



OPTIMA

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The Master's message



The start of this new academic year is a significant moment in many ways. Top-up fees, much debated and dreaded, are now upon us. And there is little doubt that they are here to stay. For those of us who received a free university education, it is a matter for regret. For readers of *Optima* with offspring still to be educated, it is probably a source of anxiety. For today's students, the advent of top-up fees will exponentially increase the level of debt with which they will begin their working lives. And, for the College, this restructuring of the public financing of Higher Education poses a major challenge, exacerbated by what can now be seen as the progressive withdrawal of government funding for the collegiate dimension of the Oxbridge experience.

Students of earlier decades were short of money too! To read the recollections of Tim Sullivan on page 10 or Ken Olisa on page 11, is to be reminded that the College, notwithstanding its limited resources, has always tried to provide financial assistance for deserving individuals and initiatives. It will certainly continue to do so. For even relatively small sums can make a huge difference, both pragmatically and in nurturing talent with encouragement.

The funds available to us for these kinds of purposes (illustrated by the examples in this issue

of *Optima*, ranging from overseas travel to College-based activities) have never been provided by the taxpayer. Nor have tuition fees paid for so many of the other benefits which Fitzwilliam students enjoy. I feel that it is crucial that they are told explicitly, and repeatedly, how much they owe to the generations who have preceded them. For the generosity of the latter is manifest in so many ways: trees in the grounds; the sunken garden; seats in the auditorium; pianos; boats and the anticipated new boathouse; bursaries; travel-awards; scholarships and prizes. From the physical context to direct financial assistance, these are the tangible reference-points of a tradition of support without which the College would never have achieved so much in its relatively short history.

That history can be traced in the very names of the awards we make to students who distinguish themselves in Cambridge. From '1912 Scholarships' to the most recently endowed prize, the idea of 'recognition' extends beyond specific benefactions to a more general reminder of another kind of 'debt' and a 'legacy' which we are determined to honour in the years ahead.

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“Prizes! Prizes! Prizes!”

Not the Caucus-race, but worthier winners – Fitzwilliam Members have recently won a selection of prizes from undergraduate to graduate and from national to international:



Matthew Neal, Scholar of the Year

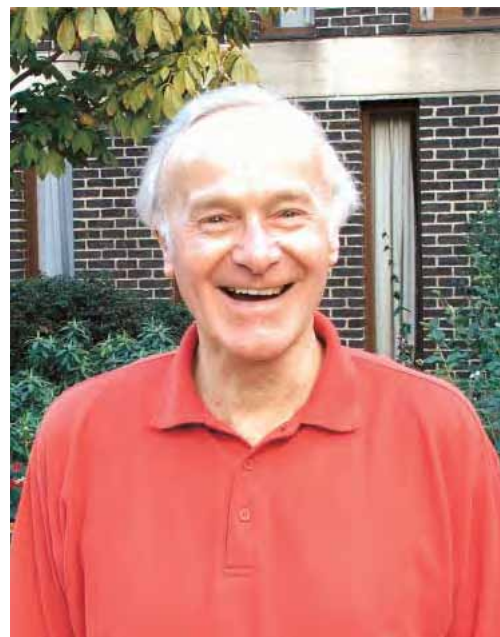
Matthew Neal (History Part II) became the Scholar of Year this summer and was awarded the Mary Lucking Prize. The Mary Lucking prize was established in 1985 funded by donations from Tom S Lucking who read Geography at Fitzwilliam House in 1926–1929, in memory of his wife. It is awarded to an undergraduate of the College without restriction of subject who, in the opinion of the Master and Tutors, has the most exceptional record of academic achievement during his Cambridge career. Matthew says, “I was absolutely delighted to receive the Mary Lucking and Scholar of the Year prizes. It was great to be able to round off the three years in this way, and I’m very grateful to all those who fund the awards.”

Prizes recognise progress and endeavour; they recognise hard work and dedication; they recognise excellent results, first class results and a Cambridge college, as a focus of academic excellence, awards quite a few. In 2006, 85 Fitzwilliam students were awarded Firsts. For this they receive a prize and a scholarship for the subsequent year with a financial reward. They have certainly earned it! The current prize value is usually £100 and where no endowed named prize or scholarship exists, it has to be met from College funds. Fitzwilliam has 25 named academic prizes and a further 8 prizes for the recognition of other talents: contribution to College life, distinction in a certain academic area or for showing meritorious progress. That leaves an awful lot for the College to fund (£6,500 was spent in 2005 representing the annual income on £162,500 of the Endowment Fund that has so many other calls upon it).

It is also unfortunate that while one student may be awarded a named prize, another, of equal merit, simply receives a ‘College Prize’. A prize can commemorate a certain individual, whether a Member of College, a loved one or name of the donor’s choosing. They exist in perpetuity. Every time a student is awarded that prize they are given the name, who it commemorates and why it was donated. That name lives on. There is history there.

We invite Members to come forward and donate funds to endow a College prize. £100 has been the prize value for the last 10–15 years and must rise to really mean something as costs rise concurrently. To endow a prize worth £150 in perpetuity, the sum of £3,750 is sought (£2,930 plus Gift Aid). Once invested, at a 4% rate, it will yield an annual return of £150 and cover the cost of an annual named prize for the future.

Tim Johnson (1965) provides funds for the Johnson-Jary prize. He talks about what it means to him:



Tim Johnson

“I was admitted to Fitzwilliam as a mature student in 1965 to read Agriculture. In 1968, to my great surprise, pleasure and a little embarrassment, I was awarded a University prize for Part I results and a College prize as a result of the Agriculture Part II Tripos examinations. These awards also gave great pleasure to my family. Ever grateful to Fitzwilliam, it seemed appropriate that I should give something back to the College. Establishing a prize in memory of my mother was one way of doing this. Initially the prize was preferentially for Music, an activity of great interest to her, but with the addition of a legacy from my brother, Derek, the fund now supports additional prizes and gives the College more freedom to make awards irrespective of subject.

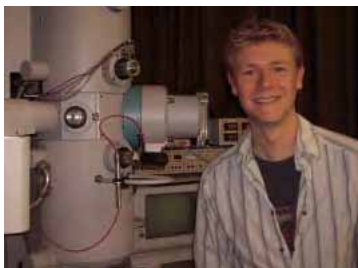
I derive pleasure from the Senior Tutor’s annual letter informing me of the latest recipients and their subjects. It keeps me in touch with the current generation and it is also good to know that there is an unremitting stream of worthy undergraduates at Fitzwilliam”.

Sometimes, the donor specifies the subject or reason for the prize and these requests are always honoured, but the fewer restrictions, the better, to allow the prizes to go to the most deserving candidates, whatever their discipline. Currently, the Arts subjects are slightly better endowed for prizes while Engineering and Natural Sciences are definitely lacking and the Chemical Engineers have none at all. This imbalance needs adjusting.

To be awarded a College prize means so much to the recipient and may provide “the spur to prick the sides of their intent” and cause them to go on and aspire to even higher things. They will always remember it and it is added to their CV as evidence of the distinction of their academic record at Cambridge.

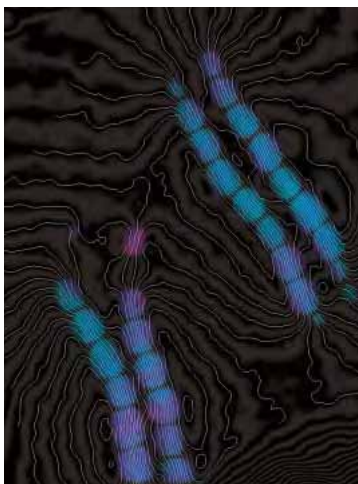
A large prize but a small scale

One nanometer is equal to one millionth of a millimetre – far too small to visualise with conventional optical methods. But nanotechnology is bread and butter to Ed Simpson, a postgraduate student at Fitzwilliam College. Ed is using Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) to study nanomagnetic systems and performing Electron Holography, a technique that images magnetic and electrostatic fields of atoms and particles at a minute level.



Ed and the Transmission Electron Microscope

“Looking at smaller, new dimensions is not just about shrinking technology for the sake of making things smaller, it is opening new doors. It is physics on a new level as things work differently on the nanometer scale”.

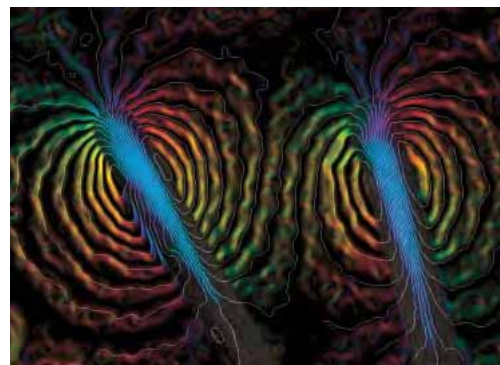


Magnetic nanochains

Ed's image of carbon nanotubes recently won third prize in a prestigious national competition sponsored by the DTI and awarded by the UK Micro and Nanotechnology Network. This is part of a government-funded initiative to bring nanotechnology to the fore and strengthen links between universities and industry. The image showed the nanotubes into which magnetic particles had been inserted, radiating magnetic field lines of differing intensity.

Magnetism is found throughout the natural world with magnetoreceptors found in the beaks of pigeons and magnetoreception cells found in trout and salmon, to aid navigation. Descending in size, there are marine, bottom-dwelling, volcanic snails that cover their 'feet' with magnetic 'shoes' of iron-containing crystals. The shoe is primarily composed of iron sulphide and has evolved to avoid predation but it also contains greigite, a magnetic material, perhaps functioning as a magnetic compass. Smaller still, Ed studies benign, single-celled magnetotactic bacteria, freely available, existing in the Cam, ponds and puddles that orientate themselves to the earth's magnetic field and feed on sediment. They navigate in the geomagnetic field by means of chains of magnetite crystals that they grow along their bodies and Ed's high power magnification techniques allow him to study the microstructure and magnetic interaction of these chains. He collaborates widely with other scientists and genetic engineering experiments by a group at Bremen University have altered the morphology of the crystal chains in the bacteria leading to different magnetic interactions. Ed's observations of the magnetic properties and behaviour of these small-scale magnets extends the understanding of them and has potential technological applications in tiny memory storage devices and in the field of advanced electronics.

Some of Ed's smaller projects involve collaborative work investigating human conditions associated with excess iron to see if magnetism is contributory to the resultant disease. He investigated ferritin, the iron-containing protein found in excess in the genetic condition haemochromatosis, a disorder that predisposes the excess absorption of iron from food and, if untreated, leads to organ damage. Holography showed it to be in the ferrihydrite form without stable magnetic properties and thus purely existing



Prize winning image

for the function of iron storage. He is also collaborating with scientists in Keele to characterise the iron deposited in the amyloid plaques (clumps of proteins that accumulate outside the brain's nerve cells), a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease. For fifty years, there has been a known association between virtually all neurodegenerative diseases and anomalous concentrations of iron. It has been suggested that the ferritin, the primary iron storage protein, may become overloaded with iron atoms and become stored as magnetite which is known to be magnetic at body temperature.

Another project is looking at the magnetic nature of the earth's crust in collaboration with colleagues in Earth Sciences in Cambridge and Arizona. The earth, along with many other planets, is one big magnet, with the north and south poles connected by the magnetosphere. Mars and Venus are different. Space probes have previously found only traces of magnetic field lines but working with terrestrial analogues of Martian rock samples, Ed and his collaborators have found evidence to support a theory postulating how Mars retains a large magnetic field locked in its crust.

Spin-off projects continue to be identified, collaborations are being built up around the world and Ed's work grows in interest. The EM group in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy provides an essential service to the University and beyond, providing the 'eyes' for nanotechnology and Ed's research looks into the many diverse fields where nanomagnetic systems may have a bearing as well as refining the technology. At Fitz, he also has a full schedule. Incidentally, as an undergraduate here he was awarded the W F Reddaway Prize. He is MCR President (Vice-President last year) so works on behalf of Fitz' 220 graduate students improving provision for them, working to improve their cultural and social life and, as their representative, sits on numerous College committees. He supervises Material Science undergraduates, he is on the Chapel Committee and was previously a Sacristan AND he has one of the best rooms in the house! This year, his room on the first floor of 'The Grove' looks out over the Fitz gardens. He is grateful to Fitzwilliam not only for this but also for providing him with a Senior Scholarship, the icing on the cake to his EPSRC-funded studentship.

He is doing great things on a small scale!

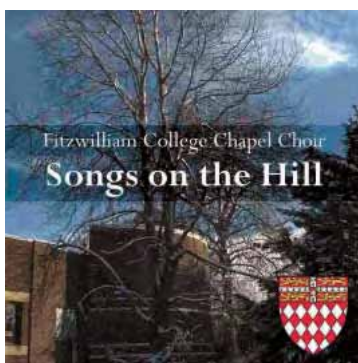
Essay prize for Lauma



Lauma Skruzmane, a 24-year old Latvian, did an MPhil degree in Contemporary European Studies at Fitzwilliam last year and then, with four other Fitz graduates, participated in the Daiichi exchange programme. It has been running since 1999 with students chosen on the basis of academic merit, their contribution to the College and the role they can play as ambassadors for their country and academic institution. They spend a year in Fukuoka immersing themselves in the language, culture and traditions of Japan.

Whilst there Lauma won second prize (worth £1,000) in the Japan Foreign Trade Council Essay competition. She not only won the prize for excellence with her essay entitled, 'Globalization's new face – corporate social responsibility' but she was the youngest, the only foreigner and the only female to be selected amongst almost 150 entrants. On her return she enrolled on a law course and then will take up a place with a London law office to train as a solicitor specialising in international trade and European Competition Law.

Choir cut first CD



In *Optima IX*, the aspirations of our enthusiastic choir were summarised and we were gratified when three Members came forward to sponsor choral scholarships. Our thanks go to John Etherton (Medical Sciences 1974), Christopher Gill (Agricultural Sciences 1965) and David Keep (Theology 1960).

The choir now wish to commission a composer to write a piece specifically for them and have produced a CD to raise funds for this next venture and to further enhance their profile.

The music is a mixture of sacred and secular pieces, mostly unaccompanied, fully illustrating the wonderful sound they produce in the Chapel at Fitzwilliam. British composers such as Stanford and Elgar dominate but the particular favourite of the choir, *Bogoroditsye Dyevo* from Rachmaninov's 'Vespers' has been included, as has Bruckner's *Os Justi*. CDs are now on sale, costing £10 from the Porters' Lodge. To have a copy mailed, contact Sarah on sc266@cam.ac.uk or call 01223 332075. Cheques should be made payable to 'Fitzwilliam College' and include £1 for postage and packing. All funds derived from sales will go the choir.

A moot question

A moot in law is a hypothetical case argued by law students as an exercise. While the legal term goes back to the mid-sixteenth century, at Fitzwilliam the moot competition dates back to the time David Pearl became Director of Studies



Adam with the mooting cup

in 1969 and has been running annually ever since. It is open to all those reading Law at Fitzwilliam and carries a prize of not only a mooting cup (first purchased by the College to commemorate the outstanding performance of the Law Tripos Finalists in 1984) but also a financial reward. Paul Lonergan (1987) decided he wanted to do something to thank the College and donates an annual financial prize for the winning student to encourage mooting and to congratulate the specific winning student for his/her hard work.

In March this year, Paul was asked to judge the moot, a problem question derived from the law of tort, concerning negligence. It involved a minor car crash and the four mooters had four days to prepare and fifteen minutes to argue their case in front of the judge. Law students from each of the three years were represented and the prize went to Adam Pogonowski, a first year. Despite his inexperience, his delivery and account of the law supporting his argument was succinct and the answers to questions both clear and well reasoned. This was followed by lunch on High Table for the mooters, the judge and Fitzwilliam Law Presidents, Richard Gal and Ian Redfean. Paul commented on the high standard of the mooters and admitted to having great difficulty in judging the winner. As for the prize, he feels it should be spent on something frivolous and fun and has never regretted his support of the moot, all stemming from a "fluke" win (his words!) in his first term at College.

Sirens seek predecessors



Did you ever wear a little black number and sing with the Sirens or sport a boater and sing with Fitz Barbershop? There is a move for a Reunion for the Sirens (www.srcf.ucam.org/sirens), one of the oldest a capella groups in Cambridge along with their fellow Barbershop boys. Marianne Neary calls for any ex-Sirens or ex-Barbershop singers to get in touch. So, look out those long, black gloves, find your Fitz bow ties and write in.

sirens@cusu.cam.ac.uk

Teacher or preacher?

These were the expected careers of boys from the rugged Welsh mining village in the Garw valley where Alan G Shakespeare (Metallurgy and Material Science 1949) grew up. He defied tradition by first coming to Cambridge (Fitzwilliam House) and secondly, becoming Rector of Technikon Mangosutho, a tertiary college for black students in South Africa at the time of the African National Congress (ANC) struggle against repression and apartheid.

Technikon Mangosutho is situated in Umlazi, on the outskirts of Durban and was the brainchild of the Honourable Dr Mangosutho G Buthelezi, chief minister for KwaZulu. Funding originated from the Anglo American Corporation and De Beers Consolidated mines that in an act of enlightened self-interest were eager to train black engineers, technicians, chemists and administrators.

Alan Shakespeare was the second Rector to hold the position and led the college from 1984 to 1989. In 1984, resistance against apartheid laws was at its height with the rebirth of the Congress Movement. In 1985, the ANC called on townships of black South Africans to make them ungovernable. Mass insurrection and running battles followed leading to a State of National Emergency being declared in 1986. By 1990, public support for the ANC was so strong that ANC leaders were re-instated to unite South Africa

that their education was what was important. They remained dedicated and it was the only college for black students in South Africa never to miss an exam due to rioting. Furthermore, Alan made an agreement with the police never to enter the campus unless specifically invited. During his time, the college grew from 300 to 1500 students coming from a huge spectrum of backgrounds aided by government grants to access higher education. Some came from as far afield as Namibia (south west Africa), Swaziland and Lesotho.

While in South Africa, Alan and his family lived nearby on the outskirts of Durban at the edge of the bush. He says he never felt physically threatened although his wife, Rita had a gmm pistol and learned to shoot with a friend in the South African army. Bush fires were a bigger threat and their Alsatian guard dog once saved their lives by warning them of a fire that completely destroyed their garden. Their daughters, although at boarding school in England, regularly visited in the holidays.

Alan remembers going to parties where guests left their guns by the door. He remembers persuading a college lecturer to stay on, after a concrete block was hurled through his windscreen and landed (luckily) on the passenger seat. He remembers a three-day battle between the Zulus and the Pondos in the fields to the south of the college with people armed with assegais, knobkerries and guns. Eventually, the police and army intervened and the Pondos were returned to the Transkei. Later Alan lunched with his friend and college supporter, an MP in the KwaZulu Assembly, who revealed he had led the fighting and killed people during the battle. He and his son were killed themselves when ANC activists surrounded their home in Umlazi sometime later.

Buthelezi was a good man who understood the value of white and black working together and with his support, and the leadership of Alan Shakespeare, the college grew and was successful. Thousands of students completed their courses, were awarded diplomas and went on to work, some for the companies of the college's benefactors. The college now has a vice-chancellor and its students number over 3,000, studying additional new areas of public administration, government and politics. The climate in South Africa has also moved on from times of oppression and peoples torn apart by war, to a country functioning as a reasonably fair and balanced democracy. It is recorded as one of the twentieth century success stories and Alan must be proud to have played a small part in it by his ability to steer Technikon Mangosuthu through the conflict successfully during his five years as Rector there.



Alan with the Mayor and Mayoress of Umlazi and Mr Harry Openheimer, Chairman of Anglo American Corporation.



Alan giving an address

under the leadership of Nelson Mandela. In April 1994, the first free elections were held with the 'one person – one vote' maxim, taking the ANC to victory and electing Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa. It was against this earlier backdrop that Alan led the college.

Apartheid meant that strict segregation of blacks and whites was carried out outside whereas inside the college a "colour blind" policy was established. All lectures were given in English, as the black students preferred this to Afrikaans, the language of the oppressors. There was an ANC stronghold on one side of Umlazi while Inkatha, the Zulu political arm, was based on the other side with the college situated between the two. When fighting broke out and equipment disappeared Alan had the college protected by an eight-foot perimeter fence. Three bodies were picked off that fence and another student found murdered with a sharpened bicycle spoke nearby, while inside the compound students were constantly reminded

Prescription for excellence

The UK has fewer doctors per head of population than the US and all western European countries and the Higher Education Funding Council for England have called for universities to bid for additional medical student numbers from 2006 and again in 2008.



Anatomy practical class

*Teachers open the door
You enter it by yourself*
(Chinese Proverb)



Justin by the ECMO machine

More medical students? Where better to come than Cambridge University (top university to study medicine, *Times Good University Guide 2007*) and Fitzwilliam College (in the top five colleges for medicine, *Baxter Table 2006*). Medicine has been the best performing subject for the last 10–12 years at Fitzwilliam attracting students from diverse backgrounds and, since 2003, Fitz students have been outperforming those from the University as a whole (*Report on Exam Results 2005*). It seeks for intellectual achievement and commitment among its members in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. Sara Yeganeh (2003) has just completed her pre-clinical studies and says, “I came from Kuwait and didn’t know much about the colleges so made an open application. I’m so glad I came to Fitz as all the students are friendly and the supervisors are really approachable”.

The course

The pre-clinical course for both medical and veterinary students lasts three years and is very intensive, culminating in graduation with a BA degree. In the third year, a degree of freedom occurs with the ability to undertake options not related to science if the students wish, such as Music or History of Art. This is one of the attractive features of the course – the facility for a wider education added to the collegiate ethos of a mixing of students from all disciplines. “It is a brilliant course and really challenges people”, says Jon Rowe (2003). Having graduated MVST, the vets go off to the Vet School for a further three years culminating in the final Cambridge Veterinary MB exams and the ability to practice as a vet. The medics have a choice. They can go on to a clinical school, usually Cambridge, Oxford or one of the London teaching hospitals leading to the final MB examinations. Alternatively, the high flyers may opt for the MB/PhD programme, a speciality of Cambridge and opening the door to a career in academic medicine.

The MB/PhD programme

Karuna Ganesh (2001) chose Cambridge University in preference to a place at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in America, as her primary objective was the MB/PhD programme. She is a Gates Scholar in clinical medicine and receives funding through the Commonwealth Trust for her PhD. She is the only one from Fitzwilliam of her year on the programme, having achieved straight firsts throughout her first three years. Although she has moved on to molecular biology, she supervises Fitz



Karuna in the laboratory

students for the first year Biochemistry course and remembers the great start the Fitz medical course gave her, “The committed and approachable group of medical and tutorial Fellows at the College provide an exceptional level of support that makes Fitz the superb college to read medicine that it is today.”

The elective

Those doing their clinical training have the ability to study away from their home university and do an elective, supported partly by College funds and written up as a report. Justin Wang (2001) is in the final year of his clinical training at Addenbrooke’s Hospital and went first to work in Intensive Care in Berlin for four weeks and learned various techniques, including placing central lines and the use of the ECMO (extra corporal membrane oxygen) machine, which temporarily takes over the gaseous exchange function of the lungs.

He then shadowed a paediatrician in Kuala Lumpur (chosen as language would present no problem; Justin is Malaysian!). He received a grant towards his costs and says, “It was an enjoyable and rewarding elective. The experience was amazing. It allowed me to see how medicine is practised in different parts of the world. Many thanks to those who have contributed to the elective funds.”

The Fitzwilliam Medsoc

No Fitzwilliam discipline would be complete without its strong social side, both supporting its students and providing a release from the continuous hard work necessary to stay the course. “There is a huge amount to learn and it is hard work but I knew that when I came. There have been some tough times”, said Lizzie Radford (2003), Joint President of the Medsoc 2005/6. The Medsoc welcomes Freshers, organises communal lunches, book fairs, formal dinners and garden parties. Colleagues show new members around the departments, help with advice on second year options and provide a ready made social network of like-minded individuals.



Dr Tony Edwards with Kai Yuen Wong

The Fellows

The team of medical and veterinary Fellows and Bye-Fellows (a Fellow with some dining privileges yet not a member of the Governing Body) are responsible for the high esteem in which Fitzwilliam teaching and supervision is held today and, as such, feel a sense of ownership of the students being responsible for their progress, achievements

and contribute towards their above average performance. They comprise a good mix of practising doctors, vets and scientific researchers so can cover every facet of med/vet teaching. Most students remember the late Dr Tony Edwards for his rigorous teaching of undergraduates, being funny, inspirational and caring and being held in such affection that the Cuthbert Fund (originally launched in 2000 to fund a Medical Fellow's post and elective travel) was renamed in his memory as the Cuthbert-Edwards Fund.

Dr Robert Abayasekara took his place as Director of Studies in Medicine and Veterinary Medicine leading a six-person strong team who are responsible not only for academic teaching, but also pastoral care of their students who may meet difficulties, need exam practice or help with job applications along the complicated and protracted path of medical and veterinary training. There is Dr Kourosh Saeb-Parsy who came to Fitzwilliam in 1993, did the MB/PhD programme and qualified in 2001. He tells of attending an Open Day at an older and grander college, surrounded by portraits and sitting at a 300-year old table in a sterile atmosphere and being almost put off applying to Cambridge. At Fitz, it was lively and friendly and he immediately felt at home. Things haven't changed, Lizzie Radford has just graduated with straight firsts and says, "I was pooled but pleased to come to Fitz where I think we were under less pressure than med students at other colleges. The supervisors were extremely good and willing to stray from course material and explore areas of forefrontal research if students were curious. They just ran with us and kept us all on our toes."

The two Bye-Fellows are Dr Gary Bhumbra and Dr Peter Ellis, who is a molecular biologist from the Sanger Centre and supervises biochemistry. Gary, like Kourosh, is 'home-grown', coming up in 1999 and collecting his three postgraduate degrees (MA, MBBChir and PhD) all in one ceremony this year. He is currently doing his rotations at Bedford Hospital while supervising three times a week in Anatomy and feels that the carefully thought out interviewing system provides the right balance for discerning academic prowess, the ability to communicate, innate intelligence and common sense. This is very necessary as there are four applicants for every place to study medicine or veterinary science at Fitzwilliam. Gary is an

advocate of the continued use of cadavers to teach anatomy, fundamental to the art of dissection and fact retention amongst students, but now abandoned for computer interactive models in other universities. Dr Mark Arends came to Cambridge in 1998 and is a University Reader in Histopathology at Fitzwilliam, based at Addenbrooke's Hospital. This year he won the Pilkington Prize as a tribute to his excellence in teaching. In his citation, Professor Andrew Wyllie FRS said, "He is a clear, enthusiastic lecturer with much experience of the blind spots and misconceptions that can interfere with students' learning."

Last, but by no means least, comes Dr Angie Tavornor, College Lecturer in Veterinary Medicine, who teaches veterinary anatomy. Recently, she



Halfway Hall (students with Robert and Kourosh)

assumed the post of Senior Tutor at Fitzwilliam, giving her a more pastoral and administrative role. The veterinary course is a year longer than other Veterinary Schools, which can be off-putting with the concomitant need for larger loans and more debt. On the other hand, the chance to study different subjects in the third year, the smaller class sizes and the close proximity of the Vet School are all definite plus points. Joe Neary (2002) writes, "Before applying to university, Cambridge was not my favourite choice. However, after coming to an open day at Fitz, I soon realised it was a friendly, unpretentious college with people from all over Britain and worldwide. It is one of the few colleges that offer accommodation to its students through all six years of the course. The Vet School and University Farm are a short cycle ride from the College, which is especially useful when you are on night duty, such as lambing in Lent term, or at a Vet School party!"

At many of the colleges in Cambridge, the medical students greatly outnumber the vet students with supervisions heavily biased towards human medicine. However, this is not the case at Fitz and with Angie and Robert as supervisors, the veterinarians enjoy subject-specific tuition."

This outstanding department has been recognised by a grant of £45,000 from the Evelyn Trust for the provision and equipping of dedicated medical teaching and supervision rooms in College. These will be used by students for independent study and by Fellows for supervising groups, interviewing and demonstrating. Once fully equipped with up-to-date resources they will be ready for the Michaelmas Term.



Joe, having operated on the hoof of a cow

If you wish to add your support to medical and veterinary teaching at Fitz, please turn to the centre pages for information on how to donate to the Cuthbert-Edwards Fund and help today's students with funds for elective travel and to build up reserves for an extra teaching post at College.

Living with fear: International Accompaniment in Guatemala

by John Hampson (Mathematics, 1995)



Mayan women get \$1–2/day for weaving



Mayan school children



Kat, granddaughter of a Mayan family

In 2003, wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were featured constantly on the news and I'd become very despondent about world politics, particularly about the imbalance between the Western world and elsewhere, how this affected news reporting and our skewed views of injustice. A poster advertising voluntary work called 'International Accompaniment' which offered the chance to go to countries suffering from internal conflicts to try to have a positive influence immediately appealed to me although it took a while to decide to take it further. The organisations involved send volunteers to Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia and Kosovo. I chose Guatemala, partly because I wished to improve the little Spanish I had, partly because I'd been to Latin America before and I'd been touched by the warmth and generosity of the people, and partly because the recent history of Guatemala is so shocking.

Guatemala suffered a devastating 36-year civil war, 1960–1996, which was triggered by the 1956 military coup backed by the CIA to overthrow a democratically elected government promising land reform. Guatemala is one of the poorest countries in Latin America with one of the widest gulfs between the rich and the poor. The rural Mayan population, who make up more than 60% of the population, have been subjugated and downtrodden over the centuries, continuing today. It is estimated that 200,000 people were killed during the civil war, more than in the conflicts of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Chile and Argentina combined. 100,000 died in the early 1980s alone, when the military adopted a "scorched earth" campaign and a policy of genocide against the Mayan population who were perceived to be the support base of the Guerrilla. Although Guatemala is now considered to be a democracy, many root causes of the civil war remain. The colonial legacies of land ownership and exploitation still blight the poor. The military remain overtly powerful. Anyone seeking justice for war atrocities, equality and rights for the Mayan population or other forms of social reform, risk death threats that are far from idle.

Guatemala is sometimes referred to as the 'Forgotten Country' as so few of us know anything about its recent history and it rarely makes mainstream news. The Human Rights situation in Guatemala remains perilous, with the government, military and police viewed by Human Rights groups to be more perpetrators than protectors, yet the international community does very little in response. Guatemala is important enough for us to buy sugar and coffee from (please remember to buy Fairtrade products in supermarkets!), and to sell arms to, with the



John, Annie (another accompanier) and a Mayan family

relatively large amount of money involved helping to support those who hold power, but not important enough for the culture of violence, power abuse and impunity to cause an international outcry. At a time when the UK government says that it has gone to war twice for moral causes, this lack of action is deeply upsetting.

The basic idea of International Accompaniment is that whilst, for example, a Guatemalan Human Rights worker can be threatened and even killed without significant political repercussions, the same is not true for an 'International', in particular for a Westerner (ie someone from a richer nation). The presence of a Westerner by the side of a local who is threatened gives a form of deterrence. The political stakes have been raised, because those who might otherwise carry out such threats or attacks do not want to risk the intervention of the international community. In Guatemala, those who were being accompanied by the organisation for which I worked were witnesses in the genocide trial which a legal team is trying to bring against former military dictators from the 1980s: rural Mayans who had seen their families killed in massacres carried out by the military.

The accompaniment project in Guatemala involves twenty-two Mayan villages in various parts of the country. As well as the witnesses for the trial, many others in the village also had family members killed. In some villages, the witnesses live alongside others who were forced to take part in military patrols at the time of the massacres. I spent five months in the mountains of the Ixil region. We lived in the villages with the witnesses, sometimes staying in the same house (usually wooden huts, often without running water or electricity), eating with the families.

Accompaniment is a strange kind of work. The living conditions are not for the delicate but the chance to live with and share the lives of the families we accompanied is unique and engenders many happy memories that will always remain with me. Bonds made between the accompaniers and all those working and involved in the case lead to friendships worthy of years and I miss that aspect most of all now.

If anyone is interested in getting involved in accompanying work or finding out more about Guatemala, please contact me at: johnhampson@yahoo.fr.

Law Book Fund grows



Nicky Padfield

In the spring of 2003, Professor Richard Hooley, the then Director of Studies in Law at Fitzwilliam, launched the Law Book Fund in *Optima IV*. A leaflet describing the scheme was sent to all Law Members and Nicky Padfield, current DoS, took up the gauntlet and exhorted those who had studied Law here, “This Law Book endowment initiative is fantastic – please support it!” And many did. Names were listed in *Optima VI* and Nicky was able to report, “The scheme has got off to a brilliant start with all students having one core text from the Fund”.

That’s just great but we aren’t there yet. In fact, of the £100,000 sought, £42,896 had been received by September ’06, not quite half way. Fifty-seven separate donors, some giving regularly, have raised this significant total which is fantastic but they represent only 6.5% of all those who have studied Law at Fitz. The scheme has certainly been an initial success with the following textbooks purchased with donated funds:

First year

Criminal Law by Simister and O’Sullivan
Borkowski and du Plessis’ Textbook on Roman Law

Second year

Property Law (4th ed) by R J Smith
Ewan McKendrick’s Contract Law: Test Cases and Materials (2nd ed)

Third year

Parker and Mellows’ Modern Law of Trusts (8th ed) by A J Oakley
EU Law by Paul Craig and Grainne de Burca.

The Law Fellows of Fitzwilliam are very grateful to all those who have donated and Nicky says, “The scheme has been a terrific success from both the students’ perspective and that of the College: not only are we now able to loan all students an up-to-date textbook in all their core subjects, the scheme also takes a certain pressure off the law library. Knowing that the students have these books means we can focus our library purchases on other books and on journals.”

The promised Board of Honour has now been made to commemorate the Patrons (gifts of over £1,000) and the Major Patrons (gifts of over £5,000). This is shortly to be mounted on the wall of the Fitzwilliam law library as originally planned.

Bookplates, bearing the College crest and the wording, “This book was purchased thanks to the generosity of former students and friends of the College”, have been placed in all the donated texts. The students find the book scheme really useful. The ability to borrow and keep key books for a year and then pass them on to the next cohort of students is a great resource and takes some of the pressure off the cost of study.

Wil Mossop (Law 2004) came from Cumbria and loves the College, the atmosphere and the people. He finds the course very challenging but both interesting and enjoyable. He says, “The Law Book Fund is an invaluable scheme which has enabled me to maintain a healthy level of study and a healthy bank balance while I have been at Fitzwilliam College. Continuous access to books such as Simister & O’Sullivan’s ‘Criminal Law’ is essential because they are needed extensively for every supervision, and the cost of buying all of the books ourselves quickly escalates. Having our own copies of the books is extremely useful, not least because we don’t have to hike to the Squire in the freezing cold to fight over the last copy of McKendrick’s ‘Contract Law’, and we can steer clear of the aura of fear which hangs in the libraries during exam term.”

So, **thank you** to those who have helped students like Wil and a reminder to other Law Members of the existence of the Fund, its usefulness to our Law students and the need for further donations so that it may achieve its target and provide textbooks for all Law subjects. Also please, a request to bring the participation rate of those who want to ‘put something back’ from 6.5% into double figures and really show commitment to Law at Fitzwilliam. **Can you help?**

For information about giving to the Law Book Fund, please turn to the centre pages.



Law Book Fund Board of Honour



Wil Mossop

Chaplaincy Appeal

Thirty-one Members came forward in response to the urgent plea featured in *Optima IX*, for more funds to augment the Chaplaincy Fund. The Fund must continue to grow in order to safeguard the post of College Chaplain in perpetuity. Rachel Smith (2002), a recent graduate, not yet established in her career, supported the appeal and said, “To be honest I would not have usually responded to a College appeal for money for the obvious reasons, but I desperately want the Chapel and Chaplain

to continue to be funded. While at Fitz I found the Chaplain a constant source of support, and even when I didn’t directly go to him, I always knew that option was open”. This says it all.

Our gratitude is extended to these new donors and all our other ‘Friends of Fitzwilliam Chapel’ for their continued generosity. The Fund has been boosted in these few months by a further £6,500, taking us past the £250,000 mark. Only another £200,000 to go! Thank you all!



Chapel interior

Lights, camera, action

Tim Sullivan's (Law 1976) film career can be traced back to Fitzwilliam when he received an award from the Master's Gift Fund of £30 to make a short film about a deaf child. Thirty years later, he is a well-known TV and film director (*Coronation Street*, *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*, *Jack and Sarah*) and has just written the screenplay for *Shrek 4*, DreamWorks' film about the continuing adventures of a green ogre.



Tim was here when The Grove was hidden behind a fence, women undergraduates were a thing of the future and, even with an LEA grant, parents footed most of the bills. Despite his switch from English to Law at his father's insistence, his heart was in the theatre and his presence more often to be found at the ADC. The College was strong on sporting prowess rather than the Arts and he remembers seeing Alastair Hignell (1974) in the College bar on Tuesday nights and then watching him play full back for England on television on a Saturday. Impressed as he was, his aspirations led him in other directions and certainly not to distinguish himself for attendance at supervisions when rehearsals were his first priority.

A chain reaction was begun when Iain Reid (1978), his then flatmate, asked him to show Hugh Hudson and David Puttnam around Cambridge while filming *'Chariots of Fire'* and then rustle up extras for the local scenes. This led to contact with David Granger who produced *Brideshead Revisited* and landed him a job driving Anthony Andrews (Sebastian Flyte) around. He subsequently wrote several screenplays with Granger, *A Handful of Dust* and *Where Angels Fear to Tread*. He joined Granada TV as a researcher and enrolled on the Directors Training Scheme, leading to his directing *Coronation Street* in 1988. A number of episodes of *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* followed, starring Jeremy Brett. Although each episode only lasts an hour, it takes two months of preparation followed by a week's rehearsal and another three weeks to shoot. Eighty people are employed in the film unit including location managers who travel the length and breadth of the country looking for suitable venues at which to film.

On the set of *Jack and Sarah*. Tim and Richard E Grant



Granada were supportive when Tim floated the idea of making a film and funding was found (£2 million) to make *Jack and Sarah* in 1996 starring Richard E Grant, Judi Dench and Ian McKellen, with Tim as both screen writer and director. Tim drew on his

experience of babyhood with Bella, his first daughter, in writing the script for this bittersweet comedy where Jack (Richard E Grant) is the hapless father left 'holding the baby'. Twenty or thirty sets of identical three-month old twins were screen-tested in a noisy session in Tim's house and once selected, they were interchangeable. On set, as one baby rested, the other appeared and *vice versa*. When the character later appeared as a one year-old toddler, Tim's second daughter, Sophia played the part, making it a real home movie!

Since then Tim has worked extensively in the States including writing the screenplay for *Shrek 4* (Dreamworks). Animated films are a very different medium with complex dynamics between animators, writers and producers. The film is constantly being developed and remade as storyboards are edited together and dialogue is improvised and improved. Different scriptwriters have been chosen for each of these films, now numbering four and featuring a green ogre and a host of fairytale characters. Voice-overs are by stars such as Antonio Banderas, Cameron Diaz and Eddie Murphy.

Tim has several new projects on the go – one is a comedy romance film that he has written called *Personal Shopping* that he will direct for Paramount Pictures. Another, *26point2* is about the stories behind six different people running in the London Marathon and is due to be shot in March 2007.

Tim revisited College this year and could not fail to be impressed by the new auditorium. He remembers rehearsals in the Reddaway Room, putting plays on at the ADC or in other colleges. He acted in *The Changeling* for Fitzwilliam Drama Society in Christ's College; played a small part in *Bartholomew Fair* in the Marlowe Society production directed by Griff Rhys Jones in 1977 and took a production to the Edinburgh Festival. He feels that many actors and directors owe their success to Cambridge because the absence of taught Drama means it is both student run and student led, and that is the right way to start. Mostly, he recalls the wonderful but somewhat unconventional time he had at Fitzwilliam. When he left a letter arrived, a white envelope obviously from the College and he put it aside, assuming it to be an unpaid bill. Weeks later it resurfaced and he was overwhelmed to find he had been given the Reddaway Prize. These were often awarded for sporting prowess but in his case for services to College Drama and his contribution to 'the prestige of the College'. The book token was for £30 and he bought the *Oxford English Dictionary* in 2 volumes and the College embossed the cover with the College crest in gold. He treasures it today.

The Fitz moment

Ken Olisa (NatSci 1971) talks about “putting back into Fitz” after a cheque from the Hardship Fund helped him survive nearly four decades ago.

“Olisa – why are you here?”

Thirty-five plus years ago, but that moment lives on in my memory as if it were yesterday. Two weeks earlier I had concluded a brilliant gap year at IBM, earning money and being treated as an adult. Now here I was, sitting in front of my Tutor’s intimidating, navy-surplus gunmetal desk, besuited, begowned and bewildered.

It was remarkable how quickly my inner schoolboy revealed himself as I stammered something about him having summoned me and struggled to disentangle the proof, his invitation, from the lining of my pocket.

“Yes, yes.” His impatience was tangible, “I know why you’re here now. I mean why are you at Cambridge?”

It’s funny how the simplest things can confound one! After slogging away to get the grades, pick the College and pass the interview I had rather lost sight of precisely why it all mattered and some lame lines about preferring Cambridge at the Boat Race were better left unsaid. Instead I babbled something inane and unconvincing about getting a degree – perhaps even a First. It cut no ice and I quickly cracked and confessed that I had no idea why I was at Cambridge.

It was then that the Fitz moment occurred. Dick Hardy leant towards me and said, “A Cambridge degree is a passport to anywhere and anything. And, having matriculated, statistically you can assume that you will be awarded a degree. Those who don’t, inherit their father’s land and leave early, suffer a nervous breakdown or die young. I’ve read your file and the first two seem unlikely and the latter is in the hands of God. So, consider that you are set up for life. Make friends, play sports, study and enjoy yourself as a member of Fitzwilliam! Sherry, Ken?”

And that was it, the birth of a lifelong reciprocal commitment.

A term later, in front of the same horrible desk (I wonder what ever happened to them – scuttled at Grafham?) I discovered just how powerful the Fitz community is. Chatting about the vac I almost forget to tell Dick that unfortunately Christmas had been marred by the theft of my car. Taken from the mean streets of Nottingham on the day I drove home from the first term. Not that the loss and eventual return of a rusting A35 was material, but unfortunately the thieves had made off with its contents – just about everything I owned – and I had spent the break working to earn money to begin to replace the lost clothes, stereo, records, tapes, artefacts and books.

“Books?” said Dick. “How much were the missing books worth?” “Oh it’s OK”, I said bravely, “I’ve replaced the three that I need for NatSci.” With a look of amused impatience,



Dick picked up the phone and called the Senior Tutor. After a brief explanation of my predicament he procured a cheque for the enormous sum of £40 from the Hardship Fund so that I could “replace the many missing books”. Or rather, survive for another term.

Looking back on those times, Dick Hardy got it right. I did graduate, albeit at the lower range of his statistical forecast! I did drink deep of the opportunities that Cambridge offered, I did forge life-long friendships and I am lucky to continue to enjoy a happy, varied and successful life.

And over those intervening years the lessons that Fitz taught me about responsibility and reciprocity have never waned. Although my family, business and charitable interests are wide, I try never to pass up an opportunity to put back into Fitz. And it’s not just about money – important though that is. Time, thought, advice and participation are all as important to ensuring that the Fitzwilliam of tomorrow is able to support its Members – from whatever backgrounds and whatever means, as effectively as it helped me nearly four decades ago.

The leaflet enclosed with *Optima XI* follows up on the Annual Fund, launched last September. It features some of the current students who have benefited from student support grants and travel grants, in the same way that Ken remembers being helped. Please help support the Annual Fund and turn to the giving pages in the centre of *Optima*.

Do you have ‘a Fitz Moment’ you wish to talk about? What was the point when your affection for Fitzwilliam and all it embodies, was triggered? Please write in and tell us about it. E-mail Sarah on: sc266@cam.ac.uk



Dick Hardy. Photo supplied by Paul Frost.

The truth or just a tourist trap?

Vicky Robb (Theology 2003) visited Lourdes for her dissertation research, culminating in a ten thousand-word dissertation that contributed up to 25% of her final marks.



"I am very grateful to the College for giving me the opportunity to travel to Lourdes. It has provided me with a firsthand experience of a subject that, until now, I have only been able to read second hand accounts of and in doing so it has not only enriched my study but also my Christian beliefs. I will forever remember the trip as the pinnacle of my academic career, the point at which I was able to study in real depth and detail a subject that engages both my intellect and heart and as a result write a more considered and insightful dissertation. I would like to thank those who have provided me with the financial means to make this possible."



The church at Lourdes

She went to Lourdes to look at contemporary questions for Catholics and Protestants based on their different stance of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to see for herself if the commercialisation and tourist souvenir trade at Lourdes focussed on Mary and the history of her appearance, detracted people's thoughts from focussing on the basic Gospel message.

During the Reformation in the sixteenth century opinion became divided among the Christian Church as to the degree of adoration that was to be offered to the Mother of Jesus. Because of these divisions Marian devotion has appeared to be almost a badge of identity for the Roman Catholic Church, while many Protestants view the excesses in Marian devotion and adoration of the Virgin as idolatry (or Mariolatry). Centres of pilgrimage have developed because of the appearances of Mary in places as varied as Lourdes (France), Mexico City (Guadalupe), Knock (Ireland), Fatima (Russia) and Medjugorje (Bosnia-Herzegovina) and are viewed with extreme scepticism by some Protestants.

In a grotto at Lourdes, Mary is reputed to have appeared eighteen times to Bernadette Soubirous, a fourteen-year old peasant girl in 1858. On Mary's instructions, Bernadette, who was collecting wood in the forest, dug and uncovered a spring that is believed to have healing properties. Mary also ordered that a church should be built which attracts millions of visitors especially on Mary of Lourdes Day, the Marian Feast (Assumption of Mary on 15 August), over Easter and at Christmas. The Church investigates alleged apparitions for protection of the faithful and Lourdes is judged as authentic, 'worthy of belief' and has miracles associated with it, unexplainable by scientists.

Vicky could not have made the trip without the help of a College Travel Award. She spent three days at Lourdes staying in a hostel, on one hand, observing and talking to the pilgrims as they queued to see the shrine and collect holy water and, on the other, intrigued by the steady souvenir trade that threatens to commercialise the little town of Lourdes, undermining the sanctity of the shrine and its central message of penitence.

She found people who had wanted to visit Lourdes all their lives and had made personal sacrifices and experienced profound hardship to do so, some even walking hundred of miles to visit. The majority found being there a meaningful experience. Some take water back from the spring to heal the sick or baptise infants, some touch the rock where the grotto is situated and others just go there to pray.



Statue of Mary

Vicky tried to reconcile the two extreme viewpoints of the different faith groups, comparing the official teachings of the Catholic Church with the Protestant objections that adoration of Mary detracts from the central role of Christ. She talked to shop owners and café waitresses, many who believed in the authenticity of the apparitions. The Medical Bureau has authenticated 66 cures, but many other pilgrims also feel that the waters have healed them and leave photos, crutches, flowers and stories behind authenticating their experiences. Those who are not healed often find strength at Lourdes to persevere in their suffering. Doctors man the medical centre, visiting priests from all over world hold services in English, French and Latin throughout the day. Hundreds of votive candles are lit and placed by believers at the statue of Mary, situated in the grotto where Bernadette is reputed to have seen the apparition. For many the experience is very real and the highlight of their lives.

Of course, some just visit as a tourist and many do take away a reminder of their experience from the souvenir stalls, which may have some meaning. They have been described as, "artefacts of modern industrial production that nonetheless testify to a ubiquitous and profound belief" by Dr Ruth Harris of New College, Oxford in a recent book entitled, 'Lourdes: body and spirit in the secular age.'

Vicky enjoyed the visit to France, the food and wine, the people and the ambience at Lourdes. It helped with her understanding of Marian devotion and, although she herself is a Protestant, was moved by the human element.



Souvenir stall



Praying in front of the grotto

Painting selected for exhibition in the National Portrait Gallery



The BP Portrait Award, now its 27th year, is the leading showcase for young artists specialising in portraiture. It is open to artists from all over the world and carries a first prize of £25,000. The short-listed portraits are also exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery.

Rebecca Smith, daughter of the late Ronald Smith, the well-known concert pianist and former President of the Alkan Society, was commissioned by the College to produce a pencil drawing of the late Dr Charles Leslie Wayper, eminent historian and Life Fellow of Fitzwilliam College. Beka met Leslie Wayper in November 2005 and says, "I was struck by his character and thought what a marvellous subject he would make for the Portrait Competition." So, in addition to the commissioned pencil drawing, she painted him in acrylics and submitted her entry. Out of over a thousand entries, 56 have been selected, Beka's portrait of Leslie Wayper being one of them. It will also feature in a book entitled 'BP Portrait Award 2006'

which will be sold at the exhibition. After the summer exhibition in the National Portrait Gallery, the portraits will move to the Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museum from 25 November 2006 to 7 February 2007 and then to the Royal West of England Academy, Bristol from 31 March to 20 May 2007.

Many alumni remember Leslie Wayper warmly and have written in since they heard of his death in March 2006. "Leslie was a truly delightful man, always cheerful, despite some of our very bad essays, and a very humble scholar," wrote Cedric McCarthy (1948). "He was my Director of Studies and a very fine person; I owe him a great deal," e-mailed Robin Sen-Gupta (1963) from India. For some, this may represent an opportunity to visit one of the galleries and recall fond memories of him.

An obituary will appear in the March 2007 issue of the Fitzwilliam Journal.

Cambridge 800th – commemorative book



As alumni of Cambridge University, you are invited to submit your own reminiscences, photographs and any other material that reflect your personal experiences at Cambridge for a book to be compiled entitled, 'The University of Cambridge; an 800th Anniversary Portrait'. The editor wishes to know about charismatic lecturers, epic moments in sport, highs and lows from university plays or concerts, hard-fought controversies in student politics as well as quieter or reflective thoughts throughout the eras.

We have some leaflets in the Development Office, explaining more fully what is needed (e-mail: sc266@cam.ac.uk) or if you think you have a contribution to fit the bill, it can be sent direct to 'Cambridge Contributions' c/o TMI, 2-5 Benjamin Street, London EC1M 5QL or by e-mail to cambridge800@tmilt.co.uk, marking your message, 'Contributions'. You have until 1 July 2007; the book is scheduled for publication in September 2008.

All things come to he who waits



Planning Consents, both for demolishing the old Boathouse and for building the new, were achieved in May 2006, unfortunately too late for the hoped-for rebuild to be planned in the long vacation of 2006. In the interim, favourable quotes have been obtained from builders and an advisory user group set up to finalise the detailed design. Interest is being accrued on invested funds and the new Boathouse will be built in 2007. The College remains indebted to the 150 plus former oarsmen who have made the possibility of a new up-to-date, fit-for-purpose Boathouse, a reality.

If you remember your rowing days with affection, it isn't too late to add your name to the list of benefactors and be there to see the Billygoat flag raised with pride.

One other small request:

If any ex-oarsmen have any menu cards from Lent or May Bumps or Fairbairn Suppers, in whatever state, can they be sent to the Development Office for the College archives please. A copy can be made and returned (if requested), as we would really like the originals – from any year to the present.

An unlikely trio – David Starkey, Jimmy Greaves and Pacioli!

In this year of the World Cup and ‘football fever’, Peter Phillips (History 1966), a former Cambridge United and Luton Town professional footballer, shares his thoughts on the value of college sport.



One of our foremost historians, our most gifted goal scorer and the ‘Father of Accountancy’ – it does seem an unlikely trio! So, what do the above have in common? If the sporting part of the ‘triumvirate’ had been cricket, it may have been less unusual, as a number of Cambridge sportsmen have gone on to become professional cricketers. Indeed, Christopher Martin-Jenkins (1964), who went on to be a successful cricket broadcaster and journalist, was one of my College cricket captains! However, football, as a profession, was most unusual and requires some explanation.

In the 1960’s, Fitzwilliam, newly endowed with collegiate status, would appear to have embarked on a policy to promote the College by admitting candidates with sporting, as well as academic, ability. Under the great R N Walters, this policy succeeded and Fitzwilliam became synonymous with sporting achievement. Amongst freshmen each year, there would be a sprinkling of capable students with some sporting prowess, sometimes of international standard.

My introduction to Fitzwilliam was a fortuitous and life-changing meeting with Fitzwilliam soccer blue, David Akers (1962) and it led to three of the happiest years of my life and a springboard to much else besides. Reading History was a joy with lectures from the likes of G R Elton, J H Plumb, Walter Ullman, under the kindly and watchful eyes of the late Dr Leslie Wayper and Dr David Thompson, with none other than David Starkey as a PhD graduate at Fitzwilliam. I was also part of some very successful College and University football sides, with two Cuppers wins and three wins in the Blues matches. I found great delight in seeing extremely gifted (but less sporting) academics sharing in the sporting achievements of their fellow students.

On the subject of my career, parental advice was confusing – my mother had an aversion to three careers – bookmaker, footballer and boxer (!), whereas my father had always been keen on accountancy as “in recession or boom, there would always be work for an accountant and good money.” My early view was that I would not be a boring accountant (Monty Python explained

why), certainly not a boxer and probably a history teacher but by my third year I was veering towards my father’s logic and accountancy. Invaluable advice from Bill Kirkman, then head of the University Careers Department, led me to Coopers Lybrand (now PWC) where I was offered a graduate training place and the future seemed secure. David Starkey had been replaced by Pacioli as a role model!

Enter Jimmy Greaves – well, not exactly Jimmy Greaves (although we appeared on opposite sides in a game very late in his career) – football as a possible career path entered the story. My mother’s worst fears were about to be realised when Luton Town made me an offer I could not refuse. Coopers Lybrand were most supportive, released me from my arrangements with them and encouraged contact when my football days were over. Two years at Luton Town and three at Cambridge United ensued. A life of thirty years as a chartered accountant was postponed although I later returned to become a partner in a major accountancy practice. I had a thoroughly enjoyable time, was involved in two promotion seasons (one with each club), met some great characters and some very intelligent ones – the stereotype footballer depicted in the press is many miles from the reality.

Certainly, my career path was unusual, and I wonder if such a journey could happen today? It seems unlikely, as it would appear to the interested observer that Oxbridge admissions policies place too much emphasis on academic results without giving much shrift to the sporting, musical, dramatic or other important qualities necessary to establish a healthy environment for learning and a life outside university. It is possible to possess sporting prowess and still contribute towards and appreciate the academic aspects of university life. My own love of history has remained with me since Fitzwilliam and I derive as much pleasure from, say, David Starkey’s books and television programmes as watching a resurgent Spurs move up the Premier League (well nearly as much!!). At Leslie Wayper’s memorial service, David spoke so eloquently, perfectly pitched for such an occasion, that I regret I did not convey my appreciation at the time; perhaps I was a little in awe of a famous alumnus. At least I was able to thank David Akers, who also attended the memorial service, forty years after that fortuitous meeting.

I have found, throughout life, that the most rewarding environments and communities are enriched by the bond of the team ethic, mainly engendered, it must be said, by sport. Therefore, a parting plea; let admissions policies be less one-dimensional and appreciate mixed ability students or, to paraphrase John Lennon, “Give sport a chance”.

Cambridge United team, 1971/2 season.
Peter Phillips, centre with ball





Maung U Po Kywe

Finding a father

Paula Willby, the daughter of Fitzwilliam Member, Maung U Po Kywe (History 1922) wrote to the College in June 2003 for help in trying to trace her father. Rossie Ogilvie, the then Development Officer, supplied information from the College archives enabling Paula, along with two of her children, to visit Burma (now called Myanmar) earlier this year and meet up with relatives of whose existence they had previously been unaware.

While here, Kywe met and married Paula's mother, Lily Quelch, a local girl whose parents ran a bakery off Hills Road. He returned to Burma by sea just before the start of the Second World War and Paula's parents divorced during the war. Communications were poor in the 1940s and all contact was lost.

A postcard sent to the Censor in 1931 and a letter requesting graduation certification in 1937, confirmed addresses in Burma. Armed with these details and due to the relaxation of laws enabling foreigners to visit parts of Burma previously denied, Paula's effort to trace him received a welcome boost. She found that her father, who died in 1956, had been a respected headmaster, had remarried giving her two half sisters and learned of other relatives in different parts of the world. She wrote to thank the Development Office in May saying, "We as a family have a lot to thank you for, you were a big step in finding our Burmese family. Thank you for your kindness".

Azores trip



Chris and Andrea at Lagoa Verde

Dr Chris McGuigan (NatSci 1982) won the competition in *Optima VIII* for a two for the price of one, whale-watching trip in Azores, kindly donated by Sarah Bennett (1989) of Archipelago Azores (www.azoreschoice.com). Chris and his partner, Andrea visited the Azores in July 2006 and are pictured in front of a flooded volcanic crater at the west end of the main island of San Miguel, during their trip.

Chris said, "Thanks to the individual holiday 'tailoring' and attention to detail by Sarah Bennett and colleagues at Archipelago Azores, we had a great holiday and all the arrangements went like clockwork. They even laid on pleasant weather, friendly folk, excellent food and 'magical' sea life which was kind of them!"

Thanks indeed and congratulations to Sarah Bennett on the birth of baby Lara in July.

Word search competition

The competition in *Optima XI* is to see how many words of 3 letters or more can be made from the phrase 'FITZWILLIAM COLLEGE' (there are lots!). Words must occur in the Oxford English Dictionary, no proper names/nouns allowed (ie William) and no letter can be used more than the number of times it occurs in the phrase (ie I x 3; L x 4). Entries should be received by 28 February 2007 and in the event of a tie for first place, the winner will be drawn at random from the winning entries received by the closing date.

The prize will be an all-inclusive dinner for two in College with overnight accommodation on an evening of your choosing, subject to availability. Please send your list of words to Dr



Sarah Coppendale, Development Office, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge CB3 0DG, along with your name, address, matriculation year and e-mail address.

Goats do roam

Jane Duckworth (Law 1997) and her partner, Nick Bunch (Mathematics 1997) won the competition in *Optima IX*, correctly identifying Brian-the-Goat's destinations as (1) The Great Wall of China, (2) Machu Picchu, Peru, (3) Niagara Falls, Canada and (4) Che Guevara Memorial, Cuba. The wine has arrived safely and they've enjoyed sampling it.

Jane and Nick met at Fitzwilliam, have done some travelling since leaving (including visiting three out of the four places featured) and now live in Clapham and work in the city, Nick as an actuary and Jane as an employment lawyer. They recently travelled to Australia to attend Nick Hough's (Classics 1997) wedding along with Lewis Burnett (Geography 1997).



Jane and Nick in South America Brian in Prague

Thanks to Neil Rickards (1998) for photographing Brian on his travels. We were slightly concerned with another picture he sent of Brian taken one evening in Prague but Neil told us not to worry, he was just a kid then.

by Emma Smith

Emma Smith

Events and Alumni Relations

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Make it a Billy Christmas

As you are aware, Fitz stocks a wonderful range of memorabilia for our Members. The whole range can be viewed and ordered from our website www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/alumni – click on College Memorabilia.

There are stocking fillers such as the Berol pens and key-rings as well as our popular mounted prints and the beautifully engraved Parker pen and pencil set. A selection of clothing is available too including rugby shirts, t-shirts and cricket jumpers as well as the traditional College ties, available in silk or polyester.

There's much more besides, so do take a look!

Career Networking Update

We have nearly 200 registered Career Contacts already, which is a fantastic achievement. Thanks to all of you who have shown your support so far.

If you have not yet registered and would like more information, visit our website at: www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/alumni and click on Career Network.

There is so much interest from our Members in giving careers help to our students that we will be holding a two-day Careers Event here at Fitz next February.

Further information, and ideas of how you can be involved, will be published on our website in due course.

Overseas Chapters

Since publishing details about our Overseas Chapters in the 2006 Journal, we have established a further six:

- ♦ New South Wales, Australia
- ♦ Western Australia
- ♦ Midi-Pyrenees, France
- ♦ Malaysia
- ♦ Thailand
- ♦ Texas, USA

All of the above have a Local Contact. If you would like more information about these or any of the others Chapters, contact the Development Office.

If you live in New South Wales or will be visiting in November, you may like to join guests for drinks. Michael Duffett (1952) and his wife, Ann will be hosting an evening at their home in Dover Heights on November 25th. Do let us know if you and your partner would like to attend.

To past Fitz students involved with Campus

Campus Children's Holidays is 40!! Were you ever involved with Campus, a Cambridge-based, student run, charity providing respite holidays to disadvantaged children from Liverpool? If so, we would love to hear from you! To celebrate this milestone we are organising an event for ex-helpers. Please e-mail Rachel Nichols (chair@campusholidays.org.uk) or visit our website www.campusholidays.org.uk



New York, New York

This is a reminder that the Master will be hosting a dinner in New York on Friday 23rd February 2007 to celebrate his 60th birthday.

Members on the East Coast will be sent an invitation. If you are going to be in New York and would like to attend, please contact us for your invitation.

Dates for your Diary

10th Nov 2006	Alkan Competition
11th Nov 2006	Alkan Scholarship Recital
16th Nov 2006	Foundation Lecture
25th Nov 2006	NSW Drinks Evening
2nd Dec 2006	Fairbairn Dinner
2nd Dec 2006	Cambridge in America Day II, NYC
9th Jan 2007	Daiichi Reunion
23rd Feb 2007	New York Dinner
3rd May 2007	London Dinner
23rd June 2007	Past v Present Cricket Match
21st-23rd Sept 2007	Reunion Weekend

For further information and tickets for musical events, please telephone the Porters' Lodge on 01223 332000 or visit the Music Society website at www.rt-associates.co.uk/fcms

Letters from Members

Peter Bartram (1959) suggested that a 'Letters section' from Members might engender feedback and encourage dialogue. We would, of course be pleased to hear from our readers on any subject but cannot promise to publish everything. Space is always at a premium so we reserve the right to choose which letters to include and to edit them if necessary. With that proviso, do write to the editor, Sarah Coppendale; she'd love to hear from you!

