Welcome

In this issue of the Easter Term we range from a story about our Taster Days for school students considering applying to Cambridge, through to the Beldam Dinner, the May Ball and the voluntary work of our students in African schools.

The Admissions team, led by Dr Melanie Taylor, works extremely hard to reach schools in which students might not have considered applying to Cambridge. The outreach efforts include school visits and hosting taster days here in College. Melanie describes one such day at which four sixth form colleges sent pupils to Corpus to find out what being a student in Cambridge is like.

Dr Lorna Brown (see profile on page 23) is the first Microsoft Research Fellow. Her PhD investigated how information could be presented via vibration messages in applications such as mobile phones. She is also interested in the adoption and social impact of new technologies for interpersonal communication.

On page 4, Dr Ryan Wigglesworth reviews the recent concert held in Chapel of the St John Passion. This wonderfully vibrant performance was led by professional soloists and was the largest musical event the College has ever performed.

We hope you also enjoy the write-ups of the various social events that have taken place over the past few months, from the Beldam Dinner (years 1984-87), the 1352 Foundation Society lunch, to the May Ball. We hope to be able to welcome as many of you as possible to an event, whether a reunion or a private visit, over the coming year.
Friday 4th May saw the launch of the Geoffrey Styler Memorial Music Fund with a performance of J. S. Bach’s Johannes-Passion in Chapel. Taking part in the performance were the College choir, the period-instrument orchestra Charivari Agréable and an internationally renowned team of soloists: Claire Booth, James Bowman, James Gilchrist, and Eamonn Dougan. The performance was conducted by the College’s Director of Music, Ryan Wigglesworth.

This very special event enabled all in attendance (a capacity audience comprising large numbers of both old and present College members) to remember Corpus’ long-serving Fellow and Precentor Geoffrey Styler. The Fund set up in his name will enable the College to continue its pursuit of musical excellence, helping, amongst many other things, to maintain our LPO Chamber Group residency, to purchase equipment and instruments, and, most importantly, to facilitate student concerts, recordings and tours. For more details about the Fund and how to contribute, please contact the Development Office on 01223 339731 or email development@corpus.cam.ac.uk.
I’m sure that all members of the audience for the Johannes-Passion would agree that the Corpus choir sang superbly well and were every bit the professional outfit. Indeed, the choir continues to go from strength to strength and at this moment is looking forward to its tour to New York where highlights will include performances and services at St. Thomas’ and St. Patrick’s cathedrals as well as the historic Trinity Church, Wall Street. In addition, plans are already in place for a performance of Bach’s B-minor Mass in Lincoln Cathedral next year; a tour to the Holy Land; and the choir’s first recording since ‘Regina Caeli’ in 2005. A final word of appreciation should go to the excellent work of our two organ scholars, Leo Tomita (senior) and Thomas Chatterton (junior); in an age when good organ scholars are increasingly difficult to find, Corpus is extremely lucky to be able to boast two of the best!

Ryan Wigglesworth
The 1352 Foundation Society Lunch

‘A farsighted elite’ of legacy pledgers gathered on Tuesday June 12th for lunch in the Master’s garden. Dr John Taylor, Honorary Fellow and benefactor, presented new members of the 1352 Society with their certificates and gave a speech of welcome. He reminded the crowd that throughout its history, the College has been supported by farsighted benefactors leaving legacies and that they too were part of that farsighted elite. Acting Master Professor Paul Mellars and his wife Anny were the hosts for the event. Professor Mellars thanked those present for their pledge to the College, and described some of the initiatives, such as student bursaries, new libraries and accommodation, research and teaching, that depend on the generosity of benefactors.

The weather was kind and lunch took place outside. The 40 Old Members, their guests and Fellows enjoyed this third annual gathering of the Society, which included an exhibition of College Plate given by Professor Oliver Rackham, and an exhibition in the Parker Library by Dr Christopher de Hamel. Later in the afternoon guests went up to Leckhampton for tea. Today, the 1352 Society has 54 members, all of whom are welcomed each year to the special day in College, together with their families.

If you would like to know more about leaving a legacy, please contact the Development Office.
On Saturday 14th April 2007, the College hosted the Annual Beldam dinner. This year, all those who matriculated between 1984 and 1987 were invited to dine on a splendid feast in Hall and rekindle memories by spending a night in their old College room.

This annual reunion dinner is made possible by the generosity of the late Robert Beldam, Old Member and Honorary Fellow of the College. All those who attended were grateful for the excellent food and wines they were able to enjoy while reminiscing with old friends.

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Middle L – R, Ms Diane Dawson. Dr Richard McMahon. Dr Virginia Knight.

The Pelican Easter Term
This June, Corpus held its biennial May Ball in the College’s intimate grounds. The chosen theme was Carnavalia: a celebration of Latin American culture, incorporating a vibrant mix of music, dancing and entertainments from across the continent.

The current May Ball Committee had a tough act to follow after the success of 2005’s Sensation. A whole year ago, last May Week, President Emma Lees and her committee had their first meetings and decided on the Carnavalia theme. Since then, all 22 committee members have been working hard to bring a taste of Latin America to Corpus.

After a busy summer, the committee undertook its first major task: selling some tickets! The College played host to two Corpus launch parties for the undergraduates and postgraduates in Michelmas term, and then launched university-wide in January. Tickets sold quickly and the ball had sold out within a month, making it the very first May Ball to sell out.

The committee then made the final arrangements for food, drink and entertainments, and Latin America offered a rich range of treats, with its carnival music, exotic foods and tequila cocktails.

Corpus May Ball is always a chance for Corpus Members, old and new, to get together, and this year’s May Ball was no exception. With such a successful start, the ball was a great end to the academic year.
A Surprised Naval Fellow

Honorary Fellow – Sir James Burnell-Nugent

Life is full of surprises. It was certainly a pleasant surprise to come up to Corpus in 1968 to read mathematics. Joining the Navy in 1971 and quickly entering the submarine service at the height of the cold war, the USSR gave me plenty of surprises in the underwater realities of cat and mouse. The film “Hunt for the Red October” gives a very accurate portrayal of “Crazy Ivans” – when a Soviet hunter killer submarine turns towards a NATO one and comes at you at full speed. They did.

A conventional and a nuclear submarine command were followed by being “allowed out” to command a squadron of Frigates and then the aircraft carrier, HMS Invincible. Bosnia, Iraq, Kosovo and Afghanistan gave me a string of further surprises, not just operationally but domestically. I took command of Invincible in Barcelona in early December, expecting to be home at our smallholding in Devon in time for Christmas. In the event it was March the following year, Saddam Hussein having thrown the UN Arms Inspectors out of Iraq.

As a Rear Admiral I was at Heathrow Terminal 4 on the morning of 9/11, due to fly to Washington for 2 days. It is a long story but my wife Mary Woods (Girton, 1970-73) was certainly surprised that I did not get home until the following April after several months at sea and setting up a new RN HQ in Bahrain. And now I find myself as Commander-in-Chief Fleet – surely one of the best surprises one could hope for 35 years earlier, at the start of a career.

But without doubt the most unexpected surprise was to be asked to be an Honorary Fellow of Corpus. A great honour too. I am flattered, and still relishing the admission ceremony and much looking forward to the contribution I can make. Thank you Corpus.

Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent
Honorary Fellow (2007)
Sir Terence Etherton
Honorary Fellow

Sir Terence Etherton is well-known to Corpus law students and Old Members as president of the Nicholas Bacon Society, a role in which he invests much time and attention. Being president involves not only attending the annual dinner, but also judging the student mooting competition and acting as mentor to aspiring lawyers. More recently, however, Terry has turned his attention to the problem of increasing student debt and to addressing the fear of debt that students from less well off backgrounds might have in applying to Corpus. Terry started an initiative, the Nicholas Bacon Fund, with a number of other Old Member lawyers, to provide bursaries for law students to support their studies and perhaps more importantly, encourage able students to apply to Corpus in the first place.

After a highly successful career as a barrister and QC, Terry was appointed one of the country’s youngest judges when in 2001 at the age of 50 he became a Judge of the High Court, Chancery Division, dealing with company law, property and negligence.

In 2006 he was appointed Chairman of the Law Commission, the statutory body created by Parliament to keep the law under review and recommend reform where necessary. This office is a secondment from the High Court for three years, and involves heading a team of four commissioners and working through a programme of law reforms. Areas of law that have been reformed by the Law Commission’s work include divorce law, paternity issues, maintenance and domestic laws, right through to criminal proceedings, money laundering and corporate manslaughter. Recent successes include law concerning double jeopardy and prosecution appeals, evidence of bad character in criminal proceedings, and fraud.

Terry is an active supporter of higher education and for over 12 years has served on the Council of Royal Holloway College, University of London. In 2005 he was elected an Honorary Fellow there. Now his alma mater has also recognised him in the same way by electing him an Honorary Fellow of Corpus.
The Lewis Society of Medicine

Over the past term, following an initiative from clinical and preclinical College members, Corpus has seen the creation of the Lewis Society of Medicine. The Society’s vision is to promote medicine through a number of diverse activities which will support current medical and veterinary students, maintain and reinforce ties with Old Members, and promote medical science to the rest of the undergraduate and postgraduate communities.

The society is named after Dr Peter Lewis, a pioneering neurobiologist and Director of Medical Studies at Corpus Christi from 1960-1984. Peter’s research over the latter half of the previous century has ranged from neuronal electrophysiology and histochemistry to biological rhythms and neural transplantation. Most notably he, together with Charles Shute, discovered and documented in detail the ascending cholinergic reticular pathway, now shown to have an important role in memory and cognition particularly in the context of Alzheimer’s disease. As a supervisor, Peter was an inspirational teacher in physiology and neurobiology, as well as providing pastoral support together with his wife Joyce. The annual invitation of all Corpus medical students in small groups from different years for Sunday lunch was a tradition that was to carry on for over four decades. Thus, in acknowledgment of his notable scientific oeuvre, and the support and contribution of the Lewis family to medicine at Corpus, it was unanimously decided to name the new medical society in his honour.

The inaugural event of the Society was the first of the Robin Coombs Seminars, named in memory of the late Professor Coombs, a medical Fellow of the College and one of the outstanding immunologists of the 20th Century. The event, held on Friday 11th May, proved to be a very successful evening, with Professor Christopher Howe and Dr Brian Hazleman speaking about their latest research to a mixed audience of medical students, hospital clinicians and academics. In addition to the Coombs Seminars, the Lewis Society’s academic activities over the coming year will include the William Stukeley Talks (given by undergraduate and postgraduate students), and the Archibald Clark-Kennedy Annual Lecture on a topic of current medical interest.

The Society’s first social event, the Annual Garden Party, was held at Leckhampton Gardens on Saturday 16th June. Despite the weather, the Party was well-attended with over 50 guests, thus bringing together preclinical and clinical students, medical alumni based within the region, and associated College Fellows, supervisors and staff in an informal and relaxed setting.

The official launch of the Lewis Society of Medicine will be held on Saturday 3rd November. This reunion of past and present Corpus medics will feature an opening ceremony followed by a formal dinner – final arrangements will be communicated in due course.

Organisation of the Society:

Patrons: Dr Philip Bearcroft, m.1982 (Consultant Radiologist, Addenbrooke’s Hospital), Professor Karol Sikora, m.1966 (Professor of Oncology, Hammersmith Hospital), Professor Rod Thompson, m.1961 (Professor of Clinical Biochemistry - Retd, University of Southampton), Professor Alastair Watson, m.1974 (Head of the Division of Gastroenterology, University of Liverpool).

Executive committee: Alexis Joannides m.2000 (Chairman), William Nevin m.2005 (Vice-Chairman), Difei Wang m.2003 (Treasurer), Ravindhi Nathavarana m.2002 (Secretary), Grace Nisbet m.2005 (Fundraising), Osman Khalid m.2005 (Social Secretary), Junyi Zhang m.2006 (Publicity).

Trustees: Professor Christopher Howe, m.1983 (Professor of Biochemistry and Director of Preclinical Studies), Dr Brian Hazleman, m.1981 (Consultant Rheumatologist and Director of Clinical Studies), Professor David Ibbetson, m.1973 (Regius Professor of Civil Law and Warden of Leckhampton).

Donations to help establish and develop the Lewis Society are welcome, and can be addressed to the Development Office. Cheques should be made payable to ‘Corpus Christi College’ with ‘The Lewis Society of Medicine’ written on the reverse.

Alexis Joannides,
Lewis Society Chairman, June 2007.
Dr Peter Lewis as a young man.
Raising the Game

Something of a quiet revolution has been going on in the kitchens at Corpus. The College’s catering team has been on a mission over the past year or so to raise the standards of meals in Corpus, offer a wider, more international selection of food and to be considered the best College in Cambridge for dining. The philosophy is simple: source the very best ingredients and create dishes that exceed the expectations of College members and guests.

Under the kitchen leadership of Richard Baker and Paul Bray, the six-strong team of chefs has brought an innovative look to College food. The challenge in such an ancient institution is to respect and embrace College traditions whilst at the same time producing menus that look and taste contemporary. And as well as creating new recipes the head chefs have a remit to train young catering staff who work in the kitchens, trying to instill passion and enthusiasm as well as all-round skills and techniques.

One of the more recent trends that students and staff in particular will have noticed is the introduction of “Prêt à Manger” style food into College. This reflects the increasing popularity of “Grab & Go” food, and it is proving very popular. The buffet menu no longer features only sausage rolls and pasties; now students and staff find such continental delicacies as spring onion and parma ham roundels on parmesan biscuit or paninis and tortilla wraps as part of the lunch menus in the Bar. Dishes for grander occasions include more innovative recipes such as butter-roasted guinea fowl supreme served with a blackcurrant and Port jus. Desserts are equally enterprising – see below for a recipe for a Corpus dessert.

Kathryn Pell-Walpole, Catering Manager, points out that Old Members are always welcome to dine in College and try out the improved menus for themselves, whether part of their MA rights, or by arranging private functions such as family gatherings, weddings or birthdays. Old Members receive a generous discount on the normal prices. Details of prices and how to arrange a function can be discussed with Mark Cox, College Steward on 01223 338070, or mac53@cam.ac.uk.

Ginger and Honeycomb parfait

Ingredients
6 Egg Yolks
7oz Castor Sugar
1 Vanilla Pod
12fl oz Double Cream
2 Teaspoons Ground Ginger
4 Pieces of Stem Ginger in syrup chopped up
Tinder toffee or a crunchie will do broken up into small pieces

Method
1 Boil the milk with the split open vanilla pod
2 Beat the egg yolks with the sugar
3 Pour the milk onto egg mixture, whisk and place back onto stove to thicken (coats a back of a wooden spoon) do not boil as the egg will scramble.
4 Pour the mixture into a mixing bowl and whisk until cold. You can use a hand blender for this.
5 Whisk up the cream with the ground ginger.
6 Combine the cream and custard together gently folding in with the stem ginger and tinder toffee.
7 Place in moulds and freeze for at least 24 hours.

To serve unmould the parfait directly onto serving plates. If using metal moulds, briefly wipe a hot cloth around them to loosen the parfaits, then lift the moulds off. Serve with poached fruits, peanut brittle or fruit compote.
A Taster Day

The Corpus Admissions Office recently added a new initiative to its outreach and access work. At the start of the academic year, City and Islington Sixth Form College was seeking to establish a link with a Cambridge College. Following an initial meeting with members of their Careers Advice team, a programme of events was agreed, which would include a Taster Day at Corpus for AS level students from City and Islington and three other Sixth Form Colleges.

The Taster Day, held in March, brought over sixty high-achieving students and their teachers to Corpus for a range of stimulating lectures on the subjects of murder, Braveheart, biorhythms, and superconductors. Our visitors were also given guidance on Cambridge admissions and enjoyed an excellent lunch in the College Hall. Newspapers local to all four Sixth Form Colleges carried a report on the event, and an article in the Education Guardian confirmed the overall success of the day. One of the students quoted in the article said, having spoken to Corpus undergraduates and realized how “normal” they were, she would now give serious consideration to applying to Cambridge to study medicine.

This was the second of two Corpus Taster Days to be run in the same week. Two days earlier, a group of Corpus Fellows had travelled to Northern Ireland to give lectures and advice to two hundred prospective Cambridge applicants.

The colleges which attended the Taster Day are:
- Brighton, Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College
- City and Islington Sixth Form College
- East Norfolk Sixth Form College
- Sutton Coldfield Sixth Form College

Dr Melanie Taylor
Fellow and Tutor for Admissions
Since arriving at Corpus a little over seven months ago I have had more opportunities lavished upon me than I have known what to do with. I had planned to do everything but gawping at the plethora of society stalls at Freshers’ Fair, I soon realised that a discerning cull of my musical, sporting, political and philanthropic whims was essential if I wanted to complete an engineering degree or, indeed, sleep over the next four years! Moreover, little did I realise that scrawling my name on a list that afternoon would set in motion events that will see me living and working in Kenya this summer.

Kenya Education Partnership is an entirely voluntary charity, run mostly by current students and alumni of Oxford and Cambridge universities. We work in secondary schools in a rural area of south-west Kenya called Kisii. Every year twenty students, called ‘Project Workers’, are recruited and partnered with a different Kisii school.

Currently schools receive very little support from the Kenyan government and are desperately in need of such basic resources as textbooks, science equipment and a safe water supply. Based in the school for the summer, the Project Workers purchase essential resources that are then installed in the school to improve the standard of education received by the students. Experience has shown that comparatively modest sums of money and a regular period of intense support can catalyse real improvement in the schools and trigger continuous sustainable growth. Indeed, in most schools improving grades can be directly attributed to KEP support.

Each year Project Workers are present in their school for at least eight weeks over the summer; the active partnership between the project and the school lasting 3-5 years with Project Workers returning each summer. Over this period, the school typically receives between £4500 and £7500, and the school’s intake of pupils will generally increase from around one to three hundred students. This increase in pupil numbers means that the school becomes eligible for scholarship and resource funds, and for more state-funded teachers. By the time the active partnership period is up, the school has increased its number of state-funded, trained teachers, and hence can save money on untrained, privately-hired teachers. The school also increases its revenue from the increased number of pupils paying fees, and from the money it receives from the government.
The intention is that following the initial period, these community schools will be enabled to grow and become successful without continued overseas input. Once the Project Workers leave, however, the partnership continues as KEP fosters a network of graduate schools and maintains an ongoing relationship. As part of the KEP network, a school receives annual visits from a senior KEP representative who will monitor progress and give basic advice on continuing school development or headteacher concern. KEP also provides management training for key teachers and support to schools applying for Government funding which can be a prohibitively bureaucratic process.

Initially the schools are carefully selected to make sure that they will gain maximum benefit from the project. In particular, KEP focuses on schools that have the potential to continue independent growth after investment is finished. This means schools with efficient, dynamic management, the strong support of the local community and the potential to increase enrolment and access to other resources necessary to become a secondary school delivering a quality education to the very poorest students.

This summer I will be working as a Project Worker for Kenya Education Partnerships, for me a thrilling yet terrifying prospect. I will leave just after May Week and will be spending a total of eleven weeks in Kenya. When I say I will be living in a hut, I don’t exaggerate! Pairs of Project Workers live in the village adjacent to the school where they work, sharing the local lifestyle. In most cases, KEP workers are the first westerners to live in the area, something that I feel is both a privilege and a responsibility. Together my project partner and I will be working closely with the local school to oversee the efficient running of the investment program and also to run local projects (anything from AIDS Awareness to the encouragement of girls’ education). Funds that we are responsible for raising will be invested in necessary but sustainable resources such as a library, laboratory equipment, water tanks and latrines. Our presence in Kenya is imperative to ensure that the charity’s funds are carefully and accountably invested, and we will be able to take stock of the visible short-term results. We do not undertake any teaching but simply build relationships with staff and pupils and manage the investment projects. We are currently in the process of picking schools, and I have recently found out who I have been paired with. Everything is starting to feel imminent and very exciting.
In order to prepare myself for this project, I have already embarked upon a rigorous training scheme offered through the charity. I start first aid training with St John's Ambulance and I have already attended a training day in London when I learned about each of the charity’s ‘Programs Of Delivery’ (Resource Investment, Gender, Health, Sports, Music and Drama, Post-Educational Opportunities and School Management). I have been fortunate: the majority of our meetings and training session have utilised Corpus’s facilities, very handy for me!

Historically, Corpus has been supportive of its students who have been KE Project Workers, a tradition continued this year as I have been awarded a travelling scholarship from the James Bailey Fund which is generous enough to cover my flights and accommodation. However, I still must raise at least £1500 to invest directly in the school. To this end I have already organised a street collection and an alternative music gig night at The Kambar. Last month I even ran the Reading Half Marathon! I would hazard a guess that before I started training I had not previously run 13.2 miles cumulatively! Last year I would never have supposed that I would find myself jogging around the backs at 7 o’clock in the morning, and even occasionally enjoying it! Fortunately the notion of me even attempting a Half Marathon was sufficient to send my friends and family into hysters and a flurry of sponsorship… (perhaps complacent that I’d never finish!). However, to their disbelief and my delight I did finish, with the added bonus that I never have to run that far again.

I am so glad to be studying at a place that affords me such wonderful opportunities as this (and holidays sufficiently long to undertake them). Of course the ambassadorial role is important too: apparently, Kenyan pupils regard Cambridge volunteers as experts (more so than the Oxford Project Workers) on account of the many Cambridge textbooks, exams and syllabuses. When I graduate, I think I would like to work in development or relief engineering projects abroad and ‘in the field’. I hope that this summer will reveal to me if this is something I would be capable of and if the challenges would make me happy. I expect that coming back to Corpus in Michaelmas from Ki i may be a little strange, but “strange” in a positive way, as coming back to Corpus always seems to be. There are always new challenges ahead.

I believe KE opportunities are of real value to volunteers, and, more importantly, to the Kenyan students they serve. I intend to stay involved with KE for as long as I am useful to them. In my remaining Cambridge years, I hope to be a member of the undergraduate committee, possibly serving in the charity’s higher echelons after I graduate.

If you would like any further information on this charity or would like to make a donation please see the website www.kep.org.uk. Do also feel free to contact me directly on acs69@cam.ac.uk or at the usual postage address.

Anna Spinks
Dr Lorna Brown  
Microsoft Research Fellow

I was admitted as a Fellow of Corpus Christi in October 2006. As the Corpus Christi - Microsoft Research Fellow, I am based at Microsoft Research in Cambridge, where I work as an Associate Researcher in the Socio-Digital Systems Group.

My main research interest is in multimodal interaction, and particularly in how non-visual modalities, such as sound (audio) and touch (haptics), can be used to present information and enhance the user experience in computer interfaces. For example, my PhD investigated how information could be presented via vibration messages in applications such as mobile phones (e.g. to identify the caller). In addition, I have carried out research into how audio can be used to present graphical information to visually impaired people, and I remain interested in the design and evaluation of accessible interfaces for people with sensory impairments. I am also interested in the adoption, and social impact, of new technologies for interpersonal communication. My current research at Microsoft brings together all of these themes, as I am investigating how audio and haptics might be used for remote interpersonal communication via mobile phones.

I originally became interested in the field of multimodal interaction after completing a BA (Hons) in Applied Music at Strathclyde University and an MSc in Information Technology at Glasgow University. The combination of these two degrees lead me to realise how my knowledge of music and audio could be applied to the design of human computer interfaces. Since then I have carried out research in this field in both academia and industry.

Following on from my music degree, I still perform regularly as a jazz saxophonist and (less regularly) as a jazz singer. I am currently trying to form a jazz band at Corpus so please contact me if you are interested in joining!

For more information on my work, please see my website: http://research.microsoft.com/~lornab

Dr Lorna Brown  
Associate Researcher, Microsoft Research Cambridge  
Research Fellow, Corpus Christi College