. His lecture entitled 'Iridescent colours in nature and a link to nanotechnology' was a stimulating and beautifully illustrated presentation of the development, use and adaptation of colour vision and the techniques available for its understanding.

Ms Yoko Hani, Ms Deborah Pout, Ms Karen Percey, Ms Gülveda Özgür, Ms Sharon Cheung

Dr Catherine MacKenzie, Dr Mary McMenamin, Dr Joseph Selkon and Dr Beryl Selkon

MCR Report

The first term in Oxford involves getting used to the mode of dress in Oxford - the Matriculation Ceremony on October 14 provided the first opportunity for the precise black and white sub fusc, while in contrast the Halloween G-Bop brought out costumed Ghouls and Ghosts, Goal-keepers, Golfers, Goddesses and Gifts for a night of revelling within and outside the G-Bar. Black-tie dinners and formal exchange dinners with Trinity College, and soon Brasenose College give yet another dimension to attire in Oxford. Then, wearing loose-fitting clothing the weekly early-morning yoga classes at the top of the Observatory invites stretching and awakening.

In addition to the multitude of events run within Green College, there are 26 Osler-

Green sports clubs and other societies for Green students and medical students from other colleges. Students take part in rugby, football, hockey and rowing at a college level, or participate in the art society or Well-being groups. Medical students form small groups to educate school groups about contraception or raise money for eye care in Africa. Many more clubs are hoping students will continue to get involved!

The MCR committee should be commended for all their efforts over the summer and throughout Michaelmas term. In particular, the MCR committee would like to wish Sir John Hanson well for the future, and welcome Dr Colin Bundy into Green College.

Emma Link, Green College MCR President

The Rising Sun Ball

Picture yourself on a perfect summer evening, as you wander through the arches of an Oxford college and into a lantern-lit land of glamour and Eastern promise. At the Green College Summer Ball in July, guests did just this as they let themselves be lured into our Oriental fantasy, sipped champagne where dragons danced and lions leaped under the setting sun. They then gathered their companions together and proceeded to the magnificent Radcliffe Observatory, for an opulent dinner that heralded the beginning of an evening they shall never forget! Dancing continued long into the night, sumo wrestling, massages and ice-cream aplenty - great times were had by all.

Stay tuned for the ball next July!
Alumni focus

Dr Stephen Potts
Green College (1984-88)
I've always had an ambivalent relationship with medicine - or at least with the all-or-nothing nature of medical careers - and I took “time out” after house jobs to study medical ethics at Green College, before training in psychiatry in London and Edinburgh. For the last ten years I've been a consultant in liaison psychiatry at the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh, where I have close links with the A&E, the renal department and the transplant unit; but I work part-time (three days per week) to pursue a parallel career as a writer.

In 1999 my first book, Hunting Gumnor was published. It's an adventure fantasy for children aged 10-12, and has been followed by two other books, Compass Murphy (2001) and The Ship Thief (2004) to make a set collectively titled The Running Tide. My latest, Abigail's Gift, came out in August 2006. None have been best-sellers, but they have been generally well received and I've made a few awards nomination lists. Along the way there was a novella for younger children and I'm now branching out into radio, with a short play broadcast on Radio 4 in June. I'm currently working on a feature film script and a novel for adults, with a medical theme.

Straddling these two worlds is difficult at times and requires more organisation than falls to my nature: but it is possible. I've heard part-time doctors recount tales of marginalisation, but I've never met anything less than total acceptance from my colleagues and flexibility from management. Yet part-time work is still unusual in hospital medicine and is most often undertaken by women with young families. For those of you, male or female, who want time to pursue other interests, I'd recommend it.

Kacie Winsor
Green College (2003-2004)
Life at Green College was in many ways an opportunity for me to expand my horizons, to sharpen my intellect, and to be part of a community of amazingly gifted scholars equally committed to improving the social welfare of others. All that I learned and gained from my time in Oxford cannot be deduced in a short essay, a thousand pictures or even a carefully crafted documentary. What can be explained, however, is who I have become and what course I have charted for myself as a result of my Green College experience.

After completing my Masters of Science in Comparative Social Policy, I returned to the United States wondering if and how I would ever replace the void of leaving Oxford with a new community of diverse, intellectually engaged and thoughtfully compassionate friends. I moved to New York City, where I had secured a job as a policy analyst for the New York AIDS Coalition (NYAC). NYAC is an alliance of nearly 200 community-based agencies serving people living with HIV/AIDS throughout New York, working in collaboration to achieve a more adequate and effective prevention and care response.

Moving to New York City, I embraced the opportunity to learn more about the face of AIDS in the United States, and New York specifically. Unexpectedly, I was confronted with the reality that “third-world” devastation and despair was not only present in parts of Africa and Asia, but also in the South Bronx, Central Harlem, and rural upstate New York. In my current role as Director of State and Local Affairs, I have been afforded countless opportunities to help shape policies and budget priorities, and to empower those who are living with HIV/AIDS to become advocates themselves.

Still, what I remember more than anything from my time at Green is that sometimes, the most knowledgeable person in the room is the one who listens and observes. It hasn't been the appearances on CNN or the meetings with high-level politicians that have made a difference in my life. Rather, it has been the personal stories of those infected and affected by this devastating disease that have left an indelible mark. Seeing the secrecy and shame, and hearing the sense of hopelessness in the face of ideology-based policymaking is a strong reminder of all that Green instilled in me. The worth of our gifts and talents is best measured by the degree to which we use them to serve others.

New webpage announcement

Green College is keen to keep in touch with its Alumni and having introduced a new feature in the termly publication 'Alumni Focus' a year ago we decided to extend this to the website. Having collated some articles the page was launched mid November. Please take a look and you might catch up with news on old colleagues. We would like to keep this new venture fresh and up to date so please email your news with photos (optional) to Mrs Sharan Attar, Development Officer, Green College, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6HG. There is no copy limit and photos should be sent as high resolution jpeg.

www.green.ox.ac.uk

This newsletter is printed on environmentally friendly paper - HannoArt Silk, which is made by wood from Sustainable Forests and is totally chlorine free.