Professor Sir David Watson, currently Professor of Higher Education Management at the Institute of Education, University of London, has been elected as the next Principal of Green Templeton College. He will take office on 1 October 2010, succeeding Dr Colin Bundy who is retiring.

“Green Templeton College represents a powerful and principled commitment to understanding and improving human health and welfare. I am both honoured and excited by the prospect of being its next Principal,” says Sir David.

“Under Colin Bundy the new College has rapidly become an outward-looking, diverse and dynamic community, and I am very much looking forward to working with Fellows, students and staff to build its reputation as one of the most stimulating environments in Oxford for graduate study and research.”

Sir David’s academic interests are in the history of American ideas and in higher education policy. He has contributed widely to developments in UK higher education, including as a member of the Committee of Inquiry chaired by Lord Dearing in 1996-97. Between 1990 and 2005 he was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton.

More recently he chaired the Commission of Inquiry into the future for lifelong learning which reported in September 2009. He is currently a trustee of the Nuffield Foundation and also a member of the Advisory Board for the Higher Education Policy Institute.

Sir David was knighted in 1998 for services to education and awarded a National Teaching Fellowship in 2008.

Dr Marshall Young, Vice-Principal of Green Templeton College, comments: “The Fellowship is delighted to be able to announce this appointment.

“Sir David is a very well-known and highly-regarded figure in higher education, with a successful track record of institutional leadership.

“His extensive experience in higher and postgraduate education will stand the College in good stead as it navigates the changes that will inevitably impact universities in the post credit-crunch period.

“It is also clear that Sir David is more than willing to lead the Fellows and students in exploring whatever new approaches might be required to accelerate the establishment of a top international profile for Green Templeton as a 21st century College with an academic focus on the contemporary world and human welfare.”
NEW TRADITIONS JOIN OLD CUSTOMS AS GTC LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

As comments and pundits (I hope) that what weddings, or funerals. And you will have other occasion of British royalty in full dress ceremony. Ritual and royalty were celebrated together, with the relevant robes, music, carriages, swords and plumed hats.

But as important as any of these legacies is the opportunity that the college now has to invent new traditions – in the most positive sense. We are in the fortunate position of being able to decide how best to do things and to set precedents, knowing that if we get them right, they will continue to be done in the same way. They will become traditions of the new college.

In some cases, this involves adapting or changing what was done at one of the former colleges. So the Dumas Awards to incoming students have become the Observatory Awards, the annual garden party now includes live music and the presentation of awards, the GCR Wednesday evening dinners have changed from buffet to formal; an annual Dean’s Prize becomes the Principal’s Prize, to be awarded to a member of college staff nominated by members of the College community.

New college publications – such as In Transit and the annual GTC Magazine – have been redesigned and launched. In Transit will appear each Hilary and Trinity Term; the magazine at the beginning of Michaelmas Term. Both publications aim to provide news about the College, its people, and their activities. Issues of In Transit, like this one, cover recent news about the academic, sporting and social life of GTC, the annual publication carries more in-depth and reflective features.

I hope you enjoy reading them. And do think about anything in this issue that catches your eye, it could become a tradition!

GTC SPORTSMEN PLAY KEY ROLE IN VARSITY MATCH

Four talented GTC rugby players were named in the 23-strong Oxford University squad which took on Cambridge in the 128th Nomura Varsity match at Twickenham last December.

The inclusion of Julian Allfrey, Willem Klappe, Gerard Oker and Nicholas van Zyl made Green Templeton the most represented college in the Dark Blues’ squad which was defeated 31-27 by the Light Blues in a thrilling match. Julian and Nic were in the starting line-up while Willem and Gerard were replacements.

Although not victorious, the GTC players made an impact. Nic van Zyl was influential in the success Oxford had in the loose play and dominant in the Oxford line-outs, jumping against the Cambridge captain Dan Vickerman. Julian Allfrey looked dangerous on attack at times with his swift handling skills and Willem Klappe’s fresh legs in the last ten minutes of the game when he came off the bench added energy to the Dark Blues’ attack.

The GTC players were cheered on by a small group of College supporters, including staff and alumni, who made the trip to Twickenham.

STOP PRESS Two GTC oarsmen are rowing for the Boat Race on 3 April Martin Wallis is in the Blue Boat & Basil Grüter in reserve boat his.

SYMPOSIUM SUCCESS

Emerging market countries (EMCs) should provide universal healthcare because, first, healthcare is a human right; second, inclusive healthcare systems are more efficient than exclusive systems; and third, quality healthcare extends and improves the quality of life and enhances adult productivity and lifetime learning capacity.

This was one of three key recommendations to come out of the inaugural Emerging Markets Symposium, Health and Healthcare in Emerging Market Countries; Making the Most of the Best, held at E Grove Park in December 2009. The symposium was attended by forty-five global leaders including Shaukat Aziz, former Prime Minister of Pakistan; Rodrigo Borrego, former Finance Minister of Colombia; Sir George Alleyne, former Director of the Pan American Health Organization; Sunith Reddy, President of the Health Foundation of India and Lord Crisp, former Chief Executive of the National Health Service.

They also agreed EMCs should develop new human resource paradigms emphasizing community health workers for delivering primary care to poor urban and rural populations (leveraging their skills with advanced technology) and that action is needed to address issues arising from the migration of professional and other healthcare workers from EMCs to wealthier countries.

Their final recommendation was that EMCs need joined-up health and healthcare strategies that take full account of non-medical determinants of health including behavioural and lifestyle choices and the impact of social environments on health and life expectancy.

The two-day event was deemed a success by its participants, one of whom commented: “Thank you for an exceptional symposium with such stimulating conversations and brilliant discussions. I am committed to address and promote implementation of the actionable conclusions especially in the area of the social determinants of health.”

However, Ian Scott, GTC Associate Fellow and Symposium Executive Director, stresses that the Symposium will only add value if its conclusions lead to action and stimulate positive changes in public sector policies and public, private and voluntary sector practices in emerging market countries.

Participants are now implementing an action agenda, writing to and meeting with selected world leaders and decision makers and launching a variety of follow-up initiatives.

Five-year sponsorship for the EMS, which is based on GTC, has been provided by the C&C Alpha Group, with start-up costs contributed by GTC.

Background briefing papers and presentations made at the Symposium are available to download now from the EMS website at www.gtc.ox.ac.uk/ems.

DEAN COOKS UP FUNDRAISING HIT

Dean Laidler, a chef at GTC, persuaded his DJ heroes to perform at a London gig and raise thousands of pounds for the charity bowel cancer UK.

Dean was diagnosed with the disease in 2005 and has undergone major surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment. He has recovered to the extent he no longer receives treatment.

Following the death from bowel cancer of a friend, he persuaded some of the country’s top DJs, including Danny Ramping and John Kelly, to perform for free at London superclub Ministry of Sound for the DJs vs The Big C event which took place on Sunday 31 January.

“The event raised about £3,500, with around £400 being paid a £10 ticket,” explains Dean, who also DJs in Oxford. “The DJs were brilliant, and the two rooms which were open were absolutely heaving.” He has now released a charity record to help hit his £15,000 fundraising target, with a donation from every copy bought going to Bowel Cancer UK. Underground Illusion, released by Sounds Record, can be downloaded from www.beatport.com.

Dean has pledged to continue to raise money for the charity through future events. He says: “I am also donating all my future DJing fees for the charity, because I know the difference it makes.”

Dean will be carrying on his fundraising mission at gigs in St Ives near Cambridge on 13 March and Portsmouth on 20 March where he will be donating his fee to BCUK. During Bowel Cancer Awareness month in April, Dean expects to be busy spreading the word through dance music.
Being pear-shaped protects against heart disease

Carrying extra weight around your hips, bottom and thighs protects against diabetes and heart disease, say Oxford scientists who have examined the health effects of storing fat.

In comparison, carrying excess fat around the stomach, or being apple shaped, raises the risk of diabetes and heart disease.

The team from the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism (OCDEM), including Dr Konstantinos Manolopoulos and Professor Keith Foyan of GTC, published their summary of the latest research in the International Journal of Obesity.

Dr Manolopoulos explains: “What matters is body shape and where fat gathers. The protective effect of thigh fat is independent of weight. Unfortunately, if you put on weight, thigh circumference increases but so does the circumference of the tummy – and that over- rides the protective effect.”

The body uses its fat tissues to store energy in the form of fatty acids, but fat around the waist releases fatty acids in response to need while thigh fat is used for longer-term storage.

More waist or abdominal fat tends to lead to more fatty acids circulating in the blood, which can get deposited in other organs like the liver and muscle, and cause harm. This is associated with conditions like diabetes and heart disease.

By contrast, thigh fat traps the fatty acids long term, so they cannot get deposited and cause harm. The study could help to find ways to keep body fat low and reduce heart and cholesterol problems.

Research breakthrough identifies genes involved in spine fusing arthritis

Two genes that have a strong connection to a spine-fusing type of arthritis have been identified by an international consortium of scientists, which includes GTC Fellow Professor Paul Wadsworth as a lead researcher.

Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) is an inflammatory type of arthritis that affects the spine, resulting in progressive stiffness, loss of movement and pain as it develops. It can lead to people becoming bed-ridden in a bent position looking at their feet.

The two genes that the researchers discovered are involved in inflammatory processes in the body and could help the development of a treatment for the condition. Current treatments include physiotherapy and paracetamol to relieve symptoms, although some patients receive an antibody treatment at a cost of £10,000 a year.

The research consortium led by Oxford University, the University of Queensland and the University of Texas, carried out a genome-wide study of 2,053 people with AS and 5,140 matched controls.

The study, published in Nature Genetics, found six regions of the genome that were associated with AS. The two strongest associations were with genes called ERAPI and IL23R.

Understanding which genes are involved is a major step forward which could lead to new treatments and earlier diagnosis of the disease.

Professor Wadsworth said: “We know there was a strong genetic component to this disease, and we now have the foundation we need for future research to pin down the genetic causes of this condition. Cheaper and safer alternatives are a pressing need for this debilitating disease.”

Are social networking sites changing the way we behave?

A new three-year research project launched last October is exploring how modern technologies such as mobile phones and social networking sites are changing our relationships with other people.

The £2.5 million project involves an international team of experts from different disciplines – including psychology, computer science and physics – and including Dr Felix Reed-Truchas and Eduardo López of GTC.

They are using computer modelling to analyze electronic – and anonymized – records of mobile phone calls made by seven million people in a European country to discover whether new trends and patterns of behaviour are emerging at individual, group, and societal levels.

The researchers are also looking at the impact of social networking sites like Facebook, to find out whether shifting our social life to the internet enhances, replaces or threatens relationships based on face-to-face contacts.

Reed-Truchas, Director of Complex Systems at InSIS, says: “We don’t yet understand the driving forces behind the way we use these new communication tools. We hope that by creating an interdisciplinary team, a more joined up picture of what is happening in society will emerge, which can inform both policy makers and the ICT industry.”

Three research groups from Oxford University are involved: the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society (ISIS), CARADIA Complexity Centre (co-directed by Reed-Truchas), and the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology (ICEA).

Targeting cancer stem cells in the lab

A team of Oxford scientists, funded by Cancer Research UK, has discovered a way to examine cancer stem cells within the confines of a laboratory. Their research, published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, describes how cancer stem cells can be grown from already established cell lines, instead of from patient samples, changing the way research on cancer cells can be carried out.

Dr Trevor Yeung, a third year DPhil student and first author on the paper, explains: “Cancer stem cells drive the growth of a tumour.”

Dr Yeung, a Clinical Research Fellow in General Surgery working in the Cancer and Immunogenetics Laboratory at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, analyzes cancer stem cells, which are more resistant to radiotherapy and chemotherapy and if not destroyed can cause a recurrence of cancer.

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SANITARY PROTECTION CUTS ABSENTEEISM IN GHANAIAN SCHOOLGIRLS

A GTC-funded pilot project in Ghana is set to help ensure that girls as well as boys in developing countries receive an education – a key factor in the economic development of poor nations.

The high cost and a shortage of sanitary products in rural areas has meant that girls often miss a week of schooling every month during menstruation.

Linda Scott, GTC Fellow and Professor of Marketing at the Said Business School, along with colleagues Sue Dioso, Catherine Delan, and Paul Montgomery, all also GTC Fellows, have completed a project which could help to change that.

Their project, supported by Procter & Gamble, provided free sanitary protection to 183 girls aged 12 and over in four villages for five to six months. As a consequence, the girls missed significantly less school, with the percentage of school days missed by girls in more remote rural areas cut by more than half, dropping from 23.8 per cent to 10.1 per cent.

Almost all the girls said that they were able to concentrate better in school, help more at home and socialise more happily.

*The situation is complex and providing sanitary pads is only one factor in helping to sustain education for girls,” explains Professor Scott.

Professor Sir Walter Bodmer, Honorary GTC Fellow, led the work: “We can now evaluate anti-cancer drugs better to see whether they attack cancer stem cells. If you don’t attack these cells, the cancer can grow again.”

The study also revealed that some tumours contained a high proportion of cancer stem cells. This advance should accelerate studies on cancer stem cells, to aid researchers’ understanding of how they drive the growth of tumours and could even possibly bring about new drugs targeted at these cells, as indicated by Dr Yeung. “In the long term, it should allow the development of more useful, safe and specific drugs targeting cancer stem cells.”

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Does journalism need saving?

“I think it’s important that the College continues to be a focus for the latest foot tribe of junior doctor alumni; it’s good for the alumni to have a highly useful event as a forum for meeting up again, renewing friendships as well as networking with current junior and senior members.”

The Society aims to foster academic and social interaction between Fellows, medical students and doctors.

Professor Michael Schudon of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism believes that in America, it certainly does. The co-author of the seminal 2009 Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Panel discussion and Policy followed by dinner at the Harvard Club.

Saturday 17 April 2010

Saturday 19 June 2010
GTC Summer Ball: Diamonds are Forever

Saturday 26 June 2010
Summer Garden Party 3pm - 6pm Saturday 26 June 2010

SAVE THE DATE
GREEN TEMPLETON FELLOWS, STAFF AND STUDENTS HAVE WON NUMEROUS AWARDS AND ACCOLADES OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, FROM FIELDS AS DIVERSE AS CANCER RESEARCH TO CRIMINOLOGY. HERE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS:

**Professor Valerie Beral** was recognized in the New Year Honours, becoming a DBE for her services to science. The Principal Investigator for the Million Women Study, she leads the international collaborative studies of breast, ovarian and endometrial cancer.

**Professor Peter Rothwell**, Professor of Clinical Neurology, was awarded the 2009 Foulkes Foundation Medal by the Academy of Medical Sciences for his innovative work in the treatment of stroke. In its citation, the Academy said: “There can be few more inspirational demonstrations of the impacts of research on clinical practice.”

**Kim Sugden**, MSc Management Research student, has been presented with a National Graphic Design USA award for her authoring and graphic design of the Worldwide Universities Network Annual Report, winning over 10,000 large corporations and advertising agencies. The competition showcases design excellence in America.

**Linda Scott**, Professor of Marketing at the Said Business School, was featured as one of the world’s up-and-coming management thinkers in the Guru Radar last October.

**Harry Annison** received the Willan Publishing Prize for Criminological Research in recognition of his performance in the MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice (Research Methods) and is now embarking on a DPhil in Criminology.

**Neil Mortensen**, Professor of Colorectal Surgery, has been awarded the Gimbernat Prize of Societat Catalana de Cirurgia 2009, for his exceptional contribution to international and Spanish surgery; the Colorectal Surgery Society of Australia and New Zealand Oration, at the 25th Anniversary Meeting of Australasian Gastroenterology, Sydney in 2009; the International Masterclass in Colorectal Surgery at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, Karachi, Pakistan, involving lectures, live demonstration operations and ward rounds (November 2009), and the Fritz De Quervain Lecture, University of Berne, Switzerland 2009.

**Phithizela Ngcobo** – known as Phithi – a member of the GTC casual waiting staff team, received a Masters in Publishing from Oxford Brookes last summer.

**Emeritus Professor Alan Emery** and **Lord Walton** (former Warden of Green College), are to be honoured next July at the 12th International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases in Naples, Italy.

**Oxford Teaching Awards** were given to two GTC Fellows for their exceptional teaching. **Dr Stephen Harris**, of the Department of Plant Sciences, received the award for the high-quality of his undergraduate teaching in Biological Sciences, while **Dr Paul Montgomery**, of the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, received the Award for outstanding teaching and for his commitment to teaching.

**Sponsored by the Said Business School and GTC**, the Oxford Leadership Prize saw both **Nicholas Sabin** (DPhil Management Studies) and **Allison Stewart** (formerly of GTC, now at Worcester) as winners for their co-authored essay, Rethinking Boundaries: Leadership, Innovation and the Global Recession. **Nadine Levin** (MPhil Medical Anthropology) was highly recommended for her entry, Translating the Global into the Local: Leadership in Community and Agricultural Development.

**Two GTC Fellows** received honorary degrees from Oxford Brookes University last year. **Keith Frayn**, Professor of Human Metabolism, was awarded an Honorary DSc in recognition of his international reputation as a scientist in the areas of health, nutrition and diabetes research and in acknowledgement of the support and expertise he has contributed to colleagues and staff of the Oxford Brookes School of Life Sciences. **Ann McPherson** became a Doctor of the University in recognition of her innovation in setting up DIPEx, the website of peoples’ experiences of health and illness, as well as her ‘humanity, imagination and insight into patient feelings.’

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