THE FIRST ISSUE Of our new annual magazine for alumni includes a look at how a website is changing health policy, the varied political career of international civil servant and GTC fellow Peter Bourne, and an exploration of the emerging science of complex systems.
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The physical fabric of the college is much-enhanced – as shiny and smart as Beth’s birthday finery. The relocation of the dining room and common room met with general acclaim, and the opening of the new cloistered arches in the common room has restored that magnificent space to its original dimensions. The old Committee Room has been handsomely refitted as the Poynter Room, providing a splendid venue for meetings and seminars. The refurbished building, the Abraham Lecture Theatre and the Stables bar and gallery have also enjoyed significant face-lifts. Dining in College no longer involves quantites of food and crockery creaking upstairs in the service lift. The wine cellar is being upgraded and named the Gerald Chambers Cellar: an entirely appropriate recognition of the work done over the year by the then Domestic Bursar of Green College. And gifts? Well, these were far too sheltered on GTC all through the year by its student members who excelled at work and at play. Twenty Nuffield Awards were given to students in three categories: outstanding academic achievements, leadership in College life, and sporting excellence. The most striking feature of making the selections for these awards was how many genuinely worthy candidates were also considered. Students won blues at rugby (men and women), golf (men and women) and cricket, and half-blues for volleyball, Fives and basketball. Both the men’s and women’s sides excelled on the river, and the men will now row in a higher division next year. Academically, GTC students won scholarships, essay prizes and other awards across the University. At national level it was a GTC student who was awarded the British Council’s International Student of the Year. Another way in which GTC marked its first year was a decision by Governing Body to create dedicated funding streams for two activities designed to enhance the intellectual life of the College. So the College now administers an annual programme of competitive student scholarships, and funds a programme of college-based academic activities. One funded programme relating to a new institute for patient experiences was submitted by GTC fellow Ann McPherson about whose work you can read on pages six to nine, while another is an interdisciplinary research project on the Future of Work. All in all, it has been an auspicious start by GTC. But the birthday analogy is deficient in one major respect. One year old the new College may be – but of course it looks back on a far longer span. Green and Templeton between them have seven decades of history, and I have been struck by how the new College benefits from the loyalty and commitment of members and supporters of both of its merged constituents.

This magazine aims to sustain GTC’s relationship with alumni, friends and other supporters. We have tried to convey a sense of the College – its vibrancy, its people and personalities, its activities – but we hope very much that this is the beginning of a dialogue rather than an end in itself. Your views, news and ideas for future editions of The GTC Magazine or other College publications would be warmly received. Your memories of your time here, any suggestions as to how we might strengthen alumni links, or any ideas for new stories in the magazine would be welcome. Now I must go and see if there is any birthday cake left...
Some, what graduate-only colleges offer is not primarily a question of facilities, such as accommodation, important though these are. Their key attribute is that they are responsive to students and reflects their needs.

As postgraduate education has grown at Oxford, so too has the University’s awareness of improving the student experience. Embedding graduate studies, a project designed to improve University graduate study processes and practices, has introduced a number of innovations, such as new codes of supervision in divisions.

However, the postgraduate study experience doesn’t come cheap. Graduates who undertake a second degree usually do so with little, if any, government funding for their course or living expenses and therefore at great personal expense. At GTC this is particularly marked as tuition fees for clinical medics and MBAs are among the highest at Oxford. For overseas students the cost is even greater.

Recruitment of graduate students is intensely competitive internationally and opportunities available to the best candidates are wide-ranging. Not least, Oxford must compete with leading North American universities which provide substantial financial support. There is now an increased awareness of the importance of attractive financial packages for students and how significant funding availability is in deciding where to study. Oxford has identified as a priority increased financial support for postgraduate students and graduate scholarships are a major priority in the Campaign for the University of Oxford.

For its part, Green Templeton has identified a major opportunity made possible by merger: to create an opportunity to form a graduate-only college. “That is a major part of GTC’s strength as a graduate-only college,” says April Robson, GTC Registrars.

“Short term, we hope to raise £5 million in scholarship endowment over the next five years, to increase the number and size of awards given each year.”

As it continues to pursue excellence in postgraduate education, Oxford is fortunate in the calibre of its students. It is clear that postgraduate students are not an optional extra or marginal to the life of a college and that graduate-only colleges have a significant role to play.

As Colin Bundy says: “One of the most memorable aspects of my three years here has been meeting our outstanding students. A community of over four hundred remarkable young people which helps fuel the exciting research and interdisciplinary discourse that is a major part of GTC’s strength.”

When you or someone close to you is diagnosed with a serious illness or health condition, it can be a frightening and isolating time. Suddenly, all kinds of questions need answers: how is my life going to change because I’m ill? Will I still be able to work? What treatment options are available – and how do I choose the best one for me?

Now, an award-winning website, based on research led by Green Templeton Fellow Dr. Ann McPherson, is using the power of personal stories of illness to help answer these questions.

Healthtalkonline.org offers support to patients coping with serious illness by enabling patients and their families and friends to share in other people’s experiences. It currently attracts over one million hits a month.

There are many chatrooms on the Internet where patients communicate about health issues. Healthtalkonline.org uses a different, unique model for sharing experiences. Each condition-specific area of the website includes analysis of 25 topics illustrated with stories of illness to help answer these questions.

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"An important source of support and reassurance when diagnosed with an illness is the experiences of others who have been through exactly the same thing," says Dr McPherson.

"Hearing how people responded to an initial diagnosis or broke the news to their family and friends can be very helpful. Personal stories are powerful narratives and the internet has made it easier than ever before to share them."

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A wide range of serious and long-term conditions, from Alzheimer's to testicular cancer; mental illness and disability, are covered as well as related issues such as bereavement, being a carer; sexual health screening and immunization.

Currently 50 illnesses are covered and over the next five years the researchers aim to cover over 100 more. The most recent addition is a section exploring participation in clinical trials; a collection of interviews on the experiences of parents of children invited to take part in clinical trials is about to start.

When personal experiences are posted on an individual's own website or on one set up by a patient support group, the stories may be enlightening but do not reflect the many different ways that people experience health. What makes Healthtalkonline.org different, says Dr McPherson, is its research-based approach which is in contrast to many health information websites.

"This is the only website that's doing anything like this – some sites have a few illustrative stories but nothing based on research like ours. Our strength is that, by collecting a wide range of accounts, we can confidently reflect the issues that really are important to patients; not the ones that doctors and researchers think are important to them. We aim for a balanced range to show what illness is really like. It's not glossed up in any way."

The website also offers completely free 24-hour a day access to patient experiences for anyone whose life is touched by illness or a health issue. People can look at the website whenever and wherever they want, taking in as much or as little as they want at any time and at their own pace.

Since its launch the website, which is run by the DIPEx charity, has won numerous awards, including a Bupa Communications Award and a British Medical Association Patient Information Award, and the charity has attracted high profile supporters such as Thom Yorke, Hugh Grant, Libby Purves and patron Jon Snow.

The qualitative research which underpins Healthtalkonline.org is carried out by the DIPEx Health Experiences Research Group led by Dr McPherson and colleague Sue Ziebland and based in the University's Department of Primary Health Care.

The website was set up by Dr McPherson and friend Dr Andrew Henshaw after their own personal experiences of illness led them to seek a balanced view of what other people in a similar situation had been through. They decided to take a narrative, qualitative approach because "people are good at taking" says Dr McPherson.

After drawing up a list of the first 100 illnesses to prioritize, the researchers did a pilot study on high blood pressure with funding from the Consumers' Association to show to the Department of Health (DoH) and set up the DIPEx. Over £16 million has been raised since 2001 through funding from the DoH and charities and foundations, and from individual donations.

It costs about £100,000 to undertake the systematic qualitative research needed to cover each condition with a broad range of participants. Each project takes about a year, trained qualitative researchers continue interviewing until they and their advisers assess that all perspectives have been covered. Usually around 15 to 50 interviews throughout the UK are needed for this.

But gaps still exist on the website where the research group have so far not been able to raise funding – for example, projects on experiences of asthma, multiple sclerosis, smoking cessation and knee and hip replacements are still on the priority list.

As well as acting as a source of help and information to patients and their families, the website is starting to have an impact within the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK and by helping to make it more patient-centred.

It is already being used extensively by health professionals in teaching and training to help them understand the needs and expectations of patients. For Dr McPherson, who wants to see patient experience in textbooks alongside anatomy and physiology, this is a welcome development.

“Achieving the cultural shift in the healthcare professions away from a medicalised form of practice to one that is more patient-centred is very important,” says Dr McPherson.

For Dr McPherson, who has been involved in commissioning healthcare services, the potential to change the culture of health care is "amazing." He adds: "I have seen a real shift in the intensity of healthcare professionals wanting to be involved in patient-centred care."

Dr McPherson continues: "I am excited to see where this will lead. I have been involved in commissioning care and it is really exciting to see the potential for change. I have seen a real shift in the intensity of healthcare professionals wanting to be involved in patient-centred care."

The Health Experiences Institute (HEXI) would be a multi-disciplinary centre of excellence bringing together different interests and approaches in patient experience research, with the aim of influencing policy and management.

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The Health Experiences Institute (HEXI) would be a multi-disciplinary centre of excellence bringing together different interests and approaches in patient experience research, with the aim of influencing policy and management.
“GTC is a very rich environment in which to start looking at these issues with its constituent interests of medicine and social science, including management, health and social policy, and media studies,” says Dr McPherson.

Louise Locock, GTC research fellow and deputy research director at DIPEx will be very involved in the Institute. The development of HEXI will provide a platform for us to broaden our remit and draw in a range of research partners to explore different approaches. I’d like to think that if we – researchers, managers, doctors and policy-makers – could all stop for a bit and think what policies based on patient experiences and preferences would look like, we would come up with some rather different ways of doing things.”

The College has already secured funding for a three-year Cannon Fellowship funded by the Cannon Foundation, a charitable foundation established by retired UK entrepreneur Michael Cannon. The Fellowship starts in January 2010 and will explore the relationship between policy and patient experience and support work on using patient experience research to redesign healthcare processes.

“We were attracted by the unique opportunity presented by GTC for the close interaction between medical scientists and management specialists,” says Michael Cannon. “We hope the research will influence health policy and practice on a global scale, with a real and immediate impact on the lives of patients.”

“There is much work still to be done to refine our understanding of what really matters to patients, and to develop both qualitative and quantitative research methods for capturing different aspects of experience,” says Dr McPherson.

Healthtalkonline.org and the proposed new Institute are poised to take the lead in taking research out into the real world and making connections with healthcare users, practitioners and policy-makers.

Ann is one of those people with unbelievable determination and enthusiasm. She has set her heart on establishing the first Institute of Health Experiences which brings together research from all the different disciplines in this area – and I know she will make it happen. Very few people, myself included, can say no to Ann.”

Jon Snow

MAKING COMPLEXITY SIMPLE

Analyzing complex systems can help us understand the world we live in, says Felix Reed-Tsochas.

From road and rail systems connecting towns and cities, through essential power grids and world-wide communications systems such as the Internet, to ever-evolving social networks of friends and family, our world today is crammed with myriad complex networks.

Making sense of understanding how these systems function is being grasped by the new science of complex systems, also referred to by some as complexity science. A blend of physics, biology and sociology, it lists just a few of the contributing disciplines; a central focus of this emerging field is to identify network properties and examine the factors which cause the networks that surround us to expand and evolve, as well as shrink and even collapse.

Some of the most interesting research in this area is taking place at the CABDyN Complexity Centre which is coordinated from the Said Business School in Oxford and includes a range of University departments.

If you are interested in supporting Healthtalkonline and the Health Experiences Institute, please contact GTC Development Director Heather Ebner on +44 (0) 1865 274777 or at email: heather.ebner@gtc.ox.ac.uk

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“If that’s true, it suggests that many of the key organising principles behind such networks can’t be all that sensitive to the precise details of context but are more universal in the way that they’re constructed,” he adds.

The framework of complex networks therefore potentially provides a powerful language enabling the translational exercise of understanding how problems from one domain relate to problems in another. A key example is Reed-Tsochas’s recent research into the New York garment manufacturing industry which highlighted striking similarities between the structure of cooperative interactions in the relationship of manufacturers and contractors to one another and the collaborative ecological networks formed by plants and the insects that pollinate them.

The researchers studied 100,000 payment transactions between New York firms over 20 years, and constructed a computer simulation model which reproduced the structural characteristics of ten large pollination networks as well as the inter-firm network in the garment industry.

Continued overleaf
The model incorporated two mechanisms which could be encoded using remarkably simple rules: a specialization mechanism, which determined how few or many partners each manufacturer (or plant) would cooperate with, and an interaction mechanism, which used hierarchical ordering to determine which contractors (or insects) a given manufacturer (or plant) would cooperate with.

The empirical data fed into the model simply recorded the number of partners in each category and the total number of links, so for the New York garment industry the number of manufacturers and contractors and the number of links between them. The computer model then generated network structures, which were compared to the empirically observed networks by focusing on three key features that characterize bipartite cooperation networks: degree distribution (the probability distribution of how many connections manufacturers and contractors or plants and insects have), nestedness (the level of hierarchical order found in the network, reflecting whether firms or species with many links seek to cooperate with partners that have many or few links themselves), and modularity (the degree to which the network can be broken down into weakly interdependent components or modules).

Unexpectedly, the two mutualistic networks used the same patterns of cooperation and their key features appeared very similar despite the different contexts, suggesting that firms and plant and insect species follow similar rules when deciding whom to cooperate with. So it appears that cooperative interactions are structured in a very generic way which means that the simple rules of cooperation could be relevant to the study of many different examples of cooperative behaviour across a range of domains.

“Of course, it is hypothetically possible that we have come up with a model that works for the bees and the flowers and the New York garment industry and nothing else” says Reed-Tsochas. “But that would be pretty bizarre, which leads us to think that both systems must be examples of a broader category of how cooperation works, both in nature and in society.”

The research team, including Sergiu Savarese (CABDyN and the Oxford University Centre for Corporate Reputation) and Brian Uzzi (Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University), is now studying other complex networks to test the model and will publish results of an analysis which also includes findings for the Broadway musical industry.

“Brian Uzzi had previously compiled a dataset of people who have produced Broadway musicals over the last hundred years, working out whether their shows were successful, whether they know each other, and so on, to build up a network of people who have previously interacted with each other,” Reed-Tsochas says.

“Returning to this dataset with our new model, it turns out that the pattern of cooperation that works for flowers and insects and for manufacturers and contractors works equally well for the theatres in which musicals are staged and the producers. The producers seem to act just like the bees and the theatres act just like the flowers. We have a few other examples to show that this is a very generic pattern of behaviour.”

A related study has shown light on contracting or shirking networks: an area little researched to date since most studies looking at changes in economic or social networks over the last decade have focussed on static or growing networks such as the Internet. During the 20-year period studied, the New York garment manufacturing industry was rapidly declining by a factor of ten, from over 1,800 firms to just 190. The network contracted but it did not fragment and its overall structure and the way relationships were distributed across firms remained largely unchanged.

In addition, the network’s ability to continue to function depended on a very specific set of relationships, linking firms to business partners with a different status or level of connectivity. This suggests that relationships between specialist and generalist firms are likely to be favoured, although this could not have been planned or coordinated.

Cruelly, claims Reed-Tsochas, these insights are not limited to the manufacturing industry but may be relevant to other contracting networks. This has obvious significance for the car and banking industries in the current financial climate, but also for other shrinking networks such as ecological networks facing extinction and networks of neurons affected by degenerative diseases, for example.

Interestingly, Reed-Tsochas’ academic background is not in management or social science but in theoretical condensed matter physics. It is, however, as a naturalist from physics to systems.

“In physics, one is often interested in how interactions between different entities lead to novel behaviours – for example how electrons combine to produce superconductivity – and more generally to understand what happens when many constituent parts of a system affect each other and what sort of behaviour they collectively exhibit,” he explains.

“The key question about complex systems is to understand collective behaviour, understanding that systems are composed of individual entities or particles or people, all following what can often be viewed as quite simple rules and that gives rise to unanticipated, unplanned, highly ordered forms of behaviour at a collective level. What I seek to do is to describe their properties and characteristics.”

Physics has developed some powerful mathematical formal and conceptual tools which are highly relevant when trying to understand how collective behaviour relates to individual behaviour, he says, even though traditionally they have been applied to particles and atoms not people. An increasing number of physicists are turning their attention to complex systems, largely driven by Reed-Tsochas, by the fact that these sorts of generic questions not only arise within physics but also in sociology or economics.

For him, the key to applying physics principles sensitively and sensitively to the characterization of social systems is to be embedded in a departure where people have a lot of knowledge about the issues and where you are forced to make what you have to say appear relevant. That’s an important challenge to have – although I’m not claiming that I always succeed being based at Said is very beneficial for my work.”

As an example of the relevance of physics tools to social science research, he cites a 2007 study on the architecture of mobile social networks which analyzed mobile phone data from seven million mobile phone users (approximately 20 per cent of the total population) of a European country to assess the flow of information through society. Sociologists have long sought to understand social networks and have traditionally used questionnaires to probe the issues.

However, there are problems with that approach when considering vast networks, Reed-Tsochas points out.

“First, it requires respondents to faithfully reconstruct their behaviour retrospectively, and second, as a technique it is limiting because it typically allows social scientists to construct social networks which are unlikely to have more than a hundred people in them. So the questions posed are most appropriate for networks of this size, such as who is the most important actor in it? This is a meaningless question when a network involves hundreds of thousands or millions of actors and connections.”

Tools from physics can be valuable here as they allow modelling and analysis of large-scale networks and meaningful questions to be asked. Meanwhile, CABDyN is developing its own collaborative research networks, both in Oxford and internationally, in particular with the Santa Fe Institute, a leader in the field, and Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. The Centre has grown considerably, attracting researchers of the highest calibre, and is gaining an international reputation for its research.

“I believe that we have a real opportunity to become one of the world’s leading centres in this sort of research, because in Oxford we have what strikes me as the most genuinely interdisciplinary group in the UK. This is partly helped by the college system which encourages collaboration across disciplinary boundaries. A college dinner might just generate interesting cocktail conversation but if used in the right way it can also be a lever to help build interdisciplinary research. That puts Oxford in a strong position” says Reed-Tsochas.

Although the science of complex systems is focused on developing a fuller understanding of systemic properties and behaviours across a wide range of problem domains, findings already show promise of wider significance. In the commercial world, many companies need to adjust their business models to a context where customers are increasingly likely to interact with each other directly, and influence each other’s behaviour.

“Deeper understanding of how networks function also allows you to address important societal problems, like social exclusion in the age of technology. How the notions of social exclusion will change and shift as our social lives become more mediated by information and communication technology is uncertain – although it is unlikely to lead to an end to social exclusion, it may just transform the kinds of social exclusion that we see,” Reed-Tsochas comments.

“A social policy level that’s important, and as social policy questions arise I hope that CABDyN will be leading the way to the answers.”
t was that unrelenting faith in the power of moral leadership that led one of Carter’s oldest and dearest friends, Dr Peter Bourne, to urge him to make his first run for president.

Bourne plays down the role his 10-page missive played in history, but Carter, taking a short break from his still grueling travel schedule to chat about Bourne in February, says it absolutely formed the core of his successful 1976 bid.

“He was the first person to suggest I run for president, fall of 1972,” Carter says. “It was from that memorandum that our campaign was based.”

From that auspicious beginning grew a political collaboration and deep friendship that continues to this day. Despite their accomplishments — Bourne is a noted physician, biographer, author and international civil servant — you could just as easily catch the two men fishing for trout on Bourne’s ancient Roman farm in Wales than discussing the latest public health initiative or fragile cease-fire. Bourne’s 1997 biography of Carter remains one of the more comprehensive takes on the second oldest-living US president and he works regularly with The Carter Center at Emory University in Atlanta, an institution where Bourne family connections run deep.

It’s that shared commitment to social change that draws 69-year-old Bourne to a range of educational posts, most notably as Vice Chancellor Emeritus of St. George’s University in Grenada, West Indies, Chairman of the Board of Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC) and as an Honorary Visiting Fellow at Green Templeton College, Oxford University. He began his relationship with the former Green College in 2003 and as the learning community grew — most notably with its 2008 merger with Templeton College — so has Bourne’s role. He has signed on to serve as chair of the College’s North American Alumni Council.

Speaking recently at his historic DuPont Circle home, a part of Washington, DC’s so-called ‘Old City,’ and where he has made his American home base since 1976, Bourne said the Green-Templeton merger, a first for the University, was a unique opportunity for two communities to come together in a way where the sum would become greater than its individual parts. “You can sense that already,” he says.

Returning full circle

Bourne’s birth in Oxford in 1939 marked what would become a deep connection with the University. The son of a third-generation Australian, he was born at the now-closed Radcliffe Infirmary on campus. His father was working toward a doctorate in physiology at Oxford at the time. After World War II, the Bourne family left Oxford for London and then eventually the United Kingdom entirely, with Bourne who studied at the Dragon School in North Oxford and Whitgift College in Croydon following his family to the United States. In 1962 he earned a medical degree from Emory, where his father had become the chairman of the anatomy department.

BOURNE IN OXFORD: NATIVE SON HELPS BOLSTER HISTORIC MERGER

As rockets blasted across the border between Israel and Gaza late last year and peace in the Middle East seemed once again like a faraway fantasy, former US President Jimmy Carter slipped easily into the role of elder statesman, traveling to the war-ravaged area and beseeching both sides toward the negotiating table.
He received a master’s degree in anthropology from Stanford University in 1969, also completing a residency in psychiatry there. Bourne shares a passion for engaging the wider world with his wife Dr Mary E. King, an award-winning author, professor, scholar and peace activist. They divide their time between DC, Oxford and Wales, where they run a successful llama breeding operation in Tegaron.

A slight and soft-spoken man, Bourne isn’t outwardly boastful of his close relationship with Carter or the role of his fateful memo to a relatively unsung campaign manager for Carter in 1968. “I was supposed to be able to do that stuff.” Seim says. “It’s organization. You aren’t the expert, the expert is in the back of the chair and legs crossed. You are as a wordsmith is often overlooked, there is no medium, it seems, that doesn’t have a mode of expression. There is no way to copyright your name.”

“At the crucial moment,” Bourne writes, “he stopped and said ‘Well, that’s another story.’”

In 1995, as an Advisor on Foreign Policy to former presidential candidate and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, Bourne accompanied him to Baghdad to win the release of two American aerospace workers who had mistakenly wandered into Iraq from Kuwait under Saddam Hussein’s reign. Bourne details some of their adventures on his web site, www.peterbourne.co.uk

Richardson, fresh from the unexpected withdrawal of his name for consideration for US Commerce Secretary, declined requests for an interview. Bourne’s international efforts have long extended from public health advocacy into direct diplomacy.

In 1979 became an Assistant Secretary for Health Issues – and was appointed Special Assistant to President Jimmy Carter to put his prestige behind the eradication campaign. He received a master’s degree in aerospace workers who had mistakenly wandered into Iraq from Kuwait under Saddam Hussein’s reign. Bourne accompanied him to Baghdad to win the release of two American aerospace workers who had mistakenly wandered into Iraq from Kuwait under Saddam Hussein’s reign. Bourne detailed some of their adventures on his web site, www.peterbourne.co.uk

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Bourne agreed to sit on HDI’s board, a global campaign to eradicate Guinea worm, a major public health problem in Africa that comes from drinking water infected with the parasite, which matures into a worm inside the body and emerges through the skin, sometimes reaching lengths of three feet. In 1985 he convinced President Carter to put his prestige behind the eradication campaign. "We started with 3.5 million (infected) people" and now there are just “493 who have this disease outside of Ghana and Sudan,” he says.

There was no magic bullet, no vaccine. Seim says. "It's organization. You aren't supposed to be able to do that stuff." He describes Bourne as the early leader of efforts against the disease and someone who smartly used his role at the UN to make a real difference. "It's a non-sexy, low-profile disease – no one wants to hear about it. Yet we've done it. He's a good thinker, with a lot of good ideas," Seim says of Bourne.

"We flew to Amman and then drove nine hours across the desert to Baghdad (there was a no-fly zone in southern Iraq). We met that evening with Tariq Aziz, the deputy prime minister and someone I had also known for several years. He was an executive producer of the television film 'Cuba and the Quest for Global Health', a look at the near-miraculous Cuban medical education system, which churns out highly-trained doctors with a fraction of the resources of wealthy nations. That same commitment to transforming public health is shared by Green Templeton, which by merging two colleges creates a powerful nexus between their former singular strengths of medicine and business.

Bourne is particularly proud of the goal of bringing an interdisciplinary focus to human welfare and development to its 500 students, all post-graduates.

Students around the world have long recognized the advantage of interdisciplinary graduate degrees, particularly when it comes to medicine, but that vision isn’t always fostered on the highest levels.

"Students themselves have always taken that initiative" Bourne says, but now, at Green Templeton, you have the institution taking the lead.

There is great potential, he says, in the types of students drawn to Green Templeton, long appreciated for its diversity.

"The student body is so international. It’s a very cosmopolitan place," he said. "I find it just wonderful when I'm there.”

Among all those achievements, his skill as a wordsmith is often overlooked, Carter says. "Peter, first of all, is a superb writer" Carter says. "When he is writing a book he writes almost a final version as a first draft.”

"Suddenly Saddam got up and left the room. A nervous aide quickly explained that this was a formal audience. Bill’s lounging posture was disrespectful and unacceptable," he writes.

A shift in posture and plenty of charm helped smooth things over and discussions continued, with one notable moment – in the midst of a talk on US-Iraq relations, Saddam came perilously close to saying his invasion of Kuwait had been a mistake, he writes.

"At the crucial moment," Bourne writes, "he stopped and said 'Well, that’s another story.”

Bourne is nothing if not a prolific writer, authoring over a hundred articles and writing or editing ten books – including two efforts that have become academic standards in the effects of combat stress. He is a decorated veteran himself, having spent a year in Vietnam as part of an Army psychiatric research team. Among all those achievements, his skill as a wordsmith is often overlooked, Carter says. "Peter, first of all, is a superb writer" Carter says. "When he is writing a book he writes almost a final version as a first draft.”

Something that is particularly useful when it comes to the unfettered medium of blogging, to which Bourne has taken with the enthusiasm of a digital native. His site can read at times like a spy thriller, which weaks to as he briefly analyzes his potential as the true-life inspiration for the Bourne series, the Robert Ludlum books and movie franchise. Bourne’s father happened to meet Ludlum and asked him directly, at which point Ludlum credited what he had read and heard about him in the news media, Bourne writes: “Sadly there is no way to copyright your name.”

"Passing the torch is no medium, it seems, that Bourne hasn’t found as an intellectual outlet for his passions, but his heart clearly belongs on the Biema Farms, his breeding operation in Wales. His only regret as he gets older, he says, is that it’s tougher to devote enough time or energy to the farm, which has produced more than 200 animals over 20 years.

Yet he continues to draw a revenue from his efforts around medical education, particularly those in Cuba. He was an executive producer of the 2006 documentary film ‘Sakuda: The Film: Cuba and the Quest for Global Health’ at the near-miraculous Cuban medical education system, which churns out highly-trained doctors with a fraction of the resources of wealthy nations. That same commitment to transforming public health is shared by Green Templeton, which by merging two colleges creates a powerful nexus between their former singular strengths of medicine and business.

Students around the world have long recognized the advantage of interdisciplinary graduate degrees, particularly when it comes to medicine, but that vision isn’t always fostered on the highest levels. Students themselves have always taken that initiative” Bourne says. But now, at Green Templeton, you have the institution taking the lead.

There is great potential, he says, in the types of students drawn to Green Templeton, long appreciated for its diversity.

“The student body is so international. It’s a very cosmopolitan place,” he said. “I find it just wonderful when I’m there.”

Peter Bourne was interviewed at his Washington DC home by freelance journalist Kathleen Ryan O’Connor
THE YEAR IN PICTURES

From bops and boat races, conferences and charity challenges, to VIP visits, Green Templeton’s first year has been an eventful and exciting one. Here are some of the highlights.

1: Burns’ Night Dinner
2: Annual quad water Fight
3: Visit of Crown Prince Philippe of Belgium
4: Finnish Brunch
5: GCR charity rowathon
6: Three Peaks Challenge – Scafell Pike
7: Lightning Garden Party
8: Valentine’s dinner
9: February snowfall
10: Eights Week Men’s VIII
11: Pirate Bop
12: Eights Week Men’s VIII
13: GTC Human Welfare Student Conference II
14: Golden Age of Hollywood Ball

Photos by: Barry Blake-Cox, Igna Bonfrer, Deb Farrell, Susie Hunt, Rob Judges, Laura McCulloch, Andrew Symington.
The restoration of the Radcliffe Observatory by architects Inskip + Jenkins has revealed it as an important neoclassical building and placed it firmly back on the map as an iconic Oxford landmark.

The approach to conservation has changed a lot in the last fifty years. In the 1960s, much of the historic fabric of Oxford was lost when large-scale resurfacing of buildings was carried out to restore its crumbling stone. The result was that many buildings in Oxford came to look like new ones rather than ancient, historic ones. “Now we are much more sensitive and in the restoration of the Radcliffe Observatory we took a conservative approach, with the aim of retaining as much of the original stonework as possible,” explains architect Peter Inskip, who, with his partner Peter Jenkins, has drawn up a masterplan for Green Templeton College and directed the ambitious project to reinstate the Observatory to its former glory.

For Inskip + Jenkins, the opportunity to restore the building’s cultural significance and bring an important neoclassical landmark back to life, both as a central architectural and social focus for the College and for Oxford’s celebrated skyline, made the project particularly exciting. The Radcliffe Observatory has been described by some as the finest 18th century building in Oxford, and by Nikolaus Pevsner as architecturally the finest observatory in Europe.

Work is being undertaken in three phases – two on the exterior and one on the interior of the 18th century building – as part of the wider plan to create more accommodation on the College site and build a new quad on the Observer’s kitchen garden. Before any work began on the Observatory, the architects spent a year researching its history and analyzing its fabric and construction, assessing which original features survived and materials had been used.

This planning stage was crucial in ensuring that as much as possible of the Coade stone used in the building’s original fabric could be retained and that matching materials could be used to authentically replace any features that could not be saved.

This kind of historical and materials research has evolved into an almost scientific, forensic process in the 21st century. Catherine Hassall, who has a background in restoring Old Masters, examined small flakes of paint under a microscope at 300x magnification to ascertain the original colours used on the exterior and interior. Original mortars were also analyzed and matched to the sands they were made with, while the stone was matched to the closest geological equivalent available to ensure both a visual match and appropriate weathering characteristics.

During this extensive period of research, backing was actively sought to help the College fund the restoration. The Pilgrim Trust gave a grant for restoring the Coade stone plaques on the outside of the building whereas the Leche Trust gave a grant to repair John Bacon’s outstanding carved limestone sculptures of the Four Winds.

The Observatory Tower was most in need of urgent repair: although some work had been carried out in the 1960s by well-known architect Marshall Sisson, this only extended to the lower floors and wings and no work at all had been done on the Tower – probably because of the high cost of erecting scaffold. The exterior details from the Tower of the Winds in Athens are a guide to the detail. Stuart and Revett’s engravings were the inspiration for Bacon’s original sculptures.

Once the work was agreed, plaster casts were made which were used to guide the final stone carving. This work was carried out again in situ on blocks of indented stone. One of the keys to the success of the restoration of the sculptures, Peter Inskip believes, is the close relationship between the architects and the craftsman.

“We spent ages on the scaffold with them, saying: ‘Look again at that engraving – surely the nose needs to be built up a bit more’. It was a bit like directing an orchestra.”

The final stage was to give the exterior stonework five coats of limewash. The limewash holds the light and responds to changing weather conditions in ever-varying ways. When attention turned to the interior of the Observatory in 2008, the work revealed the inside to be as architecturally important as the external details from the Tower of the Winds in Athens.

The building was rearranged with the dining room, moved from what had been in the old lecture room on the first floor, to the original entrance hall on the ground floor next to the kitchens in the west wing to improve access and accommodate more people.

Most significantly, upstairs the two recesses on either side of the octagonal Common Room were opened up, having previously been partitioned off and used as a food servery and lavatories.

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When the work finally began, the first step was to clean the building using specialized conservation cleaning methods.

Next, the stonework was addressed. Wholesale replacement of individual stones was avoided where possible and instead small eroded sections of stone were cut out and indented with a new piece, revealing the quality of the work.

The missing details of the Winds sculptures were remediated in situ in clay and built up gradually, using Stuart and Revett’s original engravings of the bas-reliefs on the great Tower of the Winds in Athens. The Antiquities of Athens is a guide to the detail. Stuart and Revett’s engravings were the inspiration for Bacon’s original sculptures.

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“Opening up those side rooms has created a breathtaking and monumental early neoclassical space which is really important and which had previously been lost,” says Inskip.

The remarkable thing, according to Inskip, is how much of the original 18th century building still survives. Pieces of the original furniture still exist, including the lecture chairs specially designed by the architect James Wyatt for the building. The solid mahogany doors at the entrance and inside are all original. French polishing has restored their former patina and, despite the years when the building was used for research, and was occupied by sheep as well as researchers, the original intricately decorated door handles are still in place.

“It has also gained, I think, a wonderful addition for the College because it has redirected the focus of the building so that the Tower once again looks out north onto the historic and quite beautiful gardens which really haven’t changed since the 18th century,” says Inskip.

Inskip believes this is probably due to the relatively low-key use of the building by the time it was part of the neighbouring Radcliffe Infirmary and was occupied by sheep as well as researchers, the original intricately decorated door handles are still in place.

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“I know that we had completed work on the huge globe which sits on top of the building supported by the lead figures of Atlas and Heralds but funds didn’t stretch to gilding the lines of latitude and longitude that covered it,” remembers Peter.

“The scaffold was about to come down so my other partner Stephen Goo and I decided to gild the globe ourselves and went and bought some gold leaf. It was a Sunday and the weather was terrible – but suddenly there was a break in the rain so we got up there with another colleague and gilded it. I remember it was very windy and the gold leaf kept on blowing away and gilding the trees!”

“I’m really glad we did the work though, because the way the gilding glints in the sun is quite amazing. And we also had a lot of fun doing it!”

Today, the Radcliffe Observatory stands out from the buildings surrounding it and is once again the landmark in the city that its architect James Wyatt intended it to be, as well as the focus of Green Templeton some two hundred years later.

Shortly after the work was completed, Peter Inskip came across an engraving in the Ashmolean. By James Basire after JMW Turner’s watercolour *A View of Worcester College*, the work shows the Observatory shining brightly out against a dramatic dark sky and the surrounding buildings, underlining the importance of the relationship of the Observatory to the city.

“The work has revealed it as a really important neo-classical building; I think it is one of the great gems of Oxford”, concludes Inskip.

Almost 30 cast and crew members, including the two lead actors, were on site as the Observatory and College gardens formed the backdrop for another murder mystery for Inspector Robbie Lewis (Whately) and his partner DS Hathaway (Fox).

The plot of the episode, provisionally entitled *Dark Matter*, revolves around astronomy. When the body of a college dean, an enthusiastic amateur astronomer, is found at the foot of the observatory stairs in suspicious circumstances, the two Oxford policemen are called in to investigate his death.

Filming took place in the gardens and Lenskestu quad, as well as inside the Observatory where the observing room at the top of the tower doubled as the murder scene.

Other scenes inside the fictional observatory were filmed at the University of London Observatory at Mill Hill and the two will be edited together for the final cut. Coincidentally, when the working Radcliffe Observatory relocated to Pretoria in South Africa in 1934, it donated one of its telescopes to Mill Hill.

The last series of Lewis was watched by 7 million viewers in 100 countries and was ITV1’s top rated drama of 2008. The new series is due to be shown in Spring 2010.
Podcasts available from GTC website

If you were unable to make it to Oxford to attend the recent Green Templeton Lectures 2009 Admitted to Big Pharma? Reconciling business, medical and ethical needs, you can catch up now on the GTC website where all four lectures are available to download as podcasts. The lecture series focused on the pharmaceutical industry past, present and future and explored the challenges of reconciling medical ethics and business in the 21st century against a backdrop of scientific and clinical developments and the increasing expectations of patients. Leading figures in the pharmaceutical industry, health and business spoke, including Sir Mike Rawlins, Chair of the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), and Patrick Vallance, Head of Drug Discovery at GlaxoSmithKline. Visit www.gtc.ox.ac.uk/academic/lectures-seminars/podcasts-from-green-templeton-college.html to download the podcasts and see Powerpoint presentations from the lectures. Podcasts from the University covering a wide range of subjects are also available on iTunes U. Launched in October 2008, the free site features public lectures, interviews with leading academics and much more. To date there have been 1 million downloads from the site and over 280,000 subscriptions. The Green Templeton Lectures 2010 will take place in Hilary Term; see the GTC website for more details.

GTC team rise to three peaks challenge

Twelve intrepid GTC students and staff tackled the Three Peaks Challenge in July, scaling the three tallest peaks in England, Wales and Scotland – Scafell Pike, Snowdon and Ben Nevis – in just 36 hours. In the process they beat their own charity fundraising target, raising over £18,000 in aid of the Meningitis Trust which works to raise awareness, and support families and people affected by the illness. This is one of the highest amounts raised for charity by students or staff at an Oxford college this year. The ambitious fundraising goal was met through sponsorship and a series of fundraising events, including a pub quiz night, a jazz night, and an inspiring talk by mountaineer Stephen Venables. Team member and GCR charities and development officer Rob Massam comments: “Climbing Scafell Pike in the middle of the night, followed by tackling Ben Nevis in 32 degree heat meant that we had to really support each other. The team spirit was fantastic throughout and overall, it was a fantastic event to be part of, with a lovely group of people and a real mix of students from medic and social sciences to MBAs – although I think the challenge was tougher than most of us thought it would be; a real test of mind and body!” Development Director Heather Ebner, also part of the team, says the Challenge is aptly named. “But the interesting thing is discovering how much of the challenge is mental as much – if not more than – physical," she says. “I think what gets you through it when you hit your own personal wall (and each of us hit that at different times) is the group of people you’re with. You don’t want to let them down, they give you encouragement (and singing!) and even sometimes the energy or calm you draw from those around you is what makes it do-able in the end.” More photos and information can be found on the team’s website at www.gtc3peakschallenge.org/Site/Welcome.html

Welcome.html

Podcasts from the GTC website can be found at green-templeton-college.html

Welcome.html

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT PUTS GTC CENTRE STAGE

These striking images of the Radcliffe Observatory against the rubble of the cleared Radcliffe Infirmary site might look a little like a scene from The War of the Worlds – but the devastation pictured here is only temporary. This is the construction site next to Green Templeton College which will become the University of Oxford’s Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ), one of the most significant development projects the University has undertaken for more than a century.

The 10-acre site is the last remaining large plot of land available for development in the historic heart of the city and was acquired by the University in 2003. The new development will create a lively social, cultural and academic centre to both the city and the University. The listed buildings on the site, including the Grade I listed 1770 Main Infirmary building, will be restored while the older hospital buildings will be replaced with new ones sympathetic to the character of the city.

Most importantly for GTC, the new spaces and vistas will be created around these historic buildings, particularly the Observatory, bringing the building and the College to prominence within the city.

Professor Tony Monaco, University Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Planning and Resources, explains: “In order to maintain and develop Oxford’s reputation as a world-class University, we need to ensure that we have the best facilities for teaching and research. The redevelopment of the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter is of fundamental importance in this regard.

“GTc will be alongside the new centre of gravity of the University, and our Observatory tower will be a central visual feature of the entire site. The College will undoubtedly benefit in many ways as the site is fully developed over the next few years.”

Further information about the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, including the history of the site and details of the proposed development, can be found on the University website at www.ox.ac.uk/roq

The Observatory seen from the ROQ development site

An artist’s impression of the modern space

The Meningitis Trust

Congratulations Meningitis Trust team

You made it!
hospitals with door handles that eject hand sanitizer every time they are used.

ENTERPRISING GTC STUDENT SCOOPS VENTURE FUND CASH FOR BUSINESS IDEA

Business tycoon Sir Philip Green has given his backing to a fledging company which aims to target infection control in hospitals with door handles that eject hand sanitizer every time they are used.

THE ART OF ENGAGEMENT

An exhibition opening next month at Modern Art Oxford will put contemporary art into the fabric of the city, and the University of Oxford.

CONTEMPORARY ART COMMISSIONED FOR RADCLIFFE OBSERVATORY

The Radcliffe Observatory is hosting a new work by Berlin-based artist Susan Philipsz which has been specially commissioned for the building by Modern Art Oxford.

There’s no such thing as a ‘typical’ Oxford student and the University’s new online ‘Wall of 100 Facas’ aims to show just how diverse a mix of people and personalities there are studying across Oxford.

GTC student Feng Guo is one of the 100 people whose personal experiences of living and studying in Oxford is showcased on the University website.

The wall is made up of 100 ‘bricks’ each representing one a short video in which students describe their time at the University and the city. The faces are a mixture of undergraduate and graduate students, from the UK and overseas, from different colleges and studying a wide range of subjects.

NOT JUST ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

Since the final in May, the Altitude Medical team has been working with a new team of designers to develop the product onto the market. They have also attracted more potential investors and interest from hospitals in the UK.

“As the company’s Chief Operations Officer, Jacob will be responsible for coordinating production and logistics, relying on previous experience gained in the private and humanitarian sector,” explains Jacob McKnight and fellow TC DPhil Management student TC DPhil Management student Jacob McKnight and fellow director of Altitude Medical beat off stiff competition from three other finalists to emerge as one of two winners of the Said Business School Venture Fund 2009.

The tough ‘Dragon’s Den’-style contest gave the budding Altitude Medical was set up in 2007 by Alexander Ohrimyanik, a medical doctor doing his DPhil at Oxford University, who came up with the idea of manufacturing a simple device to release antiseptic every time a door handle is used in a hospital or medical institution.

“We believe that this device will help to reduce the risk of infections and superbugs such as MRSA in hospitals which can be spread by staff and visitors failing to wash their hands properly,” explains Jacob McKnight.

“I am very keen that our programmes of engaging the world’s greatest contemporary artists should connect more emphatically with the city and its remarkable spaces and so we are delighted to commission contemporary artworks for this iconic building,” says the University’s then Vice-Chancellor Dr John Hood.

Altitude Medical was set up in 2007 and the Altitude Medical team has been working with a new team of designers to develop product models, before launching the product onto the market. They have also attracted more potential investors and interest from hospitals in the UK.

“The Observatory is a quite sensational building and offers an incredible panoramic view of the city.”

“Locating a thought-provoking contemporary art installation in the 18th century Observatory tower makes for an intriguing juxtaposition. The neo-classical Observatory stands at the heart of the College, and we are hugely excited to host Susan Philipsz’s installation in the building. We believe it underlines Green Templeton’s distinctive identity - as Oxford’s newest graduate college, actively engaging with the outside world.”

The Observatory will host Susan Philipsz’s work between 31 October and 3 December 2009. The exhibition will be open Tuesday to Sunday 2pm to 5pm.

“Since I joined Oxford Fashion Week I’ve had a chance to talk to fashion design students and designers from London Fashion Week as well, and I think this kind of exposure is really helpful for my dissertation.”

See and hear Feng and the other 99 Oxford students who form the ‘bricks’ in the wall at: www.ox.ac.uk/videwall/
THE ‘SWINE FLU’ PANDEMIC

‘Swine flu’ has spread rapidly across the world since emerging in Mexico in March. It is now officially the first flu pandemic for 40 years: the World Health Organisation declared a global flu pandemic on 11 June after the virus was confirmed in at least two regions of the world.

Environmental factors include the proximity of animal sources of infection, animal population density, and seasonal factors. Recent outbreaks of avian influenza and, more controversially, ‘swine flu’ have been linked to intensive agricultural production. Generally, where fowl and pigs are reared close together, we find ideal conditions for the emergence of new strains with the potential to spread among humans. If avian influenza passes to pigs, which have a close genetic make-up to humans, the chances of pandemic influenza are greater.

Q | How regularly do pandemics occur?
A | It’s very difficult to see any pattern in the occurrence of pandemics. After the great pandemic of 1918-19 there was no true pandemic until 1957. There were pandemics of influenza affecting humans in the 1960s and 70s but none in the 1980s or 1990s, although the 1990s saw the spread of two strains of avian influenza virus: H5N1 and H9N2.

Q | Have there been outbreaks of ‘swine flu’ before?
A | ‘Swine flu’ is an inaccurate name given to the flu virus H1N1. We can’t be certain if there were outbreaks of influenza caused by this virus in the distant past because an influenza virus was isolated from pigs only in 1930. However, in 1929, a ‘swine-like type of influenza was found circulating among humans and fragments of a genome of a virus similar to H1N1 have been found preserved in lung tissue of victims of the 1918-19 pandemic.

The H1N1 virus circulated widely during the 1940s and 50s but there was no true pandemic of this disease until the so-called ‘Russian flu’ pandemic of 1957 which originated in China and eventually reached most of the world, mainly affecting those aged under 25.

Q | Are there similarities between ‘swine flu’ and earlier pandemics?
A | The current H1N1 pandemic bears some similarity to that of 1977 because it has affected children and young adults more severely than ordinary seasonal flu outbreaks, which tend to claim more elderly victims.

But the demographic profile of the current pandemic is also disturbingly similar to that of 1918-19 which claimed the lives of many young adults, adding to the already terrible death toll of the First World War. The highest death rate was among those aged 20-40 and men suffered more severely than women, although it is not clear why.

Q | What have been the most significant flu pandemics in history?
A | Without question, the most significant was the so-called ‘Spanish flu’ in 1918-19. Estimates vary but as many as 30 million people died worldwide, making it the most significant pandemic demographically since the ‘Black Death’ in the 14th century, when around a third of the population of Europe died.

In Britain alone in 1918-19 over 200,000 people died, although the number and proportion of deaths was higher in some parts of the world, particularly Africa and Asia. Prior to 1918, there were severe epidemics of influenza but rudimentary or non-existent death registration mean death rates are uncertain. There were serious outbreaks of what appears to have been influenza in the 18th and 19th centuries but only the ‘Russian flu’ of 1897-99, reached pandemic proportions, spread rapidly around the world by passengers on steamships and railways.

Q | What do previous flu pandemics tell us about how this one might develop?
A | Each pandemic has unique characteristics, so one can never predict with certainty how a pandemic will develop by looking at the past.

But there are similarities with the outbreaks in 1977 and, more worryingly, 1918-19, although at present there are no grounds for thinking that mortality would be as high as in 1918-19.

Although the demographic profile is similar, the death rate so far has been low. Public health experts and scientists made very alarmist statements at the start of the pandemic but have to revise their estimates substantially.

The big question is whether the virus will mutate and come back stronger this winter, as in 1918-19 when the second wave was more fatal than the first. History shows this is possible but not certain. We are now better equipped to deal with a pandemic because of vaccines and antiviral drugs, but these are far from being widely or equitably distributed.

Some scientists and health officials have stated that another pandemic is inevitable but not all virologists agree. This implies two questions: will a virus as virulent as that in 1918-19 emerge and can we control it if it does?

The scientific answer to the first is that it is possible, and the answer to the second is that we are better prepared now.

The historical answer is that diseases mirror the societies in which they are produced. Cholera was the quintessential disease of 19th century ‘globalisation’ and social inequality. Influenza and other zoonotic infections (those that can spread from animals to humans) are perhaps the quintessential diseases of our time. Their production and spread mirror the conditions in which animals are reared and their rapid dissemination mirrors the closely-integrated world in which we live.

We should perhaps remember one of the lessons of the 19th century: that pandemic diseases like cholera were eradicated in many parts of the world not just by quarantine and screening measures but by attacking the root causes. Then, that meant sanitary reform; now we need to look at how pigs and poultry are reared in many parts of the world. If these problems are not addressed, then a pandemic more serious than the current one is certainly likely.

Professor Mark Harrison has published widely on the history of disease and medicine, especially in relation to the history of war and imperialism from the 17th to the 20th centuries. He is currently working on the history of medicine and British imperial expansion, c.1700-1850, the history of medicine in the First World War, and on the relationship between disease and commerce.
Every academic year, Green Templeton offers a number of scholarships to support exceptional students who might not otherwise be able to consider pursuing their studies at Oxford. The College also supports other students who might be in financial hardship through bursaries, awards and small grants. Here, GTC DPhil Scholars 2008/09 Matt Morton and Melanie Bunce sum up the first year of their studies in their own words.

Melanie Bunce
New Zealander Melanie’s DPhil is entitled Journalism in crises: The production of international news stories on conflict in Africa. Earlier this year she won a prestigious Round Table Commonwealth Award for Young Scholars and has undertaken a three-week research trip to Nairobi as part of her prize. “My year at GTC has been extremely busy but very rewarding. As VP of Entertainment, I’ve had a great time planning and delivering a huge range of events and activities for GTC students. These have ranged from music nights and pirate punting through to London and Brighton trips, comedy nights, water fights, a Mr and Ms GTC competition, walks in the countryside and cocktail evenings. These events have been extremely well attended and have helped to foster a strong sense of community among our students. They have also raised our profile around the University as a vibrant, diverse and exciting college to attend – we are now a very popular choice for college exchange dinners and our bops are legendary in the graduate community.

I have also played a lot of sport this year, and worked to foster sport at GTC. I set up and captained GTC’s first women’s rugby team, and this was very successful – reaching the final of the inter-college cuppers competition.

I also set up and captained a women’s cricket team in conjunction with Jesus College, which has been a lot of fun, and which will continue to play socially over the long vacation. On a personal level, I had a successful year as a University first XV Rugby Blue, and was a starting player for the Varsity game against Cambridge.

I was also part of a group of GTC students who took part in the Three Peaks Challenge this July – climbing the biggest three mountains in the UK in 36 hours. As part of fundraising for this challenge, I organised a Black Tie Gala Dinner and World Music After Party at College that raised over £1300 for the Meningitis Trust. I’m now working to support the other students’ fundraising activities, including a jazz night, a guest lecture, an Indian feast, and a pub quiz.

It sometimes felt like I was doing more extra-curricular work than academic studies this year! But I managed to find time to get involved in many Oxford research groups and to further my own DPhil project.

I was accepted to present at a number of conferences that went very well – the GTC Human Welfare Conference; St Antony’s College Researching Africa Day; a Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism media studies working group seminar; and at an exciting interdisciplinary conference in Algeria.

I have spent the year writing up papers based on my MPhil research and fleshing out my DPhil’s theoretical framework and methodology. I will be travelling to Nairobi for several months’ fieldwork over the summer months.

In between fieldwork and the start of the new academic year, I am working with my bar managers and the College on a major renovation of the students bar and Stables Gallery to turn it into an internet café cum eatery in the daytime, and a slick bar in the evening – creating an attractive, practical space for students to enjoy.

I will also oversee a committee that organises Freshers’ orientation in Michaelmas term.

Next year looks to be as busy, exciting, and hectic as the first!”

continued overleaf
Matt Morton, from the United States, is studying for a DPhil researching Youth Development in the Middle East. In April he was named by The British Council as its International Student of the Year 2009, beating over 1,500 students of 118 different nationalities who entered the competition, known as Shine!, this year.

“When I first considered pursuing a DPhil, I hesitated. Advisers warned me of the risks: the ivory tower could sever my connection to the grassroots, the comforts of intellectualism might pull away a sense of urgency and action, and the isolationism of independent research would be lonely. Far from community disconnection and social exile, however, my first year as a GTC Scholar could not have been more different. Exercising GTC’s devotion to human welfare, I co-coordinated a Youth in Action Forum in March for British and Albanian teen leaders. GTC received a €15,300 grant from the British Council as its International Student of the Year, and with the British teens (the Youth Development Project) towards their empowerment-based after-school programs for adolescents.

On the way to Berkeley, I joined inspiring graduates of the former Green and Templeton Colleges to launch GTC’s North American Alumni Chapter. I had a chance to run off some of the jet lag as I finished the travel tour in the Czech Republic, where I competed in the Prague Marathon before arriving back in Oxford.

Academic life has been no less eventful. In March, I passed Transfer of Status, thus achieving full DPhil status. The Campbell Collaboration has accepted the title registration for my MSc systematic review on the effects of empowerment-based after-school programs for adolescents. Over the summer I ventured on a third trip to Jordan to prepare for an impact evaluation of an empowerment-based education program for out-of-school youth. GTC Fellow Dr Paul Montgomery and I have written two Oxford Bibliographies Online for Oxford University Press and developed practical training modules for social workers on evidence-based practice. Serving as a policy evaluation consultant to the European Commission, I recently revisited Brussels for the launch of a campaign to strengthen the future of Cohesion Policy in the European Union – and got my Belgian waffles and ice cream fix. Cohesion Policy will allocate nearly €350 billion from 2007-2013 for a range of social and economic development initiatives.

I had the challenge and privilege of authoring a report on ‘The Applicability of Impact Evaluation to Cohesion Policy’, which the European Commission has published on its website. I am particularly grateful to GTC Fellow Professor Robert Walker for his patient and enthusiastic mentorship throughout this worthwhile project.

In closing this reflection, I owe special appreciation to my co-supervisors, Dr Paul Montgomery and Professor Sue Dopson (both GTC Fellows), for their continued coaching. They expect nothing less than my best, and my growth is all the greater as a result. Furthermore, I am deeply indebted to the GTC community, and its investors, for placing faith in me through this scholarship. Thank you.”
MATCHED FUNDING SCHEME BOOSTS IMPACT OF DONATIONS

Thanks to a new Government scheme, donations to the College from GTC alumni and friends will now have an even greater impact on current students and Fellows.

The Matched Funding Scheme aims to increase voluntary giving to UK higher education providers by providing £200 million to match donations made participating institutions.

The scheme runs from three years from 1 August 2008. All donations up to £10,000 are automatically eligible for the scheme and for Gift Aid. The Government’s Gift Aid scheme enables the College to claim an additional 28 pence on every £1 donated to GTC by a UK taxpayer, at no extra cost to the donor.

With the launch of the first-ever Green Templeton Annual Fund appeal earlier this year, many alumni and friends have already taken advantage of the opportunity to ensure their gift raises even more for the College.

Through the Annual Fund programme, alumni are able to direct their gift to specific areas of the College if desired, such as support for students, academic initiatives or for the College estate and buildings.

Contact us
We are located on the first floor of Fellowship House and always welcome a visit.
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For news from Development and Alumni Relations, including a calendar of events and podcasts of lectures, visit the GTC Alumni and Friends web pages at: www.gtc.ac.uk/alumni-and-friends.html

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009 – 2010

Until 3 December 2009
You are not alone
A new art installation by Susan Philipsz commissioned for the Radcliffe Observatory in collaboration with Modern Art Oxford.

Monday 22 February, 1 March, 8 March and 15 March 2010
Green Templeton Lectures 2010
Uncertainties and Insecurities
This lecture series seeks to explore and explain the sources and forms of uncertainty in key aspects of contemporary life.

Saturday 5 December 2009
Oxford 10 Christmas Party
At Shakespeare’s Globe, London.

Saturday 17 April 2010
North American Alumni Reunion in New York
Lecture, drinks reception and dinner. The lecture/presentation will focus on the Use and Abuse of Patient Narratives in the Debate on US Healthcare Reform. Sir Muir Gray will lead the discussion. Cost £50

Thursday 10 December 2009
Varsity Rugby Match at Twickenham
Alumni and college members join together to support the blues?

Tuesday 23 February 2010
6pm to 8.30pm
Drinks reception and talk at the Royal Society, London
Communicating uncertainty in climate change with BBC Environment Analyst Roger Harrabin.
Cost £18 per person.

Wednesday 24 February 2010
3.30pm
Lecture in the Radcliffe Observatory.

Saturday 25 September 2010
Green Templeton Alumni Reunion 2010
A chance to meet up with old friends and new for a series of special events and a formal dinner. Keep checking the website for more information.

October 2010
Foundation Dinner
A formal black tie dinner to mark the second anniversary of the founding of Oxford University’s newest graduate college. Details by invitation only.

Hong Kong Reunion
Date to be confirmed.

Please note that all dates are correct at the time of going to press but may be subject to change.

For more information or to reserve a place at any of these events, please contact:
Amanda Broughton-Francis, Alumni Relations Officer
Tel +44 (0) 1865 284556,
email: amanda.broughton-francis@gtc.ac.uk

EVENTS

DINNER & CHAMPAGNE DEBATE, 12 MARCH 2010
Dr. Amanda Kneale, Professor of Media and Cultural Studies, King’s College London.
A commemorative event to mark the second anniversary of the formation of Oxford University’s newest graduate college.

Summer Garden Party at GTC
Enjoy the beautiful College grounds, music, entertainers and afternoon tea.
Cost: Adults £10 Children £5

June 2010

July 2010

August 2010

September 2010

October 2010

November 2010