Welcome from the Provost

Welcome to another edition of Oriel News.

As I write, the College is in the middle of the rituals of summer. Last week the garden play took over the hall steps. The weekend saw the last top of the term. Now, with the Ball a few days away, a stylish marquee has gone up in Second Quad and an enormous helter-skelter has appeared in Front Quad. On Saturday all of this will be coming down again and, soon enough, another marquee will go up for graduation celebrations in July.

These rituals mark our celebrations and rites of passage, but this time David and I are saying our own goodbyes. The different farewell occasions in College, at the London Alumni Dinner, and with friends around the University, have been a lovely opportunity to reflect on our time here, and to thank the wonderful people we have had the privilege to get to know - students, Oriel staff and their families, our many colleagues across the rest of Oxford, and the wonderful community for all you do to promote the health of the College, and of the friends we have made here. We wish Neil and Amelia all the very best for their time at Oriel. Thank you to the whole of the Oriel community. We leave with so many happy memories of this beautiful College, and of all the things we have made here. We wish Neil and Amelia all the very best for their time at Oriel. Thank you to the whole of the Oriel community for all you do to promote the health of the College, and for your friendship.

Floraet Oriel!

The College is pleased to announce that Neil Mendoza has been formally elected as the next Provost of Oriel. Neil read Geography at Oriel and matriculated in 1978.

Neil has a breadth of experience spanning the commercial, charitable, and public sectors.

He is currently Chair of The Landmark Trust, a UK charity dedicated to saving buildings of historical importance; of The Illuminated River Foundation, a large art commission project to light London’s bridges; and Vice-Chair of the Soho Theatre in London, a theatre that aims to encourage new writing. Neil is also a director of Meira GTx, a gene therapy company with research facilities in New York and manufacturing facilities in London.

Neil is a non-executive director of the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport. He led two government reviews in 2017: The Mendoza Review of museums in England, and a review for the Cabinet Office covering the national museums. Additional government appointments include being a Commissioner of Historic England and a member of the judging panel looking into the sustainability of English churches and cathedrals.

Previously, Neil was Chair of Children and the Arts, a nationwide charity dedicated to using cultural work to help children in disadvantaged communities and hospices. He was also a trustee of the Shakespeare Schools Festival, a theatre charity working with thousands of children across the UK, and has twice been on the judging panel for the Laurence Olivier Awards.

Early in his career Neil founded and ran a pioneering publishing company, Forward, which was eventually sold to the marketing group WPP.

He will be joined at Oriel by his wife, Amelia Wallace, who is a writer. Neil and Amelia will also be introducing a new canine resident to Oriel – her name is Mitzi, and she is a West Highland Terrier/Poodle cross. Neil will start as Provost in September this year.

The theme of young people will be at the heart of the next phase of my career too, as I go off to write a book about youth policy and what we can learn from the many social changes and policy experiments of the last 20 years. I shall be based at the LSE, and hope I can play a part in advancing the debate about how we ought to look after the next generation.

Neil and I will always take great interest in the achievements of the College. We leave with so many happy memories of this beautiful College, and of all the friends we have made here. We wish Neil and Amelia all the very best for their time at Oriel. Thank you to the whole of the Oriel community for all you do to promote the health of the College, and for your friendship.

Floraet Oriel!
Here to Serve – Communication Preferences

This year, a new EU data protection regulation has been introduced: the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which strengthens data protection for individuals. At its heart lies a desire to allow individuals to have control of their personal data and how it is used.

How does this affect me?

We now offer you a greater choice of communication preferences, and would therefore encourage you to choose which communications you would like to receive and how you would like to receive them. For example, in our recent alumni survey some of you expressed a preference for receiving Oriel News via email, and as a result will have received a digital copy.

We ask that all Orielenses choose their preferences by completing a form or going online as follows:

Log-in to the Oriel Alumni Area at https://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/orielensis and go to the mail preferences page. If you have not already registered, you will need your University Alumni number, 8-xxxxxx, to register.

This can be found on emails and post or by contacting the Oriel Alumni Office.

This will mean we can tailor our communications to your preferences, so thank you in advance for your help.

A Provost’s War

As part of the commemoration of the Great War Dr John Stevenson, with the help of the College Archivist Rob Petre, has prepared a short book containing a collection of the letters received by Provost Phelps during the Great War. With over 700 Oriel men in the forces during the conflict and 163 deaths, Provost Phelps had the unenviable task of writing many letters of condolences and helpfully passing on information from his numerous correspondents to grieving relatives - knitting Oriel’s community together. He also played an important role in Oxford, for many years as a city councillor and latterly an alderman.

This book will be published in the summer and launched at the Oriel Alumni Weekend; more details on how to purchase a copy will follow.
Alumni Survey – You Said, We Did

In 2017, the Development Office conducted a survey of all Orielenses. We received a tremendous response from over 33% of alumni, in 56 different countries, and we would like to thank all those who took the time to provide feedback.

Here we provide a breakdown of the findings, and how the College has listened to enhance and improve its relationship with as many Orielenses as possible.

Oriel and You – What you said about Oriel...

Your Relationship with Oriel

It is clear from the data and free-text responses that Orielenses are very loyal to Oriel and feel positive about their time at College (graph Q.5).

Many Orielenses wish to stay in contact with Oriel in order to keep in touch with contemporaries and to reconnect with memories of their student days, but give less priority to engaging with current students or current academic content.

However, 2,500 offers of help or support were received across 11 topics from just over 50% of respondents, indicating that there is significant potential for alumni to enrich the alumni relations programme generally, as well as College life for current students (graph Q.14).

Oriel Society Feedback

Whilst 73% of alumni are aware of the Oriel Society, 12% of alumni feel that the Oriel Society ‘provides a useful body to represent my interests’ and 20% of alumni think that the Oriel Society ‘is relevant to my relationship with Oriel’.

Event Feedback

Almost 60% of all respondents have attended at least one alumni event organised by College. The most popular events include Gaudies and other dinners in College. Key reasons for attending an Oriel event included the desire to re-visit the College and reconnect with other Orielenses, or to hear interesting speakers (graph Q.11).

Communications Feedback

Overall, respondents like to receive emails, and alumni prefer to be sent information rather than having actively to search for it. Oriel News and The Record are enjoyed by many Orielenses. The survey found that 62% of respondents use social-media platforms, with Facebook being the most popular. However, only 20% of respondents indicated that they liked social media as a channel for College to communicate with them.

Q5. We would like to understand how you feel about Oriel

My experience at Oriel was positive

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Studying at Oriel prepared me well for my career

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My experience at Oriel prepared me well for life

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I am proud to be an Orielensis

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The connections I made whilst at Oriel continue to be important to me

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Q11. What are the reasons you might attend an Oriel event?

To re-visit College

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To visit an interesting venue

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Interesting content or speaker

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Re-connecting with fellow Orielenses

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Meeting new Orielenses

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Loyalty to Oriel

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Networking opportunities

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Q14. Count of offers – by participatory activity

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<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>Help to organise or support an event</td>
<td>174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speak at an event</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform/ exhibit at an event</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serve as a year group representative or country contact</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talk to prospective students</td>
<td>376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide career advice to current students</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offer internships/ employment opportunities</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentor a current student</td>
<td>291</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribute articles to our publications</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribute career profiles</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribute to a Giving Society</td>
<td>161</td>
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read our response to your feedback overleaf →
Our response to your feedback…

Alongside the set questions, the opportunity for free text brought a number of themes to the fore.

As a response to those, Oriel plans to do the following:

Dining Rights

The question of dining rights for alumni emerged as a theme in the free-text section of the results. In line with many other colleges in Oxford and Cambridge, Oriel would like to offer dining rights to its former students. All Orielenses after 21 terms following matriculation have become the default means by which Oxonians can identify themselves and gain access to parts of the University, including their former alma mater’s spaces. The Oxford Alumni Card, issued centrally by the University, has become the default means by which Oxonians can identify themselves and gain access to parts of the University, including their former alma mater’s spaces. The Oxford Alumni Card, issued centrally by the University, has become the default means by which Oxonians can identify themselves and gain access to parts of the University, including their former alma mater’s spaces. The Oxford Alumni Card, issued centrally by the University, has become the default means by which Oxonians can identify themselves and gain access to parts of the University, including their former alma mater’s spaces.

Over the coming months the College is planning to create three new Alumni Facilities in College. We would like to ensure Orielenses are able to gain access to these, please login to the University’s website to request one (you will need your alumni number, 8-xxxxxxxx):

- Oxford Alumni Card
- Dining Rights
- Graduation and MA Graduations

Graduation and MA Graduations

Graduation, and in particular MA Graduation ceremonies, featured as a theme in the free text. In recent years graduation ceremonies have more been structured around the summer after Finals for most current undergraduates. As such many of the concerns expressed have already been addressed, and the way current undergraduates now graduate mirrors what is done in most UK universities.

For those wishing to graduate with their MA, finding a possible date has become more problematic in recent years owing to the limited space at graduation ceremonies over the course of the academic year. The College plans to address this by having an annual ceremony in College for those eligible to take their MA who wish to do so. More details on this will follow.

Events

Even with the current portfolio of events, the results suggest that a greater variety of events would encourage different groups of alumni to attend. Some types of event are generally appealing, while others only appeal to certain age groups. It is clear that there is significant demand within specific age groups for active events, family-friendly events, and professional networking events for recent graduates.

We would like to broaden the portfolio of events to encompass the needs of all constituencies that comprise the alumni population — from new graduates to families to those more mature in years. All events are under regular review; and while the College has limited reources to organise additional events, it is always happy to advertise and give advice to those who wish to organise their own events.

The Oriel Society

The Oriel Society Committee is discussing with the College its reconstitution as an Oriel Alumni Committee, with appropriate terms of reference to ensure that alumni views are represented, and events and other alumni activities are designed to be as appealing to as many Oriel constituencies as possible.

As mentioned above, the Oxford Alumni Card will allow you to claim a number of benefits and offers, for example enabling you to book dinner and/or guest rooms in College from Hilary Term 2019.

The President of the Oriel Society writes…

The Oxford Society was established to bring Orielenses together in a spirit of fun and fellowship. It was ahead of its time as an alumni relations organisation, and originally undergraduates paid a termly subscription to become members on graduation. In recent years all alumni of the College have been considered to be members of the Society and included in events and initiatives organised by the Oriel Society Committee. Indeed, my predecessor John Albert and I have made a point of appearing at many Leavers’ Dinners to remind all alumni that they are members…

However, as you will have seen from the survey (half of the cost of which was paid for by the Oriel Society), we have a problem of nomenclature. Concerned that the word ‘Society’ was putting off alumni who assumed that they were not members, we have tried downplaying the use of the Oriel Society name at recent events in the belief that it would encourage more Orielenses, particularly from recent matriculation years, to attend. The fact that the last Oxford and London ‘alumni’ dinners, together with events such as the Garden Party, have been fully subscribed, leads us to believe that our concern is not misplaced. The survey also adds some helpful factual data to the view that Orielenses regard themselves as alumni of the College rather than members of the Oriel Society, and are largely unaware of the Committee’s role in alumni relations.

The role of the Committee has also changed in recent years. In line with other colleges, Oriel has developed a professional alumni and development function over the past 20 years or so. As a result, the planning and organising of events for Orielenses has increasingly been carried out by the Development Office, with input from the Committee. The Committee members are therefore no longer the principal organisers of events, but rather see themselves as conduits through which the wider Oriel community can communicate with the College. The Committee believes that its role is to represent the interests of all alumni, and that making this clearer would remove much confusion as to the role of the Oriel Society, and allow the College’s alumni relations to be more effectively organised.

The Committee has therefore been discussing with the College the basis on which it would reconstitute itself as the Oriel Alumni Committee, with appropriate terms of reference. This ‘rebranding’ would better describe the function the Committee now effectively carries out, helping the College to realise its goals through building up the community of Orielenses across the generations. The Oriel Society would continue to exist as a legal entity with its own funds, and the Committee would continue to fulfil its function as the Oriel Society Committee.

These plans for the Committee, and the other initiatives arising from the survey, mark a step change for alumni relations at Oriel, but equally are evolutionary in nature. Most importantly, they will allow the College to respond to the needs of the wider Oriel community more effectively. The Committee would be very grateful for any views on them from Orielenses on the email address below.

Committee Members

- Claire Toogood (1991)
- Daniel McLean (2007)
- Jonathan Brewer (1973)
- Professor Teresa Morgan (Fellow & Tutor)
- Laura Dissanay (1986)
- Michael Kenworthy-Brown (1957)
- Sarah Keifer (2000)
- Daniel McLean (2007)
- Sophie Ross (2011)
- John Slade (1976)
- Claire Toogood (1991)

If you would like to contact the Oriel Society Committee, please email development.office@oriel.ox.ac.uk with a subject line of: FAO Oriel Society Committee and we will forward this on.
Fundraising Successes

A Big Thank You and YouTube Channel

Please visit College’s new YouTube channel - we have just added our first short video to say a big thank you to our alumni and friends for helping us to achieve our £25 million fundraising target, illustrating the transformative impact it has had on College and our students. From student support and outreach, to the creation of new and improved student rooms and a teaching centre in Third Quad, the money raised has had an overwhelmingly positive effect on the Oriel community. Thank you!

www.youtube.com – ‘Oriel College, Oxford’ channel

2018 Telephone Campaign

We are delighted to report that Oriel’s 12th annual telephone campaign was a great success, raising over £112,302 for the College.

This year, the campaign was fundraising to support three key project areas: our student support fund, our outreach work and the refurbishment of the Goldie building on Rectory Road. Of the 400 Orielenses we spoke to over two weeks, nearly half chose to make a gift to support these valuable projects. Thanks to your generosity, we will be able to ensure that no student is prevented from playing a full role in College life owing to their financial circumstances; that we reach even more schoolchildren across our linked regions and encourage more applications to Oxford; and finally, that College accommodation is fully fit for the requirements of modern student living.

The telephone campaign is a very important part of the College’s development and alumni relations strategy – we speak with more alumni during this fortnight than at any other time of the year, providing a stipend for research, helping to remove financial burdens. This is a pioneering development to be partnering with INET Oxford to support graduates in this way.

We are pleased to announce the creation of two new scholarships: one with the Institute for New Economic Thinking at The Oxford Martin School and the other with University of Oxford.

Oriel-INET Oxford Graduate Scholarship

Oriel has teamed up with the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School (INET Oxford) — which is a multidisciplinary research institute dedicated to applying leading-edge thinking from the social and physical sciences to global economic challenges — to provide an annual scholarship to a prospective graduate student at INET Oxford who will become a member of Oriel’s community. The scholarship will assist the graduate by covering the College fee and providing a stipend for research, helping to remove financial burdens.

Announcements on the selected candidates will be made in due course.

Oriel Outreach – Spring Update

As the warmer weather transforms Oriel into the perfect setting for a school trip, the College outreach programme continues to gain momentum. By the end of April, Oriel had engaged in 112 separate outreach events for state schools, including hosting group visits to Oxford, participating in university-wide schemes such as the Oxford Pathways programme; exhibiting at HE Fairs; and collaborating with local councils and other universities. The outreach calendar continues to look busy for the rest of the academic year.

Spring is the busiest season for outreach activity, and this year was no exception. A productive week was spent collaborating with Newnham College, Cambridge, on an Oxford ‘roadshow’ in Walsall, which will be followed up with visits to Cambridge in May and to Oriel in the autumn as part of the colleges’ collaborative regional-hub initiative. The enthusiasm of participating schools grows each year. Further events, with or without Cambridge collaboration, are organised and attended every week in Oriel’s three other West Midlands link authorities, and two link London boroughs.

The Easter break saw the first instalment of Oriel’s Study Day programme: a high impact series of one-night, subject-focused residential visits to the College for Year 12 state school students. Two subjects were hosted at Easter — PPE, and Biochemistry/Biomedical Sciences — and a further three were held in August. Current undergraduates, some of whom benefited from the first round of Study Days in 2016, were able to assist and encourage our latest crop of participants: testament to the programme’s value and power. The College is immensely grateful to the generous Orielenses who have made this event possible, at no cost to participants.

Students are selected for a place on a Study Day based on information about their school and background, alongside rigorous academic criteria. For more than half of the diverse group of young people hosted by Oriel this Easter, the Study Day was their first experience of Oxbridge. 83% of participants said that their time at Oriel had changed their perceptions of the University, and both Easter Study Days were praised as an enjoyable and useful experience (97% of participants rated the programme as ‘very good’ or ‘excellent’). As part of the event’s evaluation process, the College will continue to track participants to see if they make an Oxbridge application: 95% responded positively when asked if they would make an application in the autumn.

Outside of the College’s flagship outreach programmes, time and energy from across the College community is put into engaging students of all ages on a daily basis. Trinity Term has seen us welcome the youngest visitors of the year, 10- and 11-year-olds in Year 6; Year 12 students on the cusp of writing their applications to Oxford; and every year group in between. The aim is to instil in every visitor the sentiment expressed by one of our Easter Study Day attendees: “Visiting Oriel made me realise that attending Oxford could be an achievable goal — not just a dream!”

India Collins-Davies, Outreach Officer

Oriel-INET Oxford Graduate Scholarship

Oriel has also collaborated with the University of Oxford to set up an African Graduate Scholarship, to provide funding for a student from Africa to study for a Master’s degree at Oriel next year. Funding is usually the main issue in deterring outstanding applicants that could potentially find solutions to global problems. The University of Oxford kindly offered to match funding provided by the many generous donations from Orielenses to make this possible. It is hoped this scheme will continue in future years if further donations can be raised.

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Announcements on the selected candidates will be made in due course.
JCR Report

Equipped with a refurbished Common Room and vibrant original artwork in the bar, the JCR entered the new academic year in high spirits. The past two terms have flown by, as students have once again impressed College with the scope and diversity of their achievements.

There is no better place to start than at the river, where Oriel dominated yet again at Torpids, despite the cancellation of two days’ racing owing to snow. After some heroic shovelling in the morning, from Oriel’s finest, the crowds turned out in force for a spectacular Torpids Saturday. The Women’s 1st VIII led with a valiant row-over to retain the Headship they took last year. The men then followed by bumping Pembroke in front of their own boathouse to give Oriel the Double Headship — only the second in Torpids history, and both ours.

College sport more generally continues to flourish. The men’s football team followed last year’s promotion battle with a fairy-tale cup run, culminating in a semi-final played in front of their largest crowd in living memory. Special mention must go to Rohin Burney, whose nifty antics made him Oriel’s all-time top goal scorer. The netball team maintained their Division 1 status, while our alternative ice hockey teams finished 2nd and 8th in the league campaign resulting in promotion.

The Christmas festivities didn’t end there, with the Oriel College Choir released a Christmas CD, Lumen de Lumen, and will be touring this summer to showcase their talent. The Christmas festivities didn’t end there, with the Oriel College Choir releasing their CD and playing at the Christmas market.

The undergraduates have also performed well in the arts. The Chapel Choir released a Christmas CD, Lumen de Lumen, and will be touring this summer to showcase their talent. The Christmas festivities didn’t end there, with the Oriel College Choir releasing their CD and playing at the Christmas market.

Not satisfied with their College exploits, many of our sporting stars have also represented the University. Lucy Wright (2nd Year, Physics) captained the Women’s Water Polo Blues to a Varsity win and a BUCS title. Erin Robinson (1st Year, Medicine) has played Blues football, while Eoin Minaghan (3rd Year, PPE) captained the 3rd XI to Varsity victory. Alexander Agureev (2nd Year, History and Economics) will have stood Tabs on the rugby pitch, for the 2nds and 3rds respectively. Angus Forbes (2nd Year, PPE) has also represented Oriel on the river with OUBC. Further highlights include William Pickering (3rd Year, Engineering) in powerlifting, Lena Schneiderkow (4th Year, Chemistry) in climbing, and Wesley Rawlings (3rd Year, Physics) with the pool cue.

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Deciding that national television was not a suitable setting this year, Oriel’s quizzes instead turned to the Cape of Good Hope, where they won the ultimate prize. The College team also enjoyed a successful Cuppers run despite tough opposition. JCR Open Meetings have been another lively source of entertainment, and a motion passed in the JCR that eventually resulted in the rainbow flag flying from the College flagpole for most of the month of February. Other highlights have included the Chinese New Year Formal, and two well-attended charity Formals.

Another successful charity event was the RAG Casino Night held at the JCR Report. This was followed by an exchange with our other sister college, Clare College, Cambridge, later in Trinity Term.

Oriel Players in The Beaux’ Stratagem

Oriel Players in The Beaux’ Stratagem

The MCR has continued to show its prowess on the sports field, with many members being involved in College sports including cricket and croquet. MCR members have also been very active on the river, with approximately 20 members in the various boats for Torpids, including nine individuals in the double-headship-winning M1 and W1 crews; and this involvement continued for Eights Week, when the MCR hosted a Pimm’s party on the roof of the boathouse as it supported the crews on the water.

The river ran blue and white at Torpids this year, as Oriel finally regained the Double Headship. The week wasn’t without its difficulties: M2/3 and W2 had a very frustrating time, being unable to row for more than the first day owing to the adverse weather. However, their Oriel spirit shone through when over 30 of them went to help clear the towpath of snow so that racing could go ahead on the Saturday.

As ever, without all the hard work of the crews that came before, this would never have been possible. We’d like to say a special ‘thank you’ to the Tortoise Club for its continuing support, and also to the particularly keen alumni who went down to help clear the towpath to let racing go ahead and to allow the Double Headship to happen.

Lara Bonney & Robert Boswall, Captains of Boats

MCR Report

Every year the MCR goes from strength to strength. This year has proved to be no different, with 94 new members starting in October 2017 along with 40 continuing 4th year undergrads. Engagement with MCR life has remained high, with many new members taking up committee roles from the outset. It is the hard work of all these individuals that helps make the MCR the fantastic place it is, for which I am truly grateful.

The MCR bar is the focal point of many memorable evenings at Oriel, and visitors from other colleges maintain that it is the best-stocked student bar in Oxford. Afternoon tea, second desserts, yoga, and wine-tasting are a regular feature of the social calendar, and the MCR Punting Scheme allows all members to enjoy this quintessential Oxford pastime free of charge. This year the MCR has continued to travel around Oxford to sample the culinary delights of other colleges on exchange dinners. In February, a contingent of MCR members travelled to Trinity College, Dublin, for our annual exchange dinner, with 15 members of Trinity coming to Oriel for the reciprocal Hilary MCR Guest Night. This was followed by an exchange with our other sister college, Clare College, Cambridge, later in Trinity Term.

Oriel Talks, which is the MCR-led seminar series held twice per term, is as successful as ever and has now entered its third year. Themes this year have included ‘Perception’, ‘Possibility’, and ‘Humanity’, with each seminar having an SCR keynote and two MCR speakers giving fascinating talks designed to be accessible to everyone, not just a specialist audience.

The MCR has continued to show its prowess on the sports field, with many members being involved in College sports including cricket and croquet. MCR members have also been very active on the river, with approximately 20 members in the various boats for Torpids, including nine individuals in the double-headship-winning M1 and W1 crews; and this involvement continued for Eights Week, when the MCR hosted a Pimm’s party on the roof of the boathouse as it supported the crews on the water.

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Lara Bonney & Robert Boswall, Captains of Boats

The river ran blue and white at Torpids this year, as Oriel finally regained the Double Headship. The week wasn’t without its difficulties: M2/3 and W2 had a very frustrating time, being unable to row for more than the first day owing to the adverse weather. However, their Oriel spirit shone through when over 30 of them went to help clear the towpath of snow so that racing could go ahead on the Saturday.

After a nail-biting race with Wadham on the Wednesday, in which W1 had displayed some of the quickest rowing on the list to come back from Wadham’s early overset, W1 knew that if they kept their nerve they could retain the Headship. With the added confidence from their first race they managed to keep half a length ahead of Wadham for the entirety of Saturday’s race. In both women’s crews this year only four girls had rowed before this October: a testament to the hard work they all put in this year. In rowing over, they became the first ever Oriel Women’s crew to retain the Headship.

M1 came into Torpids knowing that they were in with a strong chance of bumping to Head of the River. They had rowed a fantastic season frequently beating other university crews including Oxford Lightweight and Bristol University, but on the Wednesday of Torpids they narrowly missed out on the bump — with first day nerves it was always going to be hard. However, they knew they were quick enough, and on the Saturday emphatically bumped Pembroke outside their own boathouse to regain the Double Headship.

As ever, without all the hard work of the crews that came before, this would never have been possible. We’d like to say a special ‘thank you’ to the Tortoise Club for its continuing support, and also to the particularly keen alumni who went down to help clear the towpath to let racing go ahead and to allow the Double Headship to happen.

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Double Headship Crews

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Lara Bonney & Robert Boswall, Captains of Boats

Double Headship Crews
When did you discover a vocation to ordained ministry?

I was 19 and someone suggested I might be ordained. After graduating from Brasenose College, I was immediately given a parish. I later discovered the vocation to ordained ministry when I began working at the Oxford University Chaplaincy.

What year was that? 

January 2018.

When did you start at Oriel and what does a normal day look like for you?

I started at Oriel in January 2018. Besides daily services in chapel, I spend a lot of time meeting and talking individually with students, as well as coordinating events and activities. It’s a busy and rewarding role.

What is the most challenging aspect of your role?

The most challenging aspect of my role is to walk with individuals through some really tough times in their lives. I am there to listen, offer support, and help them navigate through difficult situations.

What has been your greatest triumph?

My greatest triumph is seeing my students grow and develop in their faith and personal lives. It is a great joy to watch them flourish and find their path in life.

What one luxury would you take on a desert island?

A library, because I love reading and have so many books to choose from.

More than just learning about the technicalities of playing the baroque cello or tenor saxophone, I’ve also had the chance to hear world renowned musicians share lessons with our students on performance, self-awareness, and practice that have relevance far beyond the concert hall. They struck many a chord for me personally, as, being a management consultant, my day job consists of a lot of presentation, influencing, and confidence building — although more often delivered in the boardroom than from the stage.

What is the piece of ‘life’ advice you would offer to a student?

Live life backwards. Consider how you want it to end and make every decision with that in mind.

Whom would you invite to Formal Hall (dead or alive)?

I would invite a few of my favorite composers, such as Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven. They are great personal tragedies in their lives and seem to have persevered in a remarkable way.

Is it too obvious to say Jesus Christ? If nothing else he had some extraordinary lines: ‘Whoever wants to save his life must lose it’ and ‘Fear not, I died, and behold I am alive forever.’

Apart from trying not to eat too much of the delicious food in Hall?

What is the most challenging aspect of your role?

I think the most challenging aspect of my role is trying to meet five visiting musicians and to be part of the audience at the masterclasses that we hold with our students. Seeing great teaching and learning taking place right in front of your eyes (and ears) is a treat in itself. There have been several magical musical moments over the years when students have been challenged to step away out of their comfort zone, and I’ve thought ‘there’s either going to be tears here, or something wonderful is going to happen’ — and it has always been true.

To return to where I started, earlier this year the Australian guitarist Craig Ogden ran two masterclasses which were particularly special for me as some members of the Oriel choir, that I’d known from their first years as undergraduates, got the chance to perform and learn from a world-class concert soloist. I remember well her focus on the details of language, and her emphasis on thinking of lyrics as not just words but as channels of emotion from the composer through the performer to the audience. She also demonstrated some great lessons about the partnership between singer and accompanist — and the importance of the unspoken communication of gesture and eye contact that can create one performance in the space between two performers. That is certainly true for so many other successful joint endeavours in professional or sporting life.

To the audience, you’ll have the chance to learn something that may surprise you, and will stay with you long after the encore.

Alex Waygood (current student) with Craig Ogden
Stepping Up to the Challenge

Phanella Mayall-Fine (1988, French & German)

I am the Co-Founder of the Step Up Club, a powerful, expert voice in the women’s career conversation. Driven by my work around the mid-career crisis, the phenomenon that sees job satisfaction of almost all employees deteriorating dramatically in mid-life, I initially set out — along with my partner, journalist Alice Olins — to write a careers guide. Previously a Slaughter & May & J. P. Morgan fund manager, I now work as an Accredited Executive Coach. Through my coaching work, I found that this mid-career crisis was a cover of The Telegraph, Alice and I realised that our brand set out — along with my partner, journalist Alice Olins — to write a careers guide. Previously a Slaughter & May & J. P. Morgan fund manager, I now work as an Accredited Executive Coach. Through my coaching work, I found that this mid-career crisis was a cover of The Telegraph, Alice and I realised that our brand.

Our mission is to give women hope, financial independence, and development and confidence in their career satisfaction is for, many women, compounded by babies, family responsibilities and gender barriers such as unconscious bias.

Research tells us that once we emerge from this crisis, job satisfaction tends to increase again, and in many cases reaches even higher levels than before. It’s a powerful U-shaped curve. The challenge, particularly for women, is to maintain motivation, confidence and drive through to the other side. After traipsing my coaching work with my teaching work in law firms and banks, it was clear that if these women spent just 10 minutes a day consciously focusing on their career development and confidence in a structured way (as opposed to an additional 10 minutes doing their day jobs), the result would be a dramatic improvement both in job satisfaction and career enjoyment. It was this premise that informed our book: Step Up: Confidence, Success and your Stellar Career in 10 Minutes a Day (Random House).

The book hit a nerve with readers and the media. After being featured across most of the UK broadcast and glossy media, including a cover of The Telegraph, Alice and I realised that our brand of modern careers advice was desperately needed. We were approached by large female-led brands to collaborate on content and we launched an event series alongside our weekly newsletter.

Our latest venture is Step Up School: an innovative and powerful course running both online and in-person. The course uses our proven career development system, combining accredited advice, interactive 10 minute edutrails and a vibrant network of fellow students, to progress women in their businesses and careers. It’s been such an exciting, if unexpected journey. Our first round of Step Up School sold out in just five hours!

Since starting The Step Up Club, Alice and I have been able to help thousands of women to change career, get promoted, obtain serious pay rises, find angel investment, and get themselves onto high-level boards. We also work in tandem with charities, including Dress for Success and mothers2mothers, to offer free places on Step Up School for women financially unable to access traditional career development.

Our mission is to give women hope, financial independence, and confidence. I can’t imagine a more fulfilling way to spend my time.

Advice from another Orielensis

Orielensis Dr Chris Hayes (1992, DPhil Biological Sciences) is an intellectual property lawyer based in London and Oxford. History and many small children in tow, I cope by being very strict with my scheduling and by asking for help as much as possible both at home and at work: our business took off when we hired our first employee.

“Best advice for anyone at the start of their career (or any stage thereafter)! is to make sure you’ve taken the time to define what success means to you. I see so many people who have worked so hard only to find they have reached their goals and then are disappointed. They’re just not as happy as they thought they’d be. The answer is invariably that they have been pushing for a success that wasn’t theirs. When you take a step back and really understand what you want to achieve, it’s so much easier to make the right choices and, crucially, to stop comparing yourself to anyone else.

What do you most enjoy about being an entrepreneur? Achieving as much as possible whilst on this planet.

What is one of the greatest challenges in your job? Running it myself. I thrive on taking risks and creating an idea that becomes a national activity, and on working alongside colleagues and helping them develop in their roles.

Who or what inspired you during your time at Oriel? Professor R. E. C. Zahniser at All Souls’, who was the Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics and the world authority on the time on Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, and Islamic Studies. He spoke 36 languages, which is something to aspire towards.

What has been your greatest triumph? I was elected an EU 500 Entrepreneur in 1999, and appointed a CBE in the 2012 New Years Honours for services to cricket.

Do you have any unusual hobbies? I enjoy Game shooting, scuba diving, and preserving remote places.

Do you do any voluntary work? I have been a co-sponsor of Academies in the deprived area of South Bristol. I also sponsor Youth Workers in the Redcliffe ward in Bristol, which is the most deprived ward in the city and in the bottom 1% for child poverty in the country.

What advice would you give to students aspiring to set-up and run their own businesses? Do so in niches which you understand and know about. Be brave and determined, and don’t worry about sleepless nights.

What is the one piece of ‘life’ advice you would give to a current student? Believe in yourself. Never give up and be prepared to take risks.

Dr Chris, Hayes, 1992

Take Chris up on this offer, please feel free to email him at chris.hayes@lewissilkin.com (with Oriel in the subject). Here is a bit from Chris about himself:

“Before retraining as a lawyer I was a gentile. I held a Junior Research Fellowship at Merton College and was awarded a Medical Research Council Research Fellowship at the University. I have had work published in a range of leading scientific peer-reviewed journals, and have been fortunate to have worked as a scientist and as a lawyer for leading global pharmaceutical companies including Merck, Sharpe & Dohme, Bristol Myers-Squibb, and Lundbeck.

“I am now a partner at Lewis Silkin, based in the City of London, specialising in intellectual property, particularly patent law, across a number of sectors. These include automotive, fashion and retail, manufacturing, and pharmaceuticals; however, the common thread is the need for a high-capacity, high-growth IP rich clients: from SMEs to international corporations. Working with start-ups is particularly exciting, as often these companies will be built on really novel and interesting ideas, although I often see similar legal issues arising: such as filing to identify who owns the IP, or protect their IP in the most optimal manner, or choosing an inappropriate corporate structure.”
Mark Beilby
1979, Modern History

Current entrepreneurial role:
Co-Founder/Executive Chairman of Meetoo Ltd, a world leader in the provision of engagement and insight through the mobile device, operating principally in Further and Higher Education.

Where has life taken you since you left Oriel?
A circuitous route through TV researcher, screenwriter, investment banker, lecturer in finance at a business school, and technology entrepreneur.

What do you most enjoy about being an entrepreneur?
I am fairly obsessed with History then and the notion of being a cerebral capital. I spent 22 years in leading investment banks (13 years at MD level) and was never in control of my own destiny, albeit that it had compensations.

What motivates you?
Simply building the reputation, scale, and market penetration of our company. It is a feeling difficult to replicate working for someone else.

What is one of the greatest challenges in your job?
Deciding when a strategy is not working and cannot be pursued without endangering our company, in a small and growing company, it is possible to discern a market opportunity but lack the resources to exploit it.

How do you get into the business sector?
I got into my current business by meeting two clever people from Finland who, pre-smart phone, had worked out how to deliver content in real time to an application downloaded to a mobile. I, myself, am a technological idiot.

Who or what inspired you during your time at Oriel?
I was fairly obsessed with History then and the notion of being an entrepreneur. Life took a different path, but I do think that the lessons in analysis, context, cause and effect you learn through the study of history subsequently stood me in good stead.

What has been your greatest triumph?
I am tempted to say I shall let you know if it happens. But, probably history subsequently stood me in good stead.

Current entrepreneurial role:
Co-Founder of Non Standard Finance PLC. I raised £280m of equity in a ‘shelly company’ (i.e. just an idea and a business plan) with the aim of creating a major force in the ‘non-standard’ consumer finance market — providing credit to the 12m UK adults that the high street banks won’t serve due to people having a ‘thin’ (i.e. they are young or new to the country), or ‘impaired’ credit history. We acquired three companies over the ensuing two years and I unexpectedly stepped in to run the largest one (Equity Loans) as CEO a year ago whilst maintaining my role at NSF.

What is one of the greatest challenges in your job?
We, like all UK tech companies, are always looking for good young people. But recruitment by technology companies can sometimes seem based on whom you know. There exist, however, a multitude of networking organizations for aspirant technology entrepreneurs and start-up tech companies, and Oxford itself is a tech hub. Network to find a suitable opportunity.

What advice would you give to students aspiring to set-up and run their own businesses?
You need to balance the big idea and vaulting ambition with knowledge and control of your business. For any company the single most important consideration is cashflow.

Miles Cresswell-Turner
1981, Geography

What is the one piece of ‘life’ advice you would give to a current student?
Everyone is passionate about something that could prove to be your life’s endeavour, creative or not. Have the courage to pursue it. It may not work, you may prove unlucky, but give it a shot. If you ask the Careers Service what you should do, they will inevitably tell you to qualify as an accountant or apply to market Toilet Duck. That is their job.

What advice would you give for a student wishing to join your industry?
We’re all UK tech companies, are always looking for good young people. But recruitment by technology companies can sometimes seem based on whom you know. There exist, however, a multitude of networking organizations for aspirant technology entrepreneurs and start-up tech companies, and Oxford itself is a tech hub. Network to find a suitable opportunity.

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What is one of the greatest challenges in your job?
I have always (rather secretly) been a bit of a solo player; learning to work in a team and motivate/manage others has taken a while to master (and I’m still working on it).

What advice would you give for a student wishing to join your industry?
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Laura Ashley-Timms (née Goldsmith)
1985, Geography

What advice would you give to students aspiring to set-up and run their own businesses?
Get a partner — it is really lonely on your own — and make sure you have a passion for your chosen business.

Current entrepreneurial role:
I am a Director and the Joint Founder of Nation, which was established in 2000 to help organisations to ‘change momentum’. 18 years later, we are best known for our work in behavioural change and are generally considered to be global experts in all things coaching. Our passion is working with organisations to help leaders and managers leverage performance, productivity, and engagement; and we have the privilege to work with some of the world’s most exciting organisations, from multinational and commercial banks to major supermarkets, Russell Group Universities, telecoms, traditional manufacturers, and everything in-between. This year alone our work has taken us to the USA, South Africa, Poland, France, Croatia, Germany, Dubai from our core base in the UK.

What has life taken you since you left Oriel?
I was lucky to have a really exciting start to my career, having secured an ASE Eliot traineeship in the marketing department of 3M in Manila. This was closely followed by over a decade in retail. I used to boast that I really started my career in men’s trousers, but did so well that I quickly got promoted to men’s underwear! This was based on my solid early business foundation running buying departments in Marks & Spencer, where within a few years I found myself running departments and P&Ls of £90m, which was a fantastic business foundation.

I had always had a desire to have a very international career, and managed to get sent to New York to work in Brooks Brothers for a few years and then return to an international consultancy role for Marks & Spencer, before I finally left for a more senior role at a mid-sized retailer. By my early 30s, I really wanted to change industry and had a number of very green-up job offers in some big consultancies, but the offer of working for a small family-run business in Stratford-upon-Avon kept me smiling. Despite leaving my sons aged 6 and 4, I decided to accept the offer and have never looked back. Today we work with some of the most exciting companies in the world...
Mark Wilson
1986, Chemistry

Current entrepreneurial role: Director, Co-Founder of Walk the Storm

Where has life taken you since you left Oriel?
Upon leaving Oriel I joined the accounting firm Price Waterhouse in Windsor, with the intention of gaining a respected qualification and learning about businesses. After qualifying and obtaining further experience as an audit manager, I chose to move into industry. I joined Galaxy Welcome, in their head office accounting function. After five years, a merger, and learning a great deal in two roles, I wanted wider responsibility in a smaller company. I joined Reckitt Benckiser, who themselves had only just completed a merger. I enjoyed a successful 11 years with RB, culminating in a move to the US to head up the US strong sales team of North America and Australia. Returning to the UK, I joined Esso as a Group Financial Controller before deciding, after just over a year, that I wanted more independence and excitement than a corporate role offered. I took some time out and considered a range of different career options, including retraining. However, while enjoying New Year’s Eve 2015 with my partner Carolyn, a question popped into my head – ‘what’s your ideal job?’ From that discussion, we generated the idea to start a retail business in brightly coloured, stylish yet wearable gear to give a brighter perspective to people – and the ‘coaching behaviours’ can slip! This is work in progress.

What is the one piece of ‘life’ advice you would give to a current student?
Live your life and trust your gut, but if you choose to be an employee make the break and set up your own business. To someone considering retail: it’s much more dynamic – to someone considering the Chartered Accounting profession: it’s a true game-changer, and I’m immensely proud of it. It will be work. To someone considering a career in sport: it’s going live now, so watch this space.

What is one of the greatest challenges in your job?
To be a 100%-present parent whilst growing a business. I’m a self-confessed rubbish wife, but luckily my husband is also my business partner so he knows I’m the probably the hardest working wife a man can have in his life. He is the best father I could ever imagine – he is always there for our kids a lot and we’re both very proud of that, although making the decision to put the children first definitely slowed the growth of the business in the early years – but today, with the business and three children there is no other time. I expect in 6-12 months’ time.

Do you do any voluntary work or work in the community?
I am also Governor and Chair of the Audit Committee at Croydon College.

What has been your greatest triumph?
Professionally, I led a small work project as a Skilled Accountant — fuelled by my desire to understand the world of commerce, having taken Chemistry as far as I could without specialising in a particular field of research.

Who or what inspired you during your time at Oriel?
I was inspired by the whole academic environment, the desire for knowledge and for answers, as well as the drive to achieve, and to push limits of achievement to beyond what was previously thought possible.

What has been your greatest challenge?
Financially, I think the last two years which can finally allow organisations to scale behaviour change and transform performance, and we are really excited about the impact this will have on all businesses.

What do you most enjoy about being an entrepreneur?
What I most enjoy about being an entrepreneur is that it’s a true game-changer, and I’m immensely proud of it. It will literally change the way people communicate and work together in business for the better. It’s just going live now, so watch this space.

Do you have any unusual hobbies?
Hobbies? I think that comes next, doesn’t it? The downside of being an entrepreneur is that you don’t have any personal time. I do like property, and have developed a small portfolio — if that counts.

Do you do any voluntary work?
I have co-authored two books for charity and had a role on one of the school PTAs for a short while. That was really nice, that’s enough. With the business and three children there is no other time. I expect in 6-12 months’ time. I will be working with 16-21-year-olds to help get them ready for the world of work.

What is the one piece of ‘life’ advice you would give to a current student?
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Do you do any voluntary work or work in the community?
I am also Governor and Chair of the Audit Committee at Croydon College.

What is the one piece of ‘life’ advice you would give to a current student?
To a current student, I would guide them to follow their passions, be dedicated and have fun. With that, I think there is the strongest chance of success and enjoyment in their life!

What advice would you give to a student wishing to join your industry?
To someone considering the Chartered Accounting profession: it’s safe, predictable, and rewarding, but can be long hours and hard work. To someone considering retail: it’s much more dynamic — meaning it can be exciting, but it is also risky.

What advice would you give to students aspiring to set-up and run their own business?
Go for it with both a sense of the dream and a sense of reality — give yourself options and headroom wherever possible so as to ensure you can keep moving forward.
Gary Pitts

1986, Ancient and Modern History

Current entrepreneurial role: Owner and Managing Partner of Tetractys Partners LLP; Owner and Partner of Two Teners LLP; trustee of a start-up charity.

Where has life taken you since you left Oriel?

Through the usual domestic ups and downs of births, deaths, divorce and remarriage, across the world on business and into charitable work that will hopefully leave a legacy of good.

What do you most enjoy about being an entrepreneur?
The freedom to decide how I respond to events that affect me, and the freedom to turn those problems into opportunities.

What motivates you?
Creating something that does some good and which creates futures and opportunity for the staff who ultimately have the opportunity to be co-owners of their own business.

What is one of the greatest challenges in your job?
Balancing many demands — the long hours invested into getting the business off the ground, time for my family and my dogs, my charitable activities and my surfing while still staying healthy.

How did you get into the business sector?
By accident — I had quit my tax-trainee career with Touche Ross due to boredom, and fell into a role with the embryonic regulator LAUFO, where I discovered a role that suited my skills-set and temperament.

Who or what inspired you during your time at Oriel?
Katharina Jung, a truly humbling yet inspiring experience to meet so many people, as the Women’s Equality Party candidate for Tower Hamlets. It was my first time canvassing for the first time with a friend of mine who is standing as the Women’s Equality Party candidate for Tower Hamlets.

What is the one piece of ’life’ advice you would give to a current student?
Don’t judge yourself by the ‘successes’ of others. Always choose the opportunities that are right for you.

Sara Vaughan

1989, Modern History


Where has life taken you since you left Oriel?
On leaving Oriel, I took a relatively traditional route becoming a Maker at Sara Vaughan Consulting.

What do you most enjoy about being an entrepreneur?
The ability and freedom to work with different types of companies and brands. I recently co-hosted a Conscious Business Leadership workshop with Giles Hutchins, Chair at The FutureFirst Leadership Academy, and an author and speaker. It was truly inspiring to see other leaders from companies as diverse as Google, HSBC, Freshfields, The Crown Estate, Scott Bader, Weleda, Pukka, and Grant Thornton learning, sharing, and discussing how to be a conscious leader and how to create conscious organisations.

What motivates you?
Creating powerful brands and movements for positive change.

What has been one of the greatest challenges in your job?
My greatest challenge has actually never been the job — it’s actually been me. Whilst outwardly I have always appeared confident, for many years — most of my life in fact — I struggled with low self-esteem, self-limiting beliefs, doubts and fears about myself and my abilities. Working on and delivering The Dove Self-Esteem Project, whilst at Unilever, helped me as much as it’s helped the 20 million young people across 138 countries that it’s reached to date. Doing the Avatar Course last year finally put the fears and doubts to rest, and gave me the confidence and courage to set up on my own.

Who or what inspired you during your time at Oriel?
I am eternally grateful to Dr Beiddard and Dr Catto for their wonderful teaching. Thank you!

What has been your greatest triumph?
Without a doubt, I am most proud of The Body Shop’s The Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People Campaign. It is still the largest corporate-led petition ever presented to the United Nations — more than 7 million signatures — and effected real change in trafficking legislation in over 20 countries. It was a truly incredible experience to see so many people all over the globe — our store staff, our customers, and the NGOs we worked with, such as ECPAT International and our media partner CNN, working together to put a stop to what is the world’s third largest criminal industry.

A close second is the current A Plastic Planet Campaign for plasticfreeaisle in supermarkets. Some 12 months after launching, we have unveiled the world’s first plastic free aisle with Ekoplaza, capturing worldwide consumer and media attention, and are working with Iceland, Waitrose, and other international retailers on their plastic-free ambitions, partnering with Sky and the Volvo Ocean Race. APP Co-Founder Siran Sutherland will be addressing the UN next month.

Do you have any unusual hobbies?
I like to challenge myself to learn and grow. Last weekend I went canvassing for the first time with a friend of mine who is standing as the Women’s Equality Party candidate for Tower Hamlets. It was a truly humbling yet inspiring experience to meet so many people, and to hear them voice their concerns about, and potential solutions to, the issues they facing their borough: gangland crime, the lack of childcare and support for working mums, and the fact that Tower Hamlets has the worst child-poverty record in the whole country.

Do you have any professional work?
I am part of the circle along with Lord Stone of Blackheath, Dr Jude Curnivan, and Dr Alan Watkins who are hosting and organising The Unity Conference in November at Westminster Abbey and the House of Lords — a one-day convergence of 500 organisation leaders, inter-faith representatives, artists, scientists, technologists, change-makers, and social activists to affirm our common humanity and together define and commit to solutions for our divided world.

I am also a long-standing volunteer for Glassdoor, the West London Homeless Charity for which we are working with Facebook and Universal to create a series of video portraits demystifying the homeless and homelessness.

What is the one piece of ’life’ advice you would give to a current student?
To find your life purpose — whatever that may be. Each one of us is unique. Honour it and live by it.

What advice would you give to a student wishing to join your industry?
Get yourself some great work experience and some great mentors. Be brave — and shoot for the stars. Reach out on LinkedIn, Twitter, or whatever they’re most prevalent on. Promise you, even if they say no, they’ll be flattered to be asked. So, go for it!

What advice would you give to students aspiring to set-up and run their own businesses?
From the outset, create and build a business with a purpose. Act on it and live it in your commercial success.

Nic Pillow

1989, Engineering and Computing Science, and a DPhil in computer vision

Current entrepreneurial role: I run Rhizome, a start-up for online learning within businesses, in which large groups of participants learn together through discussion with each other — unlike normal eLearning, which is a very solitary and passive activity. We’re currently working with beta customers, with a formal launch coming in the middle of this year.

Where has life taken you since you left Oriel?
After my DPhil I moved to Bristol to join a growing mobile telecom start-up. It was soon acquired, giving me my first taste of working in
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Who or what inspired you during your time at Oriel?
What has been your greatest triumph?

It was fun to celebrate our 10-year anniversary last year: perhaps that can be seen as a triumph, given how few businesses make it past their first year. We’re more focused on the decades to come, though.

Do you have any unusual hobbies?

If you do call plagiarmising with old Oundlese (London to Oxford and London to Canterbury, with more planned) unusual, then yes.

Do you do any voluntary work?

Our unique model of tutoring (employing full-time tutors) allows us to do significantly more pro-bono tutoring than most of our competitors (which I think is important), and which our tutors greatly appreciate.

What is the one piece of ‘life’ advice you would give to a current student?

This advice will vary much, much more: it depends on what you need to do to improve, etc. However, if you can bear it, it’s probably wise to get a few years’ experience working under your belt before you do. It’s useful to be in a hierarchical system under people who can give you proper feedback on what good work looks like, what you need to do to improve, etc. But once you’ve learnt enough, get out and go for it!

What advice would you give to students wishing to set-up and run their own businesses?

I would say to ensure that it sounds interesting and something different to do. It is tough work. But, more importantly, ensure this decision is not a purchase the product or service? How large is the market and the industry?

What specific advice would you give to students wishing to set-up and run their own businesses?

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Orielenses Receive Knighthoods

Many congratulations to The Very Reverend Professor lain Torrance (1974, DPhil Theology) who was awarded a knighthood for services to Higher Education and Theology in the Queen’s 2018 New Year’s Honours. Professor Torrance is a minister of the Church of Scotland, Pro-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen, President Emeritus of Princeton Theological Seminary, and a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Also, congratulations to Professor Paul Preston (1965, DPhil History) who was awarded a knighthood for services to UK-Spanish relations in the 2018 Queen’s Birthday Honours list. He holds the Príncipe de Asturias Chair of Contemporary Spanish History at LSE.

New Appointment and Book

After 15 years at the University of Vermont, Orielenses Bob Macauley (1988, Theology) has been appointed Cambia Health Foundation Endowed Chair in Pediatric Palliative Care at Oregon Health and Science University. His book, Ethics in Palliative Care: A Complete Guide was recently published by OUP. He and his wife have four children aged between 7 and 15, and they now live in Portland, Oregon.

Mission Control: The Unsung Heroes of Apollo

Orielensis Peter Kennedy (1988, Modern Languages) recently became a film producer. Peter is associate producer of the documentary film Mission Control: The Unsung Heroes of Apollo, which includes interviews with many of the NASA flight controllers and some of the astronauts from the moon landing era. The film is currently available on media outlets such as Netflix, Amazon and iTunes. You can see the trailer on https://youtube.be/VDTSyfTTY

American Philosophical Society

Congratulations to Dr Eric Foerster (1963, Modern History) who has recently been elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society. The Society, the oldest society in the United States, was founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin for the purpose of ‘promoting useful knowledge’. Eric is the DrWitt Clinton Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.

Wedding bells!

Congratulations to Caroline ‘Beanie’ Espey (2000, Modern Languages) who wed her Dutch husband Gawein Geraedts on Saturday, 30th September at a ceremony for 200 guests at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, with the service conducted by the Revd Dr Will Lamb. After the service, Beanie and Gawein had some photos taken in First Quad together with several fellow Orielenses.

Action for Education

‘Since graduating from Oriel College in 2016, I’ve been coordinating a refugee education project on Europe’s border with Turkey. Comprising a ‘High School’ and ‘Youth Centre’ for refugee children fleeing war and persecution, we set up our non-profit to build spaces of safety and learning. We’re looking for partnerships and financial support to continue our work with vulnerable communities into 2019. Email me directly at jacob@actionforeducation.co.uk or visit www.actionforeducation.co.uk’

Jacob Warn (2013, Classics & English)

Oriel News

If you have any news of new appointments, books, adventures, new arrivals, or marriages then please email verity.armstrong@oriel.ox.ac.uk

Book Corner

The Stairway to Happiness

Vernon Sankley (1966, Modern Languages) has just published his book The Stairway to Happiness. It is a combination of philosophy, cognitive psychology and spirituality, and represents many years of leading, coaching and mentoring people in all walks of life. It is available to purchase on Amazon.

Artificial Intelligence and the Two Singularities

Calum Chace (1978, PPE) has just released his third non-fiction book on AI. Artificial Intelligence and the Two Singularities, which explores current developments in AI and the future of AI, and presents the economic and technological singularity in depth.

The Arrow of Apollo

Philip Womack (2000, Classics & English) has written a novel entitled The Arrow of Apollo, based on Greek and Roman myths, to help raise the profile of Classics in schools. He is crowd-funding for this book on Unbound: www.unbound.com.

Einstein Papers

Dr Dennis Lehmkuhl (2005, Philosophy) and his colleagues at the Einstein Papers Project have recently published a new volume of the Collected Papers of Albert Einstein; see http://www.einstein.caltech.edu.

Forbidden Hill

John Greenwood (1976, DPhil Philosophy) has just had his new historical novel Forbidden Hill (Singapore Saga Vol. 1) published by Monsoon Books. It is available from Amazon, Book Depository, Waterstones, and other retailers.

Portraits of Resilience

Daniel Jackson (1981, Physics) has been making waves with the release of his book Portraits of Resilience, which is a powerful, photographic ‘outing’ of mental health problems at MIT, where he is Professor of Computer Science.

New Arrivals

Pippa (2007, Law) and Daniel Mannion (2007, DPhil Biochemistry) are delighted to announce the arrival of Clara Sophie Mannion, who was born at home on Christmas Day 2017 weighing 8lbs 12oz. Everyone is doing well and the parents have realised there are things in life that cause less sleep than Finals!

Melanie White (1995, English) had a daughter, Alicia Lowell Tyson White on 11th July 2017. Her first child in addition to her canine baby.
Fellows’ News

Leverhulme Research Fellowship

Dr Teresa Bejan (Associate Professor of Political Theory and Tutorial Fellow in Politics) has received a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for work on a new book on Early Modern ideas and practices of equality.

Research Grant Awarded for New High-Pressure Furnace

Professor Andrew Boothroyd (Tutorial Fellow and Professor of Physics) has been awarded a research grant worth around £1.2m to purchase a new design of furnace. The furnace, which will be the first of its type in the UK, uses a focussed beam of light as the heating source to achieve temperatures up to 2900°C, and incorporates a growth chamber which supports gas pressures up to 300 times atmospheric pressure. The equipment will be used to grow single crystals for fundamental research on electronic, quantum phenomena, as well as studies aimed at exploring advanced materials which feature technologically desirable characteristics, such as enhanced electrical, magnetic and superconducting characteristics.

Professor Boothroyd said, “Single crystals are important because they enable researchers to discover what endows materials with their special properties. The new furnace will enable us to prepare single crystals which cannot be grown at present and which embody major emerging themes in materials physics.”

Honours from the Royal Geographical Society

Professor Yadavinder Malhi (Jackson Senior Research Fellow in Biodiversity and Conservation) has been awarded the Royal Geographical Society’s 2018 Patron’s Medal for his world-leading studies on the impact of climate change on tropical ecosystems. The Patron’s Medal is one of two Royal Medals approved by Her Majesty the Queen, which are among the highest honours of their kind in the world.

Two Awards

Professor Michael Devereux (Fellow and Professor of Business Taxation) has received two prestigious awards. He was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Chartered Institute of Taxation in January — Professor Devereux was only the 20th recipient of an Honorary Fellowship in the 90 year history of the Institute — and was also awarded the Richard Musgrave Visiting Professorship at CESifo by the International Institute of Public Finance and CESifo, which honours an outstanding scholar in the area of Public Finance.

Fellow Awarded British Heart Foundation Intermediate Fellowship

Dr Lisa Heather, the Isobel Laing Fellow in Medicine, has been awarded a British Heart Foundation Intermediate Fellowship, to investigate the heart in Type 2 diabetes.

Around nine out of ten diabetics have Type 2 diabetes. People who have diabetes have a much higher risk of developing heart disease than people who don’t have diabetes.

Dr Heather and her team believe that, in Type 2 diabetes, having higher levels of fat in the heart may upset the normal, healthy balance of signals that the heart requires to pump properly. She will explore this over the next five years to answer three key research questions: how does the heart make energy? How does the heart break down fats? How does the heart cope with stress?

If Dr Heather can understand how fats negatively affect the heart, she hopes to go on prevent this happening using drugs to reverse the effects. This essential research will help pave the way for a future therapy to prevent death from heart disease in people with diabetes.

The Hon. Sir Francis Ferris

We are sad to announce the death of Sir Francis Ferris on 26th March 2018. Sir Francis was a High Court Judge and had been an Honorary Fellow of the College since 2000. The College flag was flown at half-mast on the day of Sir Francis’ funeral on 19th April, at which Sir Michael Wright (Honorary Fellow and Orielensis, 1953) represented the College.

Philosophical Foundation of Children’s and Family Law

Lucinda Ferguson (Tutorial Fellow in Law) and Elizabeth Brake (Philosophy, Arizona State University) have published an edited collection together with OUP, Philosophical Foundations of Children’s and Family Law. It is the first volume to integrate legal and philosophical analysis of children’s and family law.

International Prize for Historians

We are delighted to announce that Regius Professor Emeritus of Modern History and Honorary Fellow Sir John Elliott was recently chosen as the first recipient of a new international prize for historians, the Premio Órdenes Españolas. The Spanish Orders of Chivalry of Santiago, Calatrava, Alcántara, and Montesa honoured Sir John for his outstanding achievements in the field of Hispanic history and culture.

Partners for Livable Communities

Robert McNulty is a member of the Senior Common Room and a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Population Ageing within the Martin School at Oxford. He is also the founder and President of Partners for Livable Communities, which is a non-profit organisation in the United States working worldwide, now in its 43rd year. Its major focus in the last several years has been working with healthcare institutions, particularly the non-profit hospitals that are frequent in the United States, and with the banking industry (which has an obligation to support community needs in low and moderate income communities).

Recently Partners for Livable Communities has been working to put together a partnership between hospitals, their ‘health impact assessments’ reviews, and banks which support community reinvestment. The hospital reviews look at issues such as ‘what are the causes of poor health?’ and they are generally finding that most of the causes are not health-related, but are related to condition: poor employment, lack of adequate healthy foods, and poor education for instance.

As a result, Partners for Livable Communities are organising a conference in Italy with the Rockefeller Foundation’s European Conference Center in September at which both these health and banking institutions have agreed to meet to look at ways forward. This conference will focus on how these two resources can fund collaboratively in communities; and look at new ‘anchor institutions’ that can affect the causes of poor health and advance opportunity for wellness and for economic and social uplift.

Previous conferences have brought parties from around the world to look at aging and the demographic ‘age wave’ of the older population and how it relates to pension finance.
Diary for 2018/2019

TERMS

Michaelmas Term 2018
Sunday, 7 October – Saturday, 1 December

Hilary Term 2019
Sunday, 13 January – Saturday, 9 March

Trinity Term 2019
Sunday, 28 April – Saturday, 22 June

GAUDIES

Matriculation Years 2002-2004
Saturday, 15 September 2018

Matriculation Years 2008-2009
Friday, 15 March 2019

Matriculation Years 1972-1975
Saturday, 21 September 2019

Invitations will be sent to those eligible to attend. There may be limited spaces available to join an upcoming Gaudy for those who have missed out on their last Gaudy (with priority given to adjacent years).

Forthcoming Events 2018/2019

SEPTEMBER ’18
14-15 Oriel Alumni Weekend
15 Gaudy 2002-2004

OCTOBER ’18
10 1326 Guest Night
17 Raleigh Society Dinner
26 Champagne Concert

JANUARY ’19
16 1326 Guest Night

FEBRUARY ’19
9 Returners’ Dinner
22 Manchester Dinner

MARCH ’19
15 Gaudy 2008-2009
16 Adam de Brome Lunch & Lecture

MAY ’19
22 1326 Guest Night
25 Oriel Garden Party
25 Raleigh Society Garden Party

JUNE ’19
29 Gaudy 1972-1975

SEPTEMBER ’19
20 Oriel Alumni Dinner
21 Gaudy 2010-2011

For any queries on events please visit http://alumni.oriel.ox.ac.uk/events/ or email events@oriel.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that for all events in College, we have an induction hearing loop permanently installed in Hall. For further information regarding any of the above events, please contact Bobby Higston, Alumni Relations Officer. Tel: 01865 276589; email: events@oriel.ox.ac.uk. You can book online at www.oriel.ox.ac.uk.

Development Office Team

Sean Power
Fellow & Director of Development
01865 276964
sean.power@oriel.ox.ac.uk
Responsible for the work of the Development Office, which covers both fundraising and alumni relations for the College.

Verity Armstrong
Alumni Communications Officer
01865 613528
verity.armstrong@armstrong.ox.ac.uk
Editor of Oriel News magazine and other brochures, e-newsletters and social media for alumni.

Rob Buckett
Development Assistant
01865 286541
robert.buckett@oriel.ox.ac.uk
Rob administers gifts from donors and helps with event organisation and alumni queries.

Louisa Chandler
Researcher/PA to the Director of Development
01865 276596
louisa.chandler@oriel.ox.ac.uk
Researcher for the Development Office and the Director of Development’s PA.

Bobby Higson
Alumni Relations Officer
01865 276585
bobby.higson@oriel.ox.ac.uk
Organises our alumni events and looks after alumni needs.

Harvey Rudden
Development Officer (Regular Giving & Legacies)
01865 276599
harvey.rudden@oriel.ox.ac.uk
Responsible for the annual telephone campaign and regular giving and legacies.

We said goodbye to Rachel Graves, who is now heading up a Development Office at an Oxfordshire school; and welcomed Verity Armstrong back from maternity leave, and our new Development Assistant, Rob Buckett. We have also just wished Susan Simons a very happy time as she goes on maternity leave.

Cover photo: Oriel Commemoration Ball 2018, Ludibrium, Helter-Skelter by Verity Armstrong