Warden’s message

“Ninth week of Trinity” – it is one of those phrases with a precise meaning for Oxford insiders but pretty inscrutable to anyone else. Those of us in the know are well aware that the University teaches and examines its undergraduate students in three brief yet intensive eight week terms, sandwiched for administrative purposes by “noughth” and “ninth” weeks, making effectively an academic year of three ten-week terms.

Although Oxford life continues beyond these 30 weeks, especially in a graduate college like ours, the rhythms and regularities of the academic year mean that a great deal of university business is crammed into just three fifths of the calendar year. The cycle of seminars and lectures and committee meetings is highly compressed and it all culminates in the handsome rituals of Encaenia at the end – the ninth week - of Trinity Term.

Green College also marches to this drum. Some of our members take part in the Encaenia procession; I enjoyed the ceremony greatly; and the award this year of an Honorary Doctorate to President Jimmy Carter had particular resonance for the College. Visiting Scholar Peter Bourne – who served as Health Policy Adviser to Carter’s White House – was much involved in the visit by the ex-President. Carter, who has redefined the role of an ex-President of the USA, also delivered a moving lecture on “Peace with Justice in the Middle East”.

During the ninth week of Trinity, Green College also marks the close of the academic year. On Friday the Senior Tutor hosted a splendid dinner for “leavers” – those students completing their degrees – and their college advisors. Saturday 23rd June was the occasion for the Green College Society Annual Event. Unseasonal June rainfall did little to dampen the mood of the garden party, lecture, reception and dinner: a sequence of celebrations for the College’s extended family.

The lecture this year was by Dr Ian Goldin, the founding Director of the James Martin 21st Century School – and he challenged his audience to think long and hard about “future shocks”. He provided a compelling overview of the challenges and prospects of accelerated change across demographic, economic, social, technological and medical fields. Conversation at my table during the dinner thrummed with responses to his presentation – and there can be no greater tribute to a talk.

I have indicated previously why I think the merger represents a considerable opportunity. The combined college will be one of the largest graduate colleges in Oxford and will be able to direct its resources to create a rich and diverse intellectual environment with facilities and services tailored to the needs of graduates. It will mean that the new college is well positioned to respond to the University’s strategy of strengthening postgraduate studies.

There remains a great deal of work to be done between now and the actual moment of merger: if all goes to plan this will take effect on 1 October in 2008. Which will be, of course, in the noughth week of Michaelmas term.

Dr Marvin Lee Weil MD Equipment Library

“Give us the tools and we will finish the job”  
Sir Winston Churchill, BBC radio broadcast, Feb 9, 1941

The College is pleased to announce the creation of a medical Equipment Library. We have purchased ophthalmoscopes and otoscopes for students to borrow, so that they can use them to practice the techniques of examining eyes and ears. There are enough instruments for the fifth year students to have a set each for the relevant rotations, and also some instruments for the fourth or sixth years to use on the wards. This is more cost-effective than providing grants for the purchase of instruments (some rich Colleges offer generous grants for each student) but still supports students who need to learn the skills of using such instruments.

We have decided to name the library in honour of Dr Marvin Lee Weil MD. Marvin was a professor of paediatric neurology at UCLA who “retired” to Oxford to pursue his research interests, which overlapped with those of Lord Walton. Marvin was also a great advocate for medical education (and had even been a patient in Green College teaching sessions). In memory of Marvin, his widow Mrs Joyce Weil, has provided generous support for medical education in the college. We are also grateful to several recently qualified medics for contributions towards this venture. Further gifts to ensure the sustainability of the library, would be much appreciated. Anyone interested in further details of the College’s medical teaching programme is welcome to contact me.

Laurence Leaver
Senior Joan & Richard Doll Clinical Tutorial Fellow
laurenceleaver@hotmail.com
Forty of the United Kingdom’s leading doctors and medical researchers have been recognised for excellence in medical science with their election to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Of the forty chosen, four were from Oxford University and this included two Green College Governing Body Fellows: Professor Alastair Buchan, Professor of Clinical Geratology and Dr Richard Gibbons, Reader in Clinical Genetics.

They were admitted to the Academy at a ceremony in London on the 28 June.

Elected Fellows have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical science, for innovative application of scientific knowledge and conspicuous service to healthcare.

Professor John Bell, President of the Academy of Medical Sciences said, “These Fellows enter the Academy at a time when health and medical science issues are high on the public and political agenda. Our Fellows demonstrate the wealth of experience and diversity of talent amongst the UK’s research community. Their excellence in medical research plays a pivotal role in determining the future of medical science and the benefits that society will enjoy in years to come.

“Changes in funding structures and calls for public debate over controversial topics such as stem cells, hybrid embryos and the use of animals in research will all have an impact on medical science in the coming years.

“For the promise of our Fellows’ work to be fulfilled it is vital that appropriate policies and regulations are in place to ensure research is not unduly hindered, but at the same time progresses in harmony with society.”

The expertise of the new Fellows spans cancer research, developmental biology, stem cell therapy, medical education, bioethics and the history of modern medicine.

This year Fellows were chosen from 355 candidates. The seven Sectional Committees met in March to consider potential Fellows for 2007 entry to the Academy. Three nominators from within the Fellowship much back each candidate. The Academy Registrar Professor Patrick Maxwell, Professor of Nephrology, Imperial College London, oversees the election.

Of the 224 Fellows elected in the past 5 years 38 (17%) are women. According to the Higher Education Statistics Agency, of full-time and part-time professors in science subjects at UK universities, about 9% are women.

The independent Academy of Medical Sciences promotes advances in medical science and campaigns to ensure these are translated as quickly as possible into benefits for society. The Academy’s Fellows are the United Kingdom’s leading medical scientists from hospitals, academia, industry and the public service.

I have to report two sad events: the closing finally of the Radcliffe Infirmary and the departure of The Newcomers club to The University Graduate Club. The former has long been planned and has been well documented, particularly by Andrew Moss (2007) Images of England: the Radcliffe Infirmary, Tempus Publishing Ltd, The Mill Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Glos GL5 2QG Email sales@tempus-publishing.com £12.99. We are also fortunate to have two DVDs including: i) interviews with those who worked there; ii) a film of the early sixties depicting many of the professors and consultants of that time; iii) an interview with the Hospital Archivist demonstrating Minute Books and other documents of the earliest years of the Radcliffe Infirmary and iv) a film of a pre-world War 2 pantomime on location in Oxford. These are £12 for the pair obtainable from Medical Illustration at the John Radcliffe, Headley Way, Oxford email medical.illustration@orh.nhs.uk

Andrew Moss’s book is a rich collection of photographs with generous legends about events from 1770 to 2007. "Oxford Medicine" the Newsletter of the Oxford Medical Alumni published in February 2007 has several relevant articles, including Eric Sidebottom on John of Gaddesdon’s Rosa Medicinae Oxford’s First Textbook of Medicine (1402), and myself on Behind the scenes at the Radcliffe Infirmary: Fifty Years Ago, There are several personal reminiscences of the early days of the Clinical Medical School.

This edition of Oxford Medicine includes an account also by Eric Sidebottom about a brief "journal" written by AG Gibson who was himself the author of a history of The Radcliffe Infirmary. He knew Osler well and the journal describes a visit as a student with Osler to the home of Sir James Mackenzie in 1905. Gibson was responsible for the post mortem on Sir William performed in 13 Norham Gardens. We have just received from Dr Richard Wilkinson, retired Consultant Chemical Pathologist at the John Radcliffe, a medal given to Gibson from St Thomas’ Hospital shortly after qualifying in 1905 (see figure). It was owned by his daughter who once lived in Oxford. We are now of course keen to write more about this pathologist and to have a record of his life, especially as the laboratories named after him are to be demolished.

The Newcomers Club has long welcomed the partners of visiting academics and provided them with a range of services. We have often emphasised that its presence in ample rooms at 13 Norham Gardens with easy access is in the spirit of “The Open Arms”. However, the University has now decided to relocate the Newcomers Club in unused space at the University Club in Mansfield Road. Many at Green College will regret that the close association with the Newcomers will not continue, although recognising that the decision to relocate was taken elsewhere.

Sad as is this loss, it opens up more space that may be fundable by Osler enthusiasts both for Archival material, and (I have not given up on the idea of) a flat for visiting Academics and Osler Enthusiasts if it could be endowed.

Terence Ryan
Students win awards

Congratulations to Emma Link, immediate past MCR President, for being judged International Student of the Year in the South East Region 2007. As a regional winner Emma was invited to the national final in London.

The competition organised by the British Council for international students in the UK (http://www.educationuk.org/shine/). Students had to write a letter home explaining how their studies and life was progressing in the UK.

A regional judging panel met in early March to discuss the merits of shortlisted entries from the region. Emma's letter, in which she was particularly appreciative of how Green College had enriched her experience of Oxford, was judged to be the best and she received a £1,000 prize and two night stay in London for the awards ceremony.

Opposite is an excerpt from Emma’s letter, to view the complete entry please visit the Green College website – News page.

Congratulations to Declan Hill for winning the Open Radio News/Current Affairs category awarded by Canadian Association of Journalists.

The Canadian Association of Journalists, Canada's only national professional organization for reporters, editors, producers and photographers, announced the winners of its annual awards for investigative journalism in Toronto at its Awards gala dinner.

Declan received the award for his investigative work on the tragic cost of social activism in the Philippines. There the death toll for anyone daring to disturb the government or powers that be is extraordinarily high. The documentary profiled one woman - Marlene Esperat a journalist/anti-graft crusader, who exposed government corruption. In March 2005 she was murdered in front of her children at her home in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat.

Declan travelled to Mindano to interview her family, her killers and the men who had arranged her murder. Declan has donated his award money to an education fund for her two sons.
Carbonundrums: making sense of climate change reporting

The intriguing title drew over fifty academics, journalists and NGOs working on climate change to an afternoon seminar in the Osler-McGovern Centre to puzzle out how the issue is reported around the world – and what might be done to improve the reporting.

The subject matters intensely as the UN climate discussions resume in Bali at the year end when it will be seen whether the recent policy shift by President Bush (which entertains an autumn summit in the US of the world’s main carbon emitters) is assisting or undercutting global climate change negotiations.

The seminar could consider itself a “victim of climate change” in that one keynote speaker, BBC News Environment Correspondent David Shukman, had to cry off at the last minute as he was detailed to cover the extreme weather event of dramatic floods in parts of England.

But the participants were able to hear (and see, thanks to a video link-up with New York cleverly fixed up by the college’s IT Officer, Dominic Bown) the doyen of US environment reporters, Andy Revkin of the New York Times.

Revkin, who, unlike most reporters, has a science degree, has been covering the issue since the 1980s - his book “Global Warming” was published as far back as 1992. He finds that the media covers this issue since the 1980s - his book “Global Warming” was published as far back as 1992. He finds that the media covers this issue “great bursts”. He describes one such burst around the burning of tropical forests in 1988 but this had gone away by the 1990s, argued, because of the media’s “short attention span”. He identified another media “spike” around George Bush’s rejection of the Kyoto Treaty in 2001 but this showed that the story had become a politics story rather than a science one.

Other speakers, such as the BBC World Service Executive Editor for the Americas and Europe, James Painter (who is currently a Reuters Visiting Fellow), drew attention to the patchy nature of the latest burst of media coverage surrounding the publication of the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) earlier this year.

Painter’s comparative study of leading international television news channels showed that television new bulletins picked up much more strongly on the “glum and doom” of the IPCC’s impact assessment report findings than on the subsequent mitigation report where feasible solutions were being proffered.

One troubling finding was in all the huge recent surge in coverage there was a dearth of voices of the poor in the developing countries. Yet these are the people likely to be the worst affected. Painter encountered only one such voice – 11 seconds from an African screened on CNN International - in all the material he looked at from around the world!

The representatives of leading development NGOs admitted that there was much more that they could and should be doing. Agencies like Christian Aid and Oxfam had released reports on the issue but these in general had not been adequately picked up by the media – one example given was that Christian Aid’s “The Climate of Poverty: Facts Fears and Hope” report last year had been completely ignored by both the Daily Telegraph and the Daily Mail.

The June seminar was jointly organised by the university’s Environmental Change Institute (ECI) and the Reuters Institute and is only the latest in a series of productive collaborations between the ECI and the Reuters Fellowship Programme in which environmental scientists and journalists have learnt a great deal from each other.

Paddy Coulter
Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

Green College clubs and societies

Green College Music Society

The Green College concert is a regular fixture in Michaelmas and Hilary term.

With the impressive acoustics of the Green College common room, and the talent of the student performers, the latest concert was enjoyed by many.

Our resident string quartet (Lee Aye, Cyrus Razavi, Rachel Denyer, Katherine Talbot) opened the night with a collection of popular arrangements, followed by Joel Raffel and Jackie Cheng’s progressive cello/piano duets.

Louise Steele (clarinet) and Dr Laurence Lok (piano) delivered a fine performance of ‘Grand Duo Concertante’ by Carl Maria von Weber, before Ye Chen (piano) impressed us all with a collection of poems by Scriabin.

As is customary, there was plenty of time for a glass of wine after the performance.

Green College Book Club

Thursday 4 October 2007
‘Palace Walk’ by Naguib Mahfouz, an Egyptian author who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1988. Dr Paul Brankin will be presenting this book.

Meeting will be held in the small room off the Common Room starting at 6.00pm

Dates for your diary

Heritage Open Days
Sunday 9 September 2007
12.30-4.30pm in association with the Heritage Open Days Scheme

GCS Christmas Carol
Monday 3 December 2007
This year we will be joined by the newly reformed Green College Choir

Varsity Rugby Match, Twickenham
Thursday 6 December 2007
Join us for our annual trip to watch the 126th Varsity match

Please check weekly email news and Green College website Development Events page or contact Sharan Attar at sharan.attar@green.ox.ac.uk or telephone +1865 274786 for further details on these events.
Professor Rory Collins is to head up a project that could surpass the work of his mentor, Sir Richard Doll, who established the link between lung cancer and smoking. ‘Sir Richard Doll looked at death. This study not only looks at the illnesses that kill you but vast ranges of diseases that bring terrible misery.’

Oxford has seen many medical research projects down the years, but nothing like the one Rory Collins is about to unveil. Medical breakthroughs, new medicines and changes in the lifestyles of millions have resulted from previous Oxford-led research initiatives. Most famously, a medical research project conducted by Prof Collins’s mentor and colleague, the late Sir Richard Doll, not only established the link between lung cancer and smoking to save millions of lives, but it continued over half a century to provide a wealth of data on tobacco’s deadly effects. But what is now being proposed is on an altogether different scale from Sir Richard’s pioneering investigation into the smoking habits of 40,000 doctors back in 1951.

For scientists are now trying to find 500,000 people in Britain, aged between 40 and 69, prepared to take part in the medical research project called UK Biobank. Volunteers will be invited to attend a local assessment centre, like one to open in the Westgate Centre, Oxford, on Monday, to answer questions about their health and lifestyles and have some physical measurements, as well as giving samples of blood and urine. And this huge army of volunteers will effectively help create a bank of knowledge that should prove invaluable for decades to come for researchers studying the causes of illness and new treatments.

Not only is it hoped that it will throw new light on why people develop cancer, heart disease and other common killers, it will also greatly add to knowledge about rarer and less high-profile conditions such as mental illness, Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and motor neurone disease. Prof Collins became co-director, with Professor Sir Richard Peto, of the University of Oxford’s Clinical Trial Service Unit & Epidemiological Studies Unit (CTSU) 22 years ago. In 1996 he was appointed professor of medicine and epidemiology at Oxford and he has now been appointed principal investigator and chief executive of UK Biobank. In many ways, Prof Collins was the natural choice to mastermind the creation of this treasure trove of health information. His work has been in the establishment of large-scale epidemiological studies of the causes, prevention and treatment of heart attacks, other vascular disease, and cancer. He works in Oxford’s new £23m medical research facility, the Richard Doll Building, near the Churchill Hospital, and sees Oxford’s involvement in the massive project as maintaining a proud and important tradition. Thousands of letters have already been sent out to residents across Oxford, inviting them to “improve the health of future generations”. To participate, volunteers have simply to go along to an assessment centre, which opens on Monday at the Westgate Centre, where it will be based for six months. Every assessment lasts 90 minutes, with much of the information about health, lifestyle, work and family history obtained by a touch-screen questionnaire. As well as being quick and efficient, it also means that volunteers can be asked questions of a fairly delicate nature without embarrassment or fear of being overheard. For example Prof Collins reveals that volunteers will be invited to disclose the number of sexual partners that they have had. “I think that will prove the one that most people will find most difficult. But the whole thing is completely confidential and people are entitled to pass on any questions they wish to,” he said.

Long thought has gone into what volunteers will be asked. Interestingly, the decision was taken to ask about drinking habits but not about experience or use of illegal drugs. Months were spent developing what will effectively be a conveyor belt of volunteers, supervised by trained nurses. “Rather appropriate for Oxford, don’t you think?” chuckled Prof Collins, not forgetting that the city is perhaps as well known for car production as it is for medical research. The volunteers move from the screens to interviews about past illnesses, operations and medication they might be taking. Blood pressure and various measurements will also be taken. These will include hand grip, lung function, body fat (using a harmless current through your body) and bone density (using a device applied to the heel). If the prospect of having to give blood and urine samples leads you to pause for thought, just think about the challenge of having up to 15m samples properly catalogued and stored. A centre has been created in Manchester and the Oxford professor is particularly delighted with the use being made of robots to separate samples and ensure they may easily be retrieved. Volunteers will leave with a print-out, summarising their measurements. While it should not be viewed as a ‘body MOT’, nurses would certainly advise volunteers to see their GP if blood pressure, for example, were found to be high. But Prof Collins says volunteers should regard their involvement as a selfless act for future generations. “It should be said that UK Biobank is not intended to directly help those taking part. I think it should be viewed like giving blood. Only this is to give future generations a much better chance of living their lives free of diseases that disable and kill.” But will all this effort result in cures and lives being saved, like the great Richard Doll study?

Prof Collins replies without pause: “I think it must find new causes of disease. It is like the richard Doll study times a million. Sir Richard Doll looked at death. This study not only looks at the illnesses that kill you but vast range of diseases that bring terrible misery. It also involves a much more detailed assessment, with blood and urine samples.” Then there are the sheer numbers, with 500,000 volunteers. Recruitment will involve half a dozen assessments centres running around the country, each taking information from 100 people a day and running for six months, during the next four years. For years after the assessments, researchers will follow the health of volunteers, through their health records, or other records that could be related to health, such as job and residence.

But it will probably be a decade before the UK Biobank bears real fruit—effectively, when a sizable proportion of the people begin to develop illness. UK Biobank has been jointly set up by the Department of Health, the Medical Research Council, the Scottish Executive and the Wellcome Trust medical charity, with funding in excess of £60m. It is also being supported by the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK, with more than 20 universities, including Oxford, closely involved. Prof Collins says that in addition to the sheer volume of data, it is the richness of the information that makes the survey unique. There has been an explosion of new technologies in recent years, many coming on the back of the genetics revolution adding to the knowledge about the way our bodies work. But Prof Collins will tell you it is never enough.
In giant’s footsteps

continued from page 5

He said: “It’s hard for us to imagine the sorts of research that might be possible in ten or 20 years’ time, and scientists will be helped by being able to return to samples of blood and urine collected many years before.” He believes that the Americans would dearly have loved to carry out such a project but easy access to medical records in the States made it impossible. The data, however, will be made available to researchers from around the world. In any case, the rich variety of the British population, in terms of ethnic and social backgrounds and lifestyles, made this country a particularly fertile ground for a trial. And, of course, in Prof Collins, they have the perfect man at the helm. As he led me down the central staircase of the Richard Doll Building, he revealed that he had understandably had to think hard about taking on such a project that would take up years of his life.

He had been on holiday when he was first asked whether he wanted to head the project. On returning, he went with colleague Sir Richard Peto to see the seriously-ill Richard Doll in hospital. “It was shortly before he died,” recalled Prof Collins. “I asked Sir Richard what he thought and he said that I should take it on. I could hardly say no after that, could I?”

Reg Little
Oxford Times, 14 April 2007

OBITUARY - JOHN McGOVERN

Green College has a number of reasons for being grateful to the late John McGovern, the first Osler Honorary Fellow of the College. He was the principal benefactor enabling the purchase of 13 Norham Gardens by the College and he also endowed an annual Lecture in the History of Medicine, the McGovern Lecture, which is now an established part of the Green College academic calendar. Other aspects of McGovern’s career, of especial interest to the College, may be seen on a visit to The Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Centre Library. It has the finest collection on biomedical history and reflects his long standing interest in American medicine, allergy, paediatrics and the writings of William Osler now housed in the John P McGovern ‘Historical Collections and Research Center’ in Houston. Here too one may see as a centrepiece the gift from Green College in 2003 of a fireplace from 13 Norham Gardens. Nearby is the John P McGovern ‘Hall of Medicine’ that takes visitors on a journey through medical history. There are larger than life stone sculptures by Doris Appel gifted by John McGovern who at the same time presented the ‘Face of Osler’ to be seen in the entrance hall of 13 Norham Gardens. Visitors to Green College are welcome to browse through the collection of books by or about Osler held in The Osler McGovern Centre in 13 Norham Gardens, many of which are gifts from John McGovern and some have been authored by him. The cross Atlantic ties, begun by Osler - 6000 Americans stayed in this house during his lifetime - continuously nourished by American, London and Japanese Osler Societies, must be nourished still further and fortunately can be so, due to the generosity of this, now late, great benefactor.

New Programme for Technology & Management for Development in Memory of Professor Sanjaya Lall

The Department of International Development at Oxford is introducing a new programme on Technology and Management for Development. The programme was launched in Geneva at a conference on “Foreign Direct Investment, Technology and Competitiveness” in memory of Professor Sanjaya Lall (a pioneer global authority in industrial development in developing countries) co-organised by the Department of International Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade (UNCTAD). The Secretary-General of UNCTAD Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi and the Director-General of UNIDO, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella participated in this event and paid tribute to Professor Sanjaya Lall.

Technological and managerial capabilities are two key components of national competitiveness. The development of these two capabilities has been of crucial importance particularly for the countries in more advanced stages of industrialization. This new research programme aims to produce cutting-edge research to further our understanding of the development of technology and management in the developing world.

The programme will be based at Queen Elizabeth House, one of the world’s leading departments for development studies. The programme will be named after Professor Sanjaya Lall, former professor in the Department of International Development and Governing Body Fellow of Green College.

Dr Xiaolan Fu
Director, SL Programme for Technology and Management for Development

Welcome new college members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governing Body Fellowship</th>
<th>Research Fellow</th>
<th>Dr Francesca Crowe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Tim Jones</td>
<td>Dr John Coleman</td>
<td>Girdlers/New Zealand Health Research Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Department of Educational Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green College</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr David Kay</td>
<td>Honorary Visiting Fellowship</td>
<td>Research Associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Lecturer in Computational Biology</td>
<td>Dr Trudie Lang</td>
<td>Dr Adam Lefstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Currently working in Kenya as Project Manager</td>
<td>Department of Educational Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>on the Malaria Vaccine Trials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr James Worrell</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Julia Griggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Lecturer in Computer Science</td>
<td></td>
<td>Department of Social Policy and Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Mark Tomlinson</td>
<td>Mr Dominic Bown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Department of Social Policy and Social Work</td>
<td>IT Manager, Green College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Room Member</td>
<td>Reuters Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Peter McEvoy</td>
<td>Donald McDonald Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(senior producer, Australian Broadcasting Corporation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Green College has an impressive record in identifying hot topical issues for the college’s major lecture series – Climate Change (in 2006), Longevity (2005), The Future of Higher Education (2004) and Science and the Media (2003) – and in attracting heavyweight speakers to address different facets of the issue in focus.

This year’s theme – Health Care Delivery - was again well chosen and although the switch from the traditional Hilary term to Trinity this year meant that audiences were markedly down the quality of the lecturers was as high as in previous lecture series.

The series was kicked off by a “quiet revolutionary”, Prof Sir Bruce Keogh, Professor of Cardiac Surgery at UCL, who spoke on “Politics and pragmatism: publishing surgical and health care outcomes in England”. Keogh, who is President of the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, described the pioneering trajectory taken by his profession which has led to the recently established public website showing the success rates of individual heart surgeons. Professor Sally Davies, the Director General of Research and Development for the Department of Health, spoke from her wealth of experience with NHS R&D on “The rise of clinical research in the NHS”. The Principal of St Hugh’s College, Andrew Dilnot, gave a scintillating final lecture on a miserable-sounding title, “Health – what happens when the money runs out?”. Dilnot was sobering about the moral dilemmas created by the pressures to increase health care expenditure within the overall downward trend of UK public spending as a share of GDP.

This lecture series suggests an important role for the merged Green-Templeton College in stimulating public policy debates on the cutting edge questions of our age.

Paddy Coulter
Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

Life within the Green College MCR continued along at a feverish pace this Trinity Term. A new committee taking over at the end of Hilary meant that seventeen new student representatives were working hard to strengthen the college community and provide a bevy of events and opportunities for our MCR members.

This changeover was perhaps best symbolised by the facelift received by the Stables Bar. Many of its regulars hardly recognised their favourite venue, with its somnolent brown walls revitalised by warm yellow paint, and with the additional provision of a water cooler, kettle, and tea and coffee-making supplies. More students have since been seen making use of the space during the day, for socialising, studying for upcoming exams, or making use of the bar’s wireless internet.

Those surfing online will likely have noticed that the MCR’s website is also in the process of being completely revamped. Guided by the goals of user-friendliness and providing comprehensive information to incoming and current students, MCR committee members contributed many hours assembling and organising new information and gathering illustrative photos. The highlights of the completed website will include photos of all college accommodations with student-written descriptions, detailed FAQs for new students, and extensive student welfare service information. Sports featured prominently on the term’s agenda with two women’s teams and one men’s team gaining or maintaining ground in Summer Eights rowing. The Osler-Green Women’s Football Team won the University-wide Cuppers Five-a-side championships, while on the home front a number of students made use of the tennis and squash competition ladders.

Given that Trinity Term tends to suck students into the Examination Vortex, it has been refreshing to see an unusually high turnout to college events this spring. From a mimosa-fuelled May Day morning expedition to Magdalen Tower to a Baywatch Beach Party Bop, there has been no shortage of activities to distract students from their work. When such distractions were no longer tenable, the MCR Welfare Team came to the rescue with well-received Exam Preparation sessions. In an attempt to ease the transition for incoming students, a welcome brunch was held in early June for all those who were able to come to Oxford for the afternoon. Those Freshers-to-Be who stayed around for the 2nd Annual Quad Water Fight later that afternoon got quite a sample of what they would be enjoying the following year.

Rich McKay

As this article went to press, Green College had just enjoyed a fantastic charity garden party, which raised over £100 for the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the well-attended opening of an art show displaying student works. Clearly, Green College members, in addition to being well-rounded, have excellent time management skills! We hope that they will continue to put these skills to good use throughout the remainder of Trinity.

Rich McKay

Green students go Mad for conservation

With the help and financial support of Green College, the Royal Geographical Society, and the Tropical Agriculture Association, Kate Mannle and Rachel Lenane have recently embarked on an expedition to Northern Madagascar.

Their project aims to map natural resource use and understand local biodiversity knowledge and will contribute much needed socio-economic data to the regional conservation community? For more details and updates check their project's website: http://www.littlefishbigbay.com
**Conquering Everest raises money for charity**

In April 2006 I had the privilege to join the Everestmax expedition (www.everestmax.com) as a climber and expedition doctor. The expedition was attempting to climb from the lowest to the highest point on earth. The expedition started from the Dead Sea and cycled 8000km though 7 countries (Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Nepal and Tibet) before attempting the final ascent of Mount Everest.

I joined the expedition in Nepal and journeyed with the cyclists to Tibet where we climbed Everest from the north side. During the expedition I also conducted a research study investigating why people suffer from acute mountain sickness.

We acclimatised slowly over 2 months and after reaching 7600m without oxygen we were ready for the summit. During the expedition I had to deal with a number of medical emergencies.

Two members of our expedition developed high altitude pulmonary oedema (HAPE) and one high altitude cerebral oedema (HACE). On our final ascent of Mount Everest we were also involved in the rescue of a climber who developed HAPE at 7000m. On 21st May I reached the summit with members of the team who had cycled from the Dead Sea. In what turned out to be a deadly year on Everest with 12 deaths we were relieved to get 7 members to the summit and safely down. We raised money for 3 charities (Merlin, Practical Action, and SOS Children’s Villages) all of which are very active in the countries the expedition cycled through. So far we have raised nearly £40,000.

Dr Andrew Sutherland
Wellcome Research Training Fellow
Nuffield Department of Surgery

---

Jonathan Demenge  
2003-2005

**A Road Through the Himalayas**

The construction of a road through the remote valleys of Ladakh (North India) has a tremendous potential to change the life of its inhabitants. Building a road through the Himalayas over 5000 m high passes and through the Zanskar gorges is also a fantastic technical challenge, on which thousands of migrants from the plains of India are working.

I had started doing some research on the topic while I was studying Development Studies at Oxford (2003-2005). Yet I left Ladakh with more questions that I initially had, and decided to go on with an additional year of fieldwork there, trying to make sense of this unique experience.

The first thing they told us in the morning was that they had stopped working at the end of the road because of the accident that had happened there in August. Some road builders were working closer to the village, but even there the danger was palpable. The site was impressive, with these massive four to eight hundred meters high slopes, cliffs and hanging rocks dominating the light brown river of Zanskar. And somewhere fifty meters above the river was this slim road carved into the slope, following the contours, with tiny humans working at falling rocks, picking up stones, digging with picks and shovels, loading a truck, preparing cement and building walls, with the dron of one or two bulldozers in the background.

Above and below the road, rocks were falling, lifting up storms of dust behind them, and in some places workers, wearing symbolic helmets were intermittently watching up for rocks falling from these high, unstable and steep slopes.

Mainly men are present there, but also women, and one or two babies in a basket or wrapped in a dusty blanket, born here during the harsh Ladakhi winter, crying in the sun while their mother is working one or two kilometres further down the road, and nobody seems to care or to know what to do to appease their cries. There is a real microcosm living there on the road, a world in which people are born and die, and in which the experience and life of individuals is strongly intertwined with that of the road. It is this world that I would endeavour to understand, learning from these people, grasping stories, trying to share their hopes and fears and to make sense of rich and contrasted lived experiences.

We would welcome alumni news for future issues of Green News.  
Please email your articles and photos to Sharan Attar, Development Officer at sharan.attar@green.ox.ac.uk  

www.green.ox.ac.uk

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