

JOHNIAN news



CALLING ALL JOHNIANS CAMPAIGN LAUNCH TO AFFINITY AND BEYOND ALUMNI NEWS
THIS IS THE SEA ST JOHN'S COLLEGE TELETHON STUDENT NEWS ST JOHN'S COLLEGE DONORS



Welcome to the Michaelmas 2008 issue of *Johnian News*. We hope you enjoy it!

If you have any comments, or would like an article or piece of news considered for publication, please contact: Amanda George, Publications Officer.

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Front cover: 2008 Telethon team with Nick Corfield
(centre) at the Campaign Launch

Alumni News

Twenty-five years since matriculation Dinner

On Saturday 12 April Johnians and their guests gathered in Hall to celebrate the inaugural Twenty-fifth Anniversary Matriculation Dinner. It was heartening to see that many of the guests have retained their friendships over the years and keep in touch with each other on a regular basis; the evening was therefore very convivial. This event will now take place on an annual basis and next year's Dinner will be on Saturday 4 April 2009, for those who matriculated in 1984. 

Fifty years since matriculation Dinner

Over one hundred Johnians and their guests returned to St John's in July to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their matriculation. Attendees travelled from across the globe to enjoy a special evening in College. For many, it was a first opportunity to introduce their wives and partners to St John's. Anecdotes and laughter were exchanged long into the evening. We look forward to welcoming back the class of 1959 next year. 

Singapore



The Gents in Singapore

St John's hosted its first alumni event in Singapore on Tuesday 2 September at The Arts House – Singapore's first court house and former parliament house. Nearly sixty Johnians and their guests attended and were treated to a concert by The Gentlemen of St John's (pictured), who were touring the region at the time. Dinner followed in the beautiful Blue Room, at which Professor Walter Woon (LLM 1983), Attorney General of Singapore, toasted the College and spoke of his appreciation of the all-round education that he received at St John's and its individual approach to the teaching of every student. The Development Director, Stephen Teal, responded and talked of the College's increasing commitment to engage with alumni overseas and of its plans for the St John's College Campaign. It was fantastic to see so many Johnians at this event and we are very grateful for this support. 

Professor John Irven



(BA 1970, MA 1974), Director of Technology at Packaged Gases Air Products, and Visiting Professor in Chemistry at Queen Mary, University of London, was awarded the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Creativity in Industry Award in 2008. This annual lifetime achievement award is given to an individual in recognition of contributions to chemical science research and innovation in an industrial environment, with demonstrated evidence of commercialisation.

Heather McFarlane, Industry Specialist at the RSC, said of Professor Irven: 'Success in this area requires technology leaders that have a strong knowledge of chemistry and its possibilities, combined with an ability to understand market trends and business strategies to help lead innovation breakthroughs. John has repeatedly demonstrated these activities and is a worthy winner of RSC's Creativity in Industry award.' 

Alumni News



TW (Bill) Clyne

(BA 1973, MA, PhD 1977), Professor of Mechanics of Materials and Director of the Gordon Laboratory, Department of Materials Science, University of Cambridge, was elected to Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2008. Professor Clyne is distinguished for his work on the thermo-mechanical behaviour of metal composites, layered systems, sandwich sheets, metallic foams and surface coatings.

Academy President, The Rt Hon Lord Browne of Madingley (BA 1969, MA 1973), said, 'Our new Fellows are among the very best engineers working in the UK today... They are pushing the technical boundaries across the most challenging fields from medical imaging to aeronautics and energy technology.'



Paul McMahon

(MPhil 1997, PhD 2003) has written a history book entitled, *British Spies and Irish Rebels: British Intelligence and Ireland, 1916-45*, published in 2008 by Boydell Press. The book is based on the PhD research that Dr McMahon conducted at St John's, and in the acknowledgements he thanks the College for supporting him through a Benefactors' Scholarship.

After graduating Paul worked in New York as a management consultant with McKinsey & Company. In 2006 he took a nine-month sabbatical to put the finishing touches to his book in the tropical heat of Aceh, Indonesia, where he was working with the Indonesian government and the UN on reconstruction after the Asian tsunami. Paul now works in London with an investment management company, Climate Change Capital, but he plans to keep writing in his spare time.

British Spies and Irish Rebels is a compelling read that fills a gap in the history of the British intelligence community and helps to explain the twists and turns of Anglo-Irish relations during a time of momentous change.



Jeremy (Jim) Smith

(BA 1967, MA 1971) recently returned from his fifth summer season as Station Leader at Casey in the Australian Antarctic Territory. This occasion was marked by the successful inauguration of the Airlink, a project allowing scientists and other passengers to fly to an ice runway in Antarctica direct from Hobart, Tasmania, a journey of four and a half hours that would normally take about ten days by ship.

The aircraft, an Airbus A-319, made its first touchdown at Wilkins Aerodrome inland of Casey Station (south of Perth) in December 2007. A month later the first passenger flight transported scientists to their Antarctic field sites and also carried the Australian Minister for the Environment, Mr Peter Garrett, to see the culmination of this long-standing project.

Nine successful flights were completed during the summer, and it is anticipated that there will be many more hereafter. In addition to carrying expeditioners to and from Australian stations, it is probable that increasing use will be made of the Airlink by scientists and others attached to Antarctic stations.



Professor Walter Woon

(LLM 1983) was appointed Attorney-General of Singapore in April 2008. After graduating from St John's, he was called to the Singapore Bar in 1985. He was Sub-Dean and later Vice-Dean in the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law, and was made a Professor of Law in 1999. A prolific writer, he has completed several books on company law, commercial law and the Singapore legal system, as well as two novels.

Professor Woon served as a Nominated Member of Parliament 1992-96 and was instrumental in introducing the Maintenance of Parents Bill in Parliament. He was Legal Adviser to the President and Council of Presidential Advisors 1995-97, and has served as Singapore's Ambassador to Belgium and to Germany. In October 2006 Professor Woon was appointed Second Solicitor-General and in 2007 Solicitor-General.





Professor Richard Perham,

Fellow and former Master, has been awarded the 2008 Pehr Edman Prize by the International Association of Protein Structure Analysis and Proteomics, for his pioneering contributions to the structural analysis of proteins, protein complexes and filamentous viruses. The Prize was awarded at the biennial conference of the IAPSAP in Sapporo, Japan, on 28 August 2008.



At the same conference, the IAPSAP Young Investigator Award for 2008 was made to another Johnian, **Dr Andreas Ladurner** (PhD 2000), who is currently working in the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany. The Award recognises promising young investigators who are beginning to advance the fields of protein chemistry, protein structure analysis, or proteomics. 

Joanne Owen's

debut novel, *Puppet Master*, was published by Orion Children's Books in May 2008. Since graduating in Social and



Political Sciences (BA 1996, MA 2000), she has worked in the book trade, now running the Children's Marketing Department for

Bloomsbury Publishing, and writing fiction and recording and performing music with the band, Naevus, in her spare time. Joanne's eerie tale of a charismatic puppet master, a missing heiress and a determined heroine skillfully entwines fairy and folk tales from Central and Eastern Europe. Set at the turn of the twentieth century, the beautifully crafted story is rich in the traditions of circus, theatre and magic. Brilliant descriptions and a chilling gothic atmosphere transport the reader deep into nineteenth-century Prague, a city waiting to reveal a myriad of secrets. Joanne is now writing her second novel, which will explore the magic, mystery and myths of Rudolfin Prague in the late sixteenth century. For further information, you can email talesfromtherockingchair@yahoo.co.uk. 

Two Johnians at Glyndebourne (review by Salima Virji)

For my first experience of the magic of Glyndebourne, what more could I ask than to see Allan Clayton (BA 2003), a Johnian contemporary, in the title role of Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring*. I was overwhelmed by Allan's expressive and beautiful voice, and his captivating portrayal of Albert, whom he played with complexity and passion. His performance was critically acclaimed, with *The Times* describing it as 'minutely expressive'. Allan's Glyndebourne debut earned him the prestigious John Christie Award from the Worshipful Company of Musicians. Iestyn Davies (BA 2002) also made his Glyndebourne debut this summer, in a widely praised performance in the role of Ottone in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, which featured in this summer's BBC Proms programme, was described by the *Evening Standard* as 'vocally excellent', and will be released on DVD next year.

Allan and Iestyn are taking the opera world by storm. Allan is a member of the BBC New Generation Artists scheme and holder of a 2008 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship, and Iestyn recently appeared with the English National Opera as Armindo in Handel's *Partenope*, alongside another Johnian, James Gower (BA 1996). Both Allan and Iestyn feature this December as soloists in Handel's *Messiah* with Britten Sinfonia under Stephen Layton at Norwich Theatre Royal, Ely Cathedral and St John's, Smith Square, London. Next February Iestyn will sing Oberon in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Houston Grand Opera, and will appear in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. In 2009 Allan reprises his Albert Herring at the Opéra Comique in Paris and makes two appearances with Opera North. 



College News

Professor Sir Roger Penrose,



OM, FRS, and Honorary Fellow of St John's (PhD 1957), was awarded the Royal Society's 2008 Copley Medal for his exceptional contributions to geometry and mathematical physics. The Copley Medal is the world's oldest prize for scientific achievement. Sir Roger, who is Emeritus Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford, has made outstanding contributions to general relativity theory and cosmology, most notably for his work on black holes and the Big Bang.

The Copley medal has in the past been awarded to such esteemed scientists as Charles Darwin, Michael Faraday, Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking. The President of the Royal Society, Martin Rees, said: 'Roger has been producing original and important scientific ideas for half a century. His work is characterised by exceptional geometrical and physical insight. He applied new mathematical techniques to Einstein's theory, and led the renaissance in gravitation theory in the 1960s.' 

The Crook Fund



At the time of Professor John Crook's death in September last year, a number of Johnians enquired whether a fund would be established in his memory. Professor Crook had always taken such special care of those who had come to St John's from abroad, making sure that they settled in well and felt welcome; students from Commonwealth countries seemed particularly fond of him, and he made several academic trips to Commonwealth countries including Australia, South Africa and Nigeria.

For these reasons the Crook Fund has been set up to support graduate students of any subject from Commonwealth countries, through bursaries, scholarships, travel and hardship grants. Contributions in Professor Crook's memory are gratefully received; please contact Salima Virji in the Development Office for further information (s.virji@joh.cam.ac.uk, 01223 760989). 

Professor Sir Richard Friend,



Fellow of St John's and Cavendish Professor of Physics at the University of Cambridge, was awarded in 2008 the first Pierre-Gilles de Gennes Prize for Science and Industry by the French company, Rhodia. The prize recognises Sir Richard's research on

conjugated polymers, and his efforts to realise their commercial potential.

Fundamental discoveries made by Sir Richard and colleagues twenty years ago started the field of semiconducting polymer electronics. He co-founded Cambridge Display Technology, which leads the development of display technology based on polymer organic light emitting diodes. He has published more than 600 papers and has more than thirty patents to his name. In 2003 Sir Richard was knighted for services to physics. Since 1988 his work has been recognised with twenty-four prizes and awards, including the Royal Society's Rumford Medal and the Gold Medal of the European Materials Research Society. 

Jane Cordell



(BA 1987, MA 1991), First Secretary at the British Embassy, Warsaw, caused something of a stir at High Table in April, when she was accompanied by eight Polish parliamentarians and a US State Department Officer.

Jane was accompanying a US-sponsored visit by the cross-party group (pictured at the Houses of Parliament) to Brussels and the UK. The visit provided briefing on hosting US ballistic missile defence systems, and included a visit to RAF Alconbury. On their first visit to Cambridge, the MPs were enchanted with St John's and delighted to be given access to the Senior Combination Room and the stimulating company of its Fellows. They were also pleased to find that Dr Szepter could converse with them in their native language! 

'The' cricket match

The cricket match between the Fellows and Graduates of St John's on Saturday 26 July was an occasion that both sides can recall with pride. The perseverance of the President, Mark Nicholls, resulted in a team of seven Fellows, one College Supervisor, one Research Associate, the husband of another, and a senior member of the Finance Committee, ably captained by David Midgley.



The Graduates rose admirably to the challenge of batting first against an experienced bowling attack, despite the loss of a few early wickets. A faultless century from Muhammad Irfan and a robust fifty from Captain, Tim Gordon, took the Graduates to a total of 227 for 4, on which they declared.

Iain Duggin and Andrew Thompson opened the batting for the Fellows. Duggin eventually fell to the bowling of Gordon for a personal score of 130, and was replaced by Nic Ross, who continued the charge with equal determination. With one over remaining before the agreed finishing time, and 22 runs required for victory, 19 were scored. The Fellows finished on 225 for 4. 🏏



Fred Hoyle Project

In the last issue of *Johnian News*, we reported that in 2002 the family of Sir Fred Hoyle (Fellow and Honorary Fellow, 1939-2001) generously donated his papers to the College Library. Katie Birkwood joined the library in 2008 as Hoyle Project Associate, and has begun organising and cataloguing the 150 archival boxes that, together with film reels, musical scores and other artefacts, comprise this important collection.

Hoyle became a household name in Britain in 1950 after his first series of radio talks about astronomy, during which he coined the term 'big bang'. To highlight Hoyle's scientific and other work, the Library will be hosting a number of public events. There will be an Open Day in spring 2009, during the Cambridge Science Festival, to which all Johnians are welcome. For any information relating to the Project, please contact Katie (01223 339362 or kib21@cam.ac.uk), or check the Project website (www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/special_collections/hoyle/). 🏠

Johnian Society Golf Meeting 2008

Thirty-four Johnians competed for the Marshall Hall Cup on Friday 25 July at the Gog Magog Golf Club. The winner, for a record eighth time, was John Jenkins. The winner of the Posnett Salver, for the second year running, was John Salter. In the afternoon members played a foursomes competition over nine holes and the winners were John Scott and Richard Bell. The College once again provided splendid hospitality and golfers dined one evening with the President and Fellows in the Combination Room. Next year the Cup will be held on Friday 31 July 2009 and any interested Johnian Society member should contact John Loosley, Stonehatch, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud, GL6 7NR (tel: 01285 760460, email: john@loosleyj.freemove.co.uk). 🏏

Catherine Twilley



Johnians will be sad to hear that **Catherine Twilley** (BA in Classics 1992, MA 1996) left the College in September to join Christ's College as Development Director and Fellow, having worked at St John's for twelve years. In 1996 Catherine returned to

St John's as Development Officer to set up the Johnian Office, and worked on relations between the College and Johnians through events, publications and fundraising. Over the years she has also held the posts of Senior Treasurer of the LMBC and Secretary of the Johnian Society, and was involved in the setting-up of the Eagle Project in Lambeth. We are pleased that she will be maintaining her contact with St John's through her continued responsibilities as Secretary of the Johnian Society and we wish her every success for the future. 🏠

Calling Johnians

From Around The

A Global Johnian Network

You may have read about our events programme in the *Johnian News*. While we try to do as much as possible overseas, we are unable to reach all corners of the globe on a regular basis, and so we are appealing to you for help. We would like to establish a Global Johnian Network and are looking for volunteers who would relish the challenge of organising events for alumni in their region.

There are approximately 3,300 St John's alumni living overseas and our aim is to strengthen ties with you and involve as many Johnians as possible in the life of the College. To achieve this, we need people with the local knowledge, time and energy to bring people together. Gatherings should be informal, relaxed and above all fun!

In the first instance we are targeting the following countries, where we have high numbers of Johnians:

Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and South Africa.

However, if you live somewhere that is not on this list and would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you.

What volunteers will do

In order to provide an element of consistency and formality to the groups, we would like volunteers to serve for a maximum of two years and to take full responsibility for the organisation of events:

- To organise at least one event per year. As you will be the organiser, what you do is up to you! Events could be as formal or as informal as you like - from BBQs to dinners.
- To take full responsibility for the finance of events, dealing in local currency and taking any payments.
- To act as a local contact for the Development Office should we wish to organise an event in your area, as your local knowledge is extremely valuable to us.
- To act as a local point of contact for the College, should Fellows or students visit the area. This is a great opportunity to find out what is happening at St John's and to extend the Johnian community.

What we will do

- Provide advice and support and the initial administrative support. As we are bound by the Data Protection Act, we will provide assistance with mailings to make sure that Johnians' contact details are handled correctly.
- Publish your contact details on the website and in the *Johnian News* (you must be willing for us to do this).
- Inform volunteers of Fellows, students or alumni visiting their area.

Mr Justice Aikens,



Honorary Fellow of St John's (BA 1970, MA 1974), has been appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal, with effect from 19 November 2008. Sir Richard's illustrious legal career began when he was called to the Bar (Middle Temple) in 1973. Having taken Silk in 1986, he became a Master of the

Bench of Middle Temple in 1994. From 1993 until 1999 he was a Recorder of the Crown Court, at which time he was appointed a Judge of the High Court (Queen's Bench Division) and nominated as a Judge of the Commercial and Admiralty Courts.

He served as Presiding Judge for the South Eastern Circuit 2001-04, and was the Judge in charge of the Commercial Court 2005-06. Sir Richard was knighted in 1999. He is also joint author of Bills of Lading, 2006, and was Chairman of the Working Party on Long Trial Procedures in the Commercial Court. Speaking about the award by St John's of a McMahon Law Studentship in 1972, Sir Richard says, 'the College set me on my path, for which I am very grateful'.



World...

Finance

You will have total responsibility for the finances of any events you manage, whether you decide to organise a barbeque entirely at your own expense or a dinner requiring payment by attendees. Whatever you decide, you will take any necessary payments and deal with venues and caterers. As such, you would be liable for any shortfall.

Contact

If you would like to be a volunteer or to find out more about this initiative, please contact Helen Morgan, h.morgan@joh.cam.ac.uk, or 01223 330721.

We look forward to hearing from you!



The Biographical Office,

formerly part of the Johnian Office, was incorporated into the Library last year. The office is staffed by Fiona Colbert, Biographical Librarian, and Paul Everest, Register Project Assistant. Fiona and Paul continue to ensure that the College's records of all its members, from the earliest times to the present day, are as full and accurate as possible.

Enquiries from College members and non-Johnians interested in material held in the Biographical Archive are welcomed, and those wishing to report the death of a Johnian should also contact the office.

Further details are available at:

www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/biographical/,

or you can contact the Biographical Office by email (Biographical-Office@joh.cam.ac.uk) or by telephone (01223 338772).





CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

On Tuesday 23 September 2008 Fellows, alumni, students and staff gathered at the Guildhall in the City of London to launch the St John's College Campaign. A target of £50 million by 2012 has been set, making it the most ambitious campaign ever launched by a Cambridge or Oxford college. This marks the beginning of a long-term commitment to secure the College's future in a world that is changing rapidly and where higher education is a global commodity.

In three years' time, in 2011, St John's will celebrate its 500th Anniversary, an historic opportunity to reflect upon the remarkable contribution that Johnians have made to the world. Of course the Quincentenary will give us an opportunity to celebrate this glorious history but, more importantly, the Campaign will ensure that St John's continues to be able to produce, as it has done for five centuries, a steady stream of young men and women who have between them influenced and enhanced the world.

At the Campaign Launch the Master, Professor Chris Dobson, delivered a passionate and emotive speech in which he remarked upon the changing nature of education and the challenge that falls to the College – as it approaches its 500th Anniversary – to be able to provide 'every student with a more exciting and rewarding intellectual experience than they could obtain anywhere else in the world'.

The Master went on to say that, 'to remain at the forefront of higher education, we must not merely move with the times, but we must play our part in changing them. I believe profoundly that the future for St John's has never looked so exciting or so filled with promise'.



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
1511 – 2011
FIVE CENTURIES OF EXCELLENCE

He concluded by announcing that some £20 million of the £50 million target had already been received, which included two particularly majestic contributions: one from Nick Corfield (BA 1981, Honorary Fellow 2001) and the other from an anonymous British foundation.

Following the Master, Jeremy Marshall (BA 1984, MA 1988), Chairman of the College's Campaign Board and CEO of UK Private Banking at Credit Suisse, introduced Nick Corfield, who gave a rousing and inspirational talk about how Johnians could use the College as a vehicle for investing in the future. He explained that having been a beneficiary of an anonymous scholarship during his time at St John's, he felt an enormous responsibility to return the favour by investing in future generations of students – both of St John's and collegiate Cambridge.

The evening brought together members of every constituency of the Johnian community and included entertainment from both the world-renowned Choir of St John's College and The Gentlemen of St John's, to celebrate the beginning of a commitment to a strong and secure future for the College.

For further information about the Campaign or to make a donation, please contact Stephen Teal in the Development Office by telephone: +44 1223 338 760900, or by email, s.w.teal@joh.cam.ac.uk.



THE ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CAMPAIGN
THE NEXT 500 YEARS



Student News



Larmor Award Winners 2008

Each year the College rewards its outstanding students for both their academic achievement and contributions to College life. On the morning of General Admission in June 2008, the College made awards to Hamish Falconer, Martin Kent, Martin McBrien, Clarissa Scholes, Alex Wilshaw and Anna Wood. Many congratulations to all of the recipients and we wish them every success in the future.



Careers in Advertising and Media Talk



Lucy Cotter, Richard Hytner, George Reid, and Colin Burrows.

In April 2008 St John's hosted more careers talks, this time focusing on the world of advertising and media. We were pleased to welcome back three jet-setting Johnians who leapt at the chance to share their experiences.

Colin Burrows (BA 1981, MA 1985) and Richard Hytner (BA 1981, LLM 1984, MA 1985,) were contemporaries at St John's. Colin is the CEO and founder of his own production company, Special Treats, while Richard is Deputy Chairman, Saatchi and Saatchi Worldwide. Lucy Cotter (BA 2002, MA 2006) recently graduated with a degree in Social and Political Sciences. She is a freelance broadcast journalist for ITN and currently the showbiz reporter for ITV2.

The talks offered a comprehensive overview of different career options. Each of our speakers spoke with great enthusiasm about their time at St John's and they were keen to emphasise the value of extra-curricular activities. After the presentations, there was a networking session over drinks and snacks. Students, staff and speakers enjoyed exchanging anecdotes and the evening was a resounding success.



Careers in the Public and Voluntary Sectors Talk



Ian Ginsberg, Rhys Moore, Jenny North and Kate Gross

In March 2008 St John's hosted a careers talk featuring four speakers from public and voluntary sector organisations. The evening was organised with the kind help of Kate Gross, who studied an MPhil in International Relations. After graduating from Keble College, Oxford, in 2000, Kate entered the Civil Service Fast Track.

Before leaving to return to further study at St John's in late 2007, she was Private Secretary for Home and Parliamentary Affairs to the Prime Minister.

Our other speakers were Rhys Moore, Assistant Director of The Capital Community Foundation, and Ian Ginsberg, Policy Advisor at HM Treasury (both Trinity Hall graduates), and Jenny North, Director of Public Policy at Relate (Keble College, Oxford). Students from St John's and Trinity Hall enjoyed chatting to speakers and asked some searching questions over drinks.



Historic Rugby Victories

St John's Rugby teams swept to victory in the 2008 Cuppers finals. The Ladies beat Girton 15-10 in the first match of an exciting afternoon at Grange Road. A fiercely contested first half saw skillful play from both sides. After the break St John's demolished the Girton defence, resulting in an excellent try in the closing seconds.

St John's men came into their final as recent League winners and favourites. Against St Catharine's, they did not disappoint. Skilful passing repeatedly tore apart the Catz defence, resulting in some great tries for the Red Boys. The match ended in an emphatic 35-5 victory for St John's. St John's men have now won both the League and Cuppers titles for four consecutive years.

There was a very strong Johnian showing in the stands for both matches and celebrations were exuberant. The College congratulates both teams on their continuing success. 🏉



Graduands Tea Party, 19 June 2008, Master's Garden



Martin McBrien: TO AFFINITY AND BEYOND



Affinity at sunset



Affinity in front of Senate House



Affinity driving past St John's

Martin McBrien graduated in 2008 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and received a Larmor Award (see Student News). He spent the 2006-07 academic year at MIT, where he worked with the MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Team. Inspired by his experiences, Martin founded Cambridge University Eco Racing (CUER) in January 2007 and was Team Leader until he graduated. He narrates the team's first major challenge: a journey from Land's End to John O'Groats.

In June 2008 CUER undertook the first solar powered journey from Land's End to John O'Groats in their prototype vehicle 'Affinity'.

Affinity set out from Land's End on the evening of 7 June in a convoy of vehicles protecting the solar car and its very nervous driver. These nerves were understandable (the driver was piloting a sleek, lightweight vehicle that was less than a metre tall, with a top speed of 50 mph) and were soon relaxed after some time spent on the road as motorists reacted with awe rather than aggression.

Many slowed for photographs of Affinity as they overtook and some even joined the CUER convoy in support of the team!

A short first leg in Cornwall was followed by a day spent at the Eden Project, where the entire team was on hand to show the ultimate in environmentally friendly cars in this eco-friendly setting. After spending the night in Taunton, CUER made its first school appearance in Dursley on 9 June with a grand entrance as Affinity arrived during break time to be greeted by crowds of surprised children. For each school visit, a class of pupils was taken through CUER's Solar Buggy workshop, where they designed and built their own miniature solar cars, while other classes were able to take part in Q&A sessions with team members. Both the workshops and the Q&A sessions were a huge success, and in some cases an entire school was able to view the car in only two hours!

Further displays were undertaken at CUER's sponsors, Schlumberger and Pilkington, and at schools in Worcester,

Support Cambridge University Eco Racing

CUER aims to match the best teams in the world with a new car developed for the World Solar Challenge in 2009, and to demonstrate the academic and practical prowess of Cambridge University in its 800th anniversary year. If you would be interested in supporting the team, please contact sponsorship@cuer.co.uk for more information, or visit CUER's website, www.cuer.co.uk.

Affinity Stats

Weight: 220 kg without driver. **Top Speed:** 50 mph

Range: Infinite. **Dimensions:** 5 m x 2 m x 1 m

Solar Cells: 9 m² High efficiency monocrystalline Silicon solar cells

Batteries: Lead Acid Batteries, 48V, 2.5 kWhr capacity

Motor: DC Brushless Hub Motor, 3 kW peak output



Affinity on the start line at Land's End



Building solar buggies



Lining up for solar buggy race

Stoke, Nantwich and Hawick. At the end of a long trip through the Scottish countryside, Affinity was displayed on 12 June in Edinburgh city centre, in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle. The display, in a prominent location, was one of the busiest of the trip, and afforded an opportunity for the team to wow the public with facts on the car:

'How fast can it go?'

'50 mph... using the same power as a hairdryer!'

'Even if it had been pitch black for seven days, Affinity could have completed the trip charging from the mains using only £8.00 worth of electricity.'

In light of rising fuel costs, this resonated strongly with the public and showcases the viability of the technologies used by Affinity today.

The final leg through the Scottish highlands was the toughest of the trip, with long, steep hilly sections and

poor weather for over 150 miles. Unfortunately, Affinity's motor was unable to deal with the sustained high power requirements without overheating, so the team was forced to trailer the car several times. However, the determined team was able to drive the final section on 14 June and arrived in John O'Groats to a warm reception from tourists and other 'End-to-Enders' offering congratulations on a unique journey.

Although on this occasion the entire route could not be completed on solar power, the trip was a success for CUER. Many valuable lessons were learned both about the design of the car and the logistics of such a trip, and the team was able to display and demonstrate the car and its unique technology to thousands of people at schools and public attractions across the UK. Buoyed by this success and the lessons learned, CUER is already keenly planning for the Zero Rally Africa and World Solar Challenge in 2009, eager to show what it can do on the world stage.

Martin McBrien (BA 2008)



Justine Curgenvén:

This Is The Sea

In the Lent issue of Johnian News, we reported that an adventure-loving Johnian, Justine Curgenvén, had embarked upon a perilous circumnavigation of New Zealand's South Island. We are pleased to say that Justine was able to report on her thrilling journey upon her safe return, and that of her co-paddler, Barry Shaw.



Barry, Able Tasman



Justine by Cape Farewell

'I really don't like the look of that', I shouted to Barry, as I strained my neck to assess how big the crashing surf was. We'd been kayaking for eight hours along the west coast of New Zealand's South Island and had reached our best option for landing. Waves over 2 m high were unfurling their might in a zone that extended 300 m offshore. Trying to pick a line to the safety of the beach would be like Russian roulette. Neither of us wanted to risk tonnes of water slamming into our shoulders and head and tossing our kayak around like a matchstick. However, the west

coast is renowned for its relentless surf and lack of sheltered landing places and we had been told that Okarito was the safest place to land on this stretch.

As we debated what to do, a strong wind at our back was pushing us slowly but surely towards the impact zone and I looked behind me to see a wave rearing up suddenly and coming straight at me. I tried to paddle backwards but a waterfall of breaking water fell through the air and slammed me upside down. The wave was so powerful that it brought

me all the way upright again and continued to thrust me towards the beach. I was knocked upside down again and this time the wave carried on without me. I rolled up, gasping for air and looked around frantically. I couldn't see Barry to confer about what to do but I felt committed to land. As I powered desperately to shore, the relentless waves capsized me one more time before I reached safety.

This happened on day forty-four of a sixty-seven-day expedition to kayak around the South Island of New Zealand with my boyfriend, Barry Shaw. New Zealand is a magnet for storms and surf and we knew it would be the most mentally and physically challenging journey we'd ever undertaken. We started from Christchurch on 26

nights at a time and got caught out by a headwind that we could barely paddle into. A few days later a sidewind funnelling out of the fiords threatened to blow us out to sea. Then came the wild west-coast surf, which made us anxious every day about where to land. On one occasion a wave broke on Barry, whipping his paddle out of his hand and causing his kayak to pop out of the wave vertically before slamming back down on top of him.

We were very relieved to reach the 30-km-long Farewell Spit and the more sheltered north coast, and we raced down the east coast back to Christchurch. Although it was just the two of us paddling, we were joined by dozens of dolphins, seals and albatrosses. One campsite was shared with a huge



Paul Caffyn, Justine Curgoven and Barry Shaw



Elephant seal, Otago peninsula



Barry, Looking Glass Bay, Fiordland

January this year and headed clockwise 2,400 km around the island.

There was no easing into the journey as there is always a swell in New Zealand and we were straight into dumping surf beaches on the east coast. In our second week, we encountered a headwind that was 0-30 mph in 10 seconds. The south coast was characterised by beautiful cliffs, strong currents and more swell. Fiordland, on the south-west tip, served us the worst weather; we were stranded for four

elephant seal and yellow-eyed penguins. The locals were also incredibly generous and friendly and many times we were given a meal, a hot shower, a bed or simply some encouragement. Many times on the trip I said to myself that I'd never undertake such a long and committing journey again, but as I write this I find my eyes drawn magnetically to the world map above my desk!

Justine Curgoven
(BA 1996, MA 2000)



St John's College: Donors

We are grateful to the following for their support of the College between July 2007 and June 2008. We would also like to thank those donors not listed below as they wish to remain anonymous.

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 Mr Dennis Woodman
 Professor Joseph Zund
 The Johnian Society
 The Thompson Trust

Every effort has been made to ensure that this list is accurate, but the Development Office apologises if an error has been made.



Sarah Evans (History)



Alistair Williams (Law)



Andrew Wheelhouse (Law)



Toby Parnell (Engineering)



Yusuf Mohammad (Economics)

Development News

St John's College Telethon proves to be a good call!

It's not every day that a telephone conversation about the past helps to build the future. Many Johnians had this exciting opportunity in September during the St John's College inaugural telephone fundraising campaign.

The College's first ever Telethon proved to be a resounding success. Over the course of two weeks (16-29 September), student callers contacted a total of 705 Johnians from a variety of vintages. The twelve student callers, who are currently reading a range of subjects at St John's, were chosen to take part because of their active involvement in College life.

The Telethon marks the start of a long-term endeavour to bring Johnians together in support of the wider College fundraising priorities. Leading the challenge, Nick Corfield (BA 1981, Honorary Fellow 2001), Founder of Frame Technology, set the benchmark by pledging to match every gift made during the Telethon. During the two weeks, well over half of the participants translated their great affection for the College into a show of support, raising an impressive £267,000 (£534,000 including matched funding). This forms part of the St John's College Campaign target to raise £50 million by 2012 and will be directed to support projects such as widening access, increased student support, more Research Fellowships and College Teaching Officers.

Significantly, the Telethon took place in the 129-year-old Divinity School – an historic building soon to benefit from funds raised by the Campaign. For many alumni, conversations with the students presented a long-awaited chance to reminisce about College life, fill up their diaries with forthcoming events, catch up with the latest developments and contribute to future publications.

It wasn't just the future of the College that was the topic of conversation: some of the callers were lucky enough to obtain careers advice from their experienced counterparts during the course of the conversation.

Lizzie Richardson, one of the student callers, commented:

This gave me an opportunity to talk to past students who have gone on to experience many different things. Some were able to offer me some very useful careers advice. The response to the Campaign was overwhelmingly positive and I really enjoyed the chance I had to hear about College life in the past.

It comes as no surprise that Johnians have embraced this initiative and we are tremendously grateful for the warm encouragement and generous support that this has generated.

We would like to thank everyone involved for making this Telethon such a success.





Thomas Chigbo (Geography)



Rhiannon Pugh (Geography)



The Divinity School



Gareth Keeves (Engineering)



Cassie Lloyd Perrin (Arch & Anth)



James Nellany (Geography)



Elizabeth Richardson (Geography)



Samuel Palin (Natural Sciences)

Development News

Members of the recently expanded Development Office team explain their new roles



From left to right: Alice Hardy, Amanda George, Salima Virji and Rebecca Buncombe.

Alice Hardy (Administrative Assistant)

My role within the office is to support the Development Office Administrator as well as the whole Development team. As a result my duties are varied and include assisting with events, most of which have been for the Johnian Society, processing donations, maintaining the alumni database and general office administration.

In my first year at St John's I have come to understand what a privilege it is to work in such a beautiful and historic setting. Having come from an art degree I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to provide photography for many of the publications. Whether the task is to capture students at work or play, or try to do justice to the spectacular buildings and grounds, it is a definitely a highlight of my job. I'm looking forward to another busy and exciting year in the Development Office.



Amanda George (Publications Officer)

It seems only yesterday (it was actually nine years ago) that I joined the Johnian Office. My job has since changed, the team expanded and the department renamed, in order to meet the exciting challenges of the St John's College Campaign. When we moved into bigger offices in 2007, I took on my new role producing literature such as *The Eagle*, *Johnian News*, *Alumni Information*, and other fundraising and alumni relations publications. My job involves planning, soliciting copy, organising photographs, writing, editing, proofing and liaising with designers and printers. We have been lucky to find a wonderful designer with whom we have built a very productive relationship.

With great sadness, but also excitement, I will be leaving St John's in December, to set up as a freelance editor / proofreader. I hope to use the time currently spent sitting in traffic to do more voluntary work at local animal shelters! I will miss St John's very much.



Salima Virji (Development Manager)

I took up the role of Development Manager in May 2008, with a nostalgic feeling as I entered the Development Office's new rooms in Second Court, which were the scene of many Ancient Greek supervisions in my undergraduate days. I read Classics and Social and Political Sciences at St John's 2000-04, and upon graduation worked in executive search in London, before a year in the Development Office at the Perse School, Cambridge, followed by two years of running the Annual Fund at Jesus College. It has taken me a while to get over the feeling that I should be in the library writing essays, but the transition from student to alumna to member of staff has been invigorating. Visiting Johnians of all vintages and seeking their support for our Campaign, which constitutes the majority of my work, is hugely rewarding, especially given the varied career paths that Johnians seem to take. I have been overwhelmed by the positive response so far to the College and the Campaign. It is a tremendous privilege to be able to work for the College in this way – not to mention being slightly easier than unseen Greek translation.



Rebecca Buncombe (Development Office Administrator)

On my daily walk through Cripps and over the Bridge of Sighs, I am constantly reminded of what a privilege it is to work in such beautiful surroundings. I enjoy my role and, as the Development Office continues to evolve, I am presented with many varied challenges. We have a fantastic team, which pulls together to provide Johnians with an ever-increasing programme of events and publications.

As a mother of two teenage children, the rising cost of university education is a topic very close to my heart. I am therefore delighted to be playing my part in the Campaign that the College launched in September. We have an exciting future ahead of us and much to do to ensure that resources are available to underpin the future needs of St John's.





Matriculation 1984

Dates for the Diary

December 2008

- 6 Lunch for parents of First-year Undergraduates
- 9 St John's in the City Christmas Drinks, London
- 11 Varsity Match (by invitation only)
- 20 Johnian Dinner (1997, 1998, 1999)

January 2009

- 31 Winfield Society Annual Dinner
(in the College Hall and Old Music Room)

February 2009

- Date TBC Careers in the City Talk (for current students)
- Date TBC Business and Finance Networking Event

March 2009

- 21-27 Choir Tour of East Coast, USA
- Date TBC Women's Networking Event
- Date TBC Reception for Canadian Johnnians, Toronto
- 26 Campaign Launch in New York (for Johnnians in the USA)
- 28 Johnian Dinner (1950, 1951)

April 2009

- 4 Twenty-fifth Anniversary Matriculation Dinner (1984)

May 2009

- 15 MA Dinner (2002)
- 21 Reunion for the South-east Region

June 2009

- 18 Garden Party for Graduands
- 27 Johnian Dinner (up to and including 1949, 1969, 1970)

July 2009

- 17 Johnian Society Reception, House of Lords
- 31 Larmor Award Dinner
- 31 Johnian Society Golf Competition

September 2009

- 19 Fiftieth Anniversary Matriculation Dinner (1959)
- 15 Oxford Reunion Dinner
- 25-27 University Alumni Weekend



Matched Funding

The University of Cambridge and its colleges welcome the UK Government's Matched Funding Scheme for English universities, and will use it to encourage participation by alumni and other supporters in their respective fundraising campaigns. Under the terms of the scheme, collegiate Cambridge will receive £1 for every £3 raised in eligible donations during the three-year period of the scheme (1 August 2008–31 July 2011). All donations

received from 'new donors' are eligible, i.e. donors who have not made a gift to a specific college or to the University in the three years before the start of the scheme. A previous donor to a college can be counted as a 'new donor' to the University and vice versa. The matched funding received from the government will be used for student support, to ensure that Cambridge remains at the forefront of teaching, learning and research.





ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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Gifts to St John's College will count towards the total funds raised for the Cambridge 800th Anniversary Campaign.

