Master’s Introduction

Our Development team of Liz Winter, Lucy Gowans and Latona Forder-Stent are proud to present to you another fine issue of the Pelican – fresh evidence of the lively and interesting people who populate the College and our ranks of alumni. In it you will find a thoughtful article by Robert McCrum, written on the recent launch of his new book *Globish*. There are interviews with two of our Fellows: Christopher de Hamel (linked with the completion – on time and under budget – of the Parker collection vault and reading room), and Michael Tanner (also in connection with a book publication, on Wagner). There is a celebration of the knighthood awarded to Professor Paul Mellars for his services to archaeology. You can read about Old Member Katie Hardymont’s work for Camfed and its anti-poverty and pro-education programmes in Africa. And I should like to highlight the article about the Nicholas Bacon Society and Fund – a model for linking the College and its alumni which it would be lovely to see reflected in other professions.

I write this on the last Sunday of the academic year, with the May Bumps finished yesterday and May Week festivities getting under way. Cambridge is looking its best, students and tourists picnic on the lawns and in the punts, and the sound of croquet mallets and balls is again heard at Leckhampton! But I am learning that the University is much more of a 12-month operation than the outside world may believe: even after the colourful Graduation Ceremony next week, the work of the College will go on through the summer, as our Conference Office has secured a full programme of bookings for our facilities, our Fellows attend academic conferences and make administrative preparations for next year, and post-graduates and post-docs continue their research and writing. I applaud the efforts made by all - Fellows, students and staff - to take the College forward.

I am also writing at a time of great uncertainty for the future and the funding of higher education in this country. It is likely that research and other grants will be squeezed, and that students will be asked to pay more in fees for their degree courses. This will put added pressure on universities and colleges to ensure that the less well-off have access to what Cambridge has to offer. Corpus will continue to play its part in this: we shall maintain our outreach programme, and wherever possible expand bursaries to assist those who have the intellectual qualities for Cambridge but need support. It is central to our vision of sustaining excellence at this great University and in our College.

Stuart Laing
In September 2005, *Jyllands Posten (The Jutland Post)*, an obscure Danish newspaper, decided to publish a sequence of satirical cartoons poking fun at the prophet Muhammad, to the indignation of the Muslim world. There were riots across Afghanistan, Nigeria, Libya and Pakistan in which one hundred and thirty-nine people died. The Uttar Pradesh state government offered a multi-million dollar cash reward to anyone who beheaded a Danish cartoonist. There was also much heart-searching among liberal-minded commentators in the European press.

Possibly the most bizarre response to this affair, which surfaced again in January 2010 with an assault on the home of the artist Kurt Westergaard, was a protest by fundamentalist Muslims, some dressed in clerical robes, outside the Danish embassy in London. Chanting in English, the protestors carried placards with English slogans like 'Vikings Beware!'; 'Butcher Those Who Mock Islam', 'Freedom of Expression Go to Hell' and (my favourite) 'Down with Free Speech'.

This collision of the Koran with Monty Python, or perhaps the OED with the Islamic Jihad, was the moment at which I began to reflect on the dramatic shift in global self-expression (I didn’t have a word for it yet) that was now asserting itself in this crisis, throughout a world united by the internet.

What more surreal – and telling – commentary on the Anglicisation of the modern world could there be than a demonstration of devout Muslims, in London, exploiting an old English freedom, expressing it in the English language, to demand the curbing of the libertarian tradition that actually legitimised their protest?

Then, in 2007, still puzzling over the phenomenon of British and American English as a lingua franca, I came across an article in the International Herald Tribune about a French-speaking retired IBM executive, Jean-Paul Nerrière who not only described English and its international deployment as ‘the worldwide dialect of the third millennium’ but was also giving it a name.

M Nerrière, posted to Japan in the 1990s, had made a brilliant observation. In his work for IBM, he noticed in meetings that non-native English speakers in the Far East were communicating far more successfully with their Korean and Japanese clients than competing British or American executives, for whom English was the mother tongue. Standard English was all very well for Anglophone societies, but out there in the developing world, this non-native ‘decaffeinated English’, declared Nerrière, was becoming the new global phenomenon. In a moment of inspiration, he had christened it ‘Globish’.

His idea quickly caught on within the international community, and I discovered I was not the only one following its trajectory. *The Times* journalist, Ben MacIntyre, described how, waiting for a flight from Delhi, he had overheard a conversation between a Spanish UN peacekeeper and an Indian soldier. ‘The Indian spoke no Spanish; the Spaniard spoke no Punjabi. Yet they understood one
Globish, the newest and most widely spoken language in the world...
another easily. The language they spoke was a highly simplified form of English, without grammar or structure, but perfectly comprehensible, to them and to me. ‘Only now,’ concluded MacIntyre, ‘do I realise that they were speaking ‘Globish’, the newest and most widely spoken language in the world’.

But hold on a minute! Isn’t that just a description of what used to be known as a lingua franca? Not to M. Nerrière, it isn’t. For Nerrière, his ‘Globish’ was a specific linguistic tool, now formulated in two (French language) handbooks, Decouvrez le Globish and Don’t Speak English, Parlez Globish. In these self-published, but highly successful, volumes, Nerrière began to develop a ‘Globish’ vocabulary, the 1500 essential words for international communication, and the idiom-free turns of phrase in which they might be expressed by non-native English speakers, a figure approaching four billion worldwide, one third of the planet.

In 2007, having read about him in the International Herald Tribune, I interviewed Jean-Paul Nerrière in Paris. He turned out to be a delightful French technocrat of the very best sort, cultivated, witty and devoted to good food, with a quixotic ambition not only for global fraternity (somehow, only a Frenchman can use that word and not sound ridiculous), but also for the preservation of the French language. ‘Globish will limit the influence of the English language dramatically’, he told me over a steak frites in a little restaurant opposite the Gare du Nord.

In other words, Globish was not just a lingua franca, it was a linguistic Third Force, and it was just coming into its own at the start of the third millennium. I didn’t agree with some of Nerrière’s theories, but his fundamental insight was highly significant, I thought, and could be applied to our understanding of the English-speaking world, a phrase popularised by Winston Churchill in the 1950s. In hindsight, this was my ‘Eureka!’ moment. I knew from my work on The Story of English in 1985/6, that British English had enjoyed global supremacy throughout the 19th century in the days of the empire. Then, broadly speaking, its power and influence had passed to the Americans in the 20th century (through the agency of two world wars).

After that, throughout the Cold War, Anglo-American culture and values had become as much part of global consciousness as the combustion engine. Indeed, from 1945 to 1989, there was hardly a transaction in the modern world that was innocent of English in some form. But its scope was always limited by its troubled association with British imperialism and the pax Americana.

But now that was all in the past. Perhaps Nerrière was right. Things had changed. Was it not possible, with the turn of the century that English language and culture were becoming rapidly decoupled from their contentious past, and disassociated from post-colonial trauma? Was there not a new cultural revolution at work: the emergence of English as a global communications phenomenon with a supra-national momentum that made it independent of its Anglo-American origins? You could even express the idea in a quasi-scientific formula, English + Microsoft = Globish.

Armed with this idea, I began to narrate a familiar tale, the story of English, from the point of view of a language that would eventually achieve this extraordinary pre-eminence, looking for the qualities and turning-points that, with hindsight, would prove decisive in the making of Globish. That, by the way, had become the title of my book, with the benevolent approval of Jean-Paul Nerrière who is, I think, only too pleased to see his concept get a wider audience, and some theoretical underpinning.

Globish is not about the making of a 1500 word vocabulary, but rather about the way in which Indians, Chinese and many Africans are now turning to English as a liberating and modernising phenomenon. For instance, last year the government of francophone Rwanda not only applied to join the British Commonwealth but also unilaterally declared English to be the official language of the country. Here was an example of a lingua franca with the capacity (thanks to the IT revolution) to zoom through space and time at unprecedented speed.
At the same time, as well as exploring a decisive new chapter in international communications, *Globish* begins to identify the viral nature of this lingua franca, the qualities of the English language and its culture that make it so contagious, adaptable, populist and even subversive. It describes a process that echoes contemporary experience, a socio-cultural dynamic that is bottom-up not top-down. Walt Whitman, celebrating the genius of American English once wrote that “English was not ‘an abstract construction of dictionary makers’ but a language that had its basis broad and low, close to the ground’. That’s the guiding intuition of *Globish*, and I’m hoping that my account of it in 2010 will strike a chord with writers and readers across the Globish-speaking world.

There’s also a sense in which the narrative of *Globish* makes some important cross-cultural connections. Here, I pay tribute to Magna Carta and Bob Marley, VS Naipaul, Shakespeare and the Founding Fathers, but also find a place for the Simpsons, Coldplay and the author of *Dreams From My Father*. *Globish* analyses Twitter, Iran’s green revolution and *Slumdog Millionaire*, and places them all in a new and startling context, a Globish-speaking society. From a university perspective, the emergence of English as a global communications phenomenon that can celebrate a real independence from its Anglo-American roots is at once thrilling and decisive. Only a fool would predict the future of this development but, at the very least, the myth of Babel will be ripe for some urgent redefinition.

Robert McCrum

- Robert McCrum (m1972) son of Michael McCrum, Master (1980-1994) is an associate editor of *The Observer*.
- He was born and was an undergraduate here in Cambridge.
- For nearly 20 years he was editor-in-chief of the publishers Faber & Faber.
- He is the co-author of *The Story of English* (1986), and has written six novels.
- He was the literary editor of *The Observer* from 1996 to 2008, and has been a regular contributor to *The Guardian* since 1990.
Days before the Parker Library reopened – days before its priceless contents were quietly returned from Churchill College, where they had been in safe-keeping during the renovations – I sat with the Librarian, Dr Christopher de Hamel, in the new Butler Reading-Room downstairs to talk about the treasure trove of ancient manuscripts and books over which he presides. To all but the most recent generations of undergraduates, the Butler was their College library. Now, half of it is a room for scholars who wish to work from the volumes that comprise the Parker Library; the other half is a Fort Knox-style secure vault from which some of the treasures are brought out. Upstairs, the room that Dr de Hamel calls ‘Wilkins’s finest interior’, is now a superb exhibition space for the College’s stunning collection of literary jewels.

Christopher de Hamel is not a career academic, but more than qualifies himself for his post after a life that began with a precocious interest in rare manuscripts, and continued to a senior post at Sotheby’s, the auctioneers. Born in London, he moved with his parents to New Zealand when he was four, his doctor father having taken up a post there. ‘Like many boys I collected stamps, and feathers, and coins, and many other things – I was always a collector and I still am’, he tells me. ‘When I was about 12, I stumbled on the local public library in Dunedin, which has a collection of medieval manuscripts, and I thought they were marvellous. My oldest stamp was from 1840, but here were things from the 10th to the 13th centuries. They let me take them out of their cases and copy them, and even take them home. That’s why I like getting parties of schoolchildren in here. It caught my imagination at the age of 12 and I’ve never looked back.’

Dr de Hamel read history at university in New Zealand and then came to Oxford, where he did a DPhil on 12th Century-book production. ‘I started collecting manuscript fragments when I was about 16 and I’ve never stopped. It animates me in every way.’ He bought from the catalogues of dealers from all over the world and then, on coming to England, was able to start attending the big London salerooms. ‘I’d been to a number of Sotheby’s sales and my predecessor at Sotheby’s suddenly died, in his 50s. I was just finishing my thesis and I knew various people in the business. So I came into Sotheby’s in 1975 and spent 25 years there cataloguing manuscripts.

‘It’s the most amazing training. I have always likened it to being an investigative journalist. You have no idea from one day to the next what is going to be thrown at you, and you have to meet an inflexible deadline: you have to become the expert that fills four-and-half pages of a catalogue on 7th-century Coptic texts, or whatever it might be. Thousands and thousands of manuscripts came through in my time. Sotheby’s had been the leading saleroom for manuscripts from long before I started. It’s not at all to my credit, for it came with the job,’ he adds, ‘but I’ve probably catalogued more medieval manuscripts than anyone alive, or indeed than anyone has ever done.’

He says it was a ‘great job’ when he was 30 but less appealing when he was 50 – the age at which he came to Corpus a decade ago. ‘It was just relentless. You’d always have your passport in your pocket, never knowing where you might have to go that day, or which bed you would be sleeping in that night.’ He was, of course, aware of the Parker and its contents long before he came to Corpus. ‘I knew it reasonably well. As an Oxford graduate I wasn’t allowed in, but that was part of a long tradition dating back to at least the 17th century of Corpus being extremely difficult.’ It is one of his innovations that our library is now open to those who wish to see it. ‘I remember giving a lecture years ago and saying that the only manuscript I hadn’t been able to see was one at Corpus Christi, Cambridge. Everybody laughed. I hadn’t realised it was such a great joke.’

In the 1990s the college began to think about its public relations and to consider what it had that made it special: and the library was one of the most obvious things, together with the College’s collection of antiquities. Sotheby’s were asked to come to do a valuation of both, to ascertain just how special the collections were: Dr de Hamel valued the library at what he terms ‘more than the gold reserves of many Western economies’. When the job of librarian next became vacant, Dr de Hamel ‘along with everyone in the world’ applied for it, and was successful: he was the first full-time librarian we had had, his predecessors all having been teaching Fellows.

Christopher de Hamel
Donnelley Fellow Librarian
Interviewed by Simon Heffer (m1979)
Dr Christopher de Hamel cont.

He sees his job as ‘public relations; opening the library up; making it available, accessible.’ This was, to start with, easier said than done. ‘I had underestimated what a different world this is from the commercial world. The College had decided to build a new library in the Master’s garden: I inherited that plan. It was a bit dull, but there were about 150 different opinions about it; and eventually we decided on more or less the present plan: to build a new undergraduate library [the Taylor Library] and to move these facilities down to the old one.’ It took ten years; he is very happy with the Taylor Library but regrets a bit that the undergraduate and the Parker libraries are no longer ‘joined at the hip’. ‘Here we have just about the oldest books in the country: in them are the beginnings of the Anglo-Saxon language, the start of literacy, the beginnings of English art and culture, and some of the most venerable readers; and this contrasts with the state-of-the art books and technology in the Taylor Library, and use by undergraduates.’

The entire collection of Parker manuscripts is now fully digitised, after a long process of photographing the books and manuscripts and its contents are all available for viewing online. ‘Every page of every manuscript is on the internet. No other library has ever done that,’ Dr de Hamel says. For those who want to come to Cambridge, though, and see these works in the flesh, the new space the library has makes the experience all the better. ‘It is easier to mount good exhibitions now than ever before,’ he continues. ‘I love showing books to people – I love having a class of students in who are studying Piers Plowman (for instance), and we open the manuscript on the table and say ‘that is how we know what it said: there is the manuscript itself.’ And for about a third of them their hair stands on end: as they hold in their hands the Anglo-Saxon chronicle (to take another example), and realise it’s not a copy, not a facsimile, not a photograph, but the real thing.

The Parker Library has about 600 manuscripts (the British Library has perhaps 10,000, but it is about quality, not quantity). ‘We have about a quarter of all the books in Old English in existence,’ he adds, ‘and about a tenth of all the books known to have been in England before the Conquest’. These are the fruits of Archbishop Parker’s ‘collecting’, largely from dissolved monasteries in the 1530s and 1540s, and that concentration of very old books is what makes the library so special.

If any Old Member reading this wants to come to see the Parker’s treasures, then Dr de Hamel says he would be ‘thrilled and delighted to see them – weekdays are especially easy, and we shall have semi-permanent exhibitions upstairs’. He adds: ‘We have also done this deal with the tourist department of the City council, and we are going to be open to the public every Thursday afternoon.’ Despite the College’s old reputation for privacy, this is not the first time the Parker Library has been opened to the public – it was opened two afternoons a week in the 1930s, and again in the 1950s. There will be a small charge to the public for the privilege, which will help meet the substantial running costs of the collection. ‘Trinity College Dublin is reputed to make £5m a year from exhibiting the Book of Kells… we look down on the Book of Kells as being rather modern – early 9th century – we go back much further than that.’

Taking his tongue from his cheek he does, however, make the point that ‘the Gospel Book of St Augustine (594 AD) should have an iconic status in England’, as the Book of Kells does in Ireland.

So the Parker Library now has what is probably the highest level of accessibility in its history. ‘Matthew Parker himself in his indenture of 1574 demanded that it be open every day,’ says Dr de Hamel, ‘and set the times for it to be so: opening at 6am in summer and closing at 11am for lunch: the College has disgracefully flouted that! We have also re-introduced the annual audit, where the Master of Caius or Trinity Hall or their representative comes and checks that the collection is intact, and we have an audit dinner afterwards. Parker stipulated that they should be paid sixpence for their trouble, and I have an arrangement with a coin dealer to get an Elizabethan sixpence with which to pay them, sufficiently valuable for them not to be able to complain about the failure of index-linking.’ He adds: ‘As far as we know, we haven’t ever lost any books.’

Dr de Hamel has also founded the Friends of the Parker Library, a small and select group of connoisseurs who pay £5,000 each per year for the privilege of their membership.

‘This is enormously helpful to us because it underwrites a considerable amount of the cost of what we do, and gives us more flexibility. It is my ambition that, by the time I retire, I shall make the Parker Library self-funding.’ The recent renovations cost about £1m, much of it from the building fund set up when it was planned to build a new Parker library, to which many Old Members contributed.

‘We have done exactly what was stipulated, and provided a new exhibition space, reading room and secure vault. The money has been spent exactly as was promised.’ There were other specific
Donations: none of the money came out of the College’s endowment. ‘One Old Member, Paul Cooke, one of the Friends, gave us the crucial difference which made up the total at the moment when it looked as though the project wasn’t going to hold together: it made all the difference. Another member of the Friends, Gifford Combs, paid for all the furniture.’

Now, at last, Dr de Hamel can fulfil another ambition, of having the priceless works in his care displayed, cared for and stored in the best possible way, as befits such an important collection. For those of us whose only experience of the Parker Library was an inaugural tour after we matriculated, there could be no better time to accept the Librarian’s invitation to come back to Corpus, and see again what treasures our College has.

Dr de Hamel

- Appointed the first Donnelley Fellow Librarian of Corpus Christi College 2000.
- He has a D. Phil from Oxford (1979) and PhD Cambridge and an honorary Litt. D from Otago University (2002).
- From 1975 to 2000, he has been responsible for all sales of illuminated manuscripts at Sotheby’s. In 1999-2000, he was a Visiting Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Simon Heffer m1979

- Recently elected Fellow Commoner, Journalist, Columnist and writer and Associate Editor of The Telegraph.
Paul came to Cambridge in 1982 immediately after completing his PhD at the University of Edinburgh. As a Science Research Council Fellow at an institute then offering little undergraduate teaching Paul had essentially no connection with colleges. It is thanks to one of his PhD student’s drawing his attention to an announcement in the Reporter advertising College Research Fellowships in 1984 and suggesting that Paul applied, that led him to Corpus. Paul’s arrival continued an association between Corpus and Astrophysics which began in the 1960’s. Then, Roger Tayler became a Fellow in 1961 to take on the teaching of mathematics and he was soon joined in the Fellowship by David Dewhirst in 1964. Much sought after, Roger Tayler left Cambridge in 1967 to take up a Professorship at the University of Sussex but his successor was another astronomer, Peter Eggleton. The College-astronomy link continued with Craig Mackay, who became a Fellow in 1972 and who remains a colleague of Paul’s in the Institute of Astronomy today.

An immediate convert to collegiate life, Paul enjoyed his time as a Research Fellow enormously but time passed and Paul recalls affectionately a conversation with the then Master, Michael McCrum, in the Spencer Room, in which Michael observed that ‘in the grand scheme of things, astronomers weren’t very useful and we already seem to have rather a lot of them!’ Notwithstanding this observation, the College decided to allow Paul to retain his Fellowship as he became first a Royal Society University Research Fellow and soon thereafter a University Teaching Officer. With Michael McCrum’s words still ringing in his ears, Paul became ‘useful’ in 1991 as Tutor for Advanced Students, a position he held until the end of 1999. Graduate education has become something of a speciality of Paul’s and he has co-ordinated graduate student admissions and overseen the graduate student programme at the Institute for most of his 26 years in Cambridge. He has been a member of the University Board of Graduate Studies for a decade and plays a significant role in helping to make graduate student scholarship funding more efficient and effective within the University. At the time of writing he has just completed chairing the committee responsible for selecting the top 80 PhD student applicants for the new Cambridge International Scholarship Scheme (CISS), a recent initiative involving collaboration between the University, the Cambridge Trusts and colleges.

In common with the majority of academics today, Paul spends most of his time engaged on administrative, management and peer review activities, regarding a few uninterrupted hours where research is possible as a positive luxury. Acquiring the astronomy-bug when he was a small child Paul observes that ‘progress’ in the subject over the years is not always entirely straightforward. As an undergraduate in the 1970s he was taught that the Universe was composed of 10% of baryons (the normal stuff we basically understand) with the remaining 90% of material consisting of some form of Dark Matter. Today, everything has changed and the vast majority of astrophysicists believe that the Universe is made up of some 4% of baryons, 26% Dark Matter and 70% Dark Energy. Explaining during a recent talk to an astronomical society in East Anglia that we can only reliably identify the location of a quarter of the normal baryonic material, a hand went up at the back of the audience accompanied by the perceptive comment ‘you are telling us that we can only account directly for 1% of the content of the Universe!’.

As an observational science, astrophysics is driven by expensive technological development of telescopes, satellites and their associated instruments and detectors. Increasingly, research programmes are becoming industrial in scale, with huge multi-national teams of scientists employing/developing an armoury of high-tech facilities to make progress towards understanding the nature of Dark Matter, Dark Energy and how the galaxies that we see today formed and acquired their
distinctive physical properties. Paul participates in numerous such investigations but his real passion is for ‘discovery’ and he spends the majority of his research time developing new ways to analyse very large, complex, astronomical data sets in the quest to identify rare, hard to find, object populations or to detect the subtle, invariably weak, signatures of particular astrophysical or cosmological phenomena. A truly unusual feature of astrophysics as a subject is the ability for an individual, or very small research team, to make a significant advance or discovery. Such is Paul’s goal on what he describes as ‘blissfully uninterrupted Saturday mornings’ in his office in the Institute.

In College, Paul is the first holder of the office of Food & Wine Steward, a position created ten years ago with a view to encouraging a Fellow to devote some time to proactive oversight of the wine cellar. Paul observes that ‘I recall being appointed for one year and am still waiting for somebody to sack me!’. Choosing wine sounds enormous fun and many a Fellow expresses a desire to be a member of the Wine Committee. The reality is, however, quite different! Even in these straitened times a lot of wine is drunk in both Cambridge and Oxford. Thus, merchants hold tastings for College buyers on a regular basis but working your way through eighty wines at 11.30 am on a weekday during Term can be more a chore than a pleasure. Paul can attend 20 such events in a Term. Wine ordered as a result of tastings is delivered to College for storage in the wine cellar.

Stories are sometimes told of how the wine cellar extends under a substantial fraction of New Court. Regrettably such tales are far from the truth, however. The Fellows’ Cellar, the larger of two wine cellars in New Court, occupies a space under A-Staircase, between the Chapel and the passage to the Bursar’s Garden. Providing an excellent environment for the storage of wine, the Cellar offers a benign retreat from the extremes of temperature during the year, its close to constant ambient 11-12C providing a cooling respite on hot humid days in August or a comfortable retreat on a cold winter’s day after the cycle ride from Madingley Road. Although modest by the standards of some larger Colleges, the Cellar holdings number some 13,000 bottles. Forty years ago the inventory would have revealed substantial amounts of red Bordeaux, German Hock, Sherry and vintage Port. There would also have been modest quantities of Madeira and white wines from Burgundy and the Loire but very little else. A historic strength of the cellar was, and still is, vintage Port but otherwise the revolution in wine production worldwide and changing tastes have combined to produce a transformed Fellows’ cellar. Today, there are now 250 different wines from a dozen different countries in the Cellar. Wine preferences are an intensely personal thing and Paul professes a degree of reluctance to recommend wines when asked. However, he responds to typically several requests a day and it is often hard to believe Paul has astronomical responsibilities given the wine-dominated nature of his email in-box! He does concede that there has been a nearly 60% increase in the quantity of wine used since he became responsible for the Cellar and that the increase is due largely to Fellows and Old Members buying wines for a wide variety of occasions, with lots of repeat custom. The increased turnover positively benefits the Cellar by releasing funds to lay-down wines for members of the College to enjoy for many years to come.
Earlier this spring he published his second book on the subject: a Faber Pocket Guide to the composer, complementing an earlier, more philosophical and specialist volume that appeared in 1996. One only has to read a few pages of either book to discern that Wagner is not merely a passion for Dr Tanner but has entered into his DNA. I began our interview by asking him how this rather intense affair had started.

‘It was in 1951, when I was 16. I just happened to notice in the Radio Times – which was much more readable then than it is now – that the Bayreuth Festival, which I had never heard of, was getting going again, and that the BBC was broadcasting an opera called Parsifal. I had heard a couple of operas but I wasn’t particularly interested in opera; I was passionately interested in classical music, but more Beethoven and Mozart and Bach.’

His interest in music had started in childhood. ‘When I was evacuated in the war it was to a piano teacher and her miserable mother. She gave lessons all day. I was six and I asked if I could sit in. I just loved hearing the piano, especially when she played: I just found it fascinating. Shortly after that I heard Messiah – and I thought that Messiah, which I now feel rather a traitor towards, because I don’t really want to hear it again ever, was absolutely wonderful. For about the next ten years I would go to every performance I could – and there were a lot of them in those days – and I would indignantly refuse to stand for the Hallelujah chorus, a tradition which I thought was absurd.

‘I listened to the Third Programme as much I could while doing my homework, and as much as my family would tolerate. We had a radio – sorry, wireless - in our living room, and that was the only wireless we had.’

Living with a piano teacher gave him ‘a passionate urge to learn, but we only stayed there a short time before we moved on, because of my father. He was a London fireman, but when Herbert Morrison nationalised the fire service he was moved to Warwickshire, where he later became Chief Fire Officer. We had moved around quite a lot before then, and with a certain amount of prescience my father was fairly close to Coventry when it was destroyed, having been in London for the Blitz. I was longing for the family to get a piano, and my father finally bought one when I was 12.’

He is modest about his competence, not least since he drops into our conversation later on that he enjoys playing Haydn.

‘I turned out not to be very good. I can read music of course, and I love messing around on the keyboard, but that’s really all I can do. I was always too ambitious. It was the era of great Hollywood films like A Song to Remember and Song of Love, about Chopin and Schumann and Liszt, and I liked the idea of playing the piano dramatically and coughing blood over the keyboard, or something like that.’

Dr Tanner is not religious, but his path to Wagner was partly the product of an adolescent, but typically intense, encounter with God, and the philosophical questions that entailed. ‘I think I was about to start losing a very brief
though intensely-held Catholic faith. My family was Anglican and strongly opposed to my going to High Mass. I fell among evangelicals when I was 13 at Warwick School, and they told me I had to be converted – it had never occurred to me before. I started to go to something called Crusaders, on Sunday afternoons, a sort of religious version of scouts. It was very evangelical and stridently anti-Catholic. They spent so much time telling us how wicked Catholics were that I became incredibly interested. So I went to a Catholic church and was immediately attracted by the smell of incense. It was not the sort of smell I had ever associated with going to church, which was more about depression and death and smelling of Dettol.’

His general interest in philosophy pre-dated even this. ‘I had become interested in philosophy at a very early stage in my life, simply by looking it up in a very tiny dictionary and finding that it meant the most general study of the universe,’ he says. ‘I thought, my God, that sounds interesting, that’s exactly what I want to do. Religion seemed to fit into that somehow. And I became so fascinated by Catholicism that I’d set off for Mass with my parents looking out of the window to see that I was heading towards Matins, but then double back when I got to the end of the street and go to the Catholic church and High Mass. I loved the ritual: it served a purging purpose in my life, and left me feeling quite exalted. He adds, in a rather revelatory comment: ‘And infallibility was something I was really interested in, because I have a strongly ambivalent attitude towards authority: if I think it’s benevolent I go for it, but my basic tendency is to sabotage it, and satire is my favourite literary genre.’

His wider curiosity about philosophy brought about another change. ‘I started to move away from this because I was reading Bertrand Russell when the first post-War Bayreuth Festival came along. I got out from the public library, where most of my secondary education occurred, Ernest Newman’s Wagner Nights and read the chapter on Parsifal and thought, Wow, all this stuff about the wound that can’t heal, the Holy Grail, I found it incredibly intriguing.

‘So when the BBC broadcast the opening performance I listened with the vocal score that I’d got out of the library. Parsifal was unlike anything I’d ever heard before, and I can’t pretend I understood it in any way, but I was unbelievably intrigued and thrilled by it. The darkness of it, and the pain of it were incredible: and I never found it slow in the way my music master had warned me that all Wagner was slow; even though one of the amazing things about Parsifal is its revolutionary breadth, it silences, and its ineluctability.’

The event triggered a hunger to hear and know more. ‘I then listened to any Wagner I could on the Third Programme; there were hardly any recordings then except highlights. Then in the autumn the BBC broadcast the whole Ring (four evenings), and I listened to it with the vocal scores and Newman’s book open beside me and that was absolutely stunning. Of course I was in a very remote relationship to
what I now consider to be the essence of the music, but it had
the most tremendous impact on me. I became a proselytizer
for Wagner even though I didn’t understand in any deep way
what was going on.’

For Dr Tanner, his passion for Wagner was ‘enormously’
influenced by his interest in philosophy, though ‘not in the
sense of the theories that influenced him, because I didn’t
know that he’d read Schopenhauer, and I didn’t know that
he’d studied Feuerbach, or any of the intellectual context; but
it was just the emotional equivalent of philosophy if you like
– such as Wotan asking himself questions about how he as a
God could create a free being. I thought it was amazing that
an opera could contain people, or for that matter gods, asking
questions like that.’

That interest in philosophy had been precocious. ‘I was just
passionately and ignorantly keen from the age of 10 that I
should come to Cambridge to study philosophy. My father
should have given me a good cuff round the ear. Bertrand
Russell was on the radio a lot, as was C E M Joad, who was
quite a hero of mine, I am ashamed to say, but at the time he
had an immense reputation. In his watered-down Russellian
sort of way I found him fascinating and rather funny, and I
enjoyed his squeaky voice and his inveterate ‘It all depends
what you mean by…’ in answer to any question put to him
on the Brains Trust.

‘I thought philosophy would be about studying great texts
like Plato, and asking questions such as ‘Does God exist?’ and
‘How does body relate to mind?’ and ‘Are right and wrong
objective values?’ I really did find such things incredibly sexy,
and Wagner did feed into that. It was a quite complicated – I
wouldn’t dignify it with complex – mixture of guilt about
various things that I was going through in adolescence, and
of wanting to know an enormous amount about an
enormous number of things, and about getting it all
together; and Wagner was the first person who gave me a
sense that he had got it all together, in the overwhelming
grandeur of his music.’

It has never been enough for Dr Tanner that he should enjoy
Wagner: he wants other people to enjoy it too, so long as it is
safe for them to, and to share his faith in the excellence of the
artistic creation. ‘Even when the Ring was mysterious to me
in every way, I simply took it on trust. I listened to that Ring
cycle, and I was then incredibly annoying to everyone at
school because I refused to talk about anything else for
weeks. I remember standing up in the school library during a
reading period and announcing, at three o’clock on February
13th 1953, that it was 70 years ago to the moment that Wagner died: and would everybody please be silent. They were quite impressed that I should be so mad.

There soon began a lifetime of collecting recordings of the works. ‘Somebody very kindly gave me for Christmas the Furtwangler/Flagstad final scene of Götterdämmerung on five 78 sides. I had a terrible, terrible gramophone that I’d bought from a friend for 7/6d and you had to change the steel needle every side: it didn’t so much play as plough its way through the groove, and the sound all came out of the arm – there was no loudspeaker. It was quite dreadful really, but it moved me to the depths of my being.’

He had his first experience of Wagner in performance on Easter Monday 1953. ‘Barbirolli conducted Tristan at the Birmingham Hippodrome, and it was an amazing experience. Because it was Easter Monday a number of families had thought it would be good to go out to the Hippodrome. So to my dismay there were all these 10-year old kids. Then the music began, and I almost had a heart attack in excitement at that sound: and then there was the first long silence after the famous Tristan chord, and the children began to talk and unwrap their boiled sweets; and Barbirolli turned round and said ‘Sssssshh!’ very loudly. It made quite an impression.’

He did his National Service in the RAF, but managed to continue to pursue his passion while stationed at Caterham Guards Barracks. ‘I went to the whole Ring cycle at Covent Garden for one pound, sitting on uncovered benches in the Amphitheatre: but after Walküre (the second instalment) I decided I would stand, it was so painful to sit for that long, and such a squeeze. Then I was posted to Hamburg for the last six months of my National Service, listening to Russian pilots talking to each other: but Hamburg wasn’t as Wagnerian as one might have hoped.’ He did, however, get to Don Giovanni, sung in German.

Once he came up to Corpus ‘I joined the Union because it had a brilliant record library. They had a listening room that you could book, with rather good equipment’. It was then, however, that his encouragement of others to listen to Wagner really started. ‘I converted quite a few people here, and I was notorious for the extreme strictness I imposed when listening. Nobody was allowed to speak or, if possible, cough, and everybody had to follow the words. It was the beginning of my career as a Wagner converter.

‘I’ve spent a very large part of my life playing Wagner to people, explaining first, and then giving them an idea of what they were going to hear. When I became a Fellow and lived in Old Court, on Friday evenings – partly to counter the bellringers in St Bene’ts – I would take people through the music. I used to have open house for those who wanted to listen, and I would give them the text in German and English and talk them through it and play them an act. In the course of a term, by messing around a bit, you could get through a whole Ring cycle. I was notorious for the amount of noise that came from my room. But those evenings became something of an institution.’

Dr Tanner is not a one-trick pony. ‘I’d like to stress that Wagner’s never been the only person: if somebody said who’s your favourite composer? in a certain sense I’d have to say Wagner as he’s been the centre of my life in so many ways, but I don’t think he’s better than Bach, or Mozart, or Schubert, who are sublime. I’ve got pretty wide musical tastes in the classical field, though there aren’t very many pieces written since about 1980 that I much enjoy.’

We return to the subject of his book. At his publisher’s insistence it has a populist touch that manifestly did not come easily to so elevated a scholar of Wagner as Dr Tanner. ‘There are things about that book that make me gag,’ he says when I ask him about the section that deals with the 10 greatest moments in the canon. ‘When my publisher asked me I said ‘Please don’t make me do it’. It’s so vulgar. Wagner doesn’t go in for moments. He goes for great quarters-of-an-hour. Which build into acts, some of them as long as two hours. People
have said they do find the summaries of the operas quite useful, and that's all that matters. But the list of moments is just catering to the Classic FM mind. Why not just buy a recording, start at the beginning and go through to the end?' He was reluctant to do the book, a substantial part of which is devoted to descriptions of what goes on in the operas. 'I hate reading opera plots. I find it very difficult to concentrate. So I tried to make the plots interesting by smuggling in some elementary commentary.' What ultimately persuaded him to do it was 'the thought of who else might – the thought of how many remarks about Wagner's 'dark underside' we would encounter.'

That last point is a reference to the large part of the Wagner industry that seems to be dedicated to his anti-semitism, and to constructing the contention that he somehow invented Hitler and the Nazis. Dr Tanner has no truck with this, and devotes a densely-argued chapter of his new book to explaining why. 'If there'd been somebody who, before Hitler was born, had nonetheless said that the only way to handle the Jewish problem was to eliminate all Jews systematically, then that would be quite alarming: but Wagner didn't do anything like that. He did say some rather alarming things, but the idea of his endorsing - let alone sharing the blame for - Auschwitz does seem absolutely grotesque.'

Dr Tanner acknowledges a theme in his life related to this. 'The three central figures in my cultural and intellectual life have been Wagner, Furtwängler as an interpreter because he seemed to be the archetypal re-creator, absolutely inimitable - that's why he's archetypal – and Nietzsche; and they are all tarred with the same brush. When I became interested in Nietzsche, which was when I discovered he'd been a Wagnerian and then later had become an anti-Wagnerian, I was fascinated by that – I read his writings on Wagner and I thought they were the most amazingly brilliant writings. And then I found out that Nietzsche was supposed to be a carpet chewing monster and almost the official philosopher of the Nazi party.'

Furtwängler, too, had to undergo rigorous de-nazification, and has (rather unfairly) been tainted by an association with Hitler's regime; but Dr Tanner regards him as the ultimate conductor. 'His performances were events in the history of the world. Everyone else's great performances were just great performances'.

Dr Tanner has made enemies because of his defence of Wagner in this respect. 'What's annoying is that the book I really cared about that I wrote about Wagner [in 1996] got panned incredibly viciously by the English Wagner establishment. They really did turn out in force, partly because I mocked them, but only in passing. In the US it got a very favourable reception and has sold very well there; but a whole collection of people in England were waiting for me to give them a chance, because they all believe he was a proto-Nazi. I'd like to write another book about Wagner and may well do so, because I've never written the book I wanted to write about him. I'd like just to air some thoughts'.

This would be a book influenced as much by Dr Tanner's interest in literary criticism as by philosophy. 'F R Leavis has been the one greatest teaching influence on my life. The D H Lawrence that Leavis sees is the Lawrence that he needed to see. I'm not creative, any more than Leavis was; and I need someone to articulate for me the things that I feel very deeply, and Wagner does it for me just as Lawrence did it for Leavis. 'But I think Wagner has shaped me much more than I think Lawrence shaped Leavis. One enters into a sort of dialogue with a great creative figure like that. One does produce no doubt a sort of distorted picture of them in a way, but there is a sort of interaction going on, and that's the only thing that really matters. And that's why objectivity is such a completely absurd idea in relation to interpretation. I want to lay to rest certain misapprehensions of Wagner, certain gross misunderstandings, and absurdities - such as that someone who died before Hitler was born can be responsible for the Third Reich. But once that's out of the way I can get down to what positively matters about him, and always will.' One senses that, for Michael Tanner, the book he has just published on Wagner is not, by a long chalk, his last word.
Professor Sir Paul Mellars

Professor Paul Mellars, FBA, Professor of Prehistory and Human Evolution in the Department of Archaeology and Fellow of Corpus Christi was awarded a knighthood for services to scholarship in the Queen’s New Year Honours list in January.

This is the first knighthood to be awarded to a Fellow of the College for several decades and makes him one of only a small handful of knights currently employed in the University.

Professor Mellars has been a Fellow of Corpus since 1981, and has held a number of important positions in the College, including Director of Studies in Archaeology and Anthropology for almost thirty years, Steward and Bursar of Leckhampton, and periods as both President (1992-2000) and Acting Master (2007) during a recent intermission in the Mastership. A Yorkshireman by origin, he graduated in Archaeology at Fitzwilliam College in 1962 and, following his PhD, taught for ten years as a Lecturer and Reader at Sheffield University, before returning to Cambridge to take up the position vacated by his former Supervisor (and Fellow of Corpus), Professor Charles McBurney. He spent the Spring Semester of last year as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Stony Brook University on Long Island, working alongside the noted Palaeontologist Richard Leakey.

From the time of his initial PhD degree the main thrust of his research has focused on the issues of the behaviour of Neanderthal populations in Europe, and the ways in which they were eventually replaced by fully ‘modern’ (i.e. Homo sapiens) populations from Africa around 40,000 years ago. A major focus of his recent research has been to integrate the archaeological evidence for human behaviour with the rapidly emerging evidence from recent DNA research into the African origins and subsequent dispersal of our own species throughout the rest of the World. This has led to a spate of recent publications in Nature, Science and elsewhere, together with a total of 12 books and edited conference volumes. He has also carried out and published monographs on excavations on more recent prehistoric sites in Scotland and North Yorkshire, and has contributed to several television documentaries on human evolution.

In recognition of his research he was appointed an Officier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Academiques by the French Government in 2004, and awarded the Grahame Clark Medal for Archaeology by the British Academy in 2008. He is also a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Academia Europaea. He regards one of his proudest achievements however as the (unsolicited!) setting up of a Facebook website by his Cambridge students, in recognition of his inspirational teaching contributions – with a current enrolment of over 150 members. His past students currently hold many of the top academic positions in Prehistoric Archaeology in both British and North American universities. His current crop of six PhD students are working on topics ranging from the origins of music to the earliest human settlement of North America.

He commented: ‘This award came as a total surprise. I derive equal satisfaction and enjoyment from both academic research and teaching the stream of brilliant students we consistently attract to Cambridge. Many of my best ideas have emerged from interactions with students.’

He is looking forward to receiving his award from the Queen at an investiture ceremony to be held at Buckingham Palace on 9 July. The Master and Fellows offer warmest congratulations to him.
The Nicholas Bacon Fund

THE NICHOLAS BACON FUND HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAKE AWARDS TO FOUR CORPUS LAW STUDENTS THIS YEAR BASED ON THEIR EXCELLENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEED. THE AWARDS HAVE BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROSITY OF MANY CORPUS LAWYERS. BACK IN 2006 THE Rt HON SIR TERENCE ETHERTON (m1969), HONORARY FELLOW, AND A GROUP OF LIKE-MINDED CORPUS LAWYERS WANTED TO PROVIDE AN ENDOWED FUND TO HELP STUDENTS STUDYING LAW AT CORPUS. A NUMBER OF DINNERS WERE HELD IN LONDON AT WHICH THOSE INVITED WERE ASKED TO MAKE A DONATION. SINCE THEN MANY MORE OF YOU HAVE VERY GENEROSLY GIVEN AND HELPED THE FUND GET OFF TO A GOOD START.

The fund has been set up as an independent charity managed by a body of trustees chaired by President of the Nicholas Bacon Society with the Senior Tutor and the Director of Studies for Law. The College has helped with financial investment advice and the fund is producing enough income to make a number of awards each year. However, the Trustees would like to be able to help even more needy students in the future by achieving a target of £1 million by 2016. There still is a fair way to go; so far the fund has raised £415,566 in pledged income (including gift aid). The total cash received and invested to date is £205,262.

If every member of the Nicholas Bacon Society (approx 400) gave a regular gift of £25.00 per month, equal to £384.00 a year with gift aid, we would reach our target within the next 6 years. If you wish to make a contribution to the Nicholas Bacon Fund, please contact Latona Forder-Stent in the Development Office on lfs26@cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 339718 for a donation form.
Andrew Holland  
(First year student)
‘I only came to Corpus in October and I came with all the worries and excitement that comes with going to university. Whilst I was quick to settle in, life as a first year lawyer can at times feel very daunting. You do not have as many contact hours as most of the other students and therefore you are left to manage everything yourself right from the beginning, a stark contrast to being at school. On top of this, you quickly have to learn the realities of supporting yourself, paying for everything from your law textbooks to teabags. Receiving the Nicholas Bacon Bursary acted to ease this additional burden substantially. It let me ease into university life with a little bit less stress and pressure ultimately letting me enjoy the experience more and allowing me to focus more on my academic studies.’

Gabriella Bennett  
(Second year student)
‘I really am grateful for the Nicholas Bacon Bursary Fund and these few short words seem hardly fitting. Receiving the Nicholas Bacon Bursary has helped in a multitude of ways. Firstly, it has helped to pay for my textbooks and statute books this year and has enabled me to update my laptop and software. The fund has helped me with general living costs including room rent, which I would normally part-fund by paid employment during the vacations. As a result, I decided not to resume my usual job over the Christmas vacation. This not only enabled me to spend more time studying and revising but also meant I was able to recuperate over the vacation and come back to Cambridge better prepared for Lent term. I have also saved part of the fund in the hope of travelling to the Hague in the summer vacation to visit the International Court of Justice.’

Andrew Bell  
(Third year student)
‘The Nicholas Bacon Bursary has been enormously useful during the two years I have been privileged to receive an award, and is certainly very much appreciated. It is hard to quantify how liberating it can be to escape the race for the core textbooks in the libraries; not to have to worry about whether the student loan will stretch to that next printer cartridge and to avoid all of the myriad other concerns which can be so distracting during one’s time at university. I am currently a third year at Corpus and on an ERASMUS placement in Germany at the Universitaet Regensburg and the bursary has been particularly helpful in respect of financing this year. Not only does this refer to the obvious attendant costs of flights and moving luggage, but also to a general financial security enabling me to take advantage of all of the opportunities this year can offer. These include the visits to German prisons and court sessions (organised through ELSA) as well as the occasional university course offered outside the city and the cultural excursions organised by the international office for exchange students. All of these are now viable options with the support of the Nicholas Bacon Fund.’

Philip Murray  
(Third year student)
‘I have been lucky enough to benefit from two awards from the Nicholas Bacon Fund. The generous amount of money these awards have provided has meant that I have not needed to resort to paid employment during the Long Vacation, and have been able to take part in a number of mini-pupillages in London. These have been excellent experiences, confirming my desire to go to the Bar. Living near Durham, it could have been very expensive to do these (often unpaid) placements, what with the costs of train travel and London accommodation. Thankfully, because of all those who have kindly donated to the Fund, I have been able to enjoy fully these brief glimpses at life at the Bar without worrying about incurring such costs. There is no doubt without the Nicholas Bacon Fund I would not have been as certain as to where I want my career eventually to lead me. Of course, the Fund has aided me in other ways too, a few extra books have been made affordable because of my award. Overall, the award has made being a lawyer at Corpus all the more fruitful.’
It was during a trip to Ghana that I decided I wanted to work in international development. I visited the beautiful Volta Region of Ghana with a couple of friends from Corpus to work on a voluntary project during the summer holiday of my first year. We had an amazing time – meeting great people and making lasting friendships, but it also gave us an insight into the terrible reality of poverty in Africa.

It was so clear and depressingly simple that what so many people lacked was the opportunity to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. So I was keen to work for an international development charity – and I was committed to finding one that prioritised community involvement.

I first heard about Camfed – the University of Cambridge 800th Anniversary Charity of the Year – whilst researching my Geography dissertation. Studying Geography at Cambridge gives you the opportunity to specialise in topics like development and sub-Saharan Africa, which I did. I decided to do my dissertation on girls’ education in Africa, since helping girls to go to school has a multiplier effect on every other aspect of poverty reduction.

Camfed is a leading charity in the field of girls’ education. Since 1993, the Cambridge-based organisation has been supporting girls in some of the poorest rural communities of Africa through school and investing in their economic empowerment once they have left school. Reading about Camfed’s approach and successes was a logical step in my research. I was incredibly impressed by what I read. It’s local communities in rural Africa that created Camfed’s model, and it’s local communities that implement Camfed’s programme today. The young women who were supported through school by Camfed are playing a leading role in Camfed’s programme, as well as starting hundreds of their own philanthropic projects in their communities. This focus on supporting communities to bring about change themselves is very empowering – and also very effective for achieving change.

I joined Camfed as an intern, soon after graduating from Cambridge in 2008. Then I became the Development Officer for Zambia, until Spring 2010 supporting Camfed’s incredibly committed team in Zambia in the cycle of securing funding; planning and implementing a project; and reporting on its progress to donors.

I had the opportunity to travel to Zambia for the first time to visit some of the rural communities where Camfed works, and to see the life-changing impact it has on people’s lives. I visited the remote northern district of Samfya, an area with one of the highest rates of HIV infection in Zambia. Poverty levels there are extremely high. But I met many, many young women who had been able to start successful small businesses with Camfed’s support, and children from extremely poor families (and those with no family at all) who told me of their happiness that they were able to go to school, thanks to Camfed.
One of the children I met was a 16-year-old girl called Zulu, who was orphaned at the age of three and now lives with her aunt, who makes a meagre living from farming peanuts and cassava. Without Camfed’s help, Zulu would not be able to go to school at all. It was so inspiring to see Zulu’s eagerness for learning – she explained that she was working hard because she wanted to be a journalist.

It was also inspiring to meet the dedicated community volunteers who implement, monitor and contribute to Camfed’s programme on the ground. Perhaps the most memorable moment of my trip was meeting a group of local mothers who – with Camfed’s support – have formed a Mother Support Group in Zulu’s local community. Camfed’s work in Zulu’s school had inspired the women to come together to sell bread, vegetables and fish at the local market so that they could raise enough money to offer extra support such as stationery and uniforms to orphans at the school. So far the group had raised enough money to help 22 children to continue their education. Meeting community philanthropists like these mothers let me see for myself how Camfed’s programme is not only community-owned, but is also sustainable over the long term.

For me, the trip stirred up a mixture of emotions – with happiness at the change being achieved, but also such sadness about the acute poverty and lack of opportunities in rural Zambia. I remember one day, walking into the classroom of a remote rural school to meet orphans and vulnerable children who had received stationery, books, uniforms and other items that they needed for school. I expected to see perhaps 30 children. But as I entered the room the deafening chatter of around 150 excited children overwhelmed me. I came back from Zambia feeling inspired by what Camfed is achieving, but also feeling even more committed to helping Camfed to reach more children and young people in the future.

The University of Cambridge chose Camfed as its Charity of the Year for the University’s 800th anniversary celebrations. To celebrate 800 years of education at Cambridge, Camfed has been seeking the help of University members to support 800 girls through secondary school in Malawi. Thanks to the generosity of the Cambridge community, Camfed is now on the way to achieving this goal.

If a girl in Africa goes to school:

- her income will increase by 25%  
- she is three times less likely to become HIV-positive  
- her children will be 40% more likely to live beyond the age of five  
- she will marry three years later, and have two fewer children.

Camfed website: www.camfed.org