Forthcoming events

King’s at the Royal Society
After the Bank of England and India House, the third in our series of London Receptions is to be held at the Royal Society. King’s is inviting Members living and working in London to join the Provost, Professor Ross Harrison (1975) and other Fellows to hear about developments in the life sciences and to discuss the issues involved in bringing new technologies to market. Guest speakers include Professor Azim Surani (1992), who is profiled in this issue, Honorary Fellows Dr Derick Hausser (1973) and David Sainsbury (1959, Lord Sainsbury of Turville), Professor Barry Keene (1965) will chair the forum.
Wednesday 19 September, from 6.00 p.m.
Invitations will be sent.

KCA Day – Music at King’s
This year’s KCA Day on Saturday 16 June will celebrate all things musical at King’s, and includes performances from the Dart Quartet, cellist Anton Lukacs-Zeke, jazz singer Torben Roes (2000), King’s Chaplain, Richard Lloyd Morgan and Collegium Regale. Invitations have been sent to those who have attended KCA Day regularly over the last three years, to members of the King’s College Choir Association, to those who read Music as well as the year groups 1987-90. Space is limited, so please contact the Development Office for available places. The cost, which includes lunch, is £32 per person.

For more information please contact Amy Ingle in the Development Office on +44 1223 331443.

events@kings.cam.ac.uk
www.kings.cam.ac.uk

Note from the Director of Development

I have already had the pleasure of meeting quite a number of Non Resident Members since arriving in September, and will be meeting many more of you at various events this summer. But I am keen to get to know you even better. If you would care to reflect on the topic for a subsequent issue I would be very pleased to hear from you.

In September, Members living and working in London are invited to a Reception at the Royal Society, to join the Provost and Fellows (some of whom are featured in this issue) for a panel discussion about developments in the life sciences and the processes involved in bringing new technologies to market. The learn from the Development Office look forward to welcoming you.

And I look forward to hearing your news and views as usual.

Alan Carter
Fellow and Director of Development
development.office@kings.cam.ac.uk

Fellows’ books

Japan through the Looking Glass
Alain Macfarlane (1971)
Profile Books, August 2007
Japan – ultra-modern, efficient, urbanised, the second-largest economy in the world – is an enigma, a mystery to its Asian neighbours, to the west, even to itself. Japanese customs and culture have baffled generations of travellers. Countless difficulties remain to trip up the tourist, catch out the passing academic, and ensure the unwary business person. Alain Macfarlane takes the reader on an exploration of every aspect of Japanese society, and identifies the most public to the most intimate – from religion and ritual to hot baths and geisha, crime and gangs to politics and philosophy.

Shakespeare’s Entrails: Belief, Scepticism and the Interior of the Body
David Hillman (2004)
Palgrave Shakespeare’s Entrails puts side by side a reading of Shakespeare’s plays and a history of the human body, an attempt to map out some of the changes which notions of embodiment underwent during the course of the Renaissance, taking into account medical, anatomical, architectural, literary and philosophical perspectives. The book includes all about how we imagine that we come to know another in an embodied way.

READER OFFER

Shakespeare’s Entrails is published in hardback by Palgrave Macmillan priced £50.00. It is available to King’s Parade readers at the special discounted price of £25.00 + postage and packing. Quote WHLM95007 and order online from www.palgrave.com

More books by Fellows


Encompassing the Globe
Professor Jean-Michel Massing (1986) is guest curator for a forthcoming exhibition in Washington DC, which brings together 200 extraordinary objects reflecting the cross-cultural dialogue that followed the establishment of Portugal’s world trading network in the 10th and 17th centuries. One such object is the statuette figure shown here. In his article “Shetland Carving and Ivory Sculpture in Sierra Leone in the Sixteenth Century”, Jean-Michel studies the original meaning of the statue, and identifies the engraved sources used by the carver of the three early sixteenth century pyramids, in a Book of Hours printed in Paris between 1500 and 1511.


Truth, lies and global warming

Global warming has reached King’s library – the first three Environmental Remediation books are now fully up to date publications on the subject. You will find everything from the Stern Review and the latest IPCC report – to Lutting the lid: an ecological approach to toilet systems, and Thin ice: climate change and the health of weather. The collection is a gift from Caroline Davidson (1972) and the Cookson Trust and will provide King’s with a unique resource. King’s College website features a page dedicated to this collection. It carries a downloadable select bibliography compiled by Caroline Davidson and a web page for discussion. “We hope this collection will provoke thought, generate debate and stimulate further discussion and research,” said Wai Kirkpatrick, Assistant Librarian.


In brief

Aspects of Aspects

Global Capitalism
An informal three-part meeting on Global Capitalism organised by the Centre for History and Economics, took place in King’s College on 27 April, with presentations by, among others, Honorary Fellow Nicholas Crafts (1993), and Fellows Emma Rothschild (1984) and Graham Steedman Jones (1975).

Kavli Institute for Cosmology
George Efstathiou (1980) will lead the new institute (currently under construction) when it opens in October 2008. He is currently director of the Institute of Astrophysics.

Silent Aircraft Initiative
Cessna Holt (1992) is looking at future zero-emission engines for low emissions. His research has included the propulsion system design for the University of Cambridge/MIT Silent Aircraft Initiative. www.silentaircraft.org. Cessna will be part of a team presenting this project at the Royal Society summer science exhibition 2 – 5 July 2007. It is free and open to all. www.royalsoc.ac.uk

Environmental remediation
Alex Orlos (2005) has been appointed to Defra’s Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances. Alex was appointed because of his knowledge in areas such as water quality and environmental remediation. “It’s vital that decisions are informed by real science, not by scare-stories, and I look forward to helping that make government ministers are given sound advice,” he told http://people.pwf.cam.ac.uk/aol280/.

Plashy fen
Long disused walled water vole burrows along the ditch at the back of King’s may once again prove desirable residences – once dredging has taken place this summer. Questions voles should apply to the Second Bursar Dr David Murthy.
Parade Profile: Professor Azim Surani

Azim Surani (1992), FRS, is Marshall – Walton Professor of Physiology and Reproduction, and Head of the Wellcome Laboratories at the Wellcome Trust Cancer Research UK Gurdon Institute. He talks to Alison Carter.

Azim Surani’s work hit the headlines in 1998, when he found the ‘good mother’ gene, as it was subsequently dubbed. Mother mice without this gene (called MeSt) shamefully neglected their offspring. The paper, published in Science in collaboration with Barry Keverne (1985, a Fellow at King’s) also reported that the gene regulating this maternal behaviour was only active when passed on from the father mouse, while the mother’s copy was silent. It seemed to show (to the chagrin, one might imagine, of mother mice) that the male could in this way ensure that his offspring (and thus his genes) would be properly nurtured. This discovery was an important one for epigenetics, a relatively young branch of biology, which has grown since the sequencing of the genome and which examines how genes are activated and silenced.

We are talking in Azim’s small, light office at the new Gurdon Institute on Tennis Court Road funded by the Wellcome Trust and Cancer Research UK. Later on, I will be shown some stem cells – which are an important part of his current research – and meet some of the young international researchers in his lab. But first, I ask to some basic biography.

Azim grew up in Kenya, in Kisumu, a small town on the shores of Lake Victoria. No one in his family had any connection with science, but Kisumu High School was good, with a small science lab and the town also had a British Council library. Initially inspired by his excellent biology teacher, he became a keen volunteer collector of samples – microscopic things, butterflies and lizards. “That’s where it all started,” he reckons. His life-long interest in reproduction goes back to a fundamental question about virgin birth, he explains. “Some species of lizard are parthenogenetic – the egg itself is sufficient to make the whole animal, without any paternal contribution from sperm. And this is the question which is of interest,” he emphasises. “If lizards do it, why can’t mice do it? Why can’t a mouse be male without any father?” He began answering various parts of this question for most of his professional life.

But there was a longish path to travel before he could get down to his work. He offers a vivid snapshot of life as an African-Asian boy growing up in the very segregated society of Kenya before independence in 1964. “We lived right on the equator … there was one swimming pool, and it was at the club for whites only. The lake had crocodiles and hyaenas.” Kenya became more unsettled and Azim came to London to study. A culture shock at first – the natives were often friendly, and white people even swept streets – but he took a variety of jobs to help pay for his studies and was, like many immigrants, subject to police attention. Describing his time at university as “not particularly productive” he moved to France and life looked up. “I went to Paris, to a lab I knew. This was 1970 – and although I didn’t do much work for the two years I was there, after my experience in London and Glasgow it was a lot of fun … and that was very good for me – it widened my horizons.”

He has been in Cambridge since 1972, thanks to a chance meeting with R.G. Edwards (the pioneer of in vitro fertilisation – IVF). “I could have ended up anywhere. There was no plan; I was just drifting around.” Bob Edwards got Azim an MRC studentship, and became his PhD supervisor. “The situation was that Bob was very busy trying to do his research on IVF, and he said go away and do whatever you want, and I got interested with one or two colleagues on a problem, to do with virgin birth basically, and that was the starting point.”

“We wanted to know what would happen if you could switch on the mouse egg without fertilisation – how far would it go?” Quite a long way, it turned out – but then the embryo stopped growing. “One reason the conceptus stopped growing was that it couldn’t make a placenta. What we found eventually was the reason why mammals (but not some lizards) need contributions from the male and the female. We found that the female chromosomes are ‘marked’ so that they are better able to make the embryo, and the male chromosomes are marked so they are better able to make the trophectoderm – the outer layer of the fertilised egg which becomes the placenta.” By now working in his own lab, established in 1979 at the Babraham Institute, Azim’s discovery, in 1984, of ‘genomic imprinting’, the mechanism by which this marking happens, was a major breakthrough in scientific understanding.

“One gene, ‘insulin-like growth factor 2’ was absolutely essential for the growth of the foetus,” he explains. “And it turns out that the copy that is active is the one that comes from the father. The mother’s copy is completely silent in the embryo. So the growth of the foetus is completely dependent on the gene that comes with the sperm.” About 80 genes are ‘marked’ as originating from the male or female parent, and in these ‘marked’ or ‘imprinted’ genes, one parental copy is switched off or silent. But how do such genes remain silent in embryos? And why has the system evolved in this way?

Azim returned to the University in 1992 as the Marshall-Watson Professor, and he started to focus on germ cells. Germ cells, the precursors of sperm and eggs, are immortal in the sense that they generate a whole organism upon fertilisation and provide an enduring link between all generations; the body cells perish with each individual. All future eggs and sperm are descendents of these ‘primordial germ cells’. “The marking occurs much earlier on, before fertilisation,” he explains, showing me a photograph of some small fluorescent green dots in a purposeful-looking cluster. They are germ cells before they start migrating into the developing embryonic mouse gonads a few days after they have formed – we are at day 7.5 after fertilisation. His work over the past 5 years has for the first time identified the mechanism of how primordial germ cells are formed in mice. Before this work was published just two years ago, none of the key genes involved in the formation of germ cells in mice were known.

Azim explains: “Initially there isn’t any distinction between germ cells that are forming in a male embryo or a female embryo. But two days after they migrate into the gonads the differences start – germ cells that are in female embryos start a process which will turn them into eggs. And those in male embryos will start to turn into sperm.”

As he recounts the edited highlights of thirty years’ work I am getting increasingly engaged with this primordial detective story. When we started to think about the way the chromosomes get marked it was obvious that before the new marks could go in you had to wipe out the old ones. So conceptually we knew that this would happen. The surprise was to find that it’s a very active process and a very dramatic process. They get re-programmed in a few hours – the old marks are cleaned out in preparation for the new ones in developing sperm and eggs. It’s a very important step towards making the fertilised egg able to give us the whole organism.” This re-programming is like the loss of data on a computer’s hard drive, and is where Azim’s work may hold the key to future work on stem cells.

He considers this area of epigenetic mechanism to be the new frontier in biomedical research. “Once you understand the mechanisms involved in this natural wiping out of epigenetic information in the germ cell, we can perhaps re-programme any adult mature cells to behave like stem cells, and indeed make new germ cells from them. There is the possibility that the mechanism might also illuminate some aspects of how cancers are formed. Cancer cells actually forget what they are – there is a loss of memory in the cells. We are aware that this would have a lot of potential…” It sounds like an understatement.

Azim Surani’s past work includes the discovery of the phenomenon of genomic imprinting in mice. More recent work has focused on the mechanism of specification of primordial germ cells in mammals, and the epigenetic reprogramming of the mammalian germ line. His research interests also include pluripotent stem cells and the mechanisms of genomic reprogramming and dedifferentiation. He has just been awarded the 2007 Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Basic Medical Science for pioneering work on epigenetic gene regulation in mammalian embryos.

www.gurdon.cam.ac.uk/surani.html
A stretch of the imagination

New Fellow Stéphanie Lacour (2006) has been working to create a material which behaves like a rubber band — it stretches and snaps back to its original shape — yet also conducts electricity.

For her Ph.D. in Lyon, Stéphanie Lacour worked on developing microsensors to measure skin hydration — it’s part of the science behind those expensive moisturizing products. The water content of the epidermis affects its ability to conduct heat, so measuring the skin’s thermal conductivity provides a way of measuring hydration. Her subsequent postdoc project at Princeton involved evaluating thin-film materials and devices on an elastic polymeric substrate (artificial rubber) called polydimethylsiloxane.

After a few months at Princeton, she discovered that thin gold films on such rubber-like substrates could stretch up to twice their length and still remain electrically conductive. “I’ve been lucky! It just worked when I tried with gold.” The process involved evaporating a gold film onto the silicone rubber atom by atom, until it coated the surface to form a layer a few nanometers thick. Gold is quite ductile, and soft, compared to other metals. Typically a thin metal film can stretch by a few tenths of a percent before failing. But once bonded to the rubbery substrate, the gold film does not fail even after a 100% stretch. Lacour discovered, “This was very exciting but we couldn’t explain why the film on rubber behaved like this — and it’s taken us four years to understand what’s happening.”

Now imagine this new material dotted with minute sensors — and it could be a second skin. In fact, creating artificial skin is one of Lacour’s ultimate aims. “Human skin is soft and elastic, but although this quality can be mimicked by rubbery materials such as silicone, recreating sensitivity to pressure and temperature is more challenging.” If the gold conductors embedded in the flexible material are connected to silicon transistors and microsensors it could create an electronic surface which could sense pressure, or transistors and microsensors it could create an electronic surface which could sense pressure, or if the process to make a 20-page book generates 1kg of CO2, and a 1gb memory stick carries a thousand novels — then one e-book can save 3 tonnes of CO2!

We are talking over lunch, a five-egg-yolk egg and anchovy sandwich taken in a corner of the SCR with the staff in the background. “At King’s I interact with people whose backgrounds are very different from mine — this is mind opening.”

The applications of the emergent technology are exciting, and are being taken up by scientists working on brain trauma and nerve repair, including James Fawcett, also a King’s Fellow. “The brain and nerves are very soft. We might be able to develop long-term neurente implants with this technology!”

In September 2006 Stéphanie Lacour was honoured by MIT Technology Review Magazine as one of their 35 Young Innovators.

Hermann Hauser (1973, Honorary Fellow), the man behind Acorn and ARM, has just helped raise the largest venture round in Europe for Plastic Logic — a revolutionary plastic chip and display company. He tells Alison Carter about bringing Cambridge technology to market.

I first interviewed Hermann Hauser when he was spinning out ARM. An acronym for Advanced RISC Machines, this is the company which developed the RISC chip and grew a successful business licensing them. “ARM is the most amazing story we have. Internationally - 80% of the world’s phones have ARM chips in them, it’s the Intel of the phone.” They sold two and a half billion of them last year alone. Ten years later, sitting in the same room at Amadeus, his venture capital company, he tells me about the next big thing — plastic chips. “There are few companies with as fundamental a new technology as Plastic Logic. It happens once a decade. We will be putting a new semi-conductor into production — last time that happened was 50 years ago with silicon — it’s a fundamental shift and it’s very exciting.” And it’s the Cavendish lab that produced it.

This is particularly gratifying for Hauser, a former Cavendish physics student. “I worked two doors down from Richard (Prof Sir Richard Friend) — whose group provided the break-through technology for Plastic Logic when I did my Ph.D. I jumped when he told me about this.” Hauser believes that one day these new plastic transistors could be used as artificial retinae for people who have lost their eyesight.

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Making ideal communities: three members share their experiences

In March 1999 Gwen Barrell (1986) moved to Knoydart, a remote land-locked peninsula on the west coast of Scotland, which she found was making ideal communities.

Community land buy-outs – in it for the long term

The ownership of land in Scotland has been politically charged for centuries, but a new impetus to both the debate and the reality has come over the past ten years with a wave of “buy-outs” whereby communities have bought their land – either on the open market, from the receivers or in some recent cases, under the terms of the Scottish Land Reform Act, where the estate was not “for sale”. In the Western Isles alone, 40% of the land and 70% of the population are now part of community land initiatives, marking a huge movement away from absentee landlordism towards local self-governance. Community buy-outs are seen as “forever”. There is a sense of long-term custodianship, not only for the local resident community, but to preserve the unique wildlife habitats, to restore local communities and to maintain access to the land for the public.

In Knoydart, a well-publicised buy-out happened following years of upheaval, innumerable changes in landlord and lack of investment and stability, so the infrastructure, land and buildings were in very poor repair. The immediate challenges for such a remote community were to repair the sputtering hydro-electric scheme as we are not connected to the grid, to clear and renovate uninhabitable cottages (many were inhabited!) and to try to develop some income to fund the necessary long-term land management of this wilderness area. As we have no road, we are totally dependent on ferry and workboat transport, so this adds another aspect (and cost) to anything we do.

I sometimes reflect that living in Knoydart is not unlike living in Kings – we are in an envied and beautiful place (though here it is wild rather than built); often inward-looking, but part of a network of other communities. We have the same slightly uneasy relationship with tourists – we welcome them, of course, to this publicly owned, though once exclusively private estate – but do get a little sick sometimes of them peeping through our windows and taking our photos! And of course we have lots and lots of committees, working groups, policy groups … alongside the inevitable (though easily forgotten) the next day) debates in the bar!

Just as at King’s, I’ve found myself on most of the committees at one time or another (we take turns) over the past eight years – our main governance is through a charity, of which we are all members, but we also have two companies to manage our renewable energy initiatives, our bunkhouse and our deer management programme. This is the essence of modern-day community life.

And my day job? I run a small restaurant with two cottages and make lots of beds). My long vacation dishes and making lots of beds). My long vacation after the land for the future, and building up one – with ongoing challenges about creating viable and sustainable business models.

As a young lecturer teaching structural design to architects in the 1970s I discovered a tiny book in the University Library called Cohesion Construction, written in 1893 by Raphael Guastavino. In its day this inspirational handbook of the vaulting had convinced his American clients that his method of building was strong, economical and efficient. Guastavino’s Spanish timbrel vault – a thin, criss-cross structure made of layers of ordinary tiles – is a fireproof system of building floors and roofs which is now almost extinct. The structural elegance and audacity of these wafer thin vaults, built without formwork or steel, captivated me – and I longed to build a tile vault in England. In 2003 I finally got the chance.

The vision Alastair Gould had for The Pines Calyx ™ Centre was of an educational venue which would touch the hearts of all visitors, promote a more healthy lifestyle, and demonstrate truly sustainable construction. Built on a sloping chalk site at St Margaret’s Bay near Dover, it is constructed from materials harvested from its own site. The low-energy building has rammed chalk walls, and joinery and furniture made from the three mature trees felled to make way for the building. Tiles for the dome-vaulted roofs were made from local clay, and they are covered with soft green downland turf. Cool in summer and warm in winter, its humidity is naturally regulated by the chalk walls.

The building recently won the Sustainable Building category in the 2007 Sustainable City Awards for its near-zero carbon design.

www.pinescalyx.co.uk
www.scottwilson.com

Making the Spanish timbrel vault

Structural engineer Philip Cooper (1971) was a member of the design team of a sustainable conference centre built for an enlightened philanthropist. It also gave him the chance to realise a long-held dream.

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Just as at King’s, I’ve found myself on most of the committees at one time or another (we take turns) over the past eight years – our main governance is through a charity, of which we are all members, but we also have two companies to manage our renewable energy initiatives, our bunkhouse and our deer management programme. This is the essence of modern-day community life.

And my day job? I run a small restaurant with two cottages and make lots of beds). My long vacation after the land for the future, and building up one – with ongoing challenges about creating viable and sustainable business models.

As a young lecturer teaching structural design to architects in the 1970s I discovered a tiny book in the University Library called Cohesion Construction, written in 1893 by Raphael Guastavino. In its day this inspirational handbook of the vaulting had convinced his American clients that his method of building was strong, economical and efficient. Guastavino’s Spanish timbrel vault – a thin, criss-cross structure made of layers of ordinary tiles – is a fireproof system of building floors and roofs which is now almost extinct. The structural elegance and audacity of these wafer thin vaults, built without formwork or steel, captivated me – and I longed to build a tile vault in England. In 2003 I finally got the chance.

The vision Alastair Gould had for The Pines Calyx ™ Centre was of an educational venue which would touch the hearts of all visitors, promote a more healthy lifestyle, and demonstrate truly sustainable construction. Built on a sloping chalk site at St Margaret’s Bay near Dover, it is constructed from materials harvested from its own site. The low-energy building has rammed chalk walls, and joinery and furniture made from the three mature trees felled to make way for the building. Tiles for the dome-vaulted roofs were made from local clay, and they are covered with soft green downland turf. Cool in summer and warm in winter, its humidity is naturally regulated by the chalk walls.

The building recently won the Sustainable Building category in the 2007 Sustainable City Awards for its near-zero carbon design.

www.pinescalyx.co.uk
www.scottwilson.com

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Making the Spanish timbrel vault

Structural engineer Philip Cooper (1971) was a member of the design team of a sustainable conference centre built for an enlightened philanthropist. It also gave him the chance to realise a long-held dream.
Anthropologists returned to the fold in October for a reunion and dinner in honour of Stephen Hugh Jones. King’s Parade took the chance to study them, discreetly, to ask about supervisions and to find out what they’d been up to since leaving King’s.

As an anthropologist I had the opportunity to eat seal with the Inuit and a variety of snakes in lowland South America, but nothing I experienced came remotely close to eating in King’s in the late sixties. Imagine a gathering of males wearing black gowns and eating sprouts that had been boiled for at least an hour and meat which bore no resemblance to any known animal. All this in my cooking juices, not sauce. Without nothing to drink. A good friend, who later went home to run the Bank of Italy, kept mumbling “Why have we Romans, even tried to civize these people?” Forty years later, I returned to King’s to celebrate the retirement of Stephen Hugh-Jones. The food was delightful. Fresh, tasty, elegant. And the wine was simply as Claret. I am now left pondering whether it is Europe, the admission of female students, the Internet or global warming.

I worked in Colombia under Edmund Leach, taught anthropology at the universities of Copenhagen, McGill and Laval, in Quebec and worked as a radio-host on the CBC.

Bernard Arcad (1966)

I spent 20 or so reckless years (impeccuous but very happy) digging (archaeological) round the world, working in museums and universities setting up a new education service for the Historic Royal Palaces based at Hampton Court Palace. Following a make-over as a lawyer, I am now buying and selling businesses and homes for people, based in the delightful market town of Tisbury, Gloucestershire. … I was a great experience attending Stephen Hugh-Jones’s special retirement dinner and to meet up with those who shared the delights of seeing Stephen demonstrating the art of using an Amazonian blow pipe in one of his earliest lectures. We all doctored.

Gillian Dawson (1973)

I am a publisher – I am an imprint at Penguin Books, Fig Tree, which I launched a year ago, the writers I publish are terrific – among them, Zoe Heller; Miranda Carter; Marina Lewycky; Alex Kapranos; … what I do has absolutely nothing to do with anthropology at all, except that everything I do involves understanding human beings, and I hope I occasionally apply the intellectual rigour I learnt at King’s. … My best memories are of third year supervisions with Stephen Hugh-Jones and Madeleine Piper as my co-student. They were just fantastically stimulating, argumentative and HARD.

Juliet Aman (1974)

I applied to read Soc. Anth simply because I happened to read the published version of Edmund Leach’s Rhet Lectures, ‘A Runaway World?’ I only recently learnt that my dear friend, Ian Ward, was also propelled to King’s by this slim book. I didn’t know any real inkling of what would be involved but I knew I wanted to be a student of this man in the college where he was boss. My Levantine English master at school confirmed this decision when he snorted: ‘King’s! They’re all junkies and queens, so you should fit out’. Though neither of these categorises can entirely be applied to myself, I certainly felt King’s was ‘a home from home’. Maybe that teacher should also have included ‘spies’ because a writer has to entirely be applied to myself, I certainly felt King’s was ‘a home from home’. Maybe that teacher should also have included ‘spies’ because a writer has to have something in common with an undercover agent. Needless to say, to find myself in close proximity to Leach’s mind was an intellectual experience which has never been repeated.

It would be difficult to over-estimate the influence of Social Anthropology upon my work as a dramatist. It meant an awful lot to me to be reunited last October.

Michael Eaton (1973)

I am the Director of Education at the Freud Museum, … a key thing for me about Cambridge, was that as a student I was treated like an adult whose opinions were valued and listened to, who could be entrusted to direct his own course of study. … It was the combination of being treated like a ‘grown up’ and yet being ‘looked after’ that was the hallmark of the supervision system, and both those aspects of the situation are replicated in human terms when one person listens with benign interest to another. Whether double-consciousness and attitude can be carried over into forms of group supervision is a moot point.

Ivan Ward (1973)

I have spent most of my career working in the United Nations. My training in anthropology was a prerequisite for functioning effectively in a multicultural working environment, and understanding and working and different cultural heritages underpin the way people think and behave has been of great value. In Bihfan I learned that spirituality pervaded daily life with the recall that that every important government decision first had to be blessed by monks. … Now that I’m engaged in debates and actions on the reform of the UN, cultural differences and nuances need interpreting at every turn.

On supervisions, I wish to record how grateful I am to have had such individual attention at some point in my education. Over the course of the last ten years as I have looked for schools with small class sizes for my three children, I realize my life has absolutely nothing to do with anthropology at all, except that everything I do involves understanding human beings, and I hope I occasionally apply the intellectual rigour I learnt at King’s. … My best memories are of third year supervisions with Stephen Hugh-Jones and Madeleine Piper as my co-student. They were just fantastically stimulating, argumentative and HARD.

Juliet Aman (1974)

I’m a director of documentary films … Last year I worked on ‘The World’s Secret Weapons’, about how African minerals were taken by slaves to Brazil, Jamaica and North America. At the moment I’m trying to complete a documentary on a community of witches I’ve been in touch with for ten years; ‘The Witches of Gambaga’. I’m currently a Visiting Scholar at the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana … and recently met an old supervisor of mine - Malcolm Mcdonald. One supervision in particular comes to mind - not so much the execution of his supervision at any turn. But where he took him for lunch at his college - Magdalene, I believe it was; lots of crusty old dons ruminating on Israel and Stilton as they sipped beer from silver goblets. Unforgettable.

Yaba Bados (1973)

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Yaba Bados (1973)
Five things not to say to an accompanist

Agatha Christie wrote: “Are you an accompanist because you didn’t make it as a soloist?” Musicians and non-musicians alike are often under the misconception that an accompanist has been forced into following this career path because he didn’t quite cut it as a soloist. The reality is that a good accompanist has always enjoyed the collaborative element of music making and has actively chosen to dedicate his career to piano accompanying.

“Are you so sensitively, as always…” Usually this comment is reserved for the obligatory post-concert green room meeting and greeting. The accompanist waits for his turn to be congratulated by the eager well-wishers, only to be left with the impression that they’re hardly realizing that the piano accounts for half of their enjoyment of the music performed.

“I realise how difficult your job must be…” This is the other comment an accompanist receives from well-meaning listeners. However, the accompanist is not the poor put-upon pianist hiding behind the skirts of the diva that some like to imagine. “I realise how difficult your job must be…” is usually followed by an even more unsettling sentence, “But I understand.”

“It makes me so nervous…!” The longest sentence you can receive is usually followed by, “I just can’t hear myself.”

“The question is not ‘How much do you get paid as an accompanist?’” The question is, “Do you prefer to be called an ‘accompanist’ or a ‘pianist’?”

Musician’s Alphabet

A new book by pianist Susan Torres (1973) was a Classical Music Book of the Year in A Musician’s Alphabet Huw Watkins (1994). The latest in the series, performed at the Wigmore Hall dimension to the string quartet repertoire with the introduction together young and established performers, adding a new King’s trio in quartets Domus.

Art History at King’s and then studied with Sandor Vegh in the late 1980s and then retired to her beloved Lake District. She read opera, yet between 1754 (when Handel was still living) and 1800, not one of his operas was performed anywhere. Their revival in the modern theatre has been among the most remarkable phenomena in the history of the art. But until recently no reliable modern editions existed. This book is the sequel to Handel’s Operas 1704-1726, published in 1987.

Handel’s Operas

Winton Dean is the most distinguished British authority on the life and work of Handel. Handel ranks with Monteverdi, Mozart and Verdi among the supreme masters of opera, yet between 1754 (when Handel was still living) and 1800, not one of his operas was performed anywhere. Their revival in the modern theatre has been among the most remarkable phenomena in the history of the art. But until recently no reliable modern editions existed. This book is the sequel to Handel’s Operas 1704-1726, published in 1987.

Climate Leadership

The University of Cambridge Programme for Industry (CPI) has developed a range of programmes aimed at developing leadership in tackling climate change.

Dr Aled Jones (1993) leads these activities. CPI is working with Al Gore’s The Climate Project and on 24-26 March 2007 200 leaders drawn from across the UK came to Cambridge to explore the science of climate change. Al Gore worked with the delegates to deepen understanding, as well as explore what action can be taken. The first Climate Leadership Programme will be run from 1st – 4th October 2007.

www.cpi.cam.ac.uk

Horace’s Odes & Do-Re-Mi

A new book by Stuart Lyons (1962) unravels the link between Horace, Guido d’Arezzo and the invention of Do-Re-Mi. Stuart read Classics, then went into industry, he translated the Odes when a sports injury in 1995 left him temporarily immobile, and then became convinced that the Odes were songs. The chapter on ‘Guido d’Arezzo and the Do-Re-Mi Mystery’ explains how an eleventh-century Benedictine choirmaster used the melody of the Ode to Phyllis to invent do-re-mi, but kept his source secret.

The Ode to Phyllis, his English verse translation of the Odes was a Financial Times book of the year in 1996.

Horace’s Odes and the Mystery of Do-Re-Mi

Stuart Lyons

Arts & Phillips 2007

www.oswobooks.com

www.horace-odes.com
**Student news**

**Kings of the Table?**

King’s has one of the best table football teams in the University and has dominated the College leagues since 2003. Knocked off the top spot this year we still have two students in the University Team – both have won trophies in national competitions and the top player is ranked 7th in the UK. Last year, King’s line-up included Maya Racy, who was (and still is) the UK Women’s Singles Champion.

Jonathan May (2002)

**May (2002). Maya Racy is currently Mayya Racy (2003) and Jonathan May (2002) student news jm451@cam.ac.uk**

**Pointing the green finger**

As a world leader in research and education, Cambridge University is well placed to lead the way in environmental sustainability. While things are just about starting to happen, there is still a long way to go, and much of the environmental drive is currently coming from the students themselves.

This year the Zero Carbon society was set up and is “calling for immediate action to cut emissions for a near-zero carbon economy by 2030”. The Three Seas (Combat Climate Change) is an even more recent initiative with a more local and campaigning focus. An Environmental Forum is being pioneered by a current King’s undergraduate to coordinate talks and publicity.

Awareness raising initiatives such as Carbon Health Week and last year’s Green Electricity SAUC-E competition, we hope that our completed AUV will be What actually sparked the project was an idea to build a small, remote-controlled submarine that can be dropped through a validation gate, locate and hit certain underwater objects while avoiding others, drop markers over a cross and surface in a specified area. While doing this, the vehicle needs to also make a map of the course layout, which changes every run! It’s the first time we’ve entered this competition and we’re learning as we go.

**Autonomous underwater vehicle**

A group of engineering and computer science undergraduates (myself included) have teamed up to build an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) to take part in a European competition this summer (SAUC-E). This involves designing, building and programming a vehicle (in our case a miniature submarine) to pass through a validation gate, locate and hit certain underwater objects while avoiding others, drop markers over a cross and surface in a specified area. The vehicle needs to also make a map of the course layout, which changes every run! It’s the first time we’ve entered this competition and we’re learning as we go.

King’s Chapel in Michaelsmas term, “Hamlet is full of life’s most difficult questions. A religious setting will beautifully underpin Shakespeare’s urgent spiritual questioning. Is the ghost a devil or an angel? Should Hamlet be damned or saved? And, in heaven or hell, who’s there?”

www.swantheatrecompany.co.uk

There will be an alumni performance one night during the run: please contact alumni@swantheatrecompany.co.uk to express an initial interest.

**Fairtrade status for King’s**

A series of events this term have focused on trade and its potential for reducing world poverty. In February the debate “This House belives Fairtrade is a moral obligation,” saw a heated discussion between speakers from the Adam Smith Institute and the Trade Justice Movement; in March Sher Gazi, a fruit farmer from Pakistan, spoke about how his community has benefited from the Fairtrade Foundation. This hadn’t been topped until a gala was held in conjunction with the Southern African Fund for Education on the theme of African Trade Justice, and raised over £300 for development projects.

Students, caterers and College authorities, working together towards environmental and ethical ends, have developed a new Fairtrade policy. Proposed by students, this commits the college to offering Fairtrade options across all its food outlets. Jason Waterfield, the Catering Manager, has established a reputation for providing ethical food of the highest calibre in King’s, and the new policy expands this commitment to include the use of certified Fairtrade goods wherever feasible. We are hopeful, but Fairtrade status is a decision taken by the Fairtrade Foundation itself and has previously been granted to only one other Cambridge college. The ethical movement within King’s is gathering pace.

Charlotte Payne (2003) Environmental and Ethos Student

**Essay Prize**


The essay I submitted examines texts from the seventies and eighties by Jacques Lacan, Luce Irigaray and Julia Kristeva, focusing on these three French thinkers’ relationships with politics after May 1968. I identifies three major political concerns in their work: the status of women and the concept of revolution, but also—and most strikingly—a defence of their own psychanalytical, philosophical approach to political issues. I originally wrote the essay in October 2005 for a supervision with Emma Wilson, who suggested I enter it for the prize. Next year, I hope to go on to a PhD here at King’s. I will be studying representations of childhood and families in works by Marcel Proust, Samuel Beckett and the contemporary sculptor Louise Bourgeois. Their work display an obsession with memories of childhood and family life, but the links between the three have yet to be explored.

**New Political Spaces**

The recent ‘lurch to the Left’ in Latin American politics has made household names of Hugo Chavez and Evo Morales and sparked suggestions of a new Cold War. Yet the prominence of the ‘Leftist’ motif in much media coverage has led to the neglect of other political transformations in the area. My PhD research looks at one such set of changes – the decentralisation of political power from state to municipal and local authorities.

These processes of ‘municipalisation’ have led to profound changes in the ways that citizens engage with political authority, amounting in some cases to the creation of local direct democracy. In the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre, for instance, 50% of the municipal budget is distributed according to preferences expressed by city residents.

These ‘new political spaces’ have attracted some academic attention, but while some municipal authorities (such as Porto Alegre) have been studied in depth, others (such as Quito, Ecuador) have been overlooked entirely. My thesis fills these gaps by presenting an analysis of local democracy in Quito, using a Discourse Quality Index (derived from the moral and political theory of Jürgen Habermas) to quantify the quality of democracy in various ways.

This index has already been applied in Western parliamentary settings, but this is a different application of the index to local democracy, and the first application in a developing world context.

My analysis to date indicates that the quality of local democracy in Quito is low. Populism, clientelism and gender/ethnic discrimination continue to hold sway over ostensibly democratic procedures. In contrast to Porto Alegre, the city authorities are very unwilling to cede control over resource distribution to citizens; in 2006, only 1% of municipal resource distribution was decided in this way.

Despite these negative conclusions, I have found that local democracy in Quito has led to greater public awareness of citizen rights, hopefully laying the groundwork for future progress in citizens participation.

Conor Farrington (2005)

**My PhD**

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Conor Farrington (2005)

New Political Spaces

Jorge Velaquez, Zonal Administrator

**Oklahoma! & Hamlet?**

A successful production of Oklahoma! directed by Rob Icke (2003, English) for the Cambridge University Musical Theatre Society ran at the Arts Theatre in February. Rob Icke is also directing a production of Hamlet which will begin a short national tour with a week of performances in How’s this for results in a French drape-vente.

**Photo: David Wyatt**


**Student news**
Events

Saturday 14 July
King’s College Chapel
The Dream of Gerontius
Elgar
01223 357811
www.cambridgesummermusic.com

Saturday 28 July
King’s College Chapel
(with Academy of Ancient Music)
Zadok the Priest (Handel) and other works
01223 357811
www.cambridgesummermusic.com

1 – 10 August
Choir tour to Baltic
Finland www.tiippu.fi
Estonia www.concert.ee
Latvia www.hbl.lv
Lithuania www.pazaislis.lt

8 & 9 September
Box, Beethovenfest www.beethovenfest.de

Saturday 15 September
Ambrosian Festival www.ambrosian.org

Friday 19 October
Swansea Festival www.swanseafestival.com

7 – 14 December 2007
Choir tour to South America

2.00 - followed by light supper
King’s College Chapel
Saturday 28 July
Zadok the Priest (Handel) and other works
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www.cambridgesummermusic.com

Friday 21 December
Royal Albert Hall www.royalalberthall.com


The Director of Music, Stephen Cleobury, is always pleased to receive enquiries from potential members of the choir. Please telephone him (01223 331224) or write to him at the College for details: King’s College, Cambridge CB2 1ST. Email: choir@kings.cam.ac.uk

A Room of One’s Own: King’s Women’s Dinner 8 March

King’s Fellow, Melissa Lane (1899) welcomed guests, and the speaker, Susan Orbach, to a celebration of significant anniversaries: the 50th anniversary of the matriculation of women undergraduates at King’s and the 125th birthday of Virginia Woolf – several of whose letters were on display in the Library.

Bloomsbury talk

The Librarian, Peter Jones, is giving a talk about the 52 letters from Doris Carrington to F.L. Lucas, given to King’s Library recently by Oliver Lucas (1961), Society for the History of the University, Darwin College, 14 June, 8pm.

Who are they?

This photo reached the Archive recently — sent in by a descendant of Orff’s Leagh Richmond, (1881-1977, Ellen and King’s 1960.) “It looks a bit like Augustus Austin Leagh in front,” says Archivist, Patricia McGuire. “We think it was taken around 1910 – does anyone recognise their father or uncle, or the young face of a Fellow met much later in his life?”

archivist@kings.cam.ac.uk


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