It's hard to believe that this is my final message in the Edition as Master of St Edmund's. It has been a wonderful few years at the helm and much has changed in that time.

A dominant theme of the last year and of coming months is the physical transformation of the College. We are on the brink of completing the next phase of physical expansion on our site - the Mount Pleasant Halls accommodation is due to open at the end of September 2019, just as I come to the end of my time as Master. This will provide our students with an additional 200 en-suite rooms and 75 studios and increase our on-site accommodation from just under half of the student body to around 80% - something that we think will make a huge improvement to students’ experience at St Edmund’s.

The human face of the College is also changing. Last year we saw the retirement of Mike Herrtage from the Vice Mastership, Phil Gardiner as Secretary of the Governing Body, and Father Alban McCoy as Dean, although he will continue as Acting Dean for a while longer. All have been warmly thanked for the contributions they have made in giving the College such a warm, friendly and caring character.

On the other hand, we welcome Philip McCosker as the new Vice Master. Another rather more earthy addition to the Tutorial Office’s offer has been an allotment, where students can grow their own herbs and vegetables!

Together with the CR team, led by Benjamin Schönfuß and Aastha Dahal, this all contributed to a happy student body that performed better than ever academically. We achieved our highest ever position in the Tompkins Table in 2017/18 – 21st. Following a 4 place rise last year, this was the best ever performance of any of the graduate and mature colleges - a very gratifying result!

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colleges and placed us above some of the more established standard-age ones! A very gratifying result.

In this current academic year we are celebrating the College’s rich tradition of Sport. This dates back to the 1960s when we had our first blues, through the 1990s and 2000s when we racked up an impressive 12 Olympians, up to the present day, when we routinely have Eddies students in both the Boat Race and the Varsity Rugby teams. We held our first dinner for Sports alumni in November – welcoming back members of the 1976 College Men’s Boat - and we hope to make this an annual event in the calendar.

Talking of the alumni community, we have been very touched by your enormous generosity this year, not just in terms of hospitality when we travel the world on College business, but also in support of our fundraising efforts.

It has been a privilege to be the Master of St Edmund’s since I took up the post in 2014.

Two crowdfunding appeals have surpassed our expectations in raising additional funds to purchase a new punt for the College and to hasten the much-needed renovation of the Combination Room, in particular the wooden floor which had seen rather too many years of parties and bops! We will continue to seek support, at all levels, from our worldwide alumni network for both our student experience focused ‘Eddies Fund’ and for our ongoing building projects, as we turn our attention to the next phase of our estates masterplan, the first of the ‘East Court’ buildings – watch this space!

In Spring last year the Development Director, Kate Glennie, and I travelled to Asia, visiting alumni in Singapore and Hong Kong. I then went on to Shanghai and Beijing to meet our former students there for the first time, together with alumni groups from the Judge Business School, with which I am also associated. I think they were surprised to hear of the scale of growth and change affecting both Eddies and the wider Cambridge economy. This May we are visiting both coasts of the USA, to coincide with the Vice-Chancellor’s trip there and the University’s Campaign dinners in New York and San Francisco.

It has been a privilege to be the Master of St Edmund’s since I took up the post in 2014 and I hope to continue my association with the College after I step down in October. I have enjoyed meeting Eddies from across the world and I encourage those of you who have not visited in a while to come back and see how the College has changed, grown, and prospered.

- Mr Matthew Bullock
Master

The Master and Margie Wilkinson, first female student to matriculate at St Edmund’s, earlier this year.
From the Vice Master

Following a nominations process and a Fellowship election on 22 February 2018, Dr Philip McCosker was appointed to succeed Prof Michael Herrtage as Vice-Master of St Edmund’s College from October 2018.

Prof Herrtage became a Fellow of the College in 1990 and has served the College superbly in many ways over several decades. Having been Senior Tutor, he was elected Vice-Master in 2007 to succeed Rev Dr Geoffrey Cook who in turn had been elected in 1983. Prof Herrtage’s manifold contributions to College life were all on top of a more-than-fulltime highly distinguished academic career at the University’s Veterinary School where he focused his research on small animal endocrinology and was Professor of Small Animal Medicine and Dean of the School. He has been President of several academic and veterinary societies and associations and received numerous awards, most recently the World Small Animal Veterinary Association International Award for Scientific Achievement for Outstanding Contributions by a Veterinarian in 2014. Although he formally retired from these positions in September 2018, anyone who knows Mike knows that his work continues apace, both in the veterinary and College communities.

We wish him all the very best for his active retirement.

Dr McCosker is the Director of the Von Hügel Institute for Critical Catholic Inquiry (VHI) based at the College, an affiliated lecturer in the Divinity Faculty, and Director of Studies in Theology at St Edmund’s, Magdalene, and Murray Edwards Colleges. He has taught theology in Oxford and Cambridge over the last ten years, and is a visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry at the Australian Catholic University.

The Vice-Master’s role can seem a slightly mysterious one and one which often operates behind the scenes. The main function of the role is to represent, foster and encourage the College’s Fellowship.

This is key when fellows are under increasing pressures. There are also more humdrum administrative and management tasks and many committees, as well as occasionally deputising for the Master. In the current year one of the most exciting tasks for the Vice-Master has come round: to organise and lead the search for our new Master to succeed Matthew Bullock on his retirement in September 2019. That search lasted for six months and attracted 42 applications from 10 countries (and involved over 1000 emails, several hundred letters, and many hours of online meetings and phone calls!). Over several recruitment stages that field was reduced to a shortlist of eight candidates and at an election on 30 January 2019 the Fellowship selected Catherine Arnold OBE to be our next Master!

- Dr Philip McCosker
Vice-Master
As the dead leaves flutter from the bough and another year draws to its inexorable conclusion, it is an apposite juncture to look back over the events of the last twelve months and look forward to what may be incubating beneath the steadily accumulating leaf litter, waiting to emerge over the ensuing annual reckoning.

Improving on 2017’s impressive set of exam results may have seemed like a tall order; however, our students achieved a record number of 1sts (33) in Easter term 2018, so many in fact that extra funds had to be requested from the Bursar in order to make all the appropriate awards and avoid bankrupting the Tutorial Office – seldom can the threat of bankruptcy have been so welcomed and the prospect of being once again on one’s uppers next summer anticipated with such a sense of serenity.

Much else has been going on besides exams; the fourth Student Conference was a great success, ably organised by Andreas Wildner (2015), who also gave a highly accomplished performance on the College’s recently donated Bechstein grand piano at the Alumni concert in September. Continuing this theme, Michael Bascom (2016) had his musical retelling of Emily Brontë’s classic, Wuthering Heights, performed for the first time at the Corpus Playhouse and found it met with enthusiastic reviews – congratulations to Michael and everyone else involved. Our first ever Luzio Scholar; Toby Salisbury (2013), having more or less completed his PhD, has left to pursue a career in the Foreign Office and Georges Lemaître (1923) has finally been recognised by the International Astronomical Union, who have recommended that his name be added to what is currently known as Hubble’s law.

Coming back down to earth from the ever expanding reaches of the Universe, I was delighted to welcome our first intake of Graduate Medics along with all the other new (and not so new) faces at the beginning of Michaelmas. One of those I recognised was that of Iris Pissaride, the most recent recipient of the Luzio Scholarship, who was here as an undergraduate in 2011, as a Master’s student in 2014 and has returned to St Edmund’s after a three-year hiatus to complete the College hattrick and read for a PhD in the Department of Sociology.

Speaking of hiatuses, it has been impossible to ignore the increasingly resplendent edifice that is Mount Pleasant Halls as it has arisen from what was a rubble strewn crater over the last 18 months. Excitingly, work is ahead of schedule and it looks certain that the building will be ready for next October. Whilst there is a mock-up room behind Benet House you can visit, should you wish to don a hard hat, other protective gear and truly appreciate the total architectonic effect, tours of the main site can be arranged through the indefatigable Janusz Dudzic, Head of Facilities.

I would like to thank and congratulate every member of the College, especially the CR, for creating such a welcoming, vibrant and productive community – I firmly believe that it is this that has contributed to every success that St Edmund’s has enjoyed in the past year and will continue to contribute to every success in the future.

- Dr Judith Bunbury
Senior Tutor
From the Dean

That the College has a chapel at all is due to the single-minded determination and remarkable foresight of the third Master, Father Thomas Leighton Williams (1909-18), whose tenure included the Great War. It is astonishing that the chapel project was achieved during the course of that conflict. Father Williams's modesty shines through his own description of his feat: “We have been able to build a simple but beautiful chapel where Mass may be offered daily for many years to come.”

It is universally agreed that the enhancements and the sculpture of St Edmund to mark the centenary celebration two years ago have enhanced the Chapel’s physical and spiritual prominence immeasurably. Alongside liturgical and private use, and as well as being the place where new Fellows and Senior Members are admitted and new students matriculate, the chapel is increasingly used as both a lecture and concert space. This pleasing development has been amply aided by the arrival in the Chapel of a magnificent Bechstein grand piano, the generous gift to the College of Lord Rees, the Astronomer Royal and former Master of Trinity. Without in any way detracting from the Chapel’s primary purpose, these further uses have contributed to a sense of its relevance to all members of the College, irrespective of creed or persuasion.

Another recent, more explicitly religious adornment to the Chapel, has been an icon of our patron, St Edmund of Abingdon, ‘written’ (as is said of icons, rather than ‘painted’) by the iconographer, Annie Shaw, herself of the Greek Orthodox Church, using traditional methods and materials, including squirrel and sable brushes and pigments ground from precious minerals mixed with egg yolk. The image derives from contemporary sources and even the episcopal vestments depict those that belonged to St Edmund which are now kept in the museum at Sens Cathedral. The generous donor of the icon was an alumnus of the College, Major F.W. Rawding (Rtd), a mature undergraduate in 1970s, and a close friend of the then Master and historian of the College, Canon Garrett Sweeney. The icon, which was blessed at our College celebration on the Feast of St Edmund by the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Thomas Adams, and the Bishop of East Anglia, our local bishop, Bishop Alan Hopes, will very soon be permanently installed in the Chapel.

It is a particular pleasure to welcome back to the College alumni who wish to be married here or have their children baptised in the Chapel, of which there is a steady stream throughout the year, followed by receptions and parties in the dining hall or the Garden Room. If you would like to use the Chapel, please feel free to make direct contact with me, in the first instance. Arrangements can then be made with the College’s Head of Domestic Operations for the reception.

On a personal note: you may notice that, unlike my message in last year’s Edition, this one comes to you from the Acting Dean. This is because I reached the university and college retirement age during the summer vacation. I am delighted to report, however, that by means of a characteristically Cantabrigian conceit, it has been possible to continue beyond retirement age, and for the time being, as Acting Dean, all else remaining as it was.

Deo Gratias and Happy New Year.

- Fr Alban McCoy
Acting Dean
As 2019 marches on there are many challenges for all of us but a key one for those of us in College is the impending completion of Mount Pleasant Halls.

Taking on this huge accommodation block in the summer will, for the first time, enable us to offer accommodation to most of our students. The standard of accommodation will be excellent and the mock up room has been visited by many prospective residents. The logistical challenges that come with more than doubling our estate and operational responsibilities overnight is considerable, and that is necessarily a focus of attention for the remaining months of the year. The new accommodation will be ready for occupation in Michaelmas 2019.

Some of the changes that we will see include us recruiting for the first time Night Porters, as well as a Head Porter, and others to provide additional capacity to manage the site. There will be a new Porter’s Lodge accessible via Huntingdon Road, as well as the Reception area we already know.

In December 2018, the tree and wall line between Mount Pleasant Halls and the rest of the College site came down, enabling all to see from the main site through the central walkway right through to the Porter’s Lodge. It all became rather real at that point!

Other notable changes include retendering for our caterers and a new look for our dining options. We are expanding our social space with the conversion of the Senior Combination Room into an all day café – Edspresso – which we hope will both provide a space where staff, students and fellows can meet together; but also will provide an all day food outlet to supplement the hours when the dining hall is not serving.

The beginning of 2019 also saw the renovation of the CR (and notably the replacement of that floor), made possible only thanks to the generosity of many of you in the alumni community. With the addition of extra CR space from the conversion of office space on the main corridor we are hoping to provide more amenities for students, as well as staff and fellows.

2019 is going to be an exciting year and whether it is to sample the new food, dance on the new CR floor, or see the Mount Pleasant Halls development for yourself, there are many reasons to consider returning to St Edmund’s this year. Please do not hesitate to look me up and have a tour!

- Mrs Edna Murphy
   Bursar

It’s been a busy year for the Development Office with new staff members joining the team and with our activity in terms of events, appeals, communications, social media and international travel all going up a gear.

We are pleased to be in touch with more alumni than ever before and to have started to establish a growing network of self-supporting alumni groups across the world, most notably in Singapore and Hong Kong where our ambassadors on the ground host events 2/3 times a year. We have also held events in Dublin and Paris, and have supported members of the fellowship who travel abroad to host small drinks events in the cities they visit.

The last year has also seen a steady growth in fundraising and the college is extremely grateful to the continued support of our alumni community. In particular it was wonderful to see so many alumni engage with our two online crowdfunding appeals that have enabled the College to buy a new punt and to complete a much needed renovation of the CR, well ahead of schedule. Looking to the future, our thoughts now turn to the plans for East Court and leveraging the support of alumni and friends thus far for the Masters Development Fund into the next phase of expansion of the College site.

I look forward to welcoming more of you back to the College over the coming year and meeting many others on my trip to the USA with the Master in May 2019.

- Mrs Kate Glennie
   Development Director
The last year has been über busy for the Von Hügel Institute for Critical Catholic Inquiry: its public event series on the theme of ‘grammars of wonder’ drew frequently big audiences as well as increased media interest; we held three significant interdisciplinary workshops, as well as continuing our work on fundraising for the future of the VHI as a leading Institute of Advanced Catholic Studies. For the first time, we held a number of events around the world thus growing the number of our international friends and networks.

The public events this year were organised around the theme of ‘grammars of wonder’: the aim was to expand our view of the world we live in beyond the simply prosaic, physical, and material reality, and recapture a sense of wonder that there is anything at all, and open up to the metaphysical. We did this from a wide variety of disciplinary angles, as usual: economics, poetry, philosophy, creativity, artificial intelligence, relationality and music. The series culminated in a fantastic lecture-recital in the Chapel by the international virtuoso cellist Steven Isserlis CBE accompanied by pianist Tom Poster on the theme of innocence and wonder in music (pictured above). This event was electrifying. As usual recordings of all our events can be found on our website.

The annual VHI Lecture was given by HE Cardinal Blase Cupich, the Archbishop of Chicago. Widely seen as Pope Francis’ personal nomination to the see of Chicago, the Cardinal spoke about six key hermeneutical principles behind Pope Francis’ text Amoris Laetitia which urges Christians to take a more evidence-based approach to relationships and family life which is grounded in reality on the ground rather than impossible and outdated ideals. This lecture drew a large audience on the day and several thousand views online. By the end of the lecture its contents were already being widely debated around the world online. While in Cambridge the Cardinal was interviewed by The Tablet and The Catholic Herald, as well as the pope’s biographer and VHI friend and contributor, Austen Ivereigh.

Under its ‘umbrella’ theme of ‘catholicity’ the VHI encourages interdisciplinary research on a whole host of different areas which point to constrictions of catholicity: areas where there are contemporary issues where a broader and deeper ethical perspective may...
shed fresh light. In the last year we held three international workshops. One considered the proliferating debates on physician assisted suicide in the context of mental health and disability; the papers from this workshop have recently been published in the international journal Religion and Disability. Another workshop considered the role of trust in a variety of reconciliation processes around the world in order to focus afresh on the situation in Palestine. It involved scholars of ethics, sociology, media, theology, economics and conflict studies as well as ambassadors and activists: it will lead to two further workshops in the next academic year and a variety of publications. The third workshop last year addressed the ethical and societal issues connected with the early detection of cancer, again from multiple perspectives. After a day of invitation-only papers, scholars formed a discussion panel chaired by Dr Fiona Godlee (Editor-in-Chief, British Medical Journal) for a public event which was part of the University of Cambridge’s Festival of Science, and was attended by 120 people.

For the first time the VHI has organised events beyond Cambridge. We held a book launch for Dr Luigi Gioia’s “Say It To God” which was chosen by Archbishop Justin Welby to be the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent Book 2018. It was launched at the University of Notre Dame’s London Gateway in Trafalgar Square by Lord Rowan Williams of Oystermouth, Master of Magdalene College and former Archbishop of Canterbury. The book also had launches in New York, including Trinity Church on Wall Street. We also held presentations of the work of the VHI at Cambridge in America in New York.

Our global scholarly collaborations and development networks continue to grow. The VHI Director hosted an initial symposium on the theme ‘varieties of catholicity’ at the Institute of Religion and Critical Inquiry at the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne: this was one of the initial stages in a much longer research collaboration between our two institutions. Towards the end of the year we hosted a very successful visit from the Director, Prof Brad Gregory, and Associate Director, Dr Don Stelluto, of the University of Notre Dame’s Institute of Advanced Studies. After a series of meetings over three days we agreed the basis for a multi-faceted draft Memorandum of Understanding between our two Institutions. Towards the end of the summer, the VHI Director and VHI Development Officer visited Singapore for a series of 20 meetings (in 5 days!) about potential VHI work there, coordinated by our dynamic new VHI fundraising consultant, Mr Vincent Anandraj. These international developments are extremely exciting!

During the course of the year the VHI Director was elected by the College’s fellowship to be the next Vice-Master of the St Edmund’s. In this capacity, he will be the representative of the fellows in College as well as fostering the fellowship, and lead the search for the next Master.

Every year is different at the VHI, but this one has been especially full and stimulating. 2018-19 is also off to a good start: our events this year are around the theme ‘catholicity: crises and opportunities?’, and we are completing the triennial review of the VHI: more on that next time! We always welcome inquiries and feedback about our work: please do check it out on our website and on social media and be in touch.

- Dr Philip McCosker
VHI Director
On Thursday 6 December 2018, two St Edmund’s men represented the University in the 137th Varsity rugby match at Twickenham. Andrew Hunter, an Australian reading Management Studies, played in the second row, was in the starting line up and won his third blue. Fresher Oliver Gnodde, a South African natural scientist who plays at centre, came on as a replacement in the second half.

Although Cambridge got off to a good start, leading 9-3 after 35 minutes, an Oxford try just before the interval signaled a change in the fortunes of the Cambridge team, who eventually lost the match 38-16.

Though unfortunately there were no St Edmund’s women in the squad this time, it is still worth mentioning that the result of the women’s 30th match was in contrast to the men’s performance earlier that day, with Cambridge winning 8-5.
First Blue - Mike Smith

New Zealander Mike Smith came to the College (then St Edmund’s House) in 1967. He joined the CU Boxing Club and became the first student at the College to be awarded a Blue. Fifty years later he still remembers fondly his time in Cambridge.

“Dance like a bee, sting like a butterfly”

I have no idea what Canon Sweeney, the College’s Master, thought of my decision as a Catholic priest to seek to join the Cambridge boxing team fifty years ago. Jane Luzio was his Secretary at the time. She may know but I suspect it was passed over in silence.

It certainly gave the papers something to write about. Experienced sports journalists were not that impressed with the skills on display, but the paradox helped out when The Times said: “in the heavyweights, the handsome rugby-playing priest from New Zealand, the Rev A.M.B. Smith, earned redemption for Cambridge when with courage in his left and faith in his right, he beat Deighton in a slugging match, to give Cambridge the third win.”

The Evening Standard headlined “Father Smith’s Lesson - Battling Priest wins in Varsity Punch-Up. The 27-year old Smith - ‘a fourth-year theologian, but don’t let that fool you’ said the programme – turned out to be a priest with a power of punch, even though he failed to subdue a rough handful in Rupert Deighton, who drew blood in the opening round. Not surprisingly, this 14 1/2 stoner revealed a reasonable knowledge of left-hand jabbing, which Deighton could only escape by going into a brotherly embrace.”

I am very grateful to the time I spent at St Ed’s, to the Master, Fellows, and student and staff friends. 1968 was a tumultuous year in the Church and in wider society, and St Ed’s was a haven in which and from which we could discuss, analyse and explore options and start making what were sometime wrenching choices. Launching into the unexpected as the “punching padre” played its part. It wasn’t just muscular Christianity.

Having a boxing Blue proved useful in later life in the much more rugged arena of Labour Party politics. At one important juncture, reputation fortunately outran the requirement to perform, as “I could be very angry with you, but you’re a boxer” settled the question.

One who should not be forgotten in celebrating St Ed’s fifty years of sporting endeavour is Bernard Buckley RIP who initiated the Rowing Club and Mike Casey has written a fine appreciation. Bernard’s interests included boxing and we went together to support Cambridge at the Varsity match in 2016. Mike mentions Bernard’s pas-de-deux with Jane Luzio in the 1968 production of Swan Lake – that was another occasion when I danced like a bee.

We all went to a Rowing Club dinner a few years ago at which Bernard spoke about being one of the acorns from which the mighty oaks of St Ed’s sporting achievements have grown. I would also like to pay tribute to Paul Luzio, former Master, who sought to attract the finest sporting talent to the college. They certainly dazzle my wife Mary. Looking at the CUABC Honour Board I see many other boxers from St Ed’s, many of them heavyweights as well. I too feel proud of being a small part of the College’s sporting tradition as its first Blue.

- Mike Smith
Boat Club Anniversary - 50 Years of Rowing
With the 50th anniversary of the St Edmund’s College Boat Club (SECBC) coming up in 2019, former Master Prof Paul Luzio - who has a long-standing connection with the club - shares some remarks on the club’s history.

The year 2019 will mark the 50th anniversary of the St Edmund’s College Boat Club (SECBC). This is not to say that rowing wasn’t a pastime favoured by earlier members of St Edmund’s. Indeed, in his Master’s report 1956-57, the Right Reverend Monsignor Canon Raymond Corboy recorded that “a novel incident of the Easter term was Downing’s fifth boat being manned entirely by members of St Edmund’s House.” Nevertheless, it wasn’t until the late 1960s, after St Edmund’s had become one of the first graduate colleges, that a Boat Club was formed. In his history of the first eighty years of St Edmund’s, Corboy’s successor as Master, the Very Reverend Canon Garret Sweeney described “some of the student and academic activities proper to collegiate life” beginning to make their appearance. He wrote, “earliest in point of time was a Boat Club which competed in the Fairbairns, Lents and Mays of 1969-70 but had a somewhat uncertain existence. It failed to qualify during the two subsequent years, passed for a time out of existence, and reappeared on the river for the Mays of 1975 and Lents of 1976”. So, just as the mists swirl along the Cam on cold, damp mornings during Michaelmas and Lent terms, they swirl around the origins of our Boat Club.

As Mike Smith has pointed out in another article in this Edition, it was Bernard Buckley who actually initiated the Boat Club and in 2011 Bernard donated to the College archive some documents relating to its foundation and early years. One of Bernard’s key actions in October 1969 was to write to the then CUBC President David Cruttenden, who responded by giving permission to St Edmund’s to put a boat on the river and enter the Bumps. Thus, St Edmund’s entered a men’s crew in the 1970 Lent Bumps and recorded the first ever bump by a St Edmund’s boat. The first St Edmund’s boat to win blades was the men’s first May boat in 1975 but, despite other successes in the mid-1970s, the progress of the Boat Club was not steady. In 1985 a report by the then CR President John Kalmus recorded that “those of us rowing back in the mists of time (i.e. pre-1984) will remember our old College ‘eight’, El Vita, with a mixture of amusement and affection”. After frequent breakages and much application of G-clamps and glue it soon became clear that ElVita had reached the end of her life. This led to the purchase of a second hand boat from Clare and a completely new set of oars but, despite the new equipment, success on the river was intermittent and remained elusive until the 1990s. This coincided with the admission to St Edmund’s of a succession of outstanding oarsmen, who not only rowed for the University in the men’s Blue boat but also rowed in the St Edmund’s first May boat whenever their other rowing commitments allowed. Thus, from 1993 (when our first men’s rowing blues were Malcolm Baker, now Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, Jon Bernstein and Richard Phelps, now a Henley Steward), the men’s first boat in the Mays started its climb to its current position towards the top of Division 2. In addition, the Bumps races increasingly saw the presence of second and even third men’s crews, as well as the occasional appearance of women’s boats described below.

To date 36 members of St Edmund’s have rowed for the University in the men’s Blue boat and 11 others in Goldie (the men’s second boat). Between them, those Eddies oarsmen have won 12 gold, 7 silver and 12 bronze World...
Championship medals as well as 3 silver and 2 bronze Olympic medals before, during or after their time in Cambridge.

Women's rowing has also participated in its share of success at St Edmund's. In 1985 Sarah Cleaveland (now Professor of Comparative Epidemiology at Glasgow, Fellow of the Royal Society and OBE) became the first St Edmund's student to win a rowing blue and was also in a winning crew at the National Championships. Since then, 3 St Edmund's students have represented the University in Blondie (the women’s second boat) and 4 in the women’s lightweights. Of course, like the men, the women have had their ups and downs. As recently as 2000, it was noted in the history of the Bumps that, “With very small numbers, it is not surprising that St Edmund’s has only been represented very rarely in either women’s Lents or Mays. During the mid-1990s, thanks mainly to the enthusiasm of its Captain Anna Melville-James, St Edmund’s put out women’s Boats for three consecutive sets of races, but other than this has only appeared a total of six times in approximately twenty years”.

Since 2000 however, the College Boat Club has gone from strength to strength, with greater numbers of students rowing and our boats steadily climbing the charts. One highlight occurred in 2008 with the Club winning the Pegasus Cup, which is awarded annually to the most successful college boat club competing in the May Bumps. After many years of squatting in different boat houses on the Cam, the College made a formal agreement with the Cambridge ’99 Rowing Club in 2013, whereby our boats are now stored in the Nine’s boathouse and our athletes have the use of their gym and other facilities. 2018 saw 2 men’s boats and 1 women’s boat in both the Lents and the Mays as well as our biggest ever novice programme this Michaelmas term. Rowers from St Edmund’s also recently claimed two world records on the ‘erg’, longest continual row by a team of 4 and fastest million metres by a small team of 10 in the male 20-29 years heavyweight category.

As we start our second 50 years, we have a College Boat Club that is better organised and supported than ever before. It has a revised constitution, including a senior committee, with several very supportive fellows, fellow commoners and other senior members, as well as the full support of the present and former Masters. Our Boat Club alumni have also been active in enthusiastically contributing towards coaching and equipment as well as sometimes coaching themselves. In 2002, on the eve of the men’s Boat Race, a dozen alumni of St Edmund’s Boat Club gathered for dinner in the RAC in Pall Mall and founded the 2020 ‘club’ and dinner: The goal of the 2020 club “other than enjoying one another’s company within the alumni base is to help the men’s and women’s eights go head of the May/Lent Bumps (whichever comes sooner) in 2020”. Sadly, that is now mathematically impossible, but the club and dinner (which is now open to present students at a rate subsidised by the alumni as well as all SECBC alumni) have continued to thrive, with the 2019 dinner held on Saturday 6 April at the Oriental Club in London. It proved once again a wonderful occasion for Eddies boaties to celebrate their rose-tinted memories of the Cam during the evening before both men’s and women’s Boat Races were rowed from Putney to Mortlake.

To those who were present at the founding of the St Edmund’s Boat Club in 1969 its subsequent development and rise in the Bumps, as well as its membership sometimes including world champions and Olympians, may seem almost miraculous. That we are jousting amongst the likes of Trinity Hall and Fitzwilliam first boats towards the top of the men’s Division 2, as well as being in the top half of the women’s Division 3 in the Mays, is a tribute to all those who have rowed and contributed so much to the Boat Club. Division 1 now beckons for both the men and the women and, although we may not achieve it by 2020, one day we shall indeed be Head of the River.

- Prof Paul Luzio
former Master and active Benefactor of SECBC
The Boat Club Today

St Edmund’s College Boat Club is reaching new highs. Although the 2018 campaign did not return any blades, there were still some great achievements. The weather was unforgiving during Lent Bumps, but our Men’s “Steady Eddies” still achieved honorary blades. In May Bumps, our Women’s crew – possibly the most international boat on the water with only one double nationality, Dutch – avoided all the top boats in their division, making it impossible for everyone in their division to attain oars, thus inspiring the self-attributed title of “Blade Blockers”.

The new academic year began with unprecedented success. We’ve registered the highest intake of novices, featuring for the first time ever two women’s teams! The first University-wide novice competition of the year – Queens’ Ergs – proved that Eddie’s has become a force to be reckoned with. The Men’s crew claimed first place, and the Women’s crew counted with the second fastest novice woman across the University!

This year also counted with a large number of returning seniors, setting out the club for great success. With the recent successes in our back and bulging members in our ranks, we have begun exploring much needed upgrades in our facilities and capabilities. We are excited that College has approved space for an erg shed on college grounds as a first step to keep our 2020 dreams alive.

The friendships forged at the Boat Club are a testimony to the sentiment of Eddie’s rowing. Recently we had the pleasure of welcoming back four rowers of the first Eddies crew to blade for an outing. We would be delighted to host more such reunions, so please do get in touch if you would like to organise an outing!
**Student Sports - 2018**

*Have a look at some of the achievements from our students in the past year!*

**Tennis and Squash Clubs**

Our growing racket-swinging clubs are steadily advancing through the inter-collegiate leagues. In the 2017/18 League, our Tennis team finished joint-3rd in Division 3 and joint-champions in Division 5. The Tennis’ men’s crew reached round 2 of men’s cuppers as well. With over 30 members combined, the teams are preparing for the new challenges of next year.

- Sam Tan, NST 2013

**Mixed Netball Club**

Much like the Boat Club, the Mixed Netball Club started the year with a large intake of new players for this year. Having made it to the quarter finals at the intercollegiate league last year - the furthest any Eddie’s team got - the team is looking forward to going even farther this year!

- Florence Cochrane, PBST 2017

**Football Team**

We are competing in the MCR League 2nd Division. Michaelmas League concluded with our team competing with Jesus College for the promotion to Division 1. The team captain Savvas Shiakas is working tirelessly to bring the team together and make sure everyone is having a great time. The family spirit is strong in the team, and they are excited to keep on climbing!

- Savvas Shiakas, NST 2017

**Pool Team**

The Pool team reestablished this year after a one year vacancy. This meant joining the bottom division of the Intercollegiate League as a new team. However, we won every game in Division 3 and are potentially being double promoted to Division 1 because of this success. We also won two cuppers games, one against Magdalene 1st team and one against John’s 1st. This took us to the one day final where we unfortunately lost to Jesus by one game (a match is best of 9 games) in the quater finals. It was a very good season and we are confident that with the new pool table we’ll be able to take these results to the next level!

- Oliver Montgomery, Law Tripos 2017

**2018 Blues**

*Congratulations to our students who achieved Blues this year!*

| Florence Cochrane | Athletics (High Jump) |
| Andrew Hunter     | Rugby                 |
| Oliver Gnodde     | Rugby                 |
| Jens Nyhegn       | Football              |
| Keegan Mendez     | Squash                |
| John Mulvey       | Cycling               |
| Maciej Tomecki    | Volleyball (First Team)|
From the Tutorial Office - Prizes and Scholarships

Every day St Ed's is improving the world around us by creating inspiring leaders, pioneering researchers and encouraging intellectual exchange. This year our students achieved the highest number of Firsts recorded, bumping St Edmund’s on the Tompkins Table. This is only possible thanks to our generous donors who make it possible for students from all over the world and all backgrounds to come to the University.

List of College Prizes

**MPhil in Advanced Computer Science**
- James Allingham
- Abraham Dutch

**Chemical Engineering Tripos**
- Howard Gan, Part I
- Tangshend Zou, Part IIA

**Computer Science Tripos**
- Nicholas Quek

**MPhil in Economics**
- Miklos Martin

**Engineering Tripos**
- Yi Guay, Part IA
- Zhong Ou Yang, Part IA
- Ashwin Venkidasachalam, Part IB
- Kyriacos Bogdades, Part IIB

**Human, Social, and Political Sciences Tripos**
- Ian Mak, Part IIB

**Land Economy Tripos**
- Rohan Choudhuri, Part II
- Joseph Devine, Part II

**Law Tripos**
- Anna-Christina Schmidl, Part IB

**Management Studies Tripos**
- Andreas Wildner

**Manufacturing Engineering Tripos**
- Gijsbert Dompeling, Part IIB

**MAS in Mathematics**
- Sam Collingburne
- Aris Ioannou
- Siu Hang Man
- Oliver McGrath

**Master of Corporate Law**
- Dana Zekharya Qaq

**Master of Law**
- Lola Mallyquin
- Daniel McCarron
- Julian Nino Forero
- Laurenz Ramsauer
- Suzanne Zaccour

**MSt in History**
- Jonathan Allard (Part Time)

**MSt in Social Innovation**
- Miranda Essex (Part Time)
- Saartje Francken (Part Time)
- Lucy Johnstone (Part Time)
- Lisa Mallory (Part Time)
- Chelsea Waite (Part Time)

**Mathematical Tripos**
- Shenghan Gao, Part II
- Yanni Papandreou, Part II

This year our students achieved the highest number of Firsts recorded, bumping St Edmund’s on the Tompkins Table.

**Medical and Veterinary Tripos**
- Marc El Khoury, Part IA
- Colver Ne Ken Howe, Part IA
- Bhurint Siripanthong, Part IB

**MPhil in Education, Taught Route**
- Ying Ji,
- Celine Kamsteeg
- Crystal Mui Yieng Koo

**MPhil in Real Estate Finance**
- Emmet Keams

**MPhil in Archaeology**
- Bryony Smerdon

**MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development**
- Simon Long
- Aikaterini Plesia Efstatopoulou

**MPhil in Film and Screen Studies**
- Carl Reinecke
- Feny Wu

**MPhil in International Relations and Politics**
- Muhammad Khan

**MPhil in Latin-American Studies**
- Gabriel Funari

**MPhil in Medieval History**
- Ana Nunez

**MPhil in Micro- and Nanotechnology Enterprise**
- Amir Shamsubarov

**MPhil in Gender Studies**
- Aidan Greenall

**MPhil in Political Thought and Intellectual History**
- David Klemperer

**MPhil in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics**
- Nicholas Ballou

**MRes in Nanosciences and Nanotechnology**
- Roger Rubio Sanchez

**Natural Sciences Tripos**
- Jia Lee, Part IA
- Yuchen Sun, Part IB
- Junfu Tian, Part IB
- Haosheng Feng, Part II Chemistry
- Chen Gong, Part II Chemistry
- David Chong, Part II Genetics
- Shreyaa Arya, Part III Physics

**Psychological and Behavioural Sciences**
- Amos Fang, Part IIB
- Xue Lee, Part IIB
Fifth Luzio PhD Scholar: Iris Pissaride

Awarded annually, the Luzio Scholarship enables a hugely talented person to embark on a PhD in the Humanities at our College. This year we welcomed our fifth Luzio Scholar, Iris Pissaride, writing a doctoral thesis on Archaeology.

Iris’ work deals with the ways in which museums construct identities. She is especially interested in museums’ affordances in creating more inclusive and reflexive narratives of belonging in divided societies. As such, her case-study focuses on Cypriot museums.

“What are the roles of museums as political actors and as knowledge producers? And how can they decolonize their perspectives to allow for ‘othered’ knowledge(s) and diverse narratives of history? These are the local and global questions I’m exploring.

I am very grateful for the Luzio scholarship at St Edmund’s which allows me to advance my research further by embarking on a full-time PhD at Cambridge.”

- Iris Pissaride

Funding for Arts & Humanities has been cut significantly in recent years. You can make a real impact on the lives of people today by making a donation towards this scholarship honouring former Master, Paul Luzio, and his wife Jane.

Alumni Award for Service to the College Community - Shaaroni Wong

When I first arrived at St. Edmund’s, jetlagged, nervous, and quite a long way from my home in Hawai’i, I was immediately welcomed not only by the CR committee, but by the diverse and lively students. It wasn’t until I visited other colleges that I realised how truly fortunate I was to be at St Edmund’s College, where I was made to feel at home within days of arriving. It has since become a goal of mine to ensure that other students, both new and returning, can experience the warmth that has continued to envelope me from my very first days here.

This community has shaped me into who I am today and it has been my mission to give back. In my past two years at Eddie’s, I have had the pleasure to serve the College in a variety of functions, from taking an active part in the CR Committee and Boat Club to working as Out of Hours Coordinator. The only reason I have been able to do all of these things is because St. Edmund’s as a community has encouraged me to try new activities and leadership opportunities, with the promise that they would support me should I need it.

Whilst honoured to be chosen for this award, I maintain that the work that I have done for the community is not exceptional, but rather a direct reflection of who St. Edmund’s encourages and allows me to be.

- Shaaroni Wong
Named College Prizes & Awards
Every year our donors make it possible to recognise outstanding students at St Edmund’s, by funding the various prizes and awards that celebrate academic excellence.

Here are the Prize Winners and Awardees for this year.

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<tr>
<th>Prize Name</th>
<th>Winner</th>
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<td>Robin Chatterjee Prize</td>
<td>Ilia Gorshkov</td>
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<td>Georges Lemaitre Prize</td>
<td>Yanni Papandreou</td>
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<td>Jackman PhD Prize</td>
<td>Joseph Prentice</td>
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<td>John C B Chau Prize</td>
<td>Kyriacos Bagdades</td>
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<td>Fr Nicholas Smith Prize</td>
<td>Andreas Wildner</td>
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<td>Claydon Prize for PhD</td>
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<td>Coventry Prize for Theology</td>
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<td>Emsley Prize for Science</td>
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<td>Emsley Prize for History</td>
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<td>Scannell Prize for Law</td>
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<td>Simon Boniface Prize for Medicine</td>
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<td>Alumni Society Award</td>
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<td>Cherry Hume Award</td>
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<td>Joseph Devine</td>
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Some testimonials from our students

The Robin Chatterjee Prize - Ilia Gorshkov
It has been a great honour to receive the Prize at the end of my delightful year at the Judge Business School and St Edmund’s. The award has threefold meaning to me and therefore I believe it is not just a conventional monetary prize. First of all, it is indeed a great financial support, as it was highly useful for me as an overseas student to settle in London after the graduation before the start of my job. Secondly, this prize provides a formal recognition of the hard work and academic accomplishments during the demanding MPhil in Finance course. Finally, and most importantly, it has been a great pleasure to receive mentorship from Robin himself. Robin has been providing me with invaluable pieces of advice on various topics, including career path. I truly believe that this is the most important part of receiving the prize. I would like to thank Robin and St Edmund’s College for making this prize and experience possible and wish all new St Edmund’s MPhil in Finance students best of luck in their course.

- Ilia Gorshkov

The Georges Lemaitre Prize for Mathematics - Yanni Papandreou
I am currently pursuing an MSc in Statistics at Imperial College London. I have always been passionate about mathematics and fascinated by its extraordinary ability to model and describe the world around us. Having the opportunity to study Mathematics at Cambridge was a dream come true for me, and I was very excited to have been awarded the Georges Lemaitre Prize. Winning this prize means a lot to me, and encourages me to pursue further my mathematical studies. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me along the way, including all my colleagues at St Edmund’s College. St Edmund’s was my home for three years, and I can say without a doubt that those three years will be amongst some of the best of my life. I would not have been able to succeed without the community St Edmund’s provided me.

- Yanni Papandreou

The John C B Chau Prize for Engineering - Kyriacos Bagdades
This is an amazing honour and I am very grateful to both the College and to the Chau Family for this. It is the culmination of the recognition, from my College and second home, of my progress and achievements as a student, but also a reminder that doing great work will always be rewarded. Now a Management Consultant for a leading Strategy Firm, I hope I can continue to deliver outstanding results and give back to those that helped me along the way.

- Kyriacos Bagdades
The Fr Nicholas Smith Prize - Andreas Wildner
This prize was established in 2017 by Father Nicholas W Smith, a Catholic priest and staunch Anglophile, to reward an accomplished St Edmund’s student studying at the Judge Business School. Father Smith is committed to higher education and supports similar prizes at his undergraduate and graduate institutions, guided by the motto of Blessed Alberto Marvelli, “My life shall be an act of love” I believe it is important to help others and I believe that education, with a solid ground in faith, is the way to transform the world.

This is absolutely exciting news and I am very grateful. Having originally studied music performance and music education, I was inspired by my student union work experiences to change to law and business (which is what I studied at Cambridge) because I got the impression that the skills I could learn in these fields of study would enable me to make a positive impact on other people’s lives. I am currently considering various career options, mostly within the legal sector or public service, and I would like to combine whatever profession I will take up with some university-level teaching because I feel very passionate about the subjects I studied at Cambridge and I would love to share this passion with other people.

- Andreas Wildner

The Claydon Prize for PhD - Martin Mikloš
Martin was awarded the Claydon Prize for his MPhil in Economics. Upon being told that he had won the prize, Martin said, “Thank you very much for the great news. I feel honoured to be awarded the prize. I come from Slovakia where I have been living almost my entire life. My passion for public affairs and desire to contribute to society served as the main motivation for choosing my course of study.” Martin first studied Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at the University of Oxford, graduating with First Class Honours. In order to gain more experience, he was involved in the public sector as well as non-governmental organisations at home during his studies. After leaving Cambridge, he completed a short placement at the European Central Bank and now has a permanent position as an analyst at the Ministry of Finance of Slovakia, where he is working on tax policy and the financing of social security programmes and public health insurance.

The Coventry Prize for Theology - Andrew Niggemann
Andrew was awarded the 2018 Coventry Prize for his PhD dissertation in Theology entitled Martin Luther’s Hebrew in Mid-Career. The Minor Prophets Translation. He says of the prize, “I am extremely grateful to St. Edmund’s College and the University of Cambridge for the award, and for the incredible opportunity to study at Cambridge these past four years. The research facilities, faculties, my doctoral supervisors and the tutorial team, and the support of too many people at the university to mention were all critical to the success of the project. I will take the memories of Cambridge with me everywhere I go. The University of Cambridge and St. Edmund’s College will always be a home away from home for me, and I look forward to one day being able to help future students at Cambridge and St. Edmund’s College realise their dreams and impact the world.”

Cherry Hume Award - Kathryn Gunn
Kathryn is in the final stages of her PhD in Earth Sciences. She used the funds to attend an international conference in Portland, Oregon, which she reports was a success. She jointly gave an oral tutorial presentation with her colleagues, which provided an overview of their relatively new research field of oceanography and later in the week she presented her current research.
She wrote, “The presentation was well received, with many follow-up remarks and questions. Presenting my research resulted in several helpful scientific meetings that I hope will develop into future collaboration. I also took this opportunity to meet with people and discuss aspects of oceanography that were previously unclear. Overall, the conference was fruitful; it facilitated valuable research discussions and international collaborative links. Additionally, at this final stage of my PhD, the professional development will be invaluable. Thank you for supporting this research.”
The Emsley Prize for History - Fr Craig McMahon

Craig was grateful and honoured to be awarded the Emsley Prize for History and generously chose to donate his prize money to the College’s CR Crowdfunding campaign to refurbish the floor because, “it is a worthy cause that I am happy to support.”

After a successful career in investment banking and international consultancy, Craig was, quite literally, called away from the corridors of finance to the pews of the church. After a period of discernment, and a few long nights in the pubs chatting through the process with his friends and family, he entered the Augustinian Roman Catholic formation seminary program. Eventually, his interest in graduate studies led him to Cambridge and the Eddies community. His research focuses on financial inclusion, fringe banking, and regulation.

Currently, Fr. Craig is an Assistant Professor of Economic History in the Economics Department of Villanova University, USA. His fondest memories of the College are of the great conversation at formal halls, and he especially enjoyed the College Guest nights.

The Emsley Prize for Science - Osama Eisa

Thank you so much for the very happy news. It is really a huge honour and I am so, so grateful for it. I am a father of two lovely daughters (Ala and Aya) and a graduate of the Faculty of Medicine - University of Khartoum, Sudan.

After attaining a MSc in Immunology of Infectious Diseases from LSHTM-University of London, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to join St. Edmund’s College, University of Cambridge as a post-graduate student and completing a PhD degree (Biological Sciences) under the supervision of Prof. Jonathan Heeney.

It has been my life-long aspiration to get involved and actively participate in the bench-to-bedside translational research and the precision,stratified Medicine. Therefore, I decided to return back to clinical practice and I am currently working as a Clinical Fellow of Acute Medicine at Addenbrooke’s hospital with the hope of securing a Clinical-Academic post in the near future.

-Osama Eisa

The Simon Boniface Prize for Medicine - Jake Diack

I’m very grateful to be awarded the Simon Boniface price for Medicine. Looking back now on the past eight years it’s hard to appreciate just how far I’ve come. At 21, having worked in the NHS as a cleaner for 5 years, I decided upon a career in medicine and set about retaking the necessary A levels, and through hard work and perseverance at 23 I had achieved the first of my two goals and had embarked upon my studies here at St Edmund’s to achieve the second. Now, six years later and having achieved the second of my two goals, I’m now enjoying my time within the NHS and I am currently working towards a career in pre-hospital emergency medicine. I’d like to thank both of my Directors of Study Dr Azzu and Dr Webster, as well as the amazing Tutorial team. Finally, I’d like to thank my Mom and Dad who have made so many sacrifices over the years to see that I’ve had these opportunities.

-Jake Diack

Scannell Prize for Law Students - Elliot Ryan

I would like to say thank you for your generosity in sponsoring this award. I was thrilled to receive it for two main reasons: for the sense of accomplishment such recognition brings, and to have something tangible to hold over the heads of my fellow Eddie’s law friends when I next see them!

Studying law at Cambridge is of course a substantial challenge of both academic intensity and time management. However, it is my belief that doing so at St Edmund’s College provides students with the support and structure required to meet these challenges, whilst still engaging with the host of extracurricular activities on offer. I managed to find time to captain the college rugby team in my second year – and while lots of fun was had, the less said about our ‘Cuppers’ record the better! My time at Eddie’s will always be special to me, more so for the friends I made rather than the essays I stressed over!

-Elliot Ryan
College Scholarships

The invaluable support offered through our scholarships enables some of our most brilliant minds to succeed. We thank our donors for making this possibility a reality.

Omid Scholarship - Makan Nojoumian

I am an overseas student from Iran. The Omid Trust, St Edmund’s College and the Cambridge Trust awarded me with a very generous scholarship last year that enabled me to study the MPhil programme in Philosophy at the University of Cambridge. My experience in Cambridge during the past term has been very rewarding for a number of reasons. The research-oriented programme allows me to engage more thoroughly with a single research topic under what has so far been the very close and thought-provoking supervision of Faculty members. In my first term at Cambridge, I wrote an essay on ‘Ramsey’s definition of truth’ under the supervision of Dr Tim Button.

I found the philosophy graduate community both friendly and serious-minded; I have enjoyed discussions with graduate students in the MPhil and graduate seminars as well as informal discussion groups. I have also enjoyed going to the many interesting undergraduate seminars as well as talks at the Moral Sciences Club and elsewhere. In addition, I have been engaged in logic marking and teaching and I think learning such teaching skills and supervising undergraduates are a crucial aspect of my education as I would like to pursue an academic career. Looking back on the Omid Scholarships’ award, I am still very touched and find it difficult to express my gratitude for the funding opportunity that made my current studies at Cambridge possible.

Judge Business School Social Innovation Scholarship - Luca Testori

I am honoured to be a recipient of the scholarship and I would like to express my sincere gratitude for supporting me in my personal development. During the Michaelmas term, I was warmly welcomed both by St Edmund’s College and the MSt in Social innovation teams, and I am now fully immersed into a very enriching academic and professional environment where people from very different backgrounds all convene to discuss promoting social innovation. Through the concepts and case studies analysed so far, I have started looking into possibilities for collaboration with new stakeholders to improve the services delivered in favour of disadvantaged sectors of the population such as asylum seekers. The search has just started, and I am looking forward to exploring new analytical frameworks and practices.

AGM Randaree Scholarship - Hina Khalid

I am delighted to have been awarded the AGM Randeree Scholarship, which has proved an invaluable platform for me to both extend and deepen my current academic interests, as well as providing new pathways for intellectual growth. The regular mentoring sessions, career advice, training and general networking opportunities have been deeply rewarding – offering insights into exciting and diverse fields of inquiry, and the potential to refine and deepen my own research in light of other projects.

I am currently undertaking an MPhil in Theology and Religious Studies, in order to integrate my academic background with my broader interest in community and interpersonal relations. My research lies at the intersection of interfaith inquiry and the cross-cultural philosophy of religion, with a specific focus on the parallels between strands of Islamic thought and Buddhist spirituality. I believe that this course of study, alongside the social and community connections I foster through the Randeree Scholarship, will equip me with new insights into the ways that religious teachings may shape our response to the outer world.
My experience of University life and college life is an unusual one, being the first Aboriginal Australian woman to be accepted into a PhD programme at Cambridge. I applied for a Masters late in 2015 and my funding body, the Aurora Education Foundation, which has a long running relationship with St Edmund’s, encouraged me to meet Dr Bunbury and commit to being a member of St Edmund’s. I was attracted to the college due to the fantastic family accommodation, the diversity of the St Edmund’s student body and the fact that my children could eat at hall (except for formals) and trample across every inch of grass while playing football. I moved to the hill with my two children (then 3 and 7) and my husband in tow, transplanting our whole lives to England. I completed my MPhil in Social Anthropology in 2017 and was then immediately accepted onto the PhD programme at the Faculty of Education, under the supervision of Dr Morag Morrison-Helme. After two years here (and more to come) we are a familiar sight at college and our flat is a steady North amidst the chaos of studying and parenting. We’ve hosted countless tea breaks, dinners and birthdays for our friends and have had family stay at college twice. Our refrigerator is adorned with magnets of places we’ve visited over the last two years, along with multiple pieces of the kids’ artwork with a bowl dedicated to change and bike lock keys perched on the top. We are, however, a very, very long way from home.

My homelands are the Badimia Yamatji and Whadjuk Noongar lands of the mid to south-west of Western Australia, wildflower and river country respectively. I’ll be returning home for my PhD research to look at how secondary school students receive and perceive Aboriginal theatre education programmes, specifically Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company of my home town, Perth. I want to find out if Yirra Yaakin’s 2019 education performance, ‘Sista Girl’, informs students’ understandings of their place in Australia as well as the place of Indigenous Australians in a wider Australian context. How young people understand both place and theatre as education in curricula can have tremendous decolonial impacts, particularly in a settler state context like Australia, and I want to find out the depth of those impacts from the students themselves. At this stage I am building relationships with two different secondary schools to shadow Yirra Yaakin’s education programme, from performance, to the classroom, to assessment from July – September 2019.

Over the last decade St Edmund’s has supported brilliant Aboriginal Australian women studying, or working, at the University. Dr Misty Jenkins was appointed a Fellow of St Edmund’s back in 2008, Leila Smith studied a Masters here in 2013, I began my Masters studies in 2016 and my PhD in 2017, and now I share a hallway with another Aboriginal Australian woman and St Edmund’s student, Casey Millward, who began her MPhil in Public Policy this year. I look forward to the rest of my PhD programme as a resident and member of St Edmund’s and my children look forward to returning to Cambridge as Eddie’s when their time comes.
From the Alumni Society

When you joined St Edmund’s, you became a lifelong member of the St Edmund’s Alumni Society. The Society exists to promote interaction between all members of the College, past and present, and is keen to support any alumni wishing to connect with each other, network, and organise events.

The Alumni Society was born out of the rapid rise in student numbers at St Edmund’s during the 1990s. All students are now members from their Matriculation having paid a small one off life subscription and membership extends to the wider St Edmund’s community too. The Society works in partnership with the College but retains a degree of autonomy and financial independence. Indeed, one of its aims is to represent the views of non-resident members to resident members of the College. The Committee meets at least four times a year in Cambridge and London with Skype now facilitating virtual attendance.

The original Committee instigated the pattern of social events and alumni benefits which remain evident today including alumni places at Guest Night dinners, the London annual drinks party, entertainment and a dinner coinciding with the University’s annual Alumni Festival, a giant armorial cake for the Garden Party, an annual prize for an outstanding student, and a Graduands’ reception. The original Constitution was ambitious in its vision envisaging a large Committee weighted in favour of younger alumni.

However what was not envisaged was the transforming effect of having a Development Office which relieved the Committee of almost all organising and administrative responsibility (and thank goodness for that!) as well as becoming the ‘face’ of St Edmund’s for the Alumni Community. The flip side to this enormous benefit is that the role of the Alumni Society was reduced to that of ‘rubber stamping’ alumni initiatives emanating from the Development Office and authorising funding where appropriate.

What to do? Winding up the Alumni Society was an option but instead a rather more imaginative change of direction was embarked upon which was enshrined in a revised Constitution (available on the College website) voted on in September 2017. Essentially membership of the Committee was loosened to encourage short term co-opted members who were prepared to take forward an idea they might have for an alumni event or activity. What needs to be harnessed from the now extensive Alumni Community are those apposite, if truly awful, clichés ‘out of the box’ ideas and ‘blue sky’ thinking or perhaps just simple enthusiasms.

The Alumni Society and Development Office are there to provide administrative support, encouragement and, where appropriate, funding. So, if you are inspired to arrange an alumni barbecue in Sydney, a celebration for the Year of the Pig in China, an afternoon tea in London, a pilgrimage to Lourdes, a trip on the Bluebell Railway, paintballing in Surrey, rugby in South Africa, a conference on robotic technology or whatever you think might have an alumni interest great or small do get in touch. This is a way the Alumni Society can engage with you and a way for you to give back something back to the College on your terms without any long term obligation.

- Mr Edward Hagger
Chairman of the Alumni Society
Alumni News

The College is proud to attract the most brilliant minds from across the globe and all backgrounds. It is a joy to see our Alumni succeed in their respective fields. Have a look at some of the achievements from the past year, and if there’s something you’d like to share don’t hesitate to get in contact with the Development Team.

Vasant Nath (2001) released a Netflix hit!

6 July marked the release of the widely anticipated Netflix series Sacred Games. Based on a book of the same name and described as ‘a story of betrayal, glamour and grit that’s set against the ever changing backdrop of Mumbai’, its release excited a good few of our students. In June, Vasant visited the College and he took the time to discuss life at Eddies, his career so far, and his current and planned projects, with a small group of keen current students. He also talked at some length about the different jobs he had undertaken to get where he is today - notably one project where he had to carry out a lot of research for an India-Japan crossover film.

Cross-cultural and global thinking is something that Vasant alluded to time and time again, hardly surprising for Cambridge’s most diverse College. The students present also had time to engage Vasant with questions of their own. These ranged from questions about Sacred Games to questions about expressing yourself in different languages, and how to overcome mental blocks in creative thinking. The discussion felt personal, warm, and deeply engaging all at the same time.

Prof Adroaldo Zanella (1992) awarded for exemplary work in Animal Welfare

On May 7 2018, during the 34th World Veterinary Congress held in Barcelona, Spain, WVA took the opportunity to underline its commitment to promoting ever better global standards of animal welfare in the latest edition of its increasingly recognised Animal Welfare Awards. Dr Zanella was one of five veterinarians from Brazil, Canada, China, Senegal, and Sweden to be rewarded for their outstanding work to protect and promote best practices in animal welfare. Adroaldo coordinates the Centre for Comparative Studies in Health, Sustainability and Welfare, CECSBE, at the University of São Paulo. His team carries out research work on the impact of pre-natal and neonatal environment on welfare outcomes in different species. Their main goal is to develop protocols to improve resilience of the offspring.

Major F. W. Rawding donated an icon of St Edmund

The College was delighted to accept an icon of Saint Edmund of Abingdon, our patron saint, generously donated by Major F.W. Rawding (Rtd). He was a mature undergraduate in Cambridge in the 1970s, during which time he stayed at St Edmund’s and became close to the then Master, Garrett Sweeney. Unfortunately, he passed away in September but he was able to see the result of his generosity while still alive.

The icon was created by Annie Shaw, a member of The British Orthodox Church and an iconographer, who used traditional methods and materials, referred to earlier by the Acting Dean.

The icon of St Edmund will soon be put in a place of prominence in the college chapel. We are immensely grateful for Major Rawling’s generous legacy donation. Like other legators of the college he became a member of the Edmund Nolan Society, which is made up of people who have chosen to leave the College a legacy in their Will. If you are considering leaving a legacy to St Edmund’s or would like more information, do contact Katharine Cantell our Senior Development Officer (knc23@cam.ac.uk).
Staff in Spotlight: Nather Al-Khatib

Bringing a smile wherever he goes, our new IT Officer Nather has become a constant presence in the College. However, he is not all that meets the eye. From professional football player in the Iraqi Premier league to a certified Systems Engineer, Nather has lived many lives.

Q: Being a football player is not a usual profession. What were your parents’ reactions?
My mum was a nuclear physicist with a degree from Aston University (Birmingham) and my dad was a top administrator in the country. My dad had a dream for his son to be in the army, because it was such a privilege to be in the army at that time. However, I didn’t want that, I just wanted to follow my dream. They wanted me to focus on education, so they said “so long as your education goes well” they had no objection.

Q: So how did you get picked up for the football team?
When I was 14, my whole class took a bus together to the trials and I was the only one selected out of 30. I guess the coaches saw something I had and the others didn’t. So very slowly I progressed and managed to get in the Iraqi Youth League and then the First Team. Meanwhile I entered University. My first question when I got there was “Where is the football team and how can I join?”. Apparently at the time my college’s team was one of the best in the country, but I didn’t know that because 20 years ago the internet wasn’t around! We couldn’t get information as easily as we do now. The manager who was coaching us at the time is currently coaching on the Second League and, last I heard, one of my youth managers is now the manager for Iraq’s first women’s team! They did pretty well last season!

Q: So you were playing for two teams and doing an undergraduate degree at the same time?
That’s right. At that time clubs didn’t mind letting you play with different teams, especially not with college teams. I still remember talking to my mum about football and education, and I remember saying “Mum, what you make in a year I make in a few months!” I finished my first degree in Software Engineering in 2001, and then I was hoping to carry on football and do a higher degree, but that did not happen back home because the war started in 2003.

Q: What did you do then, after you finished your degree?
I was still playing, but I started working for the Ministry of Electricity as an assistant programmer. When the war started I decided to leave Iraq, but I didn’t come straight away to England. I went to Dubai first, and worked for the Al Kahleej newspaper, one of the largest publishers and press companies in the Middle East. I worked there for 26 months, it was a good experience but quite challenging for me as a young person - I was 22 at that time - because it was the first time I was away from my family, and living in a different country. At the time Dubai was still growing and developing, trying to find its place in the world. I was lucky to have found a job straightaway after just two weeks there! The culture there was very similar to my own, so I didn’t experience a shock and I just kept going, because I wanted to succeed. I became a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer for the sake of getting better and better, and then I reached a point where I thought “where do I want to be in 10 years?” and “am I going to develop and progress here?”. That’s when I decided to leave and come to England.

Q: Fantastic! When did you first come to England?
I first came to the UK in 2005, straightaway to Cambridge to study English. I later became an IT consultant. For a while I also coached for Norwich City Football Club, and until two months ago I coached for Cambridge United Academy. I’m not playing anymore because of an injury on my knees though.

Q: Brilliant! Any future plans?
In December I gave my first workshop in Baghdad, coaching football coaches and it is looking promising that I will be asked back to do more of this. I’m also part of the Cambridgeshire Football Association, as a member of the Inclusion Advisory Group, so I’ll continue to work to make the club more inclusive and diverse.
50 Years of Women at St Edmund’s

The year 1969 marked a monumental change for the College. Margaret Geib Wilkinson was admitted as the first female student, putting St Edmund’s House ahead of all the all-male Colleges in the admission of women. Now, fifty years later, we look back to those times and forward into a bright future, as we strive for ever greater inclusivity and equality.

That would be me. In 1969. How unlikely it was, that a young Roman Catholic American laywoman got to explore the imponderables of her place in the future of the life of the church by running off to England’s Cambridge University. One of its colleges, St. Edmund’s House, had accepted me as a member to read in Divinity (Theology Tripos, Part III).

How unlikely? About as unlikely as landing on the moon…an event I listened to on a transistor radio as it happened, while sitting on a bench on the flanks of Kings College Chapel. I was attending a madrigal concert on the Backs, so I could watch the moon float in the blue sky’s descent into dusk as I listened to both radio and concert. I haven’t forgotten that evening of July 20, 1969 for a moment, in important part because the folks back at St. Edmund’s were as excited as I about the coming together of it all, reflecting some of the glory of the accomplishment of the scientists onto me.

My presence there had everything to do with the fact that St. Edmund’s, formerly a residence for Roman Catholic priests attending various University colleges, had recently transmuted itself into an ecumenical graduate college, thus fulfilling a shared Roman Catholic and Protestant desire to have a fully flourishing Christian institute at the University. This decision, an important and early response to Vatican II initiatives, was congruent with my experience of church in the United States.

When I was an undergraduate at Stanford University active in the university Roman Catholic community at the Newman Center, the first visiting professor in Roman Catholic theology at Stanford, Father Daniel O’Hanlon, S.J., told us that lay people with advanced degrees in theology would soon be on the scene. Michael Novak, then a young lay theologian, became the first regular member of the faculty of the Department of Religion at Stanford. He mentored a number of us as we aimed for graduate studies in theology (Yale and Chicago Divinity Schools; St. Michael’s in Toronto, Catholic University’s Department of Religious Studies in Washington, D.C., and the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana). I earned my Masters Degree in Theology from Notre Dame, and had the pleasure of learning from John Dunne, C.S.C. (systematic theology), and John L. McKenzie, S.J. (Scripture). Joseph Blenkinsopp taught the introductory course in the New Testament.

Blenkinsopp, an Oxford man visiting at Notre Dame from Vanderbilt, was the first one to suggest I go to a place like Oxford or Cambridge to enrich my theological (and life) education if possible. Iltud Evans, O.P., was living at St. Albert’s College in Oakland, California, when he told me that his former community at Blackfriars, Cambridge shared a fence, with a gate, next to St. Edmund’s House. He thought St. Edmund’s might take me, and wrote a letter to them on my behalf.

I found the intellectual, communal, and liturgical graces of St. Edmund’s entirely congenial. I remained quite conscious that I was the first female student member of the college, in large part because of the interest and kindness that fact stirred up in my colleagues at the college. But I became, in fact, one of a small group of women already there when I arrived in early June.
The several German religious sisters that took care of the entire household were always cordial to me. Elizabeth Stopp, on the French faculty of the University and a Fellow of the college, was full of charm and insight. Most importantly, Anita Pampusch, then a religious sister pursuing her Ph.D. in the Philosophy of Science at Notre Dame, had arrived at St. Edmund’s a few weeks before me to do research on Isaac Newton (translating and reading his unpublished papers in the Anderson Room of the University Library). She was an acquaintance of mine from my days at Notre Dame, whose roots in St. Paul, Minnesota, and environs were even deeper than mine. She was one of those who, along with Canon Sweeney, welcomed me to the campus the day I arrived by cab from the train station. Initially, she and I shared the second floor of the campus cottage, where we had digs above the quarters of an undergraduate student and his wife.

In the kind of community St. Edmund’s was at the time, I never felt alone because Anita and I really hit it off. The college was a community of individual scholars following various academic pathways, within the context of an ecumenical vision. Everyone was on an individual track of study for the most part, so we came together to share our stories of the day without exactly ‘going to school’ together. It was refreshing. People were kind and helpful, and full of conversation. Anita and I agreed that we could spend any given day visiting with members of the college community from breakfast until gatherings for hot chocolate after the pubs closed. My studies were structured around two tutorials, with one paper due each week alternatively for one professor or the other. I delighted in looking out the turret of the 19th century part of St. John’s while its dean asked me impossible questions about which I was to produce an essay in two weeks. “Was Romanticism a development of or reaction against The Enlightenment?” He would then pull one volume or another from his floor to ceiling collection of books and suggest I read certain sections of them. This was fun. I was supposed to sit in on a class on 19th century English Church history given by a great lecturer, but I couldn’t stand listening in that format at the time. The tutorial format was “heavens opening from above”.

I presume, without really knowing, that some people whose history was intertwined with that of St. Edmunds would have been dismayed at the idea that a woman was a member of the college. No one ever talked to me along those lines, at least in a way that made me aware of it. The college’s decision to become ecumenical in orientation, and therefore more accepting of female students, was a recent one at the time I arrived. From my Roman Catholic perspective, the blessings at St. Edmund’s at that moment were clearly part of the right and proper discernment of the signs of the times, a product of the goodness in the Roman Catholic community unleashed at Vatican II, and received and encouraged by other Christian communities. I was in the right place at the right time. Laywomen, especially those studying theology, were an anomaly compared to religious sisters. St. Edmund’s made it easy to feel that the vocation developing in me made sense as but one more expression of a longing for God. “Love bade me welcome….so I did sit and eat” (George Herbert, “Love III”).

Thank you, St. Edmund’s!
- Margie Wilkinson

Margie Wilkinson in 2018
Help us find our Lost Alumni

Despite our best efforts, sometimes we lose contact with our Members. If you know any of the people on our lost list, please ask them to get in touch with the Development Office or send us their details on development@st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk and we can check that they would like to hear from us.

1958
Peter Rudman

1966
Joseph Fitzpatrick
Peter Hamilton
Christopher Murphy

1967
Thomas Stainer
James Trainor

1968
John Ballard

1969
Peter Andrews

1970
James Bastow

1971
John Atkinson
Francisco Beltran de Heredia
Jean-Marie Blanchet
Thomas Mampra
Joseph Peris-Prabmu
John Stokes

1972
Kuo-Tsai Chao
Louis Dietjens
Agop Gureghian

1973
Joseph Ching
Susannah Lash
Jose Sanchez-Pina
Michael Tyndel
Jose Vivanco y Diaz
Robert Warriner

1974
Francis Huckle
Peter Phillips
Michael Williams

1975
Maria Fernandez Diamante
Michael Pearl
Keith Thomson

1976
Mohammed Alam
Virginia Alford
Antony Bourdillon
Stephen Grint
Hossein Hassanian Esfahani
Hok Lin Leung
Kevin Lindsay
Winfield Lowman
Philip Palmer
Kanwar Saxena
Keith Sword

1977
Bin Arshad
John Burkill
John Coyne
Majorie Edwards
Koenraad Elhaut
Rafael Esteban Verastegui
Richard Giddens
Stefan Kokotka
Koichi Narita
Pingali Rao
Shaun Small
Reza Sobhan

1978
Gilda Albano
David Colbran
Syed Husain
David Rachman
Ram Rana
Emilio Zuniga Castillo

1979
Musaab Babiker
Donald Cordy
Margaret Cox
Thomas Crawford
Gulsen Gurbuz
Mahenra Mashru
Eiji Morita
Desmond Morton
Rebecca Vincent

1980
Rosa Castorena-Sanchez
Brian Cella
Joseph Firth
Lewis Griffiths
Bernice Hamilton

1981
Bartholomew Chukwuezi
Maureen Farrell
Othman Hamzah
Muhammad Hasan
Carl Pike
Syed Syed Mustaffa
Alfredo Thorne
Fausto Zeron-Medina

1982
Owusu Akoto
Shareef Al-B’Ainy
John Kalmus
Yuichi Sato

1983
David Beteise-Hbenye
Christopher Browning
Lap-Yan Chung
Margaret Hampson
Philip Hayes
Ruth Hutton
Theodossios Karvounarakis
Makoto Ozaki
Xuelin Qiu
John Richards

1984
Megumi Ama
Vicki Ashmead-Bartlett
Diana Gardiner
John Mathai
Felicia Mockett
Mark O’Neill
Marijan Salopek
Geoffrey Vogel
Andrew Zziwa

1985
Denise MacLeod
James Boothroyd
Anne Dennett
Jose Gomes Lorenzo
Ian Gray
Haji Hashmi
Michael Jackson

1986
Kevin Chugg
Peter Devlin
Richard Dormandy
Gracie Fong
David Maranville
Christopher Oti
Harsha Shah
Steven Smith
Vivian Solomon
Hugo Stuttaford
Jennifer Thornton

1987
Clive Albert
Peter Allen
Juan Almecia
Vartan Amadoury
Adrian Britt
George Children
Christopher Edwards
Francesca Naylor
Eliza Servin-Gonzales
Juliana Silva
David Simpson
Oliver Talevski
Gero Verheyen
Stephen Watts

1988
Ana Duque de Estrada
Dragan Filipovich
Andrew Hopkinson
Gladwell Muchimba
Clare Nunn
Ashoka Prasad
Desmond Stephens
Matt Storey
Jacopo Valentino
Russell Ward
Jianguo Zhao

1989
Julia Barnie
Shihwen Chang
Youn-Sik Choo
John D’Orsay
Stephen Hartley
In Memoriam

It is with great sorrow that we share the news of the passing of two of our distinguished alumni, Peter King and Derek Dowson. Our deepest condolences to the families.

Peter King

Peter King was a man to whom one instinctively said, “Sir”. Or, if not said, thought. A tall, handsome man, he radiated not only trustworthiness but a quiet natural authority, increased by his finely articulated voice. His knowledge was immense, that of his subject comprehensive, persuasive and accurate. His enthusiasm for and love of Dutch culture, language and literature was infectious and transmitted to generations of language learners, research students and academic colleagues. He never heard the Dutch professor who said of him to a colleague, “I never knew that an Englishman could speak such perfect Dutch”, and he would have disclaimed perfection, but he did believe that only the best would suffice. That best, however, was the best that one could manage; he was never censorious of those who were making an effort. Only those who did not try were asked, occasionally firmly, to try harder; the others were encouraged to go on - and sometimes they went on to surprise themselves with what they then could achieve.

Peter Kenneth King was born in Wimbledon, London, on 5 May 1922, the youngest of the five children of Berkeley King and his wife Beatrice (née Bedwell). He was very close to his mother, to whom he attributed his strong Christian faith, his love of music, his tremendous work ethic and his enthusiasm for making and mending. He was educated, from the age of seven, as a Choral Scholar at King’s College School, Cambridge, and then Ardingly College, in Sussex. In his first Sixth Form term, the Second World War broke out. Peter completed the year and was accepted to read Economics at King’s College, Cambridge, but immediately volunteered for the Royal Navy. He was then seconded to the Free Dutch Navy’s Submarine Service, with which he served in the Mediterranean, the Baltic, the North Sea and the Atlantic.

On demobilisation, he thought his maths too rusty for Economics and re-applied to read Modern Languages, first using a bursary from King’s to study Dutch and French at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands, where he met Margaretha (“Greeth”) Leeflang from Rotterdam, who was to become his wife in 1950, by which time he was studying French and Dutch at University College London, one of the very few places in the UK which then offered Dutch to students.

After graduating and, later, completing his MA., Peter moved in 1953, with Greeth and their son Michael (born 1951), to Cambridge, where he had been appointed to a part-time Lectureship and where Catherine (1953), Christopher (1955) and Gabrielle (1961) were born. Of necessity, Peter developed many DIY skills and threw himself into bread-baking, children’s homework, music practice, games and bedtime story-telling.

Peter was promoted by the University to a full-time Lectureship, granted MA status and, in 1965, elected a Fellow of St. Edmund’s House (now College). He relished St. Edmund’s atmosphere of diverse liberal and stimulating dialogue on serious issues, augmented by Roman Catholic priests studying for their Doctorates. An Anglican, and a lay reader, he believed firmly and deeply in the future of St. Edmund’s and worked hard to support the Master and the Governing Body as they struggled to keep it afloat financially, before various generous benefactions and a Royal Charter eventually secured the College’s existence and future.

It was here that Peter entered into his own as an inspiring teacher of Cambridge students at all levels. Many of his language learners have used their Dutch in other fields and a number of his research students have gone on to distinguished academic careers themselves. Importantly, Peter also attracted to Cambridge young Dutch academics, adding significantly to the quality of his students’ experience and forging links with institutions like the Sir Thomas Browne Institute of the University of Leiden.
As a teacher and as a man, Peter treasured honesty and himself exuded it, kindly expressed. Dishonesty he could not abide: for example, a student who was straightforward about being late with work would be forgiven and allowed more time, once at least. A lie would quickly be exposed and take a long time to live down.

Pretentiousness was another of his pet dislikes. When a young (now famous) man joined the Dutch-language beginners’ class and Peter asked all those present to identify themselves by name and Cambridge college, that man added, “I’m a Fellow, actually”. Peter stopped writing names and looked up, eyebrows raised, and said in a highly meaningful tone, “Um, yes”. Enough said.

In 1974, Peter left the quaintly named C.U. Department of Other Languages and resigned his Fellowship of St. Edmund’s on being appointed Professor at the University of Hull. His task was to set up a research Institute of Modern Dutch Studies. He very much enjoyed this challenge and, to secure the necessary funding, especially for Research Fellowships, he worked closely with the Leverhulme Trust, the City of Rotterdam (with which Hull has long-standing trade connections) and many local Hull businesses. He also founded the Friends of the Dutch Institute, which ran many social and fundraising events, spreading an understanding of Dutch life and customs, including the annual St. Nicholas (“Sinterklaas”) celebrations in early December. Peter (with Greeth’s active support) helped to stimulate and develop Hull’s awareness of its long connection with the Low Countries and its resultant cultural benefits. As Director of the Institute, Peter extended the nature of Dutch Studies to include the language, literature and culture of the whole of his beloved “Dietsgebied” (Dutch-speaking area). In the words of his colleague Professor Roel Vismans, “… taking inspiration from area studies rather than traditional philology, it (the Institute) fostered a profound knowledge of the speakers of Dutch in both the Netherlands and Belgium” (“The Guardian”, obituary, 15 September 2017).

When he retired in 1989 at the age of 67, Peter was honoured for his work by the Dutch Government, being made a Commander of the Order of Orange-Nassau. He continued to be an external examiner for some universities, also to campaign against social injustice - and to visit Dutch prisoners in local British gaols. He also fulfilled his lifelong ambition to become a skilled cabinet-maker.

Margaretha died in 1995 of cancer; being nursed in her final months by Peter, supported by the District Nurse, Marie Curie nurses and family and friends. He then went to live in the converted coach-house of his eldest daughter’s house at Cottingham, outside Hull, transferring his furniture-making skills to his own workshop in the garden. Later, he moved to a retirement village close to his youngest grandchildren in north Warwickshire. Here, he maintained contact with former students, old friends and colleagues, occasionally attending functions at the Dutch Embassy and at various universities. He also learned to organise and call the weekly bingo sessions, not an activity to which he had ever been used before. Right to the end of his life, he continued to show great interest in and concern for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, relishing their visits and delighting in the antics of the youngest family members. He died on 3 July 2017, aged 95.

Peter was a great teacher and a good man. Requiescat in pace.

- Russell Lawson (Land Economy, 1970), Kate Hindson, and other relatives.
Derek Dowson

Derek Dowson was a much-loved former Senior Fellow, Director of Studies and Bursar at St Edmund's during the 1980s and early 1990s. The following eulogy was composed and read at Derek's funeral by Tom Dimitroff, MA (Law) St Edmund's (85), on Thursday 26 July 2007 at the Cambridge Crematorium.

Three weeks before this Sunday, Derek asked me to drive him to the coast to look at the sea. Upon setting out together, I quickly found myself struggling to navigate out of Cambridge. Recent conversations with Derek only rarely found their way to what I knew was an underlying tempest of energy. He was tired, in a lot of pain. Maybe I had become a bore? With familiar clarity, Derek changed plans and redirected me onto the A14 to Felixstowe. The hand gestures that guided me were youthful as was the glint in his eye. Strange to have this closest of friends - I have known Derek for more than 25 years – crumpled in the front seat of my car like a delicate weight perhaps locating for that moment an otherwise transcendental being. In this way it may be that nothing had changed. Perhaps nothing has changed?

During the long silence, I reflected on what I knew of this man. Derek was born in Darlington, County Durham, England on 8th January 1932. He was the youngest of Adam and Elizabeth Dowson’s three children. Only Derek and the eldest child, his beloved sister Pat, lived into adulthood. Adam was a man of daunting physical strength and courage, surviving more than four years of trench warfare during WWI, much of that time removing bodies on stretchers. While he returned to Darlington decorated and physically unscathed, he was psychologically scarred. Derek told me that Adam had never spoken to him of those experiences – Derek only learned many years later through a family friend. I asked how he coped as Adam’s child. He replied that everything was understood and accommodated very early on. Derek said that his mother Elizabeth possessed a formidable intellect and took great pride in his many achievements – both academically and athletically - as he excelled through primary and secondary school.

Although the sky had cleared that afternoon following a heavy morning rain, there was now a sharp wind that left me chilled and concerned – I was uncomfortable but wanted that moment to extend. The resulting conversation did not fall short of his best effort. He had once defined for me the essence of a professional as someone whose worst performance was sufficient. Perhaps this may explain, in part, why Derek did not complete two of his three professional endeavours.

Derek matriculated at Jesus College Oxford in the Michaelmas Term of 1950 occupying rooms in the First Quad on the same staircase as rooms once occupied by TE Lawrence. He read one year of law, received a ‘First’ in his ‘Prelims’ and maintained a life-long fascination with the bar - in particular, the criminal bar. But he succumbed to the relentless lobbying of his mother and enrolled at Kings College London to read medicine the following year. One of his many gifts, an extraordinary capacity for empathy, may well have proved his Achilles Heel. Another aspect of professionalism, he once observed, lay in the capacity to assume a clinical distance. But this was not in Derek’s nature. While deeply cerebral, Derek engaged everything viscerally. After a year, Derek suffered a mental breakdown of sorts and withdrew from his studies at Kings.

I have always been in awe of Derek’s capacity to recall facts, names – of course - but the totality of a particular experience? For Derek, recollection would unfold in layers, each bearing multidimensional resonances – achieving a lifelike intensity if prompted. Clearly, sights, sounds, smells and textures were being recalled and deployed together with concepts to bring the most astonishingly creative observations to life. When he spoke, it felt as though it was your own experience that was being recalled.

In my student days, and long afterwards, conversation with Derek could be a virtual ‘jam session’ with the likes of a John Coltrane. Accompanists of Coltrane have analogized playing with him to falling down an elevator shaft. Like Coltrane, Derek would catch and bring you along. But Derek would also enable you to feel as though you just might be a Miles Davis or Wayne Shorter after all. And perhaps at that moment you were for Derek always managed to elicit the best.

A former student described supervisions with him as following a faintly decipherable protocol:

“First, as an aside, there would be discussion of getting together. No date was set, nor commitment made – only the notion of getting together. And there it would hang deliciously for a period of time. Perhaps days, or a week or two before the idea was revisited. Then the day would
come when second mention would occur. Either during afternoon tea and biscuits or in the little college bar at night, a time and place might not be set but the idea would be advanced once again. The student did not know quite what to expect the first time he sat down with Derek in the Fellow’s Parlour at 11:00 pm having been asked to bring along a ‘good bottle’. “After three hours, once Derek warmed up to the idea that the student had no intention of sleeping through the eye of the hurricane passing through that room, the supervision would begin in earnest.”

After a conversation, sometimes lasting many hours and having covered vast ground, one would arrive at an unforgettable insight but via a path never to be found again. These were singular performances, sheer acts of creativity apparently having little to do with a particular method or premeditation – they just happened.

Following the debacle at Kings, Derek set upon a partially untraceable and, for me, inexplicable period of his life. Work as a BBC World Service radio broadcaster from North Africa - he possessed a rich, deep speaking voice. There were various assignments for the British Council and seemingly endless unaccounted for trips. These were revealed when I happened to mention my own travels and asked, “Have you been there?” Somehow, he always had. With occasional scepticism, I would test him, and sure enough the Alphonso XIII hotel in Seville, the Lahore Golf Club, the Central Train Station in Skopje with its clock face stopped permanently at 5:17 am. Events, settings, people would come to life. And so, he had been there.

He returned to the UK, I don’t really know when, and embarked upon a successful career in industry with ICL. He had an understanding of organizational dynamics, financial management, delivery and people in positions of power. But not surprisingly, his unusual collection of capacities left him chronically unfulfilled, restless.

In 1967, Derek met his wife Gaynor. She was working as a nurse. Within three years, their daughter Charlotte was born.

At around the same time, Derek started to think again about university. He had a voracious appetite for books. He described to me his first reading of DH Lawrence – the whole lot – a mind-blowing single session punctuated by little more than the necessities of life. In Lawrence he found a soulmate.

He was on the edge of abandoning a successful career with ICL to enrol as an undergraduate to read English literature at the age of 43. Magnificently, it was Gaynor’s mother who advised her from New Zealand to support Derek or it would remain an enduring and irreparable source of regret.

Derek enrolled in two years of adult education classes during the evenings while maintaining fulltime work for ICL. Following a series of discouraging interviews, he appeared in the rooms of Theodore Redpath at Trinity College, Cambridge and Redpath was captivated. Derek was admitted to Trinity to read English literature. What followed was four years of study so intense that Derek physically weakened, developed pneumonia and was forced to miss an entire academic year. It ended in June of 1979 with a telephone call - a ‘First’ with ‘Tripos Prize’. He was subsequently elected to a Research Fellowship at Trinity and completed the first two years of a PhD.

But with a family to provide for, he abandoned his PhD to take up a position as Senior Fellow, Bursar and Director of Studies in English at St Edmund’s House, Cambridge. Derek was instrumental in catalyzing the transformation of this once quaint and quirky Catholic institution. First, came refurbishments – wood panelling in the front entrance, new furniture for the common room. Next came the election of the first lay Master, Sir Richard Laws and eventually full collegiate status under a new name, “St Edmund’s College.”

During this time, Derek was fizzing – late night drinking sessions, songs from the 20s and 30s. I remember one evening in particular. Iris Murdoch, a former classmate and lifelong friend of the previous Master, dined at college. After large quantities of wine, then port and long conversation, the dancing started - we were plastered. I remember the Master John Coventry, SJ and Derek dancing on the college dining table. Iris Murdoch was also dancing - I can't say for sure whether she was also on or under that table.

Although the process of transformation eventually resulted in resignations by a factionalized Fellows Council, St Edmund’s has since grown to be a much larger and now mainstream graduate college. Only very few will know the authentic role played in this by Derek.

In the end, it was as a teacher that Derek realized himself and it was from teaching that his life blood was drawn - quite literally, Derek lived to teach. After St Edmund’s, he
began 21 years shuttling each week among various colleges and adult teaching institutions in London and Oxford. Derek retained a profound sense of loyalty and responsibility to his friends and students — in particular, a collection of American students whom he had recommended for admission to St Edmunds in the 80s and with whom he maintained a lifelong connection.

Derek remained a man with very simple requirements. He schlepped the same torn leather bag for years, before it was replaced with a cheaper plastic one. Both were always stuffed with books, tattered papers, a thermos of coffee, and a sandwich.

The lack of care he took with himself was at odds with the care he took with others. Over the last ten years, Derek and Gaynor would spend every Christmas Eve with my family. In the early years, Derek dressed as Father Christmas, would distribute enormous bags of gifts to my three children. Over the course of the year, each gift had been debated, selected with care, wrapped and then delivered dramatically to each child on the evening. Derek told me that he wanted them to be overwhelmed with a sense of magic so acute that it would remain with them throughout their lives.

Every Monday, if I was not travelling, we would meet at the Embankment station to sit on a bench in the gardens, talk and lunch together. Typically, I would need to dash back to work not quite saying all that I had to say or asking the questions that I thought I had. That afternoon, away from London, by the sea, there was time. We were sitting on a bench together. There was nothing to rush back to, no constraints.

When it became clear to Derek that his weekly London-Oxford routine, may no longer be possible - not four weeks ago Derek had signed on to teach this autumn, his life was over. Derek never once complained about a physical ailment. He was a fiercely independent man and he accepted what must have been excruciating levels of pain as the price for maintaining his autonomy.

As I helped Derek from the bench, he told me that the afternoon had been what he had wished for. As he turned, he observed that the sea was just volatile enough … to make it interesting.

- Tom Dimitroff (Philosophy, 1982)
Fellowship News

This year we welcomed several Fellows to our Governing Body.

Professor Ludovic Vallier
Ludovic is the Professor of Regenerative Medicine and Senior Faculty at the Wellcome Sanger Institute. He is also director of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre core facility.

Dr Romans Vaters
Roman is a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. His research focuses on the political ideology of the Young Hebrews movement in Israel and its affiliates.

Dr Angeliki Koutsoukou-Argyraki
Angeliki is a mathematician and logician working in formalisation of mathematics and automated theorem proving within the research project ALEXANDRIA at the Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge. She has interests in the philosophy of mathematics and in ethics of AI.

Dr Thomas Pasquier
Thomas is a Research Associate in the Department of Computer Science and Technology, and an Associate at the Harvard University Center for Research on Computation and Society. His research includes topics such as computational experiments’ reproducibility, intrusion detection, privacy, and compliance.

Dr Karina Vold
Karina is a Research Associate at the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence and a Research Fellow in the Faculty of Philosophy. She is a philosopher of mind working on issues related to artificial intelligence, consciousness, and agency.

Dr Linda King
Linda is a physiologist whose research focuses on cardiac metabolism. She has taught for a number of years at the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University. She is now a principal lecturer, with extensive experience in teaching of physiology, biochemistry, cell and developmental biology, and genetics.

Dr Magdalen Connolly
Magdalen is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Cambridge, where she researches written linguistic features of Egyptian Jewish, Muslim and Christian folk tales from the Ottoman period.

We are also proud to announce that two of our fellows have been promoted to Professor over the last Summer, Professor Folma Buss and Professor Stephen Jenkins. In addition, former Vice-Master Professor Mike Herrtage and Dr Phil Gardner were nominated Life Fellows.

Following his retirement from the Governing Body, Fr Alban McCoy was elected as an Emeritus Fellow. He remains Acting Dean and the search for a successor is underway.
A Heartfelt Thank You to our Donors of 2018

Our work would not be possible without the generosity of our Donors and we thank each and every one of you for your help. If you would like to lend your support to the College, don't hesitate to contact the Development Office.

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and still others who wish to remain anonymous but who we’d like to thank all the same.
Thank you for making our mission possible.

Keeping in touch
The College is committed to keeping in touch with you after you’ve left Cambridge. Members of the 1896 Society receive a paper copy of The Edition in the post. In addition, a regular newsletter is sent out via email to keep you updated with the goings-on in College. Most event bookings will be announced here. You should be receiving these automatically, but if not then the Development Office might not have your current email or you may have asked them not to contact you. You can consult the College website to update your contact details.

Being an Alumni at St Edmund’s comes with perks! At each Guest Night Dinner with Alumni, 30 places are reserved for former students and generously sponsored by the Alumni Society. Alumni are welcome to dine informally at the College and attend other Formal Halls and Guest Night Dinners at their own expense, although certain occasions are excluded.

Further to this, Alumni are welcome to stay in College guest rooms at their own expense, subject to availability. For further details and to enquire about availability, please visit the College website. The College is also delighted to hold weddings and christenings in the College chapel for Alumni. Further information is available from the Dean.

Donating to St Edmund’s
Whether it’s helping to develop the buildings of the College or provide scholarships, bursaries, and other opportunities to the next generation of students, the donations of Eddies alumni are crucial for the future of the College.
If you’re moved at all to donate to the College, there is information on the different methods by which you can do so via our website but of course you can also contact us directly.

http://www.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/alumni/donate
Principe Scholars - a Reunion to Remember!

This year, for the first time, Dr Principe in collaboration with the St Edmund’s Development Office organised a reunion for his former summer students which took place here in Cambridge and we were really excited to welcome them back to the College.

19 years ago, Professor Michael Principe, a former visiting Fellow of St Edmund’s College, had an idea to give his students at William Paterson University (WPU) in New Jersey the chance to experience life in a Cambridge College during their summer vacation. Students who participate come from a variety of backgrounds, they represent a real diversity of academic discipline, race, gender, and personal circumstances. For a good number it is their first time in Europe, and for some their first time out of the US.

During their brief time at Cambridge they are of course exposed to the pleasures of punting, formal dinners, and the beautiful buildings that make Cambridge the city it is, but this is no holiday. Professor Principe puts these students through a rigorous course of study combining class work with independent reflection. Looking back on the nearly two decades since he first started this programme, Michael is convinced that the experience is transformative, and some of his former students must think so too.

The Principe groups over time have contributed more than financially to the College however. Each summer, staff and students alike are warmed by the positive energy these students bring to the College during a quieter time of the year; and by the friendships that come out of interaction between the students of St Edmund’s and of WPU.

In organising this reunion, former students were encouraged to make donations to St Edmund’s and in so doing contributed £10,000 to the College. On 14 August 2018, the Master unveiled a plaque to mark the College’s gratitude to those WPU alumni who have donated.

Reuniting with so many former Summer Programme participants, some I had not seen in over 15 years, was wonderful... and yet, somehow even more fulfilling was hearing them share stories of their experiences at Eddies and how the programme gave them confidence and inspiration to continue on in graduate school and/or careers. That is the magic of the college!
Stay in touch

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Events open to Alumni in 2019

June 4 - Graduand’s Reception
June 12-15 - May Bumps
June 16 - College Garden Party
July 5 - College Guest Dinner
September 21-22 - Golden Anniversary of the Boat Club
September 25 - Late 2000s Reunion Dinner
September 28 - Alumni Society Concert and Dinner
October 26 - Sports Dinner
November 12 - Alumni Society London Dinner