RADCLIFFE OBSERVATORY
Securing the next 250 years

ALUMNI
Focus on Master of Public Policy

RESEARCH
Psychedelics, philanthropy, planetary health
Welcome to Observatory, the college’s annual review publication. Browsing through the content of each issue I am conscious of the depth and breadth of activities that involve the college community and the challenging choices that have to be made about what is included and what has to be omitted.

2023 was another year of successful delivery of a wide-ranging programme of events in college. Personal highlights included the student-led Human Welfare Conference which in its 15th year explored new and future uses of psychedelics for social and medical good as well as reviewing their use within ancient civilisations and indigenous cultures (see pages 8-9); Kim Samuel’s reading group, delivered as part of the Sheila Kitzinger Programme and based on her book On Belonging; and the Green Templeton Lectures which explored the use of evidence in guiding philanthropy (see pages 12-15). We are actively exploring the possibility of establishing an academic centre focusing on the use of evidence to inform choices about funding philanthropic projects. The quality of seminars and lectures delivered by our academic events team never ceases to amaze me.

As part of our overall estate strategy and our Climate Action Plan, we are moving forward with a vital enabler of our longer-term vision, the Radcliffe Observatory conservation project (see pages 24-31). This seeks to secure the longer-term future of our magnificent Grade I listed building and improve its environmental sustainability. We are also rebuilding links with astrophysicists so we can narrate the future of this important subject as well as recounting the history of astronomical observations in Oxford going back 250 years. I am pleased to say that Rob Fender, Head of Astrophysics, has joined the college as Senior Research Fellow and we intend to build a community of researchers with him in the college.

After a period of inactivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic our partnership with the Japan-based Kawasaki Gakuen has restarted exchange visits of medical students and fellows and we hosted senior representatives on a planning visit here in September. We will make a reciprocal visit to Okayama in spring 2024. We have also been building on the strong support of our alumni. London-based alumni are now meeting on a regular basis and setting up their own networking events; I was very pleased to attend one at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in October. We hope to establish similar groups in other major world cities starting in 2024.

I will end by thanking our students and our staff, who help create and maintain the special ethos that typifies Green Templeton, and our fellows, who provide the intellectual glue that binds the community together.

Sir Michael Dixon
Principal
January 2024
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Cover photo: ‘Discover: Astronomy’ by Adam Bush (Graduate Entry Medicine, 2021) taken in the Radcliffe Observatory Tower Room and given an Honourable Mention in the 2023 Green Templeton Photography Competition.


Green Templeton College does not have an institutional view and the opinions expressed in Observatory are those of the authors.

Comments and suggestions in response to this issue of Observatory are welcome. Please contact the editor Nick Parrott at nick.parrott@gtc.ox.ac.uk

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**Music**

The choir is one part of a rich musical community at college, where students, staff members, fellows and associate members come together to harmonise in enchanting a cappella renditions spanning folk, blues, pop and gospel. The sessions are led by local community choir leader Emily Marshall and are open to all singing abilities. Practices are held in different locations at college including the Tower for a unique acoustic experience. Supported by Annual Fund donors and highly appreciated by its members, the choir is a source of calm and creative expression in the week.

**New portrait**

A new portrait of Professor Denise Lievesley in the Observatory Common Room was unveiled in November. Now an Honorary Fellow, Denise was Principal of Green Templeton from 2015 to 2020. The artist, Hero Johnson, was selected by Honorary Fellow Dr Paul Brankin and Denise for her experience and ability to build a rapport with her subjects. Hero produced the work over the course of a year, getting to know Denise in various environments around college, and taking hundreds of photos.
Teaching awards
Governing Body Fellow Laurence Leaver, Doll Fellow Robert Conway and Teaching Associates Daniel Foran and Ifor Capel were among those recognised in the University of Oxford Medical Sciences Division Teaching Excellence Awards 2023. Commenting on the recognition for medical teaching, Senior Doll Fellow Sheila Lumley said: ‘We’re extremely proud of their dedication and commitment to teaching at GTC, the wider university and NHS. Their excellence in education is a testament to our college’s commitment to excellence in medical education.’

Black Students’ Society
The society strives to engage in honest and open dialogue and create a space where members can – with others – celebrate diversity, uniqueness, unity, and the fact that everyone is different yet equal. For Black History Month in October, Marwa M A Elbasheer (DPhil Population Health, 2021) edited a journal of 12 articles thanks to the financial support of donors to the college. It includes contributions about the society, on valuing blackness, personal experiences including as an alumna, and leadership and engaging community. Read the articles at gtc.ox.ac.uk/BSS

Boat naming
Three long-serving members of the college boat club – Yulia Stange, Steve Woodhouse and Michael Smets – had new boats named after them at a reception in October. Yulia has been Women’s Captain, President and Coach; Steve has coached the women’s squad for many years; and Michael was instrumental in setting up Green Templeton Boat Club. Current boat club president Lachlan Arthur (DPhil Musculoskeletal Sciences, 2021) presided over the naming ceremony, at which the boats were christened in the traditional way with their namesakes pouring champagne over the bows.
These annual awards honour students who have gone beyond the call of duty and responsibility to contribute to the college in three categories: Academic, College Citizenship and Sport. Congratulations to the winners and all those highly commended.

Academic award winner

Austen Fisher (DPhil Anthropology, 2019)

As chair of the Human Welfare Conference, Austen brought his passion about psychedelics to share the knowledge and understanding of the topic with the rest of the college community. He also served as a Peer Supporter and continues to serve as the College Representative for the Annual Varsity [Ski and Snowboard] Trip, ensuring GTC students know about this opportunity. Additionally, he chaired the 2022 Ball Committee, which introduced reusable cups in part of GTC’s sustainability efforts. Austen demonstrably cares about the college, its values, and the people – including students, fellows and staff.

College Citizenship award joint winners

Raffy Maristela (MBA, 2022)

Raffy contributed positively to the community through his involvement in supporting the college’s LGBTQ+ community as the GCR’s co-LGBTQ+ Representative. He was integral to the GTC Ball in summer 2022, which was a huge hit, and was back again in 2023 as co-president of the Ball Committee. Raffy dedicated a lot of his personal time to college and strengthening the community through events and is known for being personable and approachable to all students and other college members. He is also leading an effort to establish an Oxford Impact Fund to invest in the community beyond the university.

Pallavi Menon (MSc Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation, 2022)

Pallavi was an active member of the Green Templeton community, making significant contributions towards fostering a positive and inclusive college environment. Pallavi was instrumental in the organisation of a large number of events for college members, going above and beyond expectations. She is always friendly and welcoming, known for her exceptional support to her peers and always willing to lend a helping hand or a listening ear. Her unwavering commitment to the college’s values and her genuine concern for the well-being of her fellow students made her a deserving recipient of this award.

Sport award winner

Ruby Harrison (DPhil Ion Channels and Membrane Transport in Health and Disease, 2020)

Ruby has an unwavering dedication to improving sport and rowing at Green Templeton. Ruby did this as president of Green Templeton Boat Club. Not only is this a massive task (she had to coordinate captains, coaches, college, regattas, etc.), but Ruby did it with the best attitude. She is strong, determined, very much a fearless leader who will support the club with 100% of her energy. She is one of the most senior members of the club, leads by example, and always provides a cool head full of experience. As a result, squad members are falling in love with this sport.
**Academic**

**Adebisi Adenipekun** (Master of Public Policy, 2022) demonstrated a strong commitment to students’ personal and professional development as a member of the GCR. Notably, he spearheaded a number of helpful actions, events and workshops. Adebisi shared career-related opportunities with college members and has initiated a process to improve networking between the students, fellows and alumni.

**Ella Dunlop** (Clinical Medicine, 2021) was active on the Richard Doll Society committee, organising the annual conference and networking dinners. She led revision teaching of ten weekly sessions for fourth-year students. Ella is also a dedicated Peer Supporter and advocate for sustainability, and established the college’s Allotment Club, which is thriving with a large group of dedicated students and college members involved.

**Sport**

**Sarah MacKenzie** (MPhil Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation, 2021) and **Amadea Turk** (DPhil Primary Health Care, 2020) ran the Women’s rowing team brilliantly. They were transparent in the way they set the boats, and included those who wanted to row occasionally but who also wanted to row competitively – and trained them accordingly.

**Patrick Oliver** (Clinical Medicine, 2022) took the initiative to recruit and kickstart a very enjoyable football campaign at the start of the academic year and led the team towards a successful year. His leadership and approachability largely contributed to ‘The Snakes’ getting a promotion in the league, and a semi-final Cuppers run. Patrick always made sure everyone was welcomed.

**All-round**

**Isabella Camplisson** (Graduate Entry Medicine, 2021) was an extremely active member of the GCR committee, helping to run induction activities and organising countless events. She always has energy and enthusiasm for college life and went far beyond the call of her role, being a valued member of the team.

**Georgina King** (Clinical Medicine, 2021) put many hours into making the GTC community a fun and supportive environment. As a Welfare Representative she spent almost every Sunday morning doing GTC brunch and as GCR president she spent a number of hidden hours working to ensure that events went ahead and represented students.

**Anežka Macey-Dare** (DPhil Pharmacology, 2020) made an exceptional contribution to student welfare and activities, creating new and inclusive college sport. She has also mentored aspiring medical students particularly from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds applying for undergraduate medicine.

**College Citizenship**

**Gloria Ngaiza** (DPhil Clinical Medicine, 2021) has been an inspiration to many Black students in the college. She passionately dedicated her time to organising events that promote inclusion and diversity among Black students and the wider college community. In particular, Gloria has helped new students settle into college and is quick to provide answers to questions from her peers, sharing personal experiences.
The 15th Human Welfare Conference brought together speakers from diverse backgrounds to explore new and future uses of psychedelics for social and medical good. The annual student-led conference in May was chaired by Austen Fisher (DPhil Anthropology, 2019).

The conference suggested that a psychedelic ‘revolution’ is taking place. This is reflected in legislative changes that have increased access to psychedelic substances, an explosion of research focused on psychedelics (including the creation of institutions dedicated to psychedelic research), a booming ‘spiritual tourism’ industry, increased public acceptance of psychedelics, and a recent wave of books, documentaries and newspaper articles on the subject.

At the same time, given the use of psychedelic, or entheogenic, substances throughout human history — including their use within ancient civilisations, indigenous cultures, and their potential role in the evolution of the human species — many point to a ‘renaissance’, rather than a revolution.

Reflecting on the conference, Austen said: ‘Bringing indigenous leaders, spiritual teachers and philosophers into conversation with entrepreneurs, medical professionals and policymakers, psychedelics represent untapped worlds of potential with significant and far-reaching consequences. ’

‘In hosting Oxford’s first college-led conference on psychedelics, GTC demonstrated its commitment as an innovative, interdisciplinary and practice-oriented institution while signalling society’s growing acceptance of these extraordinary substances.’

The conference was generously supported by Paul Oliver, an Executive Education alumnus of then-Templeton College from 1996. Paul said: ‘I decided to sponsor the Human Welfare Conference to support the college. I owe Oxford and Green Templeton so much and wanted to give something back. When I chatted with Austen Fisher, the conference chair, I was so impressed I decided to increase my sponsorship.

‘It is wonderful to see young academics like Austen and his friends and colleagues creating such a fascinating and wide-ranging conference.’

Participants commented on the intimacy of the conference, which can be attributed to the single-room lecture theatre, the small size of the college, and the decision to keep the conference in-person only to foster an environment for collaboration.

Featuring some of the biggest names in psychedelics, the conference included seven presentations spread throughout the day, an engaging panel discussion and plenty of opportunities for participants to network and discuss on the sidelines of the plenary sessions.

The sold-out conference was followed by a reception where participants were able to reflect on the thought-provoking discussion and the rapidly growing multi-billion dollar psychedelic treatments market.

Midori Hosoda (MPhil Medical Anthropology, 2021) and Giada Portaluppi (MSc Medical Anthropology, 2021), co-chairs of the Human Welfare Conference 2022 on ‘Arts and Human Welfare’, hosted an unveiling in March for this art piece commissioned from Artist-in-Residence Weimin He as part of the 2022 conference.

The 2022 conference co-chairs had invited both Weimin and then-Musician-in-Residence Maki Sekiya to engage with the conference as panellists, voicing their perspectives as artists, and working alongside the students to create a representation of how connections between art and various academic disciplines can be made. Maki’s piano performance at the conference provided inspiration for the final artwork.
There were bright skies for matriculating students in October.

The GTC Ball in July featured a Ferris Wheel for the first time and a record number of attendees remained for the Survivors’ photo.

Waiting team members Anton Blake-Cox and Seth Richardson at the second annual BBQ lunch in July.
The Women’s first boat moved up two places on the river in Summer Eights in May

Francis Ayomoh (DPhil Primary Health Care, 2021) and Trishna Desai (DPhil Population Health, 2018) ready to welcome new members to the Oxford Global Health and Care Systems Society at a college life fair in September

GCR President Alexander Hasson (DPhil Oncology, 2022) speaking to new students at a welcome reception in October

The GTC netball team had a great first season since its reformation at the beginning of the 2022/23 academic year, winning promotion from Division 3
Exploring philanthropy

In the 2022 issue of *Observatory* we introduced the 2023 Green Templeton Lectures with a short article ‘Does Philanthropy Work?’

As the following accounts of the three lectures show, opinions on and attitudes to different forms of philanthropy vary widely. However, there is broad agreement about the need to better understand what successful delivery of impact really looks like and to establish how it works in different contexts.

The college is exploring the idea of an academic centre that focuses on the challenge of making philanthropic investment more evidence based.

Such a centre might create and make available a data repository on successful delivery of philanthropically funded projects. It would provide a convening space for those seeking to address key targets within the UN Sustainable Development Goals, undertake original research and provide systematic reviews, and offer advice and consultancy services to family offices, wealth managers and individual philanthropists among the ultra-high-net-worth community.

It would need to be multidisciplinary, draw on expertise widely across the collegiate university and be mission driven.
Lecture 1: Unlocking the benefits of venture philanthropy

The first lecture was given by Dr Josh Yates, CEO of Thriving Cities Group, and Executive Director of Belmont Innovations Lab. In his talk, Yates elaborated on the concept of venture philanthropy to answer the question: 'Does philanthropy have an evidence problem?'. He put forward three main arguments:

- The world needs a special approach to capital, which venture philanthropy can offer.
- There is a considerable amount of existing philanthropy that can be leveraged to provide the capital needed.
- It is possible to work collectively to address the real and existing barriers to implementing venture philanthropy.

Yates explained that his experiences as a scholar and a social entrepreneur repeatedly led him to three key questions: 'What does it mean to thrive?', 'What does it take to thrive in today's world?' and 'Who gets to thrive?'. He said that there can be no thriving without generating pathways that dignify people with good jobs and stable incomes, and that venture philanthropy is the key to revealing these pathways.

But what is venture philanthropy? Yates defined it as 'a high engagement approach that combines both financial and non-financial resources to deliver greater social impact. Unlike traditional philanthropy, which invests in programmes serving immediate needs, venture philanthropy invests in organisations that address root causes or issues at systems level. And whereas traditional philanthropy measures outputs through grant-only activities, venture philanthropy measures outcomes through both grants and investments.

Throughout his lecture, Yates offered inspiring stories to support his arguments. Most were drawn from the work of the Transformational Business Network (TBN). His first example was Agape Connecting People, a social enterprise based in Singapore, which is aimed at connecting ex-offenders and people with disabilities to jobs. It was started as a call centre in Changi Prison by an ex-offender, Anil David. Over a decade, Agape achieved a recidivism rate of 2% among its employees (compared with the average of 20%), opened another call centre in a women’s prison and operated a national mental health hotline during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its success is the result of high engagement with philanthropists and local leaders, leverage of blended finance, and persistent capital. Essentially, venture philanthropy transformed Agape into a self-sustaining social enterprise.

Yates argued that the world needs a special approach to capital, which venture philanthropy can offer.

Strategic capital allows an interconnected approach to problems, so venture philanthropy can be more agile, exploratory and risk-tolerant than public or private capital. Yates gave the example of the Sanergy Collaborative based in Nairobi, Kenya, which converts human waste into environmentally sustainable, high-protein animal feed. Venture philanthropy enabled scientific research and connections between different enterprises to ensure the success of this project.

Catalytic capital can help address the $2.5 trillion annual gap in financing sustainable development goals, as it enables investment in early-stage enterprises and de-risks follow-on investment by providing ‘first loss’ capital. It can also catalyse blended finance solutions for long-term sustainability. Yates gave the example of Liza Kimbo from the South Lake Medical Centre in Naivasha, Kenya, who worked with partners like Johnson & Johnson to provide affordable healthcare for the low-wage flower farmers in the region.

Yates then talked about ‘the missing middle’, which is the potential for reallocating labour across firms, particularly in low-income countries. This is where tenacious capital comes in: it spotlights patience and persistent partnership for the long haul in challenging contexts. Yates told the story of Dr Kim Tan who spent two decades creating a home for over 40 endemic mammal species in the Kuzuko Game Reserve in South Africa, and significant employment opportunities for local people.

Yates referred to the potential of existing philanthropy to adopt the role of venture philanthropy. Estimates are that about $12 trillion will be devoted to philanthropy through to 2045. There are also $234 billion in donor-advised funds and about $1.5 trillion in principal endowments of foundations today. This philanthropy can be transformed into a venture approach.

Yates suggested that venture philanthropy is still in the early-adopter phase, and collective work is needed to address the three main ‘gaps’.

The evidence gap suggests that there is still a lack of proper frameworks on how evidence should be defined and measured. The enabling environments gap refers to the challenges concerning supportive ecosystems and environments. The imagination gap reveals the need for a mindset change: to tell stories that are not only inspiring but also grounded, involving human connections and experiences.

In conclusion, Yates delivered a powerful call to action. By highlighting the importance of connecting with veterans of venture philanthropy, partnering with social enterprises for impact evaluation work, and being responsible about our own giving, he showed us how we can all make a positive difference in the world.
The second lecture in the series was given by Anne-Birgitte Albrectsen, Managing Director of ABA Global Action, and former CEO of The Lego Foundation and of Plan International.

Albrectsen’s talk illuminated several of the gaps in philanthropy that can only be solved by a collaborative approach to the sector. Her lecture title reflects this crucial collaboration. Currently only 5% of philanthropy is done collectively.

She started by challenging common assumptions in the field of philanthropy. People tend to think of philanthropy as organised giving to improve life, often done by corporations or very wealthy people – such as Michael Bloomberg, who recently announced his plan to give his company to his philanthropy. People think that philanthropy is on the increase; however, in the United States at least, the proportion of wealth that goes to philanthropy has not changed.

The effects of COVID on philanthropy have been revealing. Countries that used to be top performers in giving have dropped down the list, being replaced by countries including Nigeria and Indonesia, which sustain high rates of giving and volunteering. Poor countries tend to give more per capita than the richer ones, and continue their giving through external challenges.

Practitioners also need to address the systems that create the need for philanthropy. This is especially true for corporations that may give money to solve problems, but ultimately benefit from the systems that cause those same problems.

Recently there has been a call to decolonise philanthropy. Citizens of the ‘global south’ see new ways of philanthropy needed, yet are seldom asked to drive solutions.

As for solutions, Albrectsen highlighted several vital shifts. Many funders refer to ‘my impact’ or ‘our organisation’s impact’, but real impact happens in the community. It consists of shifts in mindsets of communities and their leaders. Focusing on one organisation fragments the sector. Silo-ing of impact leads to choosing less ambitious pursuits and failing to address the systemic nature of issues.

Different stakeholders have different requirements and reasons for evidencing impact. These stakeholders, aside from funders, include global NGO leaders, recipient-country governments, and the community members affected. Each needs to see what is being done and whether it is effective. To reach this point, the sector needs to see community members as the experts on their own issues.

As a sector, philanthropy needs to take another look at what it considers quality data and evidence of impact. Institutional philanthropy has the benefit of being able to afford to fund different types of evidence. Longitudinal studies and data about the most vulnerable are imperative for real impact, but they are expensive. Philanthropy has the power to step in and allow them to happen. However, Albrectsen warned that organisations must have high standards in protecting the data of the most vulnerable.

Philanthropy must be committed to use its power responsibly and be held to account primarily by those it serves, and secondarily by its donors. Accountability to affected populations (AAP) is a step in this direction. Data, insight and evidence should be collected by the communities affected and used to design better programmes. Transparency and data sharing are essential.

Finally, philanthropists must learn to embrace difficult topics and the unknown. Failure and mistakes give them the opportunity to learn and innovate. The way forward is to give money to organisations that can adapt and learn from their mistakes.

In summary, the world needs bolder philanthropy and more transformative ideas.

Albrectsen closed her lecture by encouraging members of the audience to change their questions about evidence. We should all make sure that no investments are made without being fully informed by the communities affected. In this way, we can shape the way impact is created and sustained. Real impact happens when we ask the right questions.
The keynote and final address in the 2023 Green Templeton Lectures was given by the Rt Hon Rory Stewart, President of GiveDirectly, host of The Rest Is Politics, and former UK Secretary of State for International Development.

Stewart began his talk by stating that ending poverty is the first of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. This seemed achievable when the SDGs were drafted, but almost 719 million people live in absolute poverty today. The Brookings Institution reports that the global poverty gap (the amount of money that would theoretically be needed to lift the incomes of everybody in the world above $2.15 a day) is $100 billion, which is about 0.1% of global GDP.

To put the poverty crisis in context, Stewart examined sociopolitical events from the late 1980s to the present day. He suggested that the underlying problem of matching philanthropy with extreme poverty is a problem of political change and the collapse of global liberal order. Between 1989 and the early 2000s, the fall of the Berlin Wall brought the United States into unparalleled global dominance. The world became more prosperous every year and the number of democracies doubled. The number of refugees and internally displaced people diminished. Western models of democracies, human rights and free markets also seemed transferrable to places like Liberia and Bosnia. Poverty was dropping dramatically, driven largely by a transformation in China lifting many out of poverty.

In 2001 China joined the World Trade Organisation and became progressively larger than the French, British, German and Japanese economies. The period up to 2014 was also defined by the rise of social media (Twitter and Facebook), which began to deepen polarisation and hyperactive nationalism; the humiliation of the United States and its allies in Iraq and Afghanistan, which saw $3.5 trillion spent; and the 2008 financial crisis, which broke confidence in the capitalist market system.

The period since 2014 has seen Narendra Modi elected in India, ISIS take Mosul, and the Law and Justice party elected in Poland. It is the era of the Brexit vote and the election of leaders like Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil and Donald Trump in the United States. This was also the period when Stewart became a development minister and began wrestling with the notion of tackling extreme poverty. Political forces in the West were becoming more isolationist and less committed to the idea of a global international order. The UK’s Department for International Development responded with an austere vision of international development, which involved a commitment to spend 0.7% of GDP on international aid and a reluctance to engage with the public.

He argued that now is an unpropitious time for government giving. Most countries have diverted money from sub-Saharan Africa to Ukrainian refugee support. He offered an alternative: direct cash transfers.

Stewart suggested that a loss of hope can be overturned with:
- development of mobile money services in Africa
- randomised controlled trials which offer evidence for direct cash transfers
- understanding contextual capacities for development.

He emphasised the transformative power of delivering cash straight to phones in ending extreme poverty. However, there are several barriers to this. Philanthropic donors want to give advice as well as money. He cited the proverb: ‘If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.’ But the problem with 'teaching a man to fish' is that capacity building does not always work. Poverty underlies a plethora of other issues and cash is often the best solution.

In conclusion, Stewart stressed that direct cash transfers to the extremely poor address many of the problems. Giving cash is radically respectful. Providing cash unconditionally empowers individuals with dignity, giving them the freedom to decide how to spend their cash. In the process of donor action, it is an act of solidarity and can enhance the sense of community and compassion.

With thanks to rapporteurs Pallavi Menon (MSc Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation, 2022) and Heather Jost (MBA, 2022)
The topical and emerging paradigm of Planetary Health is concerned with far more than the pervasive, adverse health impacts of climate change. Global environmental changes caused by human activities are already causing deaths and ill health. But to safeguard a liveable planet for humanity and the rest of nature, finance, economics and the law must be addressed. These realms of governance are critical in shaping the trajectory of human impact on the living planet.

The University of Oxford became a member of the Planetary Health Alliance (PHA) in 2023, demonstrating the importance of the solutions-oriented, transdisciplinary field of Planetary Health. This rapidly growing social movement is focused on analysing and addressing the impacts of human disruptions to Earth’s natural systems on human health and all life on Earth. Human activity has already caused or contributed to mass extinctions of plant and animal species, polluted the oceans and altered the atmosphere, with these lasting effects forming a risk to our continued existence. The PHA is a consortium of more than 360 universities and organisations around the world committed to understanding and addressing global environmental change and its health impacts.

Heatwaves, storms and floods are increasingly frequent and severe including in the UK, and around the world there is reduced food and water security, increased risk of infectious diseases, and deteriorating air quality. Associated with these changes are mental health impacts and reducing economic and social stability. Strong action from all sectors of society is urgently needed both to limit the crisis and to respond to the adverse impacts.

The provision of healthcare is itself a leading contributor to global heating and environmental degradation, responsible for around 5% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. Health professionals are well placed to understand the science and communicate the threat to health, and must be educated to understand the urgency and scale of the issues and how to act to address them in professional life and clinical practice. With a working group of medical educator colleagues from across the country, I led the development of Education for Sustainable Healthcare: A curriculum for the UK, which has been endorsed and published by the Medical Schools Council. An understanding of Planetary Health provides the foundation for this learning.

In recent years I have been spearheading Oxford medical school’s initiatives to educate the rising generation of medical professionals in Planetary Health and sustainable healthcare. The university is now engaging in expanding education for sustainability across all programmes.

The 2024 Green Templeton Lectures will break new ground in this area with keynote speakers discussing how health and Planetary Health intersect with the stability of financial systems, economics beyond growth, and the legal process. Although Planetary Health is a young discipline and still gaining ground, these issues must be seen and addressed as an integral part of human well-being. For instance, Planetary Health is becoming part of horizon scanning for systemic risk in the financial sector, and legal challenges to the destruction of life-supporting ecosystems are aimed at holding governments to account.

Dr SanYuMay Tun is a Research Fellow of Green Templeton College and the Lead for Education for Sustainable Healthcare in the Medical Sciences Division, University of Oxford. She is convenor of the Green Templeton Lectures 2024 on the theme of Planetary Health.
Human development is a condition of sustainable growth, social cohesion and political stability in emerging economies. This was the hypothesis generated by discussions at then-Templeton College in 2006–08, along with a recommendation that this hypothesis be examined by government, business, civic and academic leaders from emerging and advanced economies under the aegis of an Emerging Markets Symposium (EMS) at Green Templeton College.

In the next decade, the EMS hosted nine symposia on human development in 20 increasingly diverse ‘Millennial Economies’. In 2018, the EMS Steering Committee, chaired by the former Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, commissioned a book interpreting its findings and recommendations. Two years later, a largely complete draft was capsized by COVID and, when work resumed in 2021, the text was heavily revised, the impact of COVID was analysed and, in the interest of publishing sooner than later, the book became a monograph.

Putting People First: Human Development in Millennial Economies is based on knowledge shared among EMS participants in a secure environment that incorporated the Chatham House Rule, under which information and ideas are candidly exchanged without fear of personal or organisational attribution. It made use of the confidential and indispensable notes on every symposium written by students of the college.

The monograph features consistent definitions of such terms as ‘human life cycle’ and ‘cumulative circular causation’; a framework of biological, demographic, economic, political and social concepts; Green Templeton’s interdisciplinary approach to complex issues; and recognition that most economic issues in emerging economies occur (in different forms, at different times and/or on different scales) in other economies. It also concludes that health is the most vital determinant of human development – because it allows children to learn, adults to work and factor productivity to grow – and that the health implications of policies in all sectors must be coordinated (usually by Ministers of Health) and enabled by health sector training and education.

Health dominates, then, but the monograph also emphasises non-health-related findings, many of them familiar to participants with specialised knowledge but revelatory to others in a multidisciplinary environment.

Two years after the last symposium, COVID brought death, disruption and destruction to every continent. But it was more than a disease. It was a wake up call that hitherto unknown pathogens could turn the world upside down. It was a ‘canary in a coalmine’ warning that the world was unready to manage many atmospheric, biological, oceanic, cultural, economic, social, political and technological threats to human development: As Samuel Johnson famously wrote: ‘when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully.’ It was a just-not-too-late reminder to institutionalise lessons of experience acquired by grappling with ‘wicked problems’ – South Korea, for example, managed COVID with relative success, having learned from SARS and MERS.

And it highlighted the need for all economies, including Millennial Economies (of which only Turkey and Poland have grasped the nettle), to accept that local, city and regional resilience are essential conditions of National Resilience Strategies.

Ian Scott is an Associate Fellow of Green Templeton College and was Executive Director of the Emerging Markets Symposium. He is a former Director of the World Bank. Learn more at gtc.ox.ac.uk/ems
JENNA HAND (2019)

By the time I went to Oxford, I’d been a journalist, diplomat and speechwriter. I hadn’t planned on returning to the classroom, but working as a public servant and seeing the complexity of policy challenges whet my appetite for graduate studies. The Master of Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government gave me new frameworks and systems for thinking and offered electives related to my chosen speciality of technology policy. I went on to work at Meta in a role that called on all the skills and knowledge I’d absorbed inside and outside the lecture theatre to consider hard questions around safety and freedom of expression online.

Green Templeton is the site of some of my favourite Oxford memories. Conversations in the Observatory with people whose paths to Oxford were vastly different from my own reinforced the value of bringing a variety of perspectives to global problems. The gardens were a favourite spot to reflect quietly – and, after the COVID lockdowns, a place for the togetherness we’d been missing.

Returning two years later with my baby daughter was a real joy. We sat on the bench opposite the Observatory and I told her that if she came here, she could bet I’d be making good use of her guest bed.

RHEA FERNANDES (2012)

I am currently an attorney in the Office of the White House Counsel, where I have the privilege of working at the intersection of public policy and law. Before joining the Counsel’s Office, I served as Counsel to the Solicitor at the US Department of Labor, working on civil rights and equity issues and, prior to that, an attorney on the Biden–Harris transition.

In 2012, when I joined the inaugural cohort of the Master of Public Policy degree at Oxford, I was drawn to the distinctive pedagogical approach the programme offered, the incredible faculty and practitioners, and the international lens that shaped the curriculum. The academic knowledge and professional skills that I gained from the MPP as well as my remarkable and diverse classmates informed the overall trajectory of my career thereafter. As a student at Green Templeton, I had the pleasure of sharing my year at Oxford with other graduate students engaged in similar academic pursuits that were interdisciplinary in nature.

These experiences enriched my own journey at Oxford, ultimately allowing me to refine my own course of study and crystallise my next steps. I knew that I wanted to pursue a career that blended law and policy, with a focus on civil rights. This led me to Washington, DC and then to pursue a Juris Doctor (JD) at Yale Law School. Since then, I’ve been fortunate to serve in a number of roles where I’ve been able to put my MPP training to use, including at present with the Biden administration.

Since the foundation of the Blavatnik School of Government and the advent of the Master of Public Policy (MPP) course in 2012, Green Templeton has welcomed close to 100 students on this programme from across the globe. For this year’s Observatory, we asked a few of our MPP alumni to reflect on what they’re doing now, what brought them to Oxford and the role that Green Templeton played in their development.
ALEXANDRA NASTASE (2015)

I'm the Chief Technical Director with Abt Associates – a global leader in research and implementation of international development programmes, working alongside local organisations to address the world's most pressing issues.

Before Oxford, I worked on public administration reform, regional security policy, European Union accession and post-accession agenda, anti-corruption with non-governmental organisations, the UN and the World Bank. I was drawn to this type of work by my commitment to public service and the intellectual challenge – at least in the first years of my career, working on such complex problems seemed like solving a puzzle every time I went to work.

That's also why I chose Oxford. The MPP's vision is to bring together global leaders who want to contribute to a world better served, led, and governed. What could be more exciting than being part of that vision and sharing the intellectual and emotional journey with people from 50 different countries? What better way to challenge and expand my Euro-centric vision of the world and find answers to improving governments to benefit the people?

Oxford was a rewarding and humbling experience. It helped me reframe the public policy issues I had been working on from purely technocratic to more politically informed approaches. Most importantly, it has sharpened my leadership skills – I met brilliant, committed and inspiring people, generous in sharing their ideas, questions, values and journeys. These people are Oxford to me, and meeting them brought me closer to my values and a better understanding of my place in the world and where I can add the most value.

SVEN JUNGMANN (2013)

Embarking on an entrepreneurial journey after a few years in clinical medicine, I recently founded and now lead a start-up that seeks to bring transformative changes to the medical diagnostics realm. Our technology, Halitus, merges photonics-based breath analysis with machine learning to swiftly and non-invasively detect diseases ranging from infectious ones to conditions like cancer. We envision Halitus becoming a digital nexus in medicine, somewhat akin to the App Store, but with a diverse array of diagnostic algorithms.

Medicine has always been a passion, but I was resolute about transcending clinical confines to effect broader systemic changes. There was an innate desire to understand policy formulation and leverage my clinical experiences to usher in impactful shifts at a systemic scale. Green Templeton, with its unique Management in Medicine programme and a robust emphasis on public health, was the piece of the puzzle I felt I was missing during my medical academic pursuits.

At Green Templeton, I underwent a transformation. It wasn’t just about the academic rigour, but also the values, ethos and perspectives it instilled in me. The diverse milieu helped me think more holistically, data-driven, always with an analytical lens and yet empathetically. Surrounded by smart minds from nearly 75 countries, I not only embraced various cultural nuances but also was continually inspired to aim higher. This nurturing environment, combined with the college’s interdisciplinary approach, fortified my resolve to innovate in healthcare.

My time at Oxford, particularly at Green Templeton, continues to be a cherished sanctuary, guiding my steps and vision even today.
GABRIEL SILVA (2015)
I am from Panama City. I have 12 years of professional experience working in the private sector, public sector, non-profit sector and academia, and am now one of the 71 Members of Parliament in Panama’s National Legislative Branch, elected for Panama City for the 2019–24 government term. I am a member of the Parliament’s National Budget Committee, the Credentials and Parliamentary Affairs Committee and the Commerce and Business Committee.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of my team, I have over 60 proposed laws. Many have become laws: including in sexual education, conflict of interest, for benefit corporation and mental health. In my role as a government supervisor, we have exposed several corruption scandals, advocated for budget cuts in non-priority areas, and obtained more funding for transparency, education, science and technology. We have created online platforms that allow citizens to participate in the creation of policies. We also host weekly town halls and do weekly walks in our community to maintain trust and support.

With another member of parliament we created a coalition of over 100 independent candidates nationwide for mayor, members of parliament and local governments. We are training them in public policy and leadership, and helping them create the necessary proposals to transform Panama. We seek to transform politics in Panama and make it more honest, transparent, less corrupt and provide better public services for all.

Undoubtedly, my experience in Oxford was a profound inspiration for my decision to pursue a career in Parliament. Interacting with my peers at the Blavatnik School of Government and Green Templeton College exposed me to various government systems and public policies, opening my eyes to the vast array of opportunities available to make a positive impact on the lives of my fellow Panamanians.

UJUNWA OJEMENI (2021)
I’m a Senior Policy Advisor in the fossil fuel transition team at E3G. My work is focused on supporting the Energy Transition Council (ETC), which was started by the UK government at COP26. The ETC is made up of about 40 countries and institutions (including multilateral development banks) that support partner countries to accelerate the energy transition – countries across Africa and Asia that have the greatest energy transition challenges.

I started working in the energy sector in 2014, across energy project development, and then felt the urge to move into the clean energy sector. I moved into impact investing, supporting companies that were providing electricity to low-income communities through solar panels and mini grids.

In 2019, I joined the public sector to support policies in the energy sector, specifically in the Lagos state government through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. It was useful to be able to be part of developing the Lagos state electricity policy that was published in 2021.

At that point, I wanted to formalise everything I was doing, and buttress my practical learning. And so when I read about the Master of Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, I thought it was a brilliant opportunity, especially with a scholarship from the Africa Initiative for Governance.

When I started checking for colleges, I saw that Green Templeton is very diverse, family friendly, and is focused on sustainability. Those key factors really influenced my choice of college.

I’m now working on policy but am also very conscious of preserving and conserving the Earth, which is one of the big things that Green Templeton College focuses on.
LISA YASKO (2016)

I'm a member of Ukraine’s Parliament and its Foreign Affairs Committee as a member of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s party, Servant of the People.

Being a politician in general has many difficulties, but it’s particularly challenging during wartime. I cannot imagine any other place that could prepare me better for politics than Oxford and the MPP and Green Templeton College.

I wanted to be in an international environment, which is one of the main reasons I chose Oxford. The MPP programme is very broad, which is what I wanted. I was exposed to different experiences, knowledge, skills, interactions and challenges, and learned about the world of politics, certain traditions, certain institutions and the role of policymaking. Though, of course, nothing has prepared me for the challenges that come with a war.

Before my studies in Oxford, I worked in governmental communications in Ukraine fighting Russian propaganda; and in presidential administration on strategic communication campaigns about Ukraine abroad. I felt I needed another master’s degree to give me new knowledge about foreign affairs and the world of politics.

I was lucky to get into Green Templeton College. It’s more liberal than most other colleges. The college – and the Principal – were very friendly, and there are lots of activities. Some sports activities were not as competitive as in other colleges, but it gave me a source of support and socialising. There was an opportunity to relax as well as to study.

And I enjoyed just sitting near the Observatory. My favourite bench is in front of it. I would often sit there and work or think or just make notes in my notebook. After I graduated, I came to Oxford a few times, and I always took time to sit on that bench and think about important things in my life.

ANNIKA WYTHES (2016)

As the Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser for Southeast Asia and the Pacific with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) based in Bangkok, I support governments and increasingly civil society, the private sector, media and academia to address corruption and the illicit financial flows in the region. I enjoy the challenge of the work, including managing the regional portfolio for Southeast Asia with colleagues in seven countries and doing technical work myself.

I joined the MPP mid-career after having been with UNODC since 2009 and so three years on planes covering the Pacific. On the brink of a burn-out and needing a reset, I found that at Oxford, I was more than just a student number, but part of an inspiring MPP and the Green Templeton community. I loved going to random lectures and learning about things that I had never dreamt of and meeting people from all walks of life.

The year energised me and also, importantly, taught me always to be humble, teachable and keep learning. We are still a close MPP cohort and some friends are like family (my kids refer to them as uncles and aunts). Whenever I go back to Oxford, I always stay at Green Templeton as this is where I have always felt at home. Plus, how could I ever go past the porters’ lodge without a good chat?
In February, Governing Body Fellow Mary Daly welcomed Dr Magdi Birtha and Professor Jonathan Herring to discuss developing a rights-based approach in long-term care.

Associate Fellow Kim Samuel (centre) with Matthew Bishop and Father Erik Varden spoke on 'The Discovery of Belonging in an Age of Isolation' at the Sheldonian Theatre in March.

Professor Ali Ghuftron Mukti spoke about his role in setting up and running Indonesia’s universal health coverage in June.

A student initiative on imaging and interventional radiology in March gave attendees the opportunity to learn hands-on, thanks to the generosity of donors and supporters.
Library displays in 2023 concluded with a collection of new books for UK Disability History Month in November and December.

Imperial College’s Dr Friederike Otto spoke in November on refocusing attention on the climate crisis ahead of COP28, at an event held in partnership with the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism.

Speakers at the Richard Doll Society conference on global health, supported by Annual Fund donors, in September.
The 18th century was Oxford’s astronomical heyday. It then lost its leading position during the 19th century, but has regained its place on the world stage in the last 70 years. Edmond Halley, Savilian Professor of Geometry at Oxford, did have a small observatory room constructed in New College Lane, where it can still be seen, but it was a place for observing rather than an observatory.

Famous for his cometary ‘discovery’ among many others, Halley confirmed an earlier prediction that the most important astronomical events of the 18th century – the two transits of the planet Venus across the face of the Sun – would, by trigonometry, allow the whole scale of the inner Solar System to be resolved. Sadly, Halley died 20 years before the first transit occurred. James Bradley succeeded Halley and took over the house in New College Lane.

But the story really begins with Bradley’s successor Thomas Hornsby, who took the Savilian Chair of Astronomy in 1763, a man with the personality and drive to see the creation of Oxford’s observatory, as the Radcliffe became known.

The first transit (the transits occur in pairs some eight years apart and then after an interval of over 100 years) occurred in 1761. Expeditions were sent all over the world to observe the event but because of factors both natural (disease, poor weather) and unnatural (war, accidents), these were largely unsuccessful. Hornsby himself was invited to observe from the Earl of Macclesfield’s castle at Shirburn near Oxford; the lack of a proper observatory in Oxford drove his future ambitions.

A much greater effort was then made for the 1769 transit (at Hornsby’s suggestion). A young naval lieutenant was ordered to take the astronomy expedition to the Southern Pacific. James Cook took the role and the expedition was not only a success but also led, almost as an afterthought, to the British exploration of the Antipodes. Hornsby had to be content with observing the second transit from the Tower of the Five Orders (the Bodleian Library entrance). Nevertheless, using the data from the 1769 expedition, he calculated the mean distance between the Earth and the Sun to an accuracy of within 1% of the value calculated today.

In 1771 Hornsby petitioned the Radcliffe Trustees, who had finished funding the Radcliffe Camera and Infirmary, to construct an observatory, one which would put Oxford Astronomy firmly on the map. This was not in their plan, but he acquired the money not only for the building, which was started in 1772, but also for the best instruments of the day, by which he could start observing in the last days of 1773, exactly 250 years ago.

In 1773 there was only the Observer’s House for Hornsby’s large family, the covered walkway and the eastern observing wing. The rest of the building and the tower were not finished until 1795, but that is not the working observatory; the ground floor, not the tower, is key. Indeed, the tower in many ways can be seen simply as an Enlightenment statement to ‘cement’ the importance of the building. It is the azimuthal, due East–West alignment of the ground floor that is critical and nothing to do with the design or height of the tower.

With the discovery in 1781 by William Herschel of the planet we now know as Uranus (the closest planet not clearly visible with the unaided eye), the vogue for beyond-the-meridian astronomy was born. Everyone wanted to have a go and the tower provided a superb space for Hornsby’s students to use half-a-dozen small refractors and reflectors pushed out onto the east and west balconies. The huge mural quadrants by John Bird,
combined with a transit instrument, enabled the meridian work to be carried out through slits that opened in ceilings of the north and south walls. Accurate measurements of the times and altitudes of bright star culminations across the observers’ North–South meridian line, which divides the sky into AM and PM, led to the development of useful nautical almanacs. These, combined with an accurate naval clock (as famously designed by John Harrison), meant that a ship’s longitude could be calculated with greater accuracy.

It was really Hornsby’s diligence to accurate measurements that set the Observatory apart in reputation; he made some 80,000 measurements during his tenure. Sadly, these were not computed till the start of the 20th century, which means that the importance of Hornsby to Oxford Astronomy was more as a pioneer – and especially for his vision to include a teaching wing. Later Radcliffe Observers, notably Manuel Johnson, were perhaps more important in terms of what they achieved in research. Being privately funded, the Radcliffe moved ahead of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich and was able to develop rapidly as an independent institution. By the early 19th century, the Radcliffe Observatory was rated as one of the top four observatories in Europe.

Unfortunately, after initial funding, further funds for more equipment and assistants was lacking and the Observatory’s fortunes flagged. Hornsby observed for 37 years, dying in the Observer’s House. He was succeeded by Abraham Robertson and then Stephen Rigaud, who both held the Savilian Chair and continued the meridian work and teaching. On Rigaud’s death, the university awarded the Chair to George Johnson, a mathematician with no astronomical background; the Royal Astronomical Society and particularly the Astronomer Royal objected and they elected a gold-medal winning astronomer, Manuel Johnson, as Director of the Observatory.

The university thus had a professor with no observatory and the Observatory had no professor, and indeed no link with the university. This great schism was in no one’s interest. After 1840 there was a need for a serious telescope; the heliometer installed in 1849 should have put the Observatory back on the European map and a dome was built (and still stands today, with the green copper roof). However, it was never used to its full potential.

The Observatory had an opportunity to be world class again in the early 20th century, as it acquired an enormous double refractor, housed in its own large dome in the grounds, long since demolished. Unfortunately, its arrival was too late, as the advent of electrical lighting and the expansion of the city meant that light pollution rendered it impossible to use properly. By 1920 it was clear that the Observatory was in the wrong place.

Harold Knox-Shaw, who became Radcliffe Observer in 1924, was able to engineer the move to South Africa, which started in 1934. It was decided to leave all the instruments in the UK (probably a mistake in retrospect), which were to be dispersed to museums and to institutions that could house them (the History of Science Museum in Oxford gained many). The university Observatory site became swamped by the Science area and the decision was taken to re-site the newly donated Wetton reflecting telescope to the top of the Denys Wilkinson Building on Keble Road.

The Astrophysics sub-department at Oxford has grown over the last 62 years and now numbers some 120 staff, postdocs and graduates. It is one of the largest and most respected astrophysics groups in the UK, winning numerous awards in almost every area of astrophysics research.
THE RADCLIFFE OBSERVATORY THROUGH THE EYES OF ARTISTS

Radcliffe Observatory from the University Parks
1786
John Baptist Malchair
Watercolour

Radcliffe Observatory from the east
1851
Julia Swinburne
Watercolour

Radcliffe Observatory from the northwest
1836
George Hollis
Coloured print
Radcliffe Observatory from the southeast
1942
Randolph Schwabe
Tonal drawing

Radcliffe Observatory from the greenhouse in then-Green College gardens
1980s
Nina Carroll
Watercolour

Dreaming Tower
2018
Weimin He, Green Templeton Artist-in-Residence Watercolour
The Observatory was a hub for engagement with the city and public of Oxford and the surrounding area on several occasions in 2023, while remaining at the heart of the student experience and wider Green Templeton community.

THE RADCLIFFE OBSERVATORY IN 2023

The Observatory hosted the launch reception for the Oxford Open Doors weekend in September.

Honorary Fellow Dr Paul Brankin and Debbie Dance, then-Director of Oxford Preservation Trust, at the Oxford Open Doors launch.

Reverend Professor William Whyte, Chairman of the Oxford Preservation Trust, officially opened Oxford Open Doors.

The Observatory’s magnificent cantilever staircase underwent essential repairs during the long vacation.

Space-based hands-on activities including scale models of the planets, a solar telescope, gravity ball experiments and an infrared camera were a feature for the nearly 1,000 members of the public who visited as part of the Oxford Open Doors weekend.

A Celebration Dinner in October for the 250th anniversary of astronomical observations was an occasion to preview the launch of a campaign to conserve the building and included a projection on the ceiling of the Dining Room.
Late 2023 saw an intensive focus from across the college on a new Radcliffe Observatory conservation and decarbonisation project. Thanks to early financial support scoping and enabling planning has begun for work on this magnificent Grade I listed building, including discussions with some of the conservation and heritage agencies.

Green Templeton expects that about £3 million will be needed for this conservation and improvement work to be undertaken over the coming years. This will not only conserve this iconic building, but also secure it as an integrated functional asset that is part of the college’s long-term estate.

The project will include:

- **Internal and external conservation work, primarily on the roof, doors, window frames and the staircase**
- **Improving the environmental efficiency of the Observatory, by replacing glazing and upgrading the heating system**
- **Improving accessibility and use of the building, including the installation of an access ramp and upgrading the acoustics in the Dining Room**

The building’s history is deeply connected to the pursuit of knowledge, from its days as a functioning observatory to its current role within Green Templeton College as a hub for interdisciplinary research and learning. The conservation and preservation of the Observatory is crucial for maintaining the rich history and cultural significance of the site. For more information about the project and how you can support it, visit: gtc.ox.ac.uk/observatoryconservation or contact Ceri Butcher, Director of Development and Alumni Relations: ceri.butcher@gtc.ox.ac.uk, +44 (0)1865 274797
Green Templeton College has been fortunate to benefit from continued growth in support of alumni, donors and friends over the past year. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge this support and to express our heartfelt thanks. As is illustrated across the pages of Observatory magazine, the amazing experiences of our students and wider community and their ability to have real-world impacts are enabled thanks to your generosity.

The year 2023 was extremely active for alumni engagement. The university Meeting Minds weekend in September was attended by 1,750 alumni, and there was lovely feedback on Head Gardener Michael Pirie’s tour with tea in college. And Associate Fellow and Oxford University Hospitals CEO Professor Meghana Pandit spoke on the extraordinary challenge of keeping a hospital trust and staff going throughout the pandemic at an alumni dinner.

Inviting alumni to book in for lunch or weekly dinners has proved a great success and we’ve seen a steady stream of visitors who have taken the opportunity to eat in college when they’re visiting Oxford. These occasions are an important factor in reminding alumni they are very much part of the community and we look forward to welcoming many more visitors.

We launched a series of fireside chats on Zoom in the autumn with Research Fellow Emilie Vrain speaking about how digital lives can shape a sustainable future. In November, Principal Sir Michael Dixon had an open and engaging conversation with alumni about current priorities and future goals for the college.

One of the joys of working at Green Templeton is being able to greet alumni who pay ad-hoc visits. Among these was an alumna paying her first visit for 26 years, accompanied by her sons, one of whom has vivid memories of climbing the wall into the Principal’s garden at the age of five!

We also had visit from a family who had lived on site. We were all slightly surprised to discover that the current Development and Alumni Relations team are now housed in their old flat, and their daughters were amused to know the photocopier is now in what was their bathroom.

John O’Loan (MSc Consulting and Coaching for Change, 2003) returned in September as part of the Change Leaders’ alumni group from then-Templeton College. John felt that he wrote on behalf of the group of nearly a dozen in describing it as being ‘a rare moment to relive some of the events which shaped us all’.

Degree days are always special occasions at college and we are grateful to Miguel Moctezuma (MPP, 2020) who spoke with passion on community, the power of connection and of cross-disciplinary sharing. Miguel was able to speak of an important connection he made through meeting a fellow alum’s guest at an alumni event. This resulted in a commercial partnership which will help both parties and help to progress Miguel’s field research in Mexico.

In parallel with developing the forthcoming Radcliffe Observatory conservation project, fundraising efforts have continued to prioritise giving for student support. This has been a great success as evidenced by the following pages, but there is more to do to ensure that the best student experience remains open to all regardless of personal means.

The college continues to grow its networks as our bolder ambitions for the future will require transformative relationships and partnerships. To find out more, please do get in touch at ceri.butcher@gtc.ox.ac.uk or on +44 (0)1865 274797.

Ceri Butcher
Director of Development and Alumni Relations
LONDON

One grey afternoon in the early spring of 2023, four quietly hopeful alumni joined Ceri Butcher, Director of Alumni Relations, on a Zoom call to discuss setting up a London alumni group.

Our vision was simple yet ambitious: take the largest group of GTC alumni outside Oxford in the UK – London – and form a thriving community. Ideas were bounced around: what would alumni want? Is there even any interest in this outside college? How can we encourage participation from a wide range of alumni? Will we manage to create something of value within nine months?

I’m pleased to report that the success of the London Alumni Group has completely surpassed our expectations thanks to the enthusiasm, engagement and willingness of our brilliant alumni. We started off the year with a fully sold-out formal drinks event at Farrer & Co, set up a WhatsApp group, held several informal meet-ups, hosted a buzzing guest speaker event at the Oxford and Cambridge Club and closed the year with Christmas Drinks in Westminster.

The true success of the group, of course, lies in the friendships formed, connections made, and the coming together of alumni from a wide range of disciplines and generations to share their experiences and knowledge. It’s been truly heart-warming to witness. Word of our success seems to have spread – we’ve even had the pleasure of welcoming non-GTC alumni who had heard we have a thriving community and events schedule.

The founding members of the group – Lina Vilemaite (MBA, 2020), Mark Glaire (DPhil Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, 2016), Nick Andreou (MBA, 2018) and myself – would like to extend a huge thanks to the Alumni Relations Office and the Principal for their dedication to and support of our vision. The biggest thank you, of course, goes to fellow alumni themselves as they make up this community. Plans are afoot for another engaging year of events in 2024 and we look forward to keeping the college community connected in London.

Meera Joshi (Clinical Medicine, 2010), fourth from right in front row at an informal gathering in July

ASEAN/HONG KONG

The ASEAN/Hong Kong Group seeks to provide a transformative voyage of connection and interaction with others from Green Templeton. As an advocate for diverse perspectives and people-to-people connections, through the group I encourage celebration of the rich tapestry of Southeast Asia and Hong Kong. The group brings together like-minded people who already share a common GTC identity to access events, receive updates, develop the college and foster professional as well as personal growth.

Steve Ngo (Executive Education, 2010)
SUPPORTING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

ACADEMIC TEMPLETON EDUCATION AND CHARITY TRUST

The Templeton Education and Charity Trust (TECT) is central to supporting the college activities of management students. Neroli Austin (DPhil Finance, 2016) completed in June and is now an Assistant Professor in Finance at the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. Neroli's research focused on the impact of institutional investment in real estate on the gentrification of neighbourhoods. She said: 'I was extremely grateful for the TECT grant in the final year of my studies because it enabled me to present to some of the leading academics in my field and receive substantive feedback on my work'.

TECT support also enabled Ryan Caplin (MBA, 2022) to spend his elective in South Africa, which led to him working for a social enterprise focused on delivering sustainable solutions to the sanitation and waste crisis in Kenya.

Overall, TECT supported research initiatives and travel for more than a dozen students during the academic year, enabling them to develop new ideas and perspectives.

CONFERENCE FUNDING ENGAGING INTERNATIONALLY

Josephine Agyeman-Duah (DPhil Women’s and Reproductive Health, 2018) presented a chapter of her DPhil thesis at the 39th international conference of the International Society for Quality in Health Care in Seoul, South Korea. Her presentation was on using digital care to improve the quality of care for children born preterm, what do parents say? The conference is highly recognised globally in the field of quality healthcare – this year's session was opened by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and was attended by over 1,600 participants from 77 countries.

The college offered financial support to numerous students in 2023, enabling them to attend international conferences and carry out fieldwork.

ENHANCEMENT THE ATLAS PROGRAMME

The college’s diverse and ambitious students, preparing for futures in a complex and volatile world, need new forms of support during their time at Oxford. The Green Templeton Atlas Programme provides this support: it encourages high aspirations and innovation but also offers a friendly community away from departmental competition and pressure. Academic, professional and personal development opportunities this year included an informal occasion for research students to network with fellows of the college, a workshop on planning for a DPhil, the long-standing Coaching Programme and writing for well-being workshops.
WHY IS GIVING SO IMPORTANT?

Students are hard hit by enduring inflation and the high cost of living in Oxford. The college continues a significant fundraising focus on support for the student experience. This incorporates a wide range of areas from hardship and welfare support to academic enhancement activities, from scholarships and bursaries to support for student societies and social activities. The more funding we can raise, the more we can deliver.

If you are interested, you can find details at gtc.ox.ac.uk/giving or get in touch with Director of Development and Alumni Relations Ceri Butcher, ceri.butcher@gtc.ox.ac.uk or +44 (0) 1865 274797.

These pages offer some snapshots of how giving is making a real difference.

SCHOLARSHIPS
DONOR PERSPECTIVE

Mary Snow, mother of the late Dr Rosamund Snow, explains the circumstances that led to the Rosamund Snow Scholarship.

‘My daughter Rosamund had Type 1 diabetes diagnosed in her teens – and it is a really difficult condition to live with. To do so demands a mixture of complete self-reliance and regular input from many medical practitioners. She quickly found out that the imbalance in the medical/patient relationship could often make the management even more difficult. It is hard to make a single patient’s voice heard in academia.

‘When her partner saw an advert in a national newspaper to fund a scholarship for a PhD in the applicant’s own choice of subject, with his support she successfully applied, studying first at King’s College London and later at Green Templeton College. As an academic she was able to co-publish many papers and she also became the inaugural Patient Editor at the British Medical Journal with articles from patients under the heading ‘What Your Patient is Thinking’. She found the reference to her doctorate often opened doors!

‘Then Rosamund died from hypoglycaemia. We decided to continue her approach by funding scholarships for other people who, from their own experience, could see the need for change in their own field – but also had a passion to achieve understanding of how to apply the change in general so that others could benefit and maybe more doors can be opened.’

EQUIPMENT
PRACTICAL MEDICAL TEACHING

‘Simulation-based training is an invaluable adjunct to learning practical skills within the medical curriculum and beyond.

‘Through the generosity of a single donor, we have acquired new laparoscopic surgical equipment and ultrasound machines that enable our medical students to practise these clinical skills in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.’

Dr Radhika Chadha
Director of Clinical Medicine and Senior Doll Fellow

COLLEGE LIFE
ENDURING LEGACY

A significant gift in the legacy of a US-based former visiting scholar at then-Green College will provide vital support to students across a range of activities. Leaving a legacy to Green Templeton is a way to make a meaningful contribution that enables the next generation of students to thrive in our college, without compromising the donor’s current finances.

Mary Snow, pictured with Rosamund Snow Scholarship for Patient-Led Research recipients Jeremy Leslie-Spinks and Amelia Talbot (both DPhil Primary Health Care, 2020). She sees them both as ‘challenging orthodoxy’ in a similar vein to Rosamund.
Head Gardener Michael Pirie gave tours as part of the Meeting Minds alumni weekend in September.

Principal Sir Michael Dixon launched the London Alumni Group at Farrer & Co LLP in March.

Associate Fellow Douglas Noble hosted alumni in Beijing before relocating to New York as UNICEF’s Associate Director for Public Health Emergencies Preparedness and Response.

Emily Morris and Irene Mathias (both Clinical Medicine, 2020) travelled to Toronto, Canada, for medical electives, thanks to the support of alumni.
Principal Sir Michael Dixon welcomed Seiji Kawasaki of Kawasaki Gakuen Medical Institute in Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture, Japan, who visited in September to discuss the institute’s partnership with the college.

Power couple Dr Reshania Naidoo (MSc International Health and Tropical Medicine, 2019) and Mahesh Chetty (MBA, 2021) graduated together in March.

From left: Gilders’ Health Research Council of New Zealand fellow Dr Cervantée Wild, Principal Sir Michael Dixon, and past fellows Professor Leanne Hodson, Dr Sandar TinTin and Dr Kathryn Bradbury joined college dinner together in June.

A reception at the Radcliffe Observatory in November brought together current supporters with a range of students benefiting from funding through college.

Iris-Mae Morse (Clinical Medicine, 2022) was one of ten Blues athletes who benefited from a grant through college to support their participation in university sport this year.

Principal Sir Michael Dixon welcomed Seiji Kawasaki of Kawasaki Gakuen Medical Institute in Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture, Japan, who visited in September to discuss the institute’s partnership with the college.
**APPOINTMENTS**

**Professor Rob Fender** has joined as a Senior Research Fellow. He is head of the Astrophysics sub-department within the Physics department, University of Oxford. Previously Rob was Professor of Physics at the University of Southampton and Associate Professor at the University of Amsterdam.

**Dr Dario Carugo** is a Research Fellow and an Associate Professor of Biostimulation and Immunological Engineering in the Botnar Institute for Musculoskeletal Sciences at NDORMS (Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences), University of Oxford.

**Dr Amiya Bhatia** has joined as a Research Fellow. Amiya is an Associate Professor in Evidence-Based Policy Evaluation in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention.

**Dr Ali Shilleh** is Robert Turner Research Fellow at Green Templeton College and Novo Nordisk Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDEM), University of Oxford.

**Professor Dame Anne Marie Rafferty** has become an Associate Fellow. Dame Anne Marie is Professor of Health & Nursing Policy, and former Dean of the Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care at King’s College, London. She is also a past President of the Royal College of Nursing.

**Ganesh (Sai) Sathanapally** has joined as a Joan and Richard Doll Fellow. Sai has completed a PG Cert in education, became a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and is currently a Urology Registrar in the Oxford Deanery.

**Congratulations to Andrew Sharott** who was appointed Professor of Neuroscience and to **Aidong Yang** who was appointed Professor of Engineering Science in the 2023 University of Oxford Recognition of Distinction Awards. Andrew and Aidong have both become Senior Research Fellows.

A number of existing college members have been elected as Associate Fellows:

**Professor Gina Allen** is a Consultant Musculoskeletal Interventional Radiologist and Director at St Luke’s Radiology in Oxford.

**Dr Angela Coulter** has had a long career in health services research and health policy analysis, with special interests in patient and public involvement. A social scientist by training, she has higher degrees in health services research.

**Dr Maya Even** returned to Oxford after working as a television broadcaster for over two decades, presenting political current affairs programmes. She was Vice-Chairman of the Southbank Arts Centre and an appointee to the Cultural Strategy Group, the Mayor of London’s cultural advisory body.

**Professor Jeremy Fairbank** is a Professor of Spinal Surgery at NDORMS, University of Oxford.

**Dr Georgina Humphreys** is an experienced scientist with a commitment to maximising the benefits from research data. After living and working in east Africa, she worked for many years on infectious diseases in the Oxford Centre for Tropical Medicine.

**Dr Ben Lacey** is an Associate Professor and UK Biobank Epidemiology Group Lead at the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford.

**Dr Wing Lau** retired as the Chief Engineer at the Physics Department at the University of Oxford. He has been closely involved in the development of the UK nuclear power programme since 1980.

**Dr Michael Minton** was a Consultant in Palliative Medicine and Clinical Director at Sobell House, Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

**Professor Stephen Oppenheimer** is a Senior Specialist Paediatrician with a background in tropical medicine. Stephen is a Research Affiliate at the School of Anthropology, University of Oxford.

**Professor Caroline Pond** was Professor of Comparative Anatomy at the Open University from 2002. Her research investigated natural obesity in wild mammals, birds and reptiles and the anatomical organisation of adipose tissue.

**Toby Porter** is Chief Executive of the charity Hospice UK. Previously, he was Chief Executive of Acorns Children’s Hospice, leading it through the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Dr Digby Quested** is a Consultant Psychiatrist with Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust at the Warneford Hospital and an Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford.

**Dr Nick Rose** is an Education Consultant who has been involved in setting up and implementing post-disaster mental health services internationally, mainly on behalf of the UN refugee agency, UNHCR.

**Dr Niran Subramaniam** is an Associate Professor of Financial Management and Systems at Henley Business School. His research focuses on digitally mediated human interactions and their theoretical and practical implications for the future of work.

**Dr Katherine Tucker**, a biologist by background, has over 20 years of experience working in academic research relating to human health. Katherine’s research expertise is in cardiovascular pathology and diagnosis.

**Dr Richard White** is Chief Operating Officer and co-owner of Oxford PharmaGenesis, a global health science communications consultancy that helps to communicate medical evidence effectively.

**Dr Philip Wilkinson** is an Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer in Psychiatry at the University of Oxford. He is a consultant old-age psychiatrist with Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust.
FELLOWSHIP NEWS

GOVERNING BODY CHANGES

Professor Belinda Lennox and Caroline Butler are among those becoming Governing Body Fellows in 2023.

Belinda is Head of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford. Her research interests are in developing better treatments and improving outcomes for people with early psychosis. Her wide range of research studies include investigations of alteration in the gut microbiome, devices to improve physical health outcomes, and new service models in the care of people with early psychosis. Belinda is a consultant psychiatrist, working in the Early Intervention in Psychosis service for Oxford Health NHS FT.

Caroline has become a Barclay Fellow, having previously served as a member of the Finance and Investment Committee as an Associate Fellow. Caroline is the Director and Chief Investment Officer of Walcot Partners Ltd. The firm is authorised and regulated by the FCA and provides investment advisory services dedicated to selected high-net-worth families and university endowments. Caroline advises on asset allocation, ESG strategies, manager selection, management of multi-asset class portfolios, next-generation investment education and family philanthropy.

A number of Senior Research Fellows have also become Governing Body Fellows: professors Sonia Antoranza Contera, Trish Greenhalgh, Sarah Lewington, Simon de Lusignan, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Stavros Petrou, Alan Silman and Martin Turner.

Thank you to all those who have served on Governing Body this year, including those retiring as Emeritus Fellows – professors Harry Daniels and Richard Gibbons. Thanks also to Professor Gary Ford who has succeeded Harry as Chair of the Risk and Scrutiny Committee and to Professor Alan Silman who has succeeded Professor Felix Reed-Tsochas as Chair of Academic Committee.

IN BRIEF

Vice Principal Professor Rebecca Surender has been appointed to the position of Associate Head of Social Sciences Division (Graduate and Research Training) at the University of Oxford.

Associate Fellow Professor Meghana Pandit has been appointed as permanent Chief Executive Officer of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, starting in March 2023.

Associate Fellow Charles Barclay has been recognised with the Service Award by the Royal Astronomical Society.

Emeritus Fellow Professor John Lennox has become the laureate of the Dagmar and Václav Havel Foundation VIZE 97 Prize for 2023.

Honorary Fellow Professor Denise Lievesley was appointed by the Cabinet Office to lead an independent review of the UK Statistics Authority.

The college learned of the death of Honorary Fellow Dr Uwe Kitzinger CBE. Uwe negotiated the Templeton Benefaction in 1982/83 and was the founding President of Templeton College until 1991. He remained an active member and generous supporter of college until he died.

Green Templeton heard of the loss of several other college members this year. They include Radcliffe Fellow Akinori Kawasaki, Emeritus Fellows Professor Christopher Bulstrode CBE, Dr John (Trevor) Hughes, Sid Jennings and Peter Jones, and Accommodation Services Manager Nick Martin.
NEW RESEARCH FELLOWS

The college was pleased to welcome a group of new Research Fellows in early 2023. This followed a competition open to candidates who strengthen the college’s existing interests and whose research aligns with its academic strategy to understand and enhance human welfare.

The college was especially keen to attract researchers at early stages in their careers for the non-stipendiary fellowships aimed at researchers with funded positions in Oxford.

The new Research Fellows join Green Templeton’s 300-strong fellowship, and come from across its core disciplines of management studies, medical and life sciences, and social sciences.

Dr Rebecca Barnes is a Senior Researcher and NIHR Fellow in the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences. Her work focuses on interaction in medicine with a view to addressing professional/practical problems. It has included NHS 111, out-of-hours visits, antibiotic treatment decision-making and risk communication.

Dr John Buckell is a Senior Research Fellow at the Health Economics Research Centre in the Nuffield Department of Population Health. His current work is behavioural research in subject areas including obesity, tobacco, genomics and clinical trials. John uses experimental and econometric approaches to answer research questions.

Dr Alun Davies specialises in engaging and involving stakeholders, communities and publics with health research. He has expertise in Good Participatory Practice (GPP) for clinical trials and youth engagement. Alun leads the Public Engagement component of the Oxford MSc in International Health and Tropical Medicine.

Dr Mark Hizons is a Senior Researcher based at the Environmental Change Institute (ECI) in the School of Geography and the Environment. He is interested in addressing interlinked social and environmental challenges and engages broadly with issues of well-being, inequality and justice with respect to climate change and natural resource governance.

Dr Shobhana (Shobi) Nagraj is a Clinical Researcher in the Health Systems Collaborative group, Centre for Global Health Research, Nuffield Department of Medicine. She has a focus on maternal child health, and works with local organisations in Oxfordshire to reduce health inequalities and improve childhood nutrition.
Dr Chrysanthi Papoutsi is an Associate Professor at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences. She has experience on projects including remote monitoring in epilepsy, the evaluation of the NHS App as a digital front door in England and qualitative participatory research on innovations for neonatal care in Kenya.

Dr James Robson is an Associate Professor of Tertiary Education Systems and Director of the Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE) in the Department of Education. His research focuses on the political economy of tertiary education systems bringing together key interests in education and employment.

Dr Karl Smith-Byrne is a Senior Molecular Epidemiologist at the Cancer Epidemiology Unit. He co-leads a research programme into the aetiology of prostate cancer. He also co-leads proteomics as part of a large European initiative, DISCERN, which focuses on understanding the causes of pancreatic, renal and colorectal cancer.

Dr Apostolos Tsiachristas is an Associate Professor at the Health Economics Research Centre (HERC). He is leading a programme of research that focuses mainly on the economic evaluation of new models of care and financial incentives in healthcare and has a particular interest in mental health and multimorbidity.

Dr SanYuMay Tun is the Lead for Education for Sustainable Healthcare in the Medical Sciences Division. She has a background in medicine as a former GP, in environmental science and policy, and medical education, with an international presence in bringing planetary health and sustainable healthcare into core health professions training.

Dr Emilie Vrain is a Senior Researcher in the Energy group at the Environmental Change Institute, School of Geography and the Environment. She manages a Living Lab of households in Oxford, conducting research to investigate the underlying mechanisms of digital daily life and the impacts on climate change.

Dr Laurence Wainwright is a Departmental Lecturer in the School of Geography and the Environment and Course Director of the MSc in Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment. Laurence’s interests include sustainability and corporate social responsibility; mental health impacts of climate change; and strategy, management and leadership.

Dr Marta Wanat is a Senior Behavioural Scientist in Qualitative Research in the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences. She works at the interface between social science and medicine in primary care settings. Her research involves applying behavioural science to understand, develop and evaluate complex interventions.
UPDATES

Head of Catering Harriet Quint was behind this April Fool’s image that confused a few people on social media.

Green Templeton flew the Oxford Women Suffrage Society flag for Women’s History Month in March.

A third accommodation block at Rewley Abbey Court was renovated over the long vacation, including security and sustainability upgrades.
Green Templeton is proud to have achieved a Green Impact Beyond Gold Award, which was announced at the Vice-Chancellor’s Sustainability Awards in June.

Green Templeton and the Radcliffe Observatory are available for wedding and civil ceremony celebrations. The events team are always delighted to discuss plans and answer any questions by email at events@gtc.ox.ac.uk or by phone on +44 (0)7538 217706.

College staff punting as part of a summer picnic in August.

OCR Couples and Families Representative Mary Caplin headed up a team of volunteers to take part in the Great British Spring Clean in April.
Photography competition

There were a wide variety of entries for this year’s photography competition, aiming to find the most striking image on the theme of ‘Discover’.

Winner

‘Hidden caterpillar’ by Ryan Caplin (MBA, 2022)

Taken during a quiet Sunday morning nature walk through GTC, my children and I took the hidden path to the compost pile. Hanging in front of us in the air, nearly invisible, was this small caterpillar. The judges chose the photo not only because a child is discovering, but because the framing draws in the viewer to make the discovery too.

‘I see you!’ by Abril Rios Rivera (DPhil Migration Studies, 2021)

This photo was taken in Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico. The judges really liked the detail in the car and the feeling of the viewer being with the driver in anticipating the road ahead.

‘Joint discovery’ by Melanie Reixach-Wong (MPhil Development Studies, 2022)

This photo is dedicated to my friends, who represent a diverse selection of courses, disciplines, countries and experiences.

‘In the midst of Oxford winter’ by Susheel Kumar Siram (MBA, 2022)

Discovering this gorgeous view was a surreal experience for me at a time when I was still getting used to the long periods of darkness in the winter.
‘With its long and illustrious history, the Radcliffe Observatory is truly an Oxford landmark. Its conservation is essential so that future generations can benefit from all it has to offer.

‘The Observatory lies adjacent to our developing Radcliffe Observatory Quarter that will soon become home to a world-class performing arts and exhibition venue, welcoming the Oxford community and the wider public, as part of the opening of the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities in 2025.

‘This provides further impetus for conserving the Observatory and I encourage all who can to help.’

Professor Irene Tracey
Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford