

DOW@CAM

THE DOWNING COLLEGE MAGAZINE / VOLUME 28 / WINTER 2016-2017





From the Master 2017

This is the day of the acronym. From EU to UK, via NY on BA, a basic familiarity with acronyms is necessary for survival. The University of Cambridge is a brand leader. Many a lecturer has retired after years of service without having grasped the difference between HPS, HSPS, and SPS. Three of the acronyms currently in the news here are REF, TEF, and HERB (BREXIT and TRUMP not being acronyms). The TEF (= Teaching Excellence Framework) is designed to judge the quality of our teaching, just as the REF does already for research. The HERB (= Higher Education Research Bill) aims to regulate aspects of higher education in the UK. Graham Virgo's account of 'a year in the life of a PVC (= Pro-Vice-Chancellor)' is an informative account of the interests of Cambridge centred around TEF, HERB, and BREXIT.

The perfect foil to this alphabet soup is Emma John's sensitive and human account of personal obsession. It begins with a cricketer, and moves through the theatre, and onward to sports journalism at the Guardian. As I read Emma's charming article, I imagine the click of ball on bat, a sound occasionally heard across

the Paddock. (By the way, the Downing Staff defeated the Fellows once again in 2016, but the Vice Master is planning our resurgence.)

Priyanka Joshi is our first Everitt Butterfield Research Fellow. She writes here about her studies of proteins involved in neurodegenerative disease. Cambridge has a number of world leaders in this prime area of medical research, and we send Priyanka our greetings and best wishes. Her life is a model of intellectual continuity from childhood to adulthood, and of a unity of purpose across professional and recreational activities.

Our current and past students are represented in this issue by Kathryn Parsons, and by members of our Gates community. In an interview with Becky Proctor (our Communications Officer), Kathryn recalls her time reading Classics. She left Downing to found an advertising agency, and thence to a company that teaches digital literacy. She leaves us to speculate on the question, "Can you teach Latin or Greek in a single day?"

Kevin Beckford came to Downing as a Gates Scholar. There is a lovely photograph online of Kevin with Barack Obama, and we wish him all the best with the new administration. The



Gates Foundation has transformed the relationship between Cambridge University and the rest of the world.

A 'Grand Tour' of the 17th or 18th centuries could last any length of time between a few weeks and a few years. Downing owes its existence in part to our Founder's prolonged Grand Tour, and its architecture to Wilkins' own Tour exactly a century later. Jenny Ulph's classically illustrated article takes us on a tour of Wilkinsiana in the College archives.

On reading through this edition, I have noted the omnipresence of the Vice Master, to whom I owe so much.

I hope you enjoy this 28th issue of DOW@CAM.

DOW@CAM

THE DOWNING COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Vol 28 Winter 2016-17

DOW@CAM is published annually by the Downing College Development Office.

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40th Anniversary of the Admission of Women

Forty years ago, in early 1977, Downing took the first formal steps towards a decision that would have a lasting and exciting impact on the future direction of the College.

On 21 January that year, it was agreed that the time was right to 'consider whether the circumstances are now favourable for the admission of women' to Downing College. This decision followed lengthy discussions throughout the early 1970s on the issue of co-residence in Cambridge generally – following the admission of women to the first previously all-male Colleges, Churchill, Clare and King's, in 1972 – and at Downing specifically, resulting in the establishment of a Co-Residence Committee in the College. Exploring the various options, initial approaches had been made to Girton College in 1974 to discuss the possibility of a closer relationship between the two Colleges and, around the time Girton admitted its first male students in 1976, Downing's Governing Body authorised the Master to claim 'a place in the queue of Colleges waiting to admit women'.

On 6 May 1977, the Governing Body resolved that the crucial words 'No women shall be Master or Fellow or member of the College' should be deleted from Statute I and, on 20 January 1978, it was resolved 'that women be admitted as members of the College *in statu pupillari* in October 1980'. Downing's first female Fellow, Dr Jane Weston, University Demonstrator in Metallurgy and Materials Science, was elected in July 1978 and

that same year new Fellow Barry Everitt made the first offer to Paula Nock, a prospective medical student, for admission in 1980. By then, the College would have two female Fellows, following the election of Graham Robertson Research Fellow Janthia Yearley, and in October welcomed its first female undergraduates, 22 in total, several of whom were the daughters of Downing men. When they graduated three years later, the Association Newsletter reported that 'they have graced the higher echelons of the class list in every Tripos. Additionally, it should be remarked, they have graced the College by their presence.'

The College will be celebrating this significant milestone in the history of Downing in the run-up to the 40th anniversary in 2020. However, there is a disappointing lack of photographs from this period in the College Archive – other than the 1980 matriculation photograph (above) and this photograph of the 1981 May Ball survivors! If you have any photographs – of the early women's sports teams or anything else – from this period, or are willing to share your memories of this time in the history of the College (from both before and after the admission of women and from male and female alumni), please do get in touch with the Development Office or College Archivist, Jenny Ulph (archivist@dow.cam.ac.uk).





Professor Graham Virgo first came to Downing as an undergraduate, taking a First in Law in 1989. He became a Fellow in 1990, then Director of Studies in Law and Senior Tutor for 10 years from 2003. He is Professor of English Private Law and was previously Deputy Chair of the Faculty of Law. He is a barrister and Academic Benchers of Lincoln's Inn. His main research interests are in the fields of the Law of Restitution, Equity and Trusts and the substantive Criminal Law. He is the current Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education, and most recently was appointed Honorary Queen's Counsel on 12 January 2017.

A Year in the Life of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education

Graham Virgo

Recently the Vice-Chancellor at one of our regular meetings asked me whether, when I agreed to become Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education just over two years' ago, I could have contemplated the dramatic changes that would be affecting education in the collegiate University. I responded that I had little idea of what I would be dealing with, but I relish the challenge. Whether it is the impact of the Higher Education and Research Bill, the Teaching Excellence Framework or BREXIT, a great deal of my time is spent consulting within the collegiate University, briefing politicians and lobbying them and engaging with alumni and other higher education institutions around the world to ensure that Cambridge remains a world class university despite the uncertainties arising from these significant changes.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH BILL

This Bill is the first significant piece of legislation affecting higher education for 25 years. If enacted in its present form it will mean that the powers and functions of the University's regulator, in the form of the Higher Education Funding

Council for England, will be replaced with the new Office for Students, and the separate research funding councils will operate under a new umbrella organisation, called United Kingdom Research and Innovation. Whilst there are significant aspects of the Bill which are supported by the University, since various aspects of higher education funding will be recognised in statute for the first time, there are concerns about the impact of the Bill on the higher education sector. For example, the clear division between research and education might result in a growing divide between the research and education agenda, with education being a matter for universities and research for non-university institutions. This runs counter to the mission of the University of Cambridge where we are working to ensure that research and education go hand in hand. The vast majority of our lecturers engage in significant research and teaching and this is one of our great strengths. Further, the Bill makes very little reference to postgraduate students, which is a community that is rapidly increasing in size and whose interests need to be protected.

We have other concerns about the Bill, particularly the danger that powers will be given to the Secretary of State for Education which might impinge on university autonomy, such as relating to intervention at the level of particular courses of study. We are lobbying hard to ensure that these provisions are amended in the House of Lords.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK

The creation of a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), to mirror the Research Excellence Framework which has been in operation for some years to assess the quality of research at a disciplinary level in universities, formed a key component of the Conservative Party's manifesto. When it was elected in 2015 the Government indicated that it would introduce the TEF as a matter of priority. A Green Paper and a technical consultation later, the TEF as proposed is somewhat different from how it was framed initially. The University has been engaged throughout in consultations about the TEF and a number of our recommendations have been adopted. One has not. We have said from the start that the name of the TEF is inappropriate. Whilst the TEF does purport to assess the quality of teaching, in reality its reach is much wider since it is concerned with the quality of the educational provision in universities.

Almost all universities in the country, including Cambridge, will be participating in TEF year 1. This is a basic assessment of the quality of the educational provision of a University, which is simply assessed by compliance with quality assurance mechanisms. Since the Quality Assurance Agency in 2013 was satisfied with the quality of our educational provision it follows that we have met the conditions for TEF 1. Consequently we are able to increase the fees for new entrants in 2017 to £9,250, above the £9,000 we are presently allowed to charge.

TEF year 2 will be a very different exercise. The University has decided that it will participate in this next stage of the TEF. Consequently, the quality of our educational provision will be assessed by reference to various metrics. These include how well we have performed in the National Student Survey, a survey which is completed by all undergraduate students in their final year (or by clinical medics in the final year of their clinical studies); our non-continuation rate, of which we are best in sector; and the numbers of our students who are in employment, specifically highly skilled employment, or further study, at a fixed point after graduation. We will also need to submit a 15-page document reflecting on teaching quality, the learning environment, and student outcomes and learning gain. We will know in May whether we have been awarded a bronze, silver or gold assessment. Success in TEF 2 would enable us to charge a higher tuition fee for new entrants in 2018 and would confirm what I hope we already know, that the education experience at Cambridge is exceptional.

The Government plans to develop TEF beyond year 2. TEF year 3 will be adapted in the light of lessons learned about TEF 2. In year 4 the Government plans to expand TEF to an assessment of education at the disciplinary, as well as the institutional

level, so each subject would be assessed. It is as yet unclear how this will work in practice, although I am on a group advising the Government, through the Russell Group, about the operation of TEF at the disciplinary level. There is even talk of TEF being extended to postgraduate courses as well.

BREXIT

As if this was not enough to cope with, I am also engaging with the implications of BREXIT on students at Cambridge. There remains a great deal of uncertainty as to what these implications may be. There is concern that, assuming that non-UK EU students will be classified as overseas students and so will pay higher fees and will not have access to the financial support of Home students, fewer EU students will apply to Cambridge. We are possibly starting to see this with a 14% reduction in the number of EU students applying for undergraduate courses in 2017. We also have concerns about the impact of these students having to apply for visas and competing against all other applicants for a capped number of visas. This concern could be resolved immediately if overseas students were removed from any visa cap and from the immigration figures. We are also concerned about the possible exclusion of the UK from the Erasmus scheme, which enables a number of our students to study in other EU countries with students from those countries coming to study in Cambridge. But, despite the concerns of the impact of BREXIT on the University, we are also looking at the opportunities from the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. We are focusing ever more on recruitment opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students in other parts of the world, particularly the US and India, and we are engaging actively with alumni in both jurisdictions.

The Higher Education and Research Bill, the TEF and BREXIT, certainly create challenges for me and for the collegiate university, but there are also new opportunities created as well. And for myself, as PVC for Education, they all have one significant benefit, namely to raise the profile and importance of education within the University.

The Higher Education and Research Bill, the TEF and BREXIT, certainly create challenges for me and for the collegiate university, but there are new opportunities created as well. And for myself, as PVC for Education, they all have one significant benefit, namely to raise the profile and importance of education within the University. There may have been times in the past where the focus on research has meant that education has slipped into the shadows. That is no longer the case and that, at least, is a very good consequence of the seismic changes that are affecting higher education in this country.



Q&A with Kathryn Parsons

Transforming digital immigrants to digital natives

Kathryn Parsons (Classics, 2000) is co-founder and co-CEO of Decoded, a London based tech company which aims to increase digital literacy. She returned to Cambridge to speak at the Union in October 2016, and Becky Proctor, Downing's Communications Officer, had the chance to meet with her to look back on her time at Downing and to hear her views on our digital future.

Q How does it feel to be back at Downing?

A I can't believe it's been over ten years. It feels like nothing's changed, but then you took me into the Porters' Lodge and I saw that huge room for online deliveries, and evidently things have changed.

Q What made you choose Downing?

A A big draw for coming to Downing College was Dr Millett who became my Director of Studies. Also, I had the most fantastic tutor at school, and both she and my headmistress studied Classics at Cambridge, and they both recommended Downing. So I didn't even question it. But I didn't know all the stuff I discovered afterwards, that the College was so strong for law and medicine, and I have an amazing network of lawyers and doctors if anything goes wrong!

Q Do you remember your first week?

A It was terrifying. You're coming somewhere new, spreading your wings, and you don't know who you will meet, and if you'll get on. The first year we all lived together in Kenny, which was great communal living. The power of Facebook means you really do stay in each other's lives. We're all on very different adventures but all connected.

Q As part of our 'Room for Improvement' project, we're gathering memories of living in College. What do you remember about your College rooms?

A When I came up to check out the different colleges, there was an older girl at school who was studying Classics at Downing and I was impressed not only by her experience of studying here, but also by her amazing room. I was overawed by the wood panelling, the parquet floor and the fireplace, but I overlooked the fact that you had to walk through one bedroom to get to the other. Unfortunately for my poor friend, she ended up having to walk through my room, and I was inevitably having parties!

Q What are your standout memories from your time at Downing?

A You were surrounded by people who worked really hard, really cared, and were deeply passionate about what they were studying. It set me up with a lot of good skills that when I threw myself into the working world I'd already learnt here. I do a lot of public speaking. Three years having to do your research, put together a debate, not be shy about presenting in front of strangers and spending hours debating with friends. That has stuck with me very strongly.

Q When you left Downing, you worked in London before founding the advertising agency Scarlet Mark in 2008 which specialised in the digital realm. What led you to set up your own company when you were still in your 20s?

A From the age of 7, I always wanted to own my own business. By the time I got to the end of my three years at Downing, I was ready to start working. Then I was sent to a technology conference in Amsterdam, and I was hooked. You could really innovate, you could be creative, and social media was so new at that point. That was the Scarlet Mark era.

Q Then in 2011, you co-founded the hugely successful company Decoded to increase digital literacy. Where did the idea come from?

A Someone asked the question, "Do you understand the technology behind the screen, do you know how to code?" I had been evangelising about technology, but was ashamed to say I didn't know! I asked that question to a lot of people and nobody could say confidently they understood code. So from that, it took about half an hour to come up with the concept of whether you could teach someone coding in a single day. The execution, however, took two years. We've evolved and changed as a company, but I suppose that's still one of our super star experiences and products.

Q For our readers who don't already know about code, can you give us a simple explanation?

A For everything that's being impacted by technology, there will be a line of code that is sending instructions to machines to make that happen. The world is now a digital world, and so understanding lines of code is understanding the infrastructure.

Q What does a 'Code in a Day' course offer?

A For me code is like a language. In the same way that Latin is as much about understanding a culture, as it is understanding how to unpick the words. This culture is impacting every economy, every single sector, all our behaviours, and we want to understand these people, and understand what their culture is about. If you want to come up with ideas and solutions and communicate those ideas to the world, and be part of the change, then you need that literacy. So most of what we do is not turning people into programmers or developers, it is about giving them that confidence and literacy.

Q In interviews you have previously talked about how women are good at problem solving and working collaboratively, two qualities that you've identified as essential for technologists. What will the future be like if more women are encouraged to go into technology?

A At the moment, the people creating these digital products, artificial intelligence or the apps on your phone, are changing and shaping the rest of the world. Most of them are white, young males. What problems are they solving? Are they trying to solve female problems? It's important that products are founded with insight, but most of the products are founded, funded and coded by men, and that's not right. I want women to have as many choices as possible.

Q We are planning our celebrations for 40 years of the first women being admitted at Downing. What about your fellow women at Downing?

A The women I was surrounded by at Downing were, and still are, absolute power houses, incredibly bright and super smart. They can hold their own in any environment, are all round high performers, and really fun and supportive people. We're all still friends many years later, and I hope that culture is still there at Downing.

Q You have returned to Cambridge to speak at the Cambridge Union and debate 'This House Fears the Rise of Artificial Intelligence'.

A Cambridge is a home of technology – with some of the leading minds in artificial intelligence, research and the future of humanity – which is why the debate is taking place here. Coming back to speak at the Union is a real moment for me. I would never have expected it, if you'd told me when I was studying.

Decoded has opened branches in New York and Sydney, and has 'pop up' locations in 30 cities, including Shanghai, Hong Kong, Melbourne, and Los Angeles – <https://decoded.com/en-gb/>

From the Archives: William Wilkins' Grand Tour

After years of deliberation and several competing and rejected designs from other architects, William Wilkins was eventually appointed in 1806 to build the new Downing College on the basis of the 'grandeur, simplicity and classical effect' of his designs. These classical, Grecian-inspired designs were largely the result of Wilkins' extensive travels across Greece, Sicily and Asia Minor undertaken after his graduation from Cambridge. Here, College Archivist Jenny Ulph explores the influences of Wilkins' Grand Tour on his subsequent designs for Downing College.

The idea of the 'Grand Tour' developed during the late seventeenth century and increasingly became an expected stage in a well-born young man's social and cultural education. Visits to Paris, Rome and Venice were considered essential, but the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars made travel more difficult and so Greece, still under Turkish rule until the 1820s, gradually became established as a desired destination. William Wilkins graduated from Gonville and Caius College in 1800 as 6th Wrangler and was awarded the Worts Travelling Bachelorship in 1801. Over the next two years he travelled from Naples and Paestum to Sicily, Greece and Asia Minor studying the antiquities and gathering material for subsequent publications and inspiration for later architectural designs.

The Library's Rare Books collection includes an original edition of Wilkins' pioneering study *The Antiquities of Magna Graecia* (1807). (Magna Graecia, or 'Great Greece', was the Roman name for Sicily and the southern coastal areas of Italy populated by Greek settlers in the 8th and 7th centuries BC). The book includes over sixty aquatint plates showing elevations and details of ancient monuments engraved from drawings by Wilkins and Italian landscape painter Agostino Aglio, who accompanied him from 1801 to 1802. The list of Wilkins' subscribers in the book significantly included Sir Busick Harwood, Downing's first Professor of Medicine, and Thomas Hope, whose 1804 letter to Downing's Master, Francis Annesley, published as a pamphlet and also in the Rare Books collection, resoundingly tore apart the Roman Doric designs of James

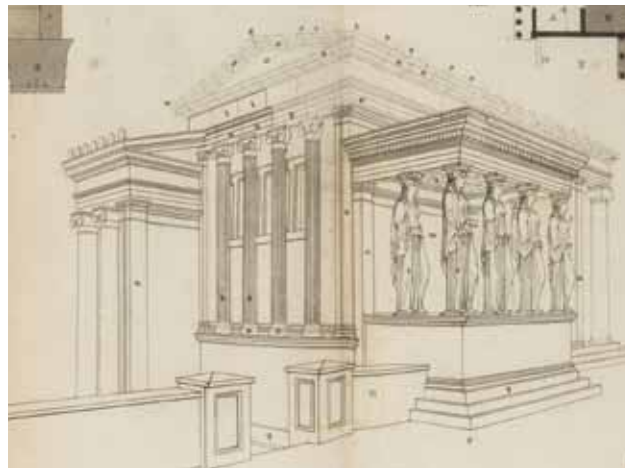
Wyatt for the new College, in favour of 'the purest style of the Greeks'. Interestingly, other supporters included Wilkins' later competitors for the Downing College commission, architects George Byfield and William Porden, and also the Earl of Elgin, who, during this period, was famously indulging his own passion for Greek antiquities in Athens.





When Wilkins eventually reached Athens, Elgin's artists were producing detailed drawings around the Acropolis intended for an authoritative publication on the subject, explaining the lack of illustrations in Wilkins' own book *Atheniensiæ, or Remarks on the Topography and Buildings of Athens* (1816), which was delayed in part due to the intervening publicity surrounding the sale of the Elgin marbles. The book contains only one plate, showing the Erechtheum, said to have been the inspiration for Wilkins' porticoes on the Hall, Master's Lodge and unbuilt South Range at Downing.

On his return in the summer of 1803, Wilkins took up a Fellowship at Gonville and Caius and established himself as one of the leading figures in the English Greek Revival of the early 19th century. Sadly, Wilkins' early designs for the Downing commission, submitted in competition with Lewis Wyatt, have not survived, although the Archive holds over 180 detailed plans and drawings showing Wilkins' complete final scheme. Only two sides of his planned quadrangle design, the East and West Ranges, were completed. It is actually in the unbuilt South Range (above, top) and plans for the North portico of the entrance gateway, or *Propylea* (right), based on the structure of the same name in Athens, that the significant influence of Wilkins' Grand Tour on his designs and the striking similarity with his earlier drawings in *The Antiquities of Magna Graecia* become apparent even to the untrained eye. Downing College undoubtedly owes much to William Wilkins' Grand Tour and his publications on the subject, and architectural designs for the College, preserved in its archive and Rare Books collection, provide a lasting reminder and resource for the future.



Follow the College Archive on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/downingcollegearchives

Exciting addition to the Rare Books collection – with thanks to Sir Alan Bowness



The College is very pleased to report that Sir Alan Bowness (1950) has kindly donated to Downing his copy of the 1827 reprint of Robert Wood's definitive study on *The Ruins of Palmyra and Balbec*, originally published in 1753. The very large book, which contains an extensive series of plates of the whole Palmyra site, is of particular importance and interest following recent developments in Palmyra during its occupation by ISIS and the much-publicised destruction of several of the UNESCO World Heritage site's well-known ancient monuments. This plate from the book shows the Monumental Arch, or Arch of Triumph, in Palmyra, which had changed little in the 260 years following Wood's original visit in 1750. Downing Emeritus Fellow Charles Harpum (1972) visited the site in 2010 and has kindly supplied this photograph of the same monument which was sadly destroyed by ISIS just a few years later. Yet more destruction has been seen in recent weeks.

The book is currently undergoing conservation work at the Cambridge Colleges' Conservation Consortium and, on its return to Downing, will be added to the Library's Rare Books collection.



Gates Scholars



THE GATES TRUST

In October 2000, a \$210 million donation from the Gates family established The Gates Cambridge Trust, a graduate scholarship programme for intellectually outstanding overseas students. To date, the Gates Trust has supported 31 Downing students who have demonstrated not only an excellent academic performance, but also a capacity for leadership and a commitment to improving the lives of others. We spoke to the Provost, Professor Barry Everitt, and some of Downing's past and present Gates Scholars to gain an insight into these prestigious scholarships.

PROF EVERITT'S ROLE WITH THE TRUST



Never one for a quiet life, following his retirement from a 10 year term as Master of Downing College, Professor Everitt ScD, FRS, F Med Sci, was elected as Provost of the Gates Trust in May 2013. As Provost, Barry is responsible for the overall running of the Gates Trust. In addition to establishing selection processes, he encourages the scholars' development, particularly through student-led symposia, conferences and workshops.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Approximately 4500 potential scholars apply to the relevant departments, institutes and graduate schools, with the primary academic decision resting with the University. Departments rank potential students, and the Trust's four discipline-specific panels subsequently interview around 250 candidates in two rounds. Potential scholars are assessed in four areas: academic excellence, improving the lives of others, leadership, and whether the proposed degree is a good academic fit with Cambridge University. With the initial shortlisting ensuring all candidates have an outstanding academic record, the Trust prioritises assessing how the scholar can impact the lives of others.

FUTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Since Barry's appointment, the Trust has seen the proportion of PhD applications increase to 60%, something he would like to raise further to around 65%. Concerned that candidates should make informed decisions about their life at Cambridge, Barry emphasises the importance of the choice of college. The structure of Collegiate Cambridge can be obscure to overseas students, with scholars typically making choices according to funding availability, despite the significant role colleges play in other areas of student life. Communicating this more effectively to future applicants is a priority for the Trust.

OUR CURRENT SCHOLARS



Leor Zmigrod, PhD Psychology



Karly Drabot, PhD Psychology



*Michelle Teplensky,
PhD Chemical Engineering*

"The Gates scholarship is unique in bringing to Cambridge the most highly qualified graduate students from all over the world who, in addition to their academic achievements and ambition, also have a strong commitment to improving the lives of others. It would be wonderful if more of them spent their graduate student years in the special Downing environment." –Professor Barry Everitt

Briefly describe your academic background...

LEOR: I read the Psychological and Behavioural Sciences Tripos at Downing, graduating in June 2016. In the summer vacations, I did research internships at the University of Leiden, UCL Institute of Neuroscience, University of Oxford, and Royal Holloway. My undergraduate programme at Cambridge and the academic rigour of the department were key factors in establishing my desire to stay on in academia.

Why did you apply to be a Gates Scholar?

KARLY: As the saying goes, "third time's a charm!" This was my third time applying for the Gates Scholarship. I was determined to continue applying because of the opportunity to connect with such incredible, inspiring, and good-hearted people. The value of the scholarship to me is really about being able to create relationships with individuals from across the world.

How has the Gates Scholarship impacted your experience of studying at Downing?

MICHELLE: I find in many ways that the two communities complement each other. I was the only Gates Scholar at Downing in my first year, and this meant that I was really able to be a part of two unique communities at Cambridge. I love attending events with both Downing and Gates that bring together various academics for a broad perspective on issues.

How have your first few months in Cambridge been?

KARLY: Cambridge is the only place I have ever lived where I feel overwhelmed by the number of amazing and interesting

things going on! Between dance classes, guest lectures, workshops, societies, and sports, it's impossible to do it all. I love that there is always something (or 10 things!) going on, and that there's always an opportunity to meet new people.

What was your first impression of Downing?

MICHELLE: When I first arrived at Downing, I thought for a month that I was in the middle of a scene from *Pride and Prejudice*. The architecture was beautiful and historic. The MCR was incredibly friendly and at the Master's Welcome Party, I met lots of people with whom I'm still very good friends today.

What are your aspirations for the future?

KARLY: I'm passionate about working towards promoting and protecting human rights and the psychological well-being this can support. I hope to help develop evidence-based programmes that will inform professionals and educate communities.

LEOR: I'm now working on my PhD, trying to bring together cognitive neuroscience and social psychology to understand psychological vulnerabilities to radicalisation. I'm open about the future and looking forward to see where this research programme develops.

MICHELLE: I'm interested ultimately in having a career that oversees biotechnology or healthcare-related research and directs the development of the projects. Recently, I'm becoming increasingly interested in getting involved in a start-up. The start-up bug here in Cambridge is contagious and offers incredible opportunities to learn quickly and challenge existing skillsets.

Kevin Beckford came to Downing in 2011 to study for an MPhil in African Studies, with areas of interest in black transnationalism, political protest, and youth identity. He worked as a White House Special Advisor in the Obama administration.

What was your experience of being a Gates Scholar?

I studied African Studies during my time as a Gates Scholar. I delved into academic research and my dissertation centred on Hip Hop and political engagement across the black diaspora. As a Cambridge Gates scholar, I spent a lot of time in the Cambridge Gates common room working on papers and presentations until late at night. I also spent a fair amount of time travelling with other scholars.

What did the scholarship offer over and above other funding opportunities?



sincere in their efforts to affect change in the respective communities that they came from.

Where has your career taken you after your postgraduate studies at Cambridge?

After Cambridge, I studied at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education. I have taught

Cambridge Gates offered me a community of folk who had all done amazing things and were, more importantly,

History and English, worked with McKinsey on their social media team, and as a consultant for the New York City Department of Education, before transitioning to work at the White House. After nearly two years, I moved to work as a Special Advisor at the US Department of Housing and Development. My path has been unpredictable and exciting.

What are your future aspirations?

I strive to represent my community and its advancement in all that I do. I hope to continue a career centred on the expansion of quality education for all and social responsibility by all.

ZARA GOOZEE (2009)



From the Development Office

Regular Giving

This year at Downing College we are celebrating Regular Giving.

Regular giving is extremely important to us, making a big difference to our ability to offer the brightest and most talented students the distinctive educational opportunities that lie at the heart of an education at Cambridge. By choosing to make a monthly, quarterly or annual gift, donors are helping us to make long-term commitments to the development of the College.

Over the years, Downing has been transformed by the generosity of its major benefactors, with their contributions being recognised in the names on many of our most familiar spaces and buildings. Surrounded by such obvious generosity, it can be easy for the majority of alumni to wonder how a more modest contribution can make a difference. At present, 578 individual alumni and supporters of Downing make a regular gift to the College, raising just over £500K in the last financial year. Gifts are made at every level, and most importantly, once combined they allow us to plan for the future because we know we will always have a steady income stream upon which we can rely.

When becoming a regular donor, you don't have to restrict your gift to a specific project, you can support any of the College's Funds, including the general endowment and the unrestricted fund.

Some of our Regular Donors have been giving to Downing consecutively for 10, 20 and even 30 years. A selection of the projects that their support has helped to fund can be seen in the images used here.



Downing 10 is a new giving circle specifically created to recognise the loyalty of donors to Downing College. Anyone who has made a gift to Downing in each calendar year for a minimum of 10 years will automatically become a member. Downing 10 members will be specifically recognised in the List of Donors and invited to a special lunch in the Master's Lodge on Alumni Day. In addition, they will receive an invitation to the opening of one new exhibition in the Heong Gallery each year.

For more information, please contact Donna Thomas (dt396@dow.cam.ac.uk or tel: +44(0)1223 762060).

"I give regularly in recognition of the fantastic opportunities that the College provided. Unrestricted financial support is, for me, a way to say 'thank you'. But I feel it's also an investment to safeguard, for the next generation, an education that is increasingly under threat."

FRANK KRIKHAAR (2003)
5 years' consecutive giving

"I always feel 'at home' at Downing and it is lovely to be welcomed back. I lived on N staircase in 1982. It was very different then: one loo and bath between every 8 people, and an extremely basic Gyp Room. It is fantastic to keep seeing the investment the College is making to ensure its buildings are all now of the highest standard!"

CLARE DAVIES (1982)
15 years' consecutive giving

Dr Priyanka Joshi: First Everitt Butterfield Research Fellow

As a growing kid in India, I often found myself intrigued by the functioning of the human body, and every visit to the doctor's clinic only puzzled me about the occurrence of disease.

I asked then, why did it affect only some people? Why at certain times of the year? Why only certain parts of the body? While I never found all the answers back then, my grandfather and parents always fuelled my inquisitive mind with books, education and experiences that eventually paved a path for me to pursue a career in biological sciences.

Raised in New Delhi, I completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Pune in India. During my undergraduate studies in the field of Biotechnology, I became interested in studying the structure and dynamics of proteins. Proteins are macromolecules that perform the majority of the essential functions in a cell, so it was clear that unravelling their mechanisms would only lead me closer to understanding disease. In 2011, I was awarded the Marie-Sklodowska Curie Fellowship when I moved to Cambridge as an early stage researcher to study for a PhD in Chemistry at Clare Hall. Here, I combined my interests in Neuroscience with Structural Biology to study intrinsically disordered proteins associated with neurodegenerative diseases. My PhD at Cambridge was an extraordinary experience and contributed immensely to my intellectual and personal growth. My PhD thesis was awarded the Salje Medal for the Best Sciences PhD 2015 at Clare Hall.

During my PhD, I designed a drug-like library to target intrinsically disordered proteins associated with neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Although it has been a hundred years since Alzheimer's disease was first diagnosed, there is still no drug in clinical use that effectively targets the underlying cause. Combined with Chemical Kinetics, we showed this study to be promising in effective rational drug design towards prevention as well as a cure for Alzheimer's disease.

My current research focuses on endogenous small molecules – in particular metabolites in the brain – that could inhibit the aggregation of Aβeta, an intrinsically disordered protein that self-aggregates into toxic oligomers



and fibrillar structures leading to neurodegeneration in the brain. Through my work, I aim to solve the puzzle of selective neuronal vulnerability – *why certain neurons, such as those responsible for memory, die earlier than other neurons in Alzheimer's disease?*

Apart from my research, I also engage with school kids for science outreach and have cofounded an initiative called SoS – Science Outreach to Schools – that reaches out to schools in India. I have been using Skype for two hours every week during the last 3 years to teach fundamental concepts in natural sciences to kids in a village in India. I get to learn a lot from their enthusiasm!

Outside of my world of science, research and teaching, I am passionate about dancing. Very recently, I started using my dancing skills in Flamenco to engage dementia and Alzheimer's patients in a care home near Cambridge. While scientific research may take some time to provide a direct solution to Alzheimer's patients, I have seen dance bring an improvement in their present quality of life.

It is a great honour to be elected as the first Everitt Butterfield Research Fellow and to be associated with the names of such brilliant scientists who have made terrific contributions to the field of medical sciences. I feel a tremendous, albeit gratifying, sense of responsibility to give back to the College, its scholars and donors, in the form of intellectual knowledge created through my research and teaching.

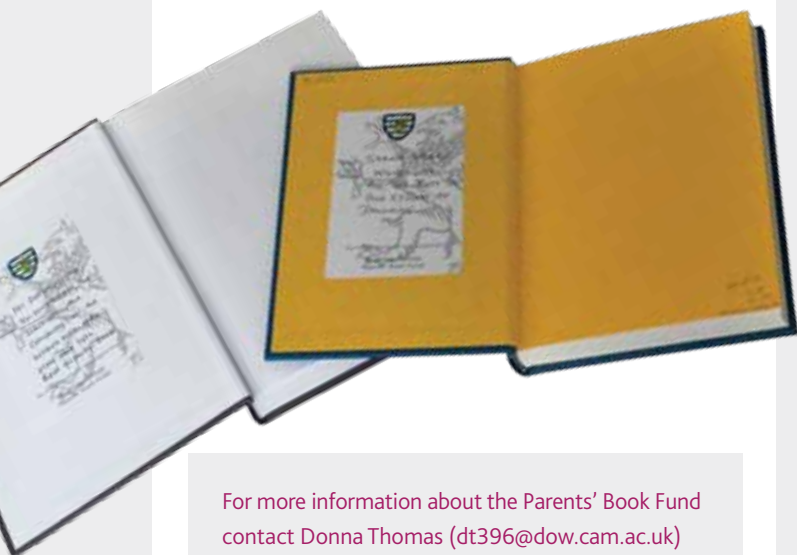
The Everitt Butterfield Research Fellowship is not fully funded. Please get in touch with the Development Office if you would like to make a gift. All donors are invited to a drinks event on Thursday 20 April to meet Priyanka and hear about her work. For more information please visit www.downingcambridge.com/book-events-online



Parents' Book Fund

Each year, we invite the parents, family and friends of our graduands to mark the occasion by making a gift to the College. During their time at Downing, many students benefit from the philanthropic support of our donors. Without assistance from grants and bursaries some may not have been able to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them. Choosing to give to Downing will assist us to continue to educate and inspire the brightest and most talented students regardless of their financial background.

The Downing College Parents' Book Fund has been established directly to support student study by providing for book purchases in the library and for individual book grants, with each gift being acknowledged by a named bookplate placed inside a book in the library (see previous gifts below).



For more information about the Parents' Book Fund contact Donna Thomas (dt396@dow.cam.ac.uk)

We say farewell to our Development Director

We wish Gabrielle Bennett all the very best in her new position as Director of Development at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Connecticut. The College is very grateful to her for her contributions, support and friendship. She and her husband Steve will be missed terribly by the entire Downing community, and we hope to keep in touch over the years to come. Farewell!

John Hopkins' 80th Birthday



On Friday 6 January 165 alumni, Fellows and staff came together in Hall to enjoy a celebration dinner to mark the 80th Birthday of John Hopkins. Particularly notable was the range of generations represented, with alumni present from all but four of the 43 years John was a Fellow at Downing. Professor Graham Virgo (1984), himself one of John's former students, led the tributes with a series of anecdotes about admissions interviews and supervisions which, judging by the laughter in the room, provoked many vivid and fond memories. Tributes were also made to Cherry Hopkins, the 'Choppo' to his 'Hopppo', who also supervised so many of the Downing lawyers present.

In John's honour, a fundraising effort to name P3 the 'John Hopkins Room' has raised a current total of £220K for the Endowment Fund in support of small group teaching in College. All donors to the project were invited to send in messages of goodwill, bound into a specially commissioned donor book presented to John on the evening, while those contributing £1000 or more had their names added to a donor board that will hang outside the room on P staircase.

If you would like to make a gift to the project, donations are still being taken with the opportunity to have your name added to the donor board. Please contact Donna Thomas (dt396@dow.cam.ac.uk) for more information.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE - PLEASE READ

New legislation, in the form of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), is coming in May 2018 to protect your personal data. We will soon need your consent to maintain your relationship with us and to ensure you continue to receive communications from Downing, as well as University communications such as CAM. To find out what GDPR is, why it matters and how you can give consent to maintain your relationship with Collegiate Cambridge look out for more information following shortly (including a feature in the Easter Term issue of CAM).



Following On

There are certain stories that you think you will never tell. As a woman earning her stripes in the macho world of sports writing, my shameful secret involved a cricketer, a Cambridge college, and a life-changing crush. It also featured Dr Millett.

Emma John (1996)

I have spent the past decade and a half writing about cricket for the *Guardian*. The game has been one of my greatest passions since I fell in love, as a teenager, with the England team of the 1990s. Last year, I decided to write a book about sporting obsession, and why I'd spent my most hormonal years following one of the country's least successful sporting outfits. It meant I also had to come clean about my education history.

In the tradition of teenage crushes, my bedroom walls were covered in pictures of my favourite cricket players, in particular England's handsome young captain, Mike Atherton. Atherton was a Downing alumnus. I was a Cambridge applicant needing to choose a college. It's possible you can already see where this story is going. Pembroke was a good place to study English, my schoolteachers told me. They took me there on an open day. It was pretty. I snuck away from our group at lunchtime to see where Atherton had studied. It was magnificent.

A few months later, the admissions tutor, Dr Millett, sat in an interview room asking what had sparked my interest in Downing. I tried to pass off the Atherton connection as a minor coincidence; I've been doing so ever since. It is definitely not professional behaviour to admit that you based your path through further education on your teenage feelings for a guy who is sitting a few desks up from you in the press-box, writing his column for *The Times*.

On the other hand, if I hadn't been such a cricket obsessive, I would never have become a journalist in the first place. My own years at Downing were spent under the happy delusion that I would one day be an actor, and study took second place to an endless round of auditions, rehearsals, and

opening nights. But I still needed my cricket fix, so during the holidays I looked for work at sports magazines. Hanging around with other folk who wanted to talk about Alec Stewart's batting average and Allan Donald's bouncer turned out to be a really fun way to earn a bit of money. Before I knew it, my acting ambitions had given way to writing ones.

I certainly never imagined that the same story that led me to live on L staircase (by a strange coincidence, in the room above the one Atherton had occupied) would result in me writing my first book, two decades later. I realise, too, that I owe Atherton and his team a lot more than just my career. The England players of the 1990s taught me about striving against adversity, and handling failure, and sticking it out against all the odds. Those are attributes any writer needs, but they're especially valuable in journalism today. The decline in print, and the difficulty in making digital news pay, have made it a tough industry both to start in, and to stay in.

And yet I wouldn't have traded the experiences I've had for anything. After all, how often does a job allow you to meet your heroes?

Following On: A Memoir of Teenage Obsession and Terrible Cricket is published by Bloomsbury.

There will be the opportunity to meet Emma John at the Manchester Alumni Drinks Reception being held at the Old Trafford Cricket Ground on Wednesday 29 March. For more information please visit www.downingcambridge.com/book-events-online

Events Calendar 2017

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Griffins Dinner

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY

Reunion Evensong

WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH

Manchester Drinks Reception

SATURDAY 1 APRIL

Annual Reunion Dinner

THURSDAY 20 APRIL

Everitt Butterfield Event

SATURDAY 22 APRIL

Segreants' Club Regatta and Dinner

SATURDAY 20 MAY

MA Congregation and Dinner

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

Donors Garden Party

SATURDAY 15 JULY

1749 Society Garden party

SATURDAY 22 JULY

1957 Year Group Reunion Lunch

SATURDAY 22 JULY

One Year On Dinner

FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

Year Reps Meeting and Dinner

SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

Alumni Day and Association Dinner

THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER

Varsity Rugby Match

DECEMBER (TBC)

London Alumni Carol Service

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During 2016 Downing College was delighted to admit one new Foundation Fellow and two new Wilkins Fellows.

Foundation Fellow

TADAYOSHI TAZAKI 1964,

Economics



Born in Yokohama, Japan, Tadayoshi 'Taz' Tazaki graduated from Downing in 1967. After working

in several City based companies, he started his own business, The Japan Agency and Consultancy (JAC), in 1975 to pursue his idea to help and support the growing Japanese business community in the UK. The company focused on staff recruitment for Japanese companies, rental accommodation for Japanese expatriates and Japanese food for the Japanese community. The Tazaki Group subsequently expanded its operations and is now also present in Japan and South East and East Asia.

As a result of his success in business, Taz set up the Tazaki Foundation in Japan to help Japanese students emulate his own education path, with a preference for Downing and Cambridge, to benefit Japan as a whole. In May he paid a visit to the Master during which, unexpectedly, he handed over a generous cheque for the College, with no restrictions on its use, by way of thanks for what Downing did for him. It is in recognition of this gift that Taz has been admitted as a Foundation Fellow.

Wilkins Fellows

EDWARD G (GARY)

BLANKENSHIP 1968, Architecture



Gary Blankenship is a member of the American Institute of Architects and spent his architectural

career principally in airport consulting. In addition to airport projects across the US (including Alaska and Hawaii), Gary has worked extensively in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Norway and the United Kingdom. Gary's book, 'The Airport', was published in 1974 by Pall Mall Press, London. Gary was also an integral part of the airport consulting firm Landrum &

Brown and remains an Emeritus Member of the Board of Directors.

Gary states, "My association with Downing since 1968 has been one of my life's greatest blessings." His loyalty to Downing since he left has been unwavering and he has endowed a number of College prizes and scholarships in the names of those who are dear to him. It is in recognition of his lasting support that he has been admitted as a Wilkins Fellow.

STEPHEN PEEL 1984,

Land Economy



Stephen Peel is the founder of SMP Policy Innovation Limited, a not-for-profit organisation aiming to design

and promote advanced government policy, now dedicating his time to public policy and philanthropic activities after stepping down from 25 years in the global private equity industry. Among others, he serves on the Board of Global Witness, the Board of the Open Contracting Partnership, the Global Partners Council of the Institute of New Economic Thinking, and the Jackson Institute's Advisory Council at Yale University. He is also a Visiting Fellow of Practice at the Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford.

At Cambridge, Stephen was a member of DCBC and President of CUBC, rowing in 3 consecutive boat races, going on to represent Great Britain in the Olympic Games in 1988.

In January 2016 Stephen endowed the Stephen Peel Fellowship in Science and has been admitted as a Wilkins Fellow to acknowledge this generous support. The current holder of the new Fellowship is Professor Bill O'Neill, head of the Centre of Industrial Photonics, whose research interests cover a wide range of investigations aimed at the creation of new laser based manufacturing methods and processes.