



Wolfson College  
Cambridge

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THE WOLFSON REVIEW  
2022-2023



# The Wolfson Review 2022–2023

No.47



Wolfson College  
Cambridge

From the President 4

## College Life

Wolfson Research Event	06
Tutorial Report	11
Library: Beyond the Shelves	12
Student Profile: Alberto Borges	16
Bursar’s Report	19
Poetry: WolfWords	20
Student Profile: Frances Steele	22
WCSA Sports and Societies Awards	24
Sports Shorts	26
Sustainability at Wolfson	28
Wolfson Enterprise Competition	29
Event Highlights	30
May Ball 2023	32
Welfare & Wellbeing at Wolfson	34
Wolfson Gardens	36
Lyn Alcántara: The Soundtrack of Wolfson	38
College Music	39



## The Fellowship

New Fellows	40
Former Vice-President Looks Back	43
Fellows’ News	44
Profile: Dr Tugba Basaran	47



# CONTENTS

## Development



Development Director's Report	49
Boyce Family Scholarship Fund	50
Philanthropy in Action	52
Aziz Foundation Partnership	54
List of Donors / President's Circle	55
Leaving a Legacy	58



## Networks

Director of College Networks' Report	60
Research Hubs	61
What our Members Say	65
Alumni Events	66
Alumni Making An Impact	68



## Members

In Memoriam	70
Obituaries	72
Useful Information	76



From the President

# PROFESSOR JANE CLARKE

Wolfson is an international community of scholars, where our diversity helps foster new perspectives and insights in every field of research and scholarship.

**A**s I near the end of my sixth year as President, I find myself looking at our students with some envy. It is nearly six years since I hung up my lab coat, put aside my pipette and stepped aside to allow the generation coming behind to take their rightful place at the bench. But oh, I do miss being a research scientist!

As a College where the majority of our students are postgraduates, one of the principal contributions that our students make to society is through the quality of their research. Since most of this research is conducted elsewhere – in labs or workshops, in the field, in libraries poring over ancient manuscripts, hunched over a microscope, or at a computer modelling an impossibly complex system – you might wonder why the College places so much emphasis on our role in supporting research?

Quite simply, research is essential if we are to understand and make sense of the world we live in, and to strive to support all members of our shared planet to live fulfilled, successful lives. I would argue that the urge to research is one of the things that makes us human.

What is my evidence for this? Well, I merely have to look at my own young grandchildren: what are the key characteristics of a child? Curiosity, imagination, creativity, ingenuity, resourcefulness, and the courage to try something even where they might fail. A good researcher needs all these qualities. But what they also need is the supportive environment, the resources to enable them to carry out their research, and opportunities to learn new skills. This is what we can provide here at Wolfson.

The cliché of the secluded researcher who shies away from the world is, as we know, so very far from the truth. Research in general, and in science in particular, is a true team sport. Research today is multidisciplinary – important questions require us to use many different methods of enquiry drawn from many different fields of study. It is essential that we are good communicators and can share the results of our research and our new insights together. At Wolfson, we support research and researchers in many different ways.

#### **Providing resources**

With the help of our supporters and alumni, we can now offer scholarships and bursaries to enable students to come to Wolfson to undertake their research, and we have funds to support the research of our students and our Research Fellows when they do fieldwork or attend a conference to publicise their results, for example.

#### **Building community**

By supporting our Interdisciplinary Research Hubs and researcher networks, Wolfson is providing an environment – both physical and intellectual – where challenging problems are discussed, where dialogue is encouraged, and where novel solutions are envisaged and developed. In this Review you will discover some of the award-winning work being produced by members of the Wolfson Research Hubs.

#### **Building skills and supporting teamwork**

Through WolfWorks and our new Early Career Researcher networks, we offer opportunities to build skills that will enable Wolfson members to build successful research careers – how to write a good grant proposal, how to recruit and supervise junior researchers, how to move to research in industry, how to use evidence gleaned from their research to improve how they carry out their professions.

We offer PhD and Early Career Researchers mentoring and individual career support. And of course, the opportunities to learn teamwork and leadership skills are

many and varied for any student who wishes to throw themselves into College life: taking part in sports, arranging WCSA social events, running a student society, organising welfare teas, planning and delivering a spectacular May Ball – all such good preparation for later life!

#### Communicating research

Some of the highlights of the year are our Wolfson Research Event and the Wolfson Enterprise Competition, both organised by students working alongside Fellows and alumni, to provide training and experience in key skills – communicating research and exploiting new discoveries to create new businesses. The Science and Humanities societies alongside other research-led events help our researchers to build networks and publicise their research. We have discovered at our events this year that Wolfson researchers work on complex problems across all disciplines with research based in every continent – even in the Antarctic! The results enrich our human experience and offer solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing humanity. I hope you enjoy reading about some of this research in this issue of our review of the year.

As I write this, we have just had a season of congregations, where we send our students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, full time and part time, off into

Right: The President (centre) with the Praelector, Dave Goode (left), and the Senior Tutor, Dr Susan Larsen (right).  
Below: Audience questions at the 2022 Wolfson Research Event.

**“QUITE SIMPLY, RESEARCH IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO UNDERSTAND AND MAKE SENSE OF THE WORLD WE LIVE IN, AND TO STRIVE TO SUPPORT ALL MEMBERS OF OUR SHARED PLANET TO LIVE FULFILLED, SUCCESSFUL LIVES.”**

the world where they are charged with one simple task – “go and make the world a better place”. That is, after all, part of our stated mission: “Wolfson College will offer every member of its international community of scholars the opportunity to fulfil their potential and transform society for the good of all.” I trust and hope that time spent in Wolfson will have influenced their choices and their outcomes. This year we have been home to students from 98 different countries – more than half the world has been represented at our table. Indeed, it is easy to assert that “if you come to Wolfson, you will learn to see the

world in a different way”.

Given the calibre of the students we attract to Wolfson – not simply exceptional scholars, but also people whose values and integrity are second to none – I have every reason to be optimistic that our alumni can, and will, build a better world. Go Wolves!





This year's Wolfson Research Event (WRE) spotlighted some of the fascinating, deeply international, and innovative research of Wolfson students. Here are just a few of the research presentations featuring topics that ranged from Russian state-controlled media, chronic wound repair, OCD treatment, and mental illness and the menopause.

# WOLFSON RESEARCH EVENT





**Susie** did her undergraduate degree at the University of Oxford in Philosophy and Theology. After graduating, she worked for two years in the City, before starting an MPhil in Social Anthropology at Cambridge. She is now doing her PhD at the Divinity Faculty, undertaking an ethnographic study of Christianity and the pandemic in Britain. She is the holder of the Edward Bailey Studentship and founder of the Cambridge Anthropology-Theology Network.



## TIK TOK BELIEVERS

“So little work has been completed on online or digital conversion, I don’t even know what I’m going to find out,” says Susie Triffitt, PhD candidate in Theological Anthropology.

Susie’s WRE presentation focused on online Christian conversion during the pandemic, shedding light on a fascinating phenomenon.

“The pandemic offered more time for mindfulness gurus, TikTok dances, and Tiger King, but also for religion,” says Susie. “Two billion people use Tiktok, and on average they use it for 95 minutes a day. That’s a lot of time to see potentially religious content. For some, religion was part of their wellbeing, whether through explicitly practising a new faith, or through the lightness of something like #NunTok.”

Nuns, imams, and Buddhist monks were among those sharing successful videos and content on social media during the pandemic, with hashtags like #NunTok resonating with many people during a time when suffering, mortality, and spirituality were front and centre in the public consciousness.

These behavioural patterns closely aligned with Susie’s own research interests. “I have always been really interested in religion and suffering,” she says. “It presents a tension between my disciplines: does suffering lead people to divinity, or is the problem of evil the biggest thing stopping belief? I saw the pandemic as an opportunity to ask this question in real-time.”

Susie completed fieldwork on the Christian Alpha Course, an evangelistic course which teaches the basics of Christianity. Alpha’s attendance tripled during the pandemic and so Susie started to research why this happened and whether it was to do with the suffering that was becoming so evident because of the impact of the disease. “To my surprise, most people did not start doing Alpha because of the suffering they were going through. From those I spoke to, many people had been interested in religion before – the time, practicality, and privacy which the pandemic created simply enabled them to finally explore Christianity.

“So I became fascinated, perhaps obsessed, with how the pandemic has changed the landscape of evangelism. At the Wolfson Research Event, I discussed my Alpha research, and spotlighted those people who converted over TikTok.”

Susie’s work is breaking new ground, not only because so little work has been completed on digital conversion, but also because, she says, there is insufficient research on Christians in the north of England. “I hope this research can be helpful to my faith community and to other faith communities. My own faith is really important to me. Globally, religion is growing at pace and the more we can understand about conversion and evangelism in this context the better.”

**SUSIE TRIFFITT**

Right: Muhammad Balarabe

## ASSESSING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Accessing a built environment that supports physical exercise is important for public health, but not all cities offer the same opportunities for physical activity.

Muhammad Balarabe, MPhil in Population Health Sciences, is interrogating the disparities in the distribution of infrastructure for physical activity by comparing two methods (virtual and field audits) and two cities (Cambridge, England and Soweto, South Africa).

The walkability of city routes, accessibility to recreational facilities, and the presence of parks and trails are key factors to foster and enable physical activity. Muhammad measured these environmental factors through field audits and by using virtual tools like Google Street View and Bing Maps.

“In field audits, we walk a set route in the cities and use a scoring form to assess certain features on how they support physical activity,” he says. “And we use virtual tools use remote sensing technology to assess environmental characteristics.”

In Cambridge, Muhammad assessed whether these features vary by area-level deprivation, comparing the feasibility and validity of virtual (Google Street View) and field (MAPS-Global tool) audits for assessing the built environment for physical activity in Cambridge, and examined whether local environment familiarity affects the reliability of virtual audits in Soweto and Cambridge.

“By identifying potential barriers or facilitators to physical activity,” says Muhammad, “it’s possible to take steps to promote it. This study has the potential to improve health outcomes and address infrastructural equity issues.”

**Muhammad** (pictured opposite) holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural and Environmental Sciences, specializing in Environment and Health, from the American University of Nigeria. He is an MPhil in Population Health Sciences student and an Early Career Researcher with the Global Diet and Activity Research Group at the University of Cambridge.





**“THE WOLFSON RESEARCH EVENT IS AN INTELLECTUAL FEAST; IT’S A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS, DELVE INTO A VARIETY OF RESEARCH TOPICS, AND ENGAGE WITH SOME OF THE BRIGHTEST MINDS ACROSS DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES.”**

**KONSTANTINOS TSIGARIDIS  
WRE COMMITTEE**



## **THE WORKING-CLASS EXPERIENCE AT OXFORD**

Working-class students still appear to face disadvantage during their time at Oxford University, according to a new study by Éireann Attridge (PhD, Education).

Despite the shifts in higher education policy around access and widening participation, from applications and admissions to supporting students throughout the entire lifecycle, students still encounter academic and social situations which, says Éireann, “reinforce ideas of a typical Oxford student, which they perceived as not being inclusive of their working-class identity”.

Fifteen undergraduate students who self-defined as working-class and attended the University of Oxford participated in semi-structured narrative interviews for the study, which explored students’ experiences through the lens of identity through Bourdieu’s theory of cultural capital.

**Éireann** is a PhD student in Education researching Higher Education and Social Mobility. Éireann has worked in the field of access and widening participation to higher education since reading Education and English at the University of Cambridge. Éireann holds an MSc in Education (Higher Education) from the University of Oxford.

**ÉIREANN ATTRIDGE**

## NEW ALLY IN FIGHT AGAINST PANCREATIC CANCER

FRANCESCA MELLE

One of the hardest-hitting WRE presentations this year came from Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology PhD candidate Francesca Melle, who is taking a cutting-edge approach to tackling pancreatic cancer.

Pancreatic cancer has a dispiritingly low survival rate. Due to the complex and inaccessible anatomical position of the pancreas, the majority of cases are treated using chemotherapeutics – but this approach is often unsuccessful because of the inability to target the tumour accurately. Plus, the high doses required often results in severe side effects.

“The main aim of my project,” says Francesca, “is to design a more efficient and less toxic therapy for hard-to-treat cancers. One strategy to improve the efficacy of chemotherapy drugs is their encapsulation into what’s called nanoparticle systems. Among different classes of nanoparticle systems, metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) represent an unprecedented opportunity for the treatment of cancer

because of their high loading capacity and good biocompatibility.”

MOFs are synthesized via self-assembly of metal clusters and organic linkers resulting in porous crystalline structures, able to encapsulate big amounts of chemotherapeutics.

“In the project I’m working on, we compare the encapsulation efficiency of the most common chemotherapeutic drugs into different MOFs. We then evaluate the efficacy of the loaded MOFs in pancreatic cancer cell lines and normal cell lines to select the system with the best therapeutic effect, slow-release.”

The hope is that MOFs could enable better targeting to pancreatic tumours, resulting in lower doses of chemotherapy and reduced side effects.

For Francesca, this is just the start of a lifelong ambition. “My near future plan is to pursue a career in the biotech/pharma world, working in an inspiring and cutting-edge environment for the development of new therapies that could, one day, have a big impact on the life of the thousands of people who are directly or indirectly affected by cancer.”



Francesca received her Master’s degree in Nanobiotechnology at the University of Salento while working at the Italian Institute of Technology for the realisation of a 3D preclinical model of breast cancer for gold nanoparticle drug delivery. After that, she moved to the Bioelectronics Laboratory at the University of Cambridge within the Erasmus+ programme, and then to the Nanomedicine laboratory at KAUST in Saudi Arabia, where she worked on 3D printing models for skin regeneration. She is now a fourth-year PhD student in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology at the University of Cambridge.

## DEALING WITH MORAL ANXIETY IN RUSSIAN STATE-CONTROLLED MEDIA

What is the experience of being a journalist in modern Russian state-controlled media? How do you exercise journalistic ethics, preserve agency, and avoid demoralisation within the restrictions of this media environment? How do you maintain moral integrity if you have to lie?

As part of her Master’s in Social Anthropology, Anna Dikova took a direct approach to answer these questions, studying the ethical life of Russian state-controlled media journalists through six-months’ participant observation as an intern in the Russian editorial office of Russia Today, prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

“I conducted 23 interviews with journalists from medias supporting the regime,” she says. “Some of my informants simply chose to exit, and those who stayed developed a new professional ethical paradigm suited to their changed circumstances.”

This new ethical paradigm, says Anna, allows Russian journalists to avoid experiencing a decrease in agency and feeling unethical.

“Censorship and self-censorship form restrictions that threaten the agency of my informants,” she says, but the act of self-censorship itself becomes a practice of the self which allows their agency to be preserved. “Practising self-censorship, journalists construct themselves as an ethical subject in a paradigm where ‘truth’ is not important at all, and an ‘honest person’ is not a person who speaks the truth, but a loyal person, a person who does not commit betrayal.”

In other words, there is a new professional ethics within Russian state controlled media: one that values not objectivity, but loyalty above all.

ANNA DIKOVA

Anna did her undergraduate degree in Russian Literature at the Higher School of Economics in Saint Petersburg with a minor in Social Anthropology. At Cambridge, she is studying for a Master’s in Social Anthropology under the guidance of Professor David Sneath, researching Russian Orthodox proselytism in Hong Kong.



**“Picture a person sat on an overstuffed suitcase, putting all their weight and everything they’ve got into squeezing that lid down, before they start the impossible task of zipping it up. That’s my assignment here, trying to summarise an academic year overflowing with student brilliance and numerous College advances in academic support and student wellbeing provision. But I shall try! In response to the collegiate University’s Strategic Review of Mental Health Provision, we significantly expanded our core Wellbeing Team last year. I’m so pleased to see the extent to which they’re already expanding the support for all our students: creating opportunities to build resilience and strategies to cope with the stresses of university life, while also strengthening and diversifying the support we offer to students in difficulties.”**

**“WE WERE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME FIVE STUDENTS ON THE UNIVERSITY’S PILOT FOUNDATION YEAR PROGRAMME”**

**Creation of the Wolfson College Writing Centre**  
Our new Writing Centre trains our advanced PhD students to become Peer Writing Consultants, offering weekly one-to-

one meetings for Master’s students and advanced undergraduates to seek advice on their writing. There’s more on the Writing Centre schemes in this Review, but I want to personally say that the pilot year has been an unqualified success.

#### **Support for students and scholars from conflict zones**

We offered membership to six visiting PhD students and three visiting academics whose research has been disrupted by the conflict in Ukraine and whom the University had admitted through their Help for Ukraine programme. We also continued to support



students from conflict zones around the world through the Rowan Williams Scholarships that we fund in partnership with the Cambridge Trust. A recent new gift will enable us to support at least one student whose education has been disrupted by the conflict in Sudan.

#### **Advancing our participation commitments**

Expanding access to higher education for students under-represented in higher education – and ensuring that all our students, whatever their background, thrive while they are here – is central to our College mission. We were delighted to welcome five students on the University’s pilot Foundation Year programme and thrilled that all five were successful in receiving conditional offers to continue to Tripos at Cambridge. An expanded orientation programme for new undergraduates in 2022 was designed to enable all our students to make a successful transition to university study. Wolfson Fellows and staff have also been deeply involved in planning for the University’s new Mastercard Foundation Programme to fund MPhil students from Africa to pursue courses related to climate resilience and sustainability. We welcomed three of sixteen students on the pilot year in 2022/2023 and are delighted to be welcoming eight of the forty-six admitted to the programme in 2023/2024.

#### **Improved financial support**

Recognising that financial support is also essential to ensuring student wellbeing and academic success, the College continues to expand its programme of scholarships for students from under-represented groups and to offer Wolfson Enhanced Bursaries to undergraduates to supplement the Cambridge Bursary that those from the lowest income households receive.

Generous donations have allowed us to offer more scholarships to postgraduates, with some dedicated specifically to support for those from under-represented groups in higher education.

#### **Academic successes**

We know that many individual students have done well this year, placing at or near the top of their Tripos or achieving distinctions in their MPhil. But owing to the nationwide marking and assessment boycott, many still do not have final marks or degrees confirmed. For that reason, we are not yet able to quantify their success. But I am confident that the rich variety of support that the College offers our students – undergraduate and postgraduate, full-time and part-time – will have contributed to their excellent results.

**SUSAN LARSEN**  
**SENIOR TUTOR**

**”**

**TUTORIAL REPORT**

“The only thing you absolutely have to know,” said Albert Einstein, “is the location of the library.” You certainly won’t miss the location of the Library at Wolfson, and for many the sight of the Lee Library is the most striking architecture at the College. However, as much as the Library is a fixed location, there’s nothing static about what we do here: as well as updating collections, we’re very active in doing work beyond the shelves to ensure that we’re doing everything we can to help students and members fulfil their potential while they’re here.

One of the most effective ways we can do this is by delivering targeted academic skills workshops, bringing together students from different disciplines and at different stages of their academic journey to provide the toolkit they need to succeed.

WolfWorks is our flagship skills series, a programme of development workshops run throughout the academic year. We cover topics relevant to everyone, such as academic writing, note making, critical thinking, speed reading, and time management, as well as researcher-specific skills of data management, metrics, and getting published.



**LAURA JEFFREY**  
LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

# BEYOND THE SHELVES

Following the pandemic, the majority of the WolfWorks programme remained online to widen participation – and that’s been a big success, with over 230 bookings made by both full- and part-time students.

This last year, we’ve also introduced in-person events for the new three-day orientation for new undergraduates, as well as during Academic Writing Month. Also new for this year were sessions on Research Data Management and Preparing for Exams, as well as sessions delivered by College members, including “Developing the skills employers want to see” with Careers Service Advisor Anne Forde, and “Writing for publication” with Wolfson fellows Dr Xin Peng and Dr Cezary Kucewicz. These have been brilliant partnerships, and demonstrate how we try to link up with the most effective people to deliver what our students and researchers really need.

Another exciting collaboration was a whole day of workshops delivered by Professor Inger Mewburn, Director of Researcher Development at The Australian National University.

In addition to this skills-based activity, we’re also actively ensuring our collections shift and develop too: acquiring resources for taught and

research programmes, developing interdisciplinary sections on wellbeing or sustainability, and promoting books through displays for LGBT+ History Month, International Women’s Day, Mental Health Awareness Week, and Windrush Day, among others. We also spent some time focusing on the College’s rare books this year, including the significant donation of Karen Spärck Jones.

Communication is also key to library work, whether cataloguing books so that our readers know what is on the shelves, or telling them about the services and facilities the Library provides. We librarians are constantly assessing how best to get our key messages across. With that in mind, we’ve redesigned our webpages this year to further improve how we communicate what we offer to our students and members.

This involved deleting a convoluted navigation structure and bringing the most essential information onto a single landing page, which aims to provide answers to the most commonly asked questions, and give students and researchers a one-stop shop to find out how the Library can best support their studies. We also redesigned the unwieldy structure of the College LibGuide, the Library’s online resource comprising mini lectures, screencasts, worksheets, and top tips on a range of academic skills topics. The guide has been reorganised around the Cambridge Information Literacy Network’s four competencies: Resource Discovery, Critical Assessment, Managing Information, and Creating and Communicating.

These core library skills are supported across Cambridge, but at Wolfson we go one stage further: there are also sections for Transition to Wolfson and Wider Academic Skills, which includes Time Management, Responding to Feedback, Digital Wellbeing, and Exam and Revision Tips.

This last section was new this year and received a lot of interest from across the University. The University Library’s Engagement and Outreach Coordinator even wrote to us to say how impressed they were.

They subsequently promoted the resource in the Cambridge University Library Easter Term Bulletin, and brought it to the attention of the Office for External Affairs and Communication as part of their Reach Out campaign.

We hope to go one stage further than Einstein suggests: the aim of all of this is not only to ensure that our students and researchers know where the Library is, but how we can help their individual needs too.

BEYOND THE SHELVES

## BRINGING OLD INSPIRATIONS TO LIFE

Karen Spärck Jones is now frequently referred to as the woman who laid the foundation for the internet search engine – and as the technological landscape develops, we can see the relevance of her work in much more of the modern world, including artificial intelligence and chatbots.

**K**aren's contributions to computational linguistics (CL) and information retrieval (IR) were groundbreaking, and her invention in 1972 of the concept of "inverse document frequency" (IDF) is considered the basis for how the modern internet search engine works.

Professor Ann Copestake, Head of Department of Computer Science & Technology and Professor of Computational Linguistics, and a Wolfson

Fellow, believes we can also look at Karen's work through the lens of even more recent technological developments.

"She was one of the first people, possibly the first person, to do practical experiments investigating the idea that computers can obtain clues about meaning from the textual context of words," says Professor Copestake. "This idea is key to much of modern AI, including systems such as ChatGPT."

Karen was made a Fellow (2000) and then Honorary Fellow (2002) of Wolfson College, part of a rich tradition of scientists – female scientists in particular – at the College, which also includes Dr Norma Emerton and the current President, Professor Jane Clarke. Karen – like her husband and collaborator, Roger Needham – have rooms named after them at Wolfson, so their names are spoken most days by students in College even now. Wolfson College President, Professor Jane Clarke, the first woman and the first scientist to serve as President of the College, approaches Karen's legacy from her own unique perspective: "We can look at Karen's work very much as a quest for communication, for meaningful information, and for meaning. That's a very powerful legacy to leave – and the fingerprints of her thinking and her innovation are all around us in our technological world," says Jane. "Her legacy is here at Wolfson College too. She was an inspiration to women in her field, to women in science more broadly, and she was a big

part of the long line of women scientists at Wolfson of which I feel privileged to be a part."

One project at Wolfson has recently brought one of Karen's other legacies to life: her books. Wolfson members will be familiar with books that line the Karen Spärck Jones Room. This collection comprises around 2,000 modern books that illuminate Karen's eclectic interests, including art history, handicrafts and textiles, geography, politics, architecture, and music. Less well-known is that she donated a further collection of 200 rare books, printed prior to 1900, which are stored in the Library basement. However, the books were unlisted and so could not be found by librarians nor researchers.

The College opened up Karen's collection for the public during the Open Cambridge Festival in September, and we're looking forward to cataloguing and communicating about this unique collection, making the books discoverable for use by researchers in Wolfson and beyond.



### Cleaning the collection

In August 2022, five volunteers from the Arts Society Cantab started work at Wolfson Library cleaning the books, tying up loose boards, listing, and, most importantly, giving every book a shelfmark so that we can find it again.



## BEYOND THE SHELVES

GETTING IT WRITE  
WITH WOLFSON  
WRITING CONSULTANTS

This year, the Library launched a new writing consultancy service to help students become more confident and capable writers. The writing consultants – six PhD students from a variety of subject specialisms – provide peer-to-peer support to College undergraduates and postgraduates, offering one-to-one and group sessions.

From helping to brainstorm ideas and think through essay structures, to considering flow and clarity, the consultants have been helping to make a positive difference for their peers. Indeed, the fact that it is peer-to-peer support has been a big part of the programme's success. "I think that being able to discuss your writing style and skills with a PhD student who has undoubtedly been in the same position as you previously is very useful," says writing consultant and Biochemistry PhD student, Charlotte Hutchings.

"The students feel more comfortable with somebody that they can relate to, and there is no judgement at the sessions."

The initiative was the brainchild of Academic Skills Librarian, Alberto Garcia, who was inspired by methodologies he employed as a postgraduate in the United States.



Professor Inger Mewburn

## BEYOND THE SHELVES

## THE THESIS WHISPERER

She has 100,000 social media followers, a blog with over 10 million views, numerous best-selling books, and countless passionate fans grateful for helping them succeed in their PhDs or complete research projects – and in the Easter Term, Professor Inger Mewburn arrived at Wolfson as Visiting Fellow, offering her skills and guidance to students and researchers across the College. Following the recent publication of her new book – *Be Visible Or Vanish: Engage, Influence and Ensure Your Research Has Impact* – Inger delivered workshops in June, including sessions on how to create research impact and productivity. Inger – who was in Cambridge as the first-ever University of Cambridge ThinkLab Visiting Scholar in Residence – said: "From fish and mushy pea Fridays to the fantastic conversations in lovely garden settings, I will always remember my time at Wolfson fondly. Special shout out to Laura, Tania, and Alberto for inspiring me in my work – I went home with lots of great ideas. Thanks to everyone else for making me feel so welcome."



Lily Tekseng leading a writing consultation.





“When I started at Wolfson, I was particularly interested in how I might be able to add to the academic writing support students receive,” says Alberto. “In my first year, I offered workshops on academic writing and one-to-one academic skills sessions. However, I wanted to offer another way to learn, without the asymmetrical power relationship of student and librarian. “My training and teaching emphasised a process approach to writing and the use of peer-to-peer support as a valuable tool for helping students develop as writers. Fortunately, we have many amazing writers among our PhD students – so we decided to draw on their expertise.”

The consultancy service is not only useful and instructive for the students seeking support, it’s also proven to be rewarding for the consultants themselves. “I have become more aware of how my own writing process works, and of its flaws and areas of improvement, and of course, of the things that may be helpful to others,” says writing consultant and second year PhD student, Adrián Rodríguez Avila. “I have also become more organised, and I think I have learned to formulate better questions for my



Wolfson writing consultants

Clockwise from top left:

**Adrián Rodríguez Avila** is a second-year PhD student at the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, exploring religious history from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries.

**Marisa Tangeman** is a second-year PhD student in Sociology, researching popular

culture discourses and bisexual identity.

**Alberto García Jr** is our Academic Skills Librarian and coordinates the Wolfson Writing Centre.

**Lily Tekseng** is a third-year PhD candidate at the Faculty of English, specialising in the field of post-colonial and related literature.

**Charlotte Hutchings** is a Biochemistry PhD

student investigating novel gene therapies in collaboration with AstraZeneca.

**Nancy Karreman** is a second-year PhD student working in Public Health and Politics at the MRC Epidemiology Unit.

**Min-Kyoo Kim\*** is a second-year PhD student in Film Studies researching the visual representations of

nuclear violence.

**Jonathan Harris\*** is a PhD student at the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics, conducting a project about abstract experimental filmmaking.

\* New to the team for 2023-24.



supervisor. It has really been a great and fulfilling experience. I hope that more Wolves continue to trust us with their writing!”

Similarly, Nancy Karreman, PhD student in Public Health and Politics, got involved because she used to work as a writing consultant in her institution in the United States and is “really passionate about peer-to-peer tutoring as a crucial part of learning writing and being a good writer.”

Nancy is also appreciative of the two-way learning the initiative offers: “I’ve been introduced to more visual methods of brainstorming that I’ve found so helpful,” she says.

Alberto and the Library team are thrilled with the success of the programme, and it’s a joy shared by the students and consultants. “I really enjoy seeing a student’s confidence improve during a session,” says Marisa Tangeman, PhD student in Sociology. “It’s great to be able to help them through whatever they’re struggling with in their writing and alleviate some of their stress.”

“The most enjoyable aspect of writing consultancy,” adds Charlotte, “is getting to meet other Wolfson students and be a part of the Wolfson College community.”

The initiative will continue into next year.

“Not sure I would have been able to get this research proposal completed ahead of the deadline without the two consultations I’ve had!”

# ALBERTO BORGES



Above: Alberto's fateful photo – the only picture in existence of his sun spider.

## Student Profile

How an accidental photo of a spider (left) changed **Alberto Borges'** life.



**W**hen Alberto Borges set off hitchhiking from his home in Nairobi at the age of 17, he had no idea that a single event on the trip would eventually lead him to Wolfson as a Gates Scholar.

Growing up in Kenya's capital, Alberto had an instinct for adventure and discovery, and an explorer's interest in the country around him.

"I had read accounts of the early explorers to Marsabit, in northern Kenya," says Alberto, an MPhil student in Conservation Leadership, "and I wanted to see it for myself." Alberto therefore made a plan – to hitchhike solo. Before he set off, his father had told him about black rocks in the Marsabit area that, once you broke them open, would yield agate crystals – so he made a vow that he would try to find them.

A week into his trip, after hitching a ride with a government worker, he stopped along a track in the searing heat, beside a sea of black rocks extending as far as the eye could see. "I got out to take some photos of the rocks to show my father," he says. "Just as I was taking the photos, a spider darted out from under the rock. That moment would be life-changing for me."

#### A chance discovery

Two weeks later, after his adventure had finished, Alberto was showing the photos to his father.

"My dad had a keen eye," he says. "At one point, he stopped me – and pointed to the spider in the photo. He said he'd never seen a spider like that before – and that I should show the photo to the National Museums of Kenya."

**"AFTER HOURS OF CAREFUL INVESTIGATION, IT TURNED OUT THAT ALBERTO HAD IN FACT FOUND A NEW SPECIES OF CAMEL SPIDER."**

At the Museum, after hours of careful investigation, it turned out that Alberto had in fact found a new species of camel spider, also known as a sun spider.

"I was disappointed when they told me I had discovered a new species," he says, "because I wanted to know what it was called!"

#### Becoming an explorer

The Museum team asked Alberto to take part in an expedition to find more examples of the species he had discovered. And he secured a National Geographic Society grant to participate, aged just 18 – making him the youngest to be awarded this grant since its inception in 1888.

The field trips would give Alberto more insight into the Marsabit region and he soon found himself interested, not just in the spiders on the rocks – which he only ever glimpsed, very briefly, once more – but in the wider social, political, and environmental problems he discovered in the area.

"The descriptions of the Marsabit region I had read in the accounts of explorers, like Arthur Donaldson-Smith and even John Hillaby, depicted an ecologically rich environment," he says. "That place was gone now – there was very little left from an ecological standpoint."

Marsabit – a large county around a third of the size of the UK, with a population of 500,000 – has suffered significantly in many areas because of climate change and unsustainable human interventions.

In the region Alberto found himself on expedition, there are around fourteen communities, some nomadic, some farming. Environmental challenges have pushed

Below left: Alberto on his hitchhiking adventure.

Below middle: A water harvesting donation campaign in the Marsabit region.

Below right: Alberto at a landscape restoration event in Marsabit.



those communities into conflict with each other. There is conflict over water and land, livestock thefts, and armed fighting. “I was getting exposed to the challenges facing these communities: among them, deforestation and drought, food and water shortages. I would see people walking 20 to 25km for water or for pasture. Habitat loss and droughts have also pushed wildlife into conflict with these human communities too,” says Alberto. “Recently, a woman and man were killed by an elephant looking for water, and a child was mauled by a famished hyena.”

After these experiences, Alberto understood that he had embarked upon a new journey in his life.

“I realised then that my career would involve wildlife conservation and the promotion of sustainable human livelihoods,” he says.

Plotting solutions to “super-wicked problems” Alberto’s passion landed him a full scholarship to Catawba College for his Environmental and Sustainability undergrad studies. There, he began to focus more and more on the social, political, and ecological problems of the Marsabit area.

He worked up a plan to set up a Wilderness Conservation Centre in northern Kenya, to work with the local communities to help explore, research, and conserve the unique ecosystems there, and develop projects to help the communities.

**“HE WORKED UP A PLAN TO SET UP A WILDERNESS CONSERVATION CENTRE ... TO WORK WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO HELP EXPLORE, RESEARCH, AND CONSERVE THE UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS THERE”**

Below: Alberto’s proposed conservation centre.



“The idea is to create a hub on neutral territory,” he says, “to foster peace, and co-create the solutions to the problems that are causing so much tension and conflict; to leverage a system that would positively impact touchpoints in the area and have a ripple effect across the entire landscape.” In order to make this happen, Alberto wanted to find a course that could help him better understand how to achieve his goal – and he found that in the University of Cambridge’s MPhil in Conservation Leadership, which he was able to pursue thanks to a prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship. “Being a Gates Scholar – and getting to join the Conservation Leadership course at Cambridge – has made my goal clearer and more achievable. What it’s given me are the tools to develop a theory of change, one that allows me to look at the whole system, and attempt to understand all of the wildlife, social, political, and legal constraints on the way to developing solutions.”

#### Another step closer with the S&C Hub

Alberto – who also founded The Explorers Club of Kenya – discovered further inspiration and direction for his project at Wolfson, through the College’s Sustainability and Conservation Research Hub (S&C Hub).

The S&C Hub brings together Wolfson College students, staff, Fellows, and alumni, as well as others from across Cambridge University and beyond, to explore solutions to the destruction of the natural world.

“It’s great to be a part of the Hub,” he says, “and it’s really helped me to shape my plan. It gives you access to lots of people who have great ideas. I had one conversation in particular that made a big difference.”

Alberto is now close to bringing his vision to reality. The next step is to raise funds for the project.

“We’re starting to build the website and set things up ready for investment and support,” he says. “It’s a very big project, one that will empower local communities, develop roles for leadership and education, and enhance digital capability in the region.”

“I hope it will serve as a vital springboard for youth to learn and launch sustainable ventures, improving the lives of communities and the natural world.”

The need to support the Marsabit region is even greater given the lack of other organisations in the area, says Alberto. “Not many conservation organisations choose to operate in the area, because of the conflict amongst the communities and the resulting security concerns,” he says.

And despite finding himself in some dangerous situations, Alberto feels well placed and willing to see his idea through to the end. “As a person who grew up in Nairobi with multi-racial parents, I don’t see tribal lines. And I’ve had the experience to understand what those different perspectives are in the region.

“It can be risky, but someone has to do it,” he says. “I guess you could say it is a calling.”

If you want to find out more, or if you want to support Alberto’s efforts, you can get in touch with him: [founder@explorerskenya.org](mailto:founder@explorerskenya.org) and [ajborges.ab@gmail.com](mailto:ajborges.ab@gmail.com).

**“Y**ou’ll see from this Review just how busy the intellectual and cultural life of the College has been during the last year. Well, we have been just as busy on the operational side.

This was our first complete year without needing to make adjustments for the pandemic.

We were determined not just to revert to “business as usual”, but to improve and make progress wherever we could. I’m delighted to report here on a few areas where we have made significant headway.

We are well and truly into the first phase of the Estate Masterplan I reported on last year: our strategic plan to develop the beautiful nine-acre Wolfson site.

Firstly, we have completed the carbon emissions study of our estate, giving us a baseline against which we are now tracking our emissions. Secondly, we have completed a condition survey across all the buildings on our site to help us prioritise the work we can do to reduce emissions most effectively. And finally, having completed a feasibility study for our long overdue kitchen

refurbishment, we are now working our way through the RIBA-detailed design and planning stages, on schedule to start construction work in January 2024.

It’s very exciting to see our roadmap for the future of the Wolfson site starting to become reality, but there is much hard work ahead of us. One might think, for example, that refurbishing the Wolfson kitchen would be a reasonably quick and simple project. We’re not talking about listed buildings and lots of medieval nooks and crannies, after all. I have quickly learned, however, that there is far more to it than meets the eye.

Even though our plan only includes a small extension at the back of the kitchen, there is a significant amount of work to do – especially because we want to put sustainability at the heart of all our improvements to the site. One of our main objectives was to get rid of all gas and to make the heating and ventilation systems as sustainable as possible. We are therefore planning to install air source heat pumps and an innovative heat recovery system from Sweden on the roof.

All of the kitchen equipment will be much more energy-efficient and much easier to clean. The working conditions and welfare facilities for staff will be much improved, with more space, a better designed layout, and temperature control too.

Although the main kitchen work is not scheduled to start before January, there is a large amount of preparatory work to be carried out before then. Removing gas and adding more equipment puts more demand on our electricity supply so we are having to upgrade our power supply. The equipment on the roof that will make the kitchen so much more sustainable also means that the roof has to be reinforced to take the additional weight. And as we open up ceilings to replace old pipe work and ducts, we have to anticipate the likelihood of finding asbestos, all of which will either need to be contained or removed.

Since a College marches on its stomach, we are putting just as much energy into planning for a temporary kitchen, to be located in the Betty Wu Lee Garden. The Lee Hall will take over the role of the Dining Hall and activities that are normally in the Lee Hall will be relocated to other spaces around College. We are making every effort to make our members’ dining and other College experiences as good as they can possibly be.

As I write, our planning application is about to be submitted. If all goes to plan, the kitchen project will be completed by the end of the Michaelmas Term 2024. It will be funded from the College’s reserves which we have been building up for precisely this sort of purpose.

It does, however, mean that our ability to embark on the other major priorities identified in the Masterplan is somewhat constrained for the time being. So we do need to raise funds to support our ambitious plans to develop more of our site. We’re up for the challenge, however, and I will report on the progress of our Masterplan again next year. In the meantime, we are excited about the improvements that our refurbished and environmentally sustainable kitchen and dining facilities will bring. I hope that you will visit the College once the project has been completed and experience the benefits of this significant undertaking.

**JO CHEFFINS  
BURSAR**

**“IT’S VERY EXCITING TO SEE OUR ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE OF THE WOLFSON SITE STARTING TO BECOME A REALITY.”**

# BURSAR'S REPORT



**”**



## Poetry

# WOLFWORDS

A new literary anthology  
*The Soil has Started to Shift*  
showcases College poets.

**P**oetry and art are important for everyone, whether they know it or not," says Wolfson Senior Member, Anne Kirkman. Anne is one of over twenty contributors to a new College literary anthology – WolfWords – which launched in June as part of the College's Foundation Day celebrations.

Entitled *The Soil has Started to Shift*, and the result of an open call, the new collection features poetry, art, and photographic contributions from across the Wolfson community, including students, staff, Fellows, and alumni. "Wolfson has always encouraged art in many ways, and it's good to see that poetry is now taking its own place in College life with this collection," says Anne. "And I think the diversity of the contributors reflects the diversity of College members, which is what Wolfson is all about."

The anthology centred around the theme of 'Growth', to reflect the 2023 theme for the College's event series, 'Wolfson Explores', and attracted a diverse range of submissions, from reflections on the power of learning for communal endurance, to commentaries on the importance of kindness.

"When we first discussed the idea of a Wolfson poetry anthology, we knew that we wanted this to be a project for the whole Wolfson community," say the editors Caroline Banerjee (Student Recruitment Officer) and Debbie Pullinger (Fellow).

"What arrived in our inboxes over the term was both surprising and delightful. We noticed how the theme drew out fascinating tensions between the limited and the limitless, potential and fulfilment, the planned and the serendipitous. And what emerges is a shared belief in the power of learning and language for transformation, movement, and collective healing."

The anthologies were handed out for free – alongside celebratory cupcakes – on Foundation Day, and you can read all of the poems on the Wolfson website. "I hope this collection is the first of many," says Debbie.

## "Babaji"

I have moved to a new city; a new country,  
in fact –  
it is difficult and glorious,  
all at the same time.  
You would have liked to visit, I think;  
it is small and cosy.  
You could have walked everywhere,  
like you always did.  
You could have come and lived with me;  
woken up in the wee hours,  
like you always did.  
I have a small kitchen;  
you could have made your morning tea,  
before leaving for your walk,  
like you always did.  
The marketplace has flowers  
and fresh fruits too;  
sometimes when I visit, I smell and choose  
those that look most fresh  
(but are not sprinkled with water)  
like you always did.  
Sometimes I forget how far I have come –  
I am not always proud of myself.  
But I know, had you been here,  
you would have walked the streets  
of this magnificent city  
that I have come to call home,  
and been so proud of me,  
like you always were.

Mitali Gupta (Law student)

The editors Caroline Banerjee  
(Student Recruitment Officer) and  
Debbie Pullinger (Fellow).



Contributor Onyeka Awunor  
checks out the anthology.



## Lessons

My teacher used to have this rule  
That when you were really struggling  
To focus, you had to run around the  
Whole set of classroom blocks,  
And when you came back,  
You'd be 'as good as new'.

With only a t-shirt on,  
I ran out into the frosty morning,  
hooks (white) catching  
On my plimsolls,  
Cheeks like newly lit fuses.

I return in an instant.  
Head pulsing with the air of now.  
Only to find an empty classroom,  
Morphed plastics,  
Desks floating in a bath of sun.

Caroline Banerjee (Student Recruitment Officer)

## Canvas

I used to be white,  
Free and pure.  
They painted me red,  
Chaining me with rules.  
They coloured me blue,  
Feeding me with norms.  
They sprayed me yellow,  
Expecting me to comply.  
They splattered me purple,  
Silencing my thoughts.  
They dipped me in orange,  
Forcing me into a mould.  
They tried to smudge me green,  
But I'd had enough of their colours.  
I drowned myself in black,  
Black as I was white.

Ying Yue Chan (Architecture undergraduate)

## Instructions on How to Grow a Spider

His first heart was ambitious.  
It grew too big for his chest  
and left him.

So he grew a second one,  
but it was small and weak.  
He coughed it up over dinner.  
Saw it shipwreck on a casserole.

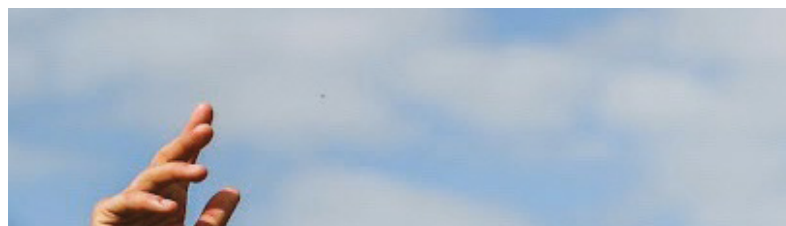
Tired of hearts, he planted a word  
deep in his ribcage – SPIDER –  
which kept its proportions,  
but every time he was short of breath,  
the word beat against his chest.

Nick Osbourne (Communications Manager)



## Student Profile

Meet Frances Steele – the Wolfson student balancing football and medicine.



**A**t just 26, medical student Frances Steele has already had an incredible career in football. After falling in love with the sport at five, the midfielder went on to play for Ipswich Town and Arsenal as a youth, before captaining the England team at U15 level.

Fran was clearly on an upward trajectory in the UK when, in 2015, she made the tough decision to move to America after she was accepted by Yale to study molecular, cellular, and developmental biology.

It was the start of an impressive balancing act between sport and academia, football and medicine.

While studying for her Biology degree in Yale, Fran played for the university football team in front of packed-out stadium crowds. Now, back in the UK, she somehow balances her study as a medical student at Cambridge alongside playing for not one, but two football teams: the University First Team (Blues) and Cambridge City Blues in the FA Women's National League (FAWNL).

That triple commitment might be unmanageable for some, but Fran says the challenge only fuels her more: "Football is my relief from anything and everything," she says. "I thrive off having a routine and being in a team environment. I believe this is why I am drawn to medicine as well; I want to work in a team and in an environment where you are constantly challenged and push yourself to the next level. In a way, I see many similarities between a career in medicine and playing football, as strange as that sounds."

**"The culture of the University football team is incredible"** It will come as no surprise to anyone that Fran joined the University Football Team at the beginning of her very first year at the University.

"It was the best decision I have made and has definitely

been the highlight of my experience at Cambridge," she says. "The culture of the University Football Team is incredible. The team is tight-knit, sociable, and hard-working. Everyone is understanding of players' commitments and studies, whilst pushing each other to achieve what we know we are capable of."

Having played at an elite level, Fran is impressed with the quality of university football. "This year has been an incredibly successful season for us," she says. "We finished third in the Midlands Division 1A league, reached the Final of the Aldi National Women's Cup, and won the Varsity match against Oxford. I am incredibly proud of the team and we deserve every bit of success this year for our hard work."

The culture of Cambridge University football is also sensitive to the challenges students face of trying to balance sports and studies, says Fran.

"University football presents the stress of having to balance supervisions, exams, and whatever other stresses a degree at Cambridge can offer. Every member of the team goes through these struggles, so at certain points in the term, it is apparent that we are fatigued. The team and coach are understanding and wary of this, which makes it a lot easier. "Although we've all got tough academic schedules, the standard is extremely high, and we put in many hours on the pitch, in the gym and doing video analysis."

### Focusing on the end goal

Despite her love for the game, Fran is clear that the end goal now is to become a doctor. "If you'd have asked me ten years ago, I would have said that I wanted to be a footballer," she says. "But now I want to be a doctor."

Fran attends a medical school placement each day, which varies on rotation, alongside football training most evenings, matches on Wednesdays and Sundays, and double sessions of morning gym work and evening training on Thursdays and





**“I THRIVE OFF HAVING A ROUTINE AND BEING IN A TEAM ENVIRONMENT. I BELIEVE THIS IS WHY I AM DRAWN TO MEDICINE AS WELL”**

Frances captained Cambridge to Varsity victory this year.



Fridays.

“It is difficult to balance medicine with football and a social life, but it fuels me and keeps me motivated.” The medical placements are tough, especially in the current hospital environment, but Fran’s passion and commitment for medicine are driving her through.

“Working in a hospital can be very difficult for several reasons, and I am aware that it will only get more difficult with increasing responsibility. However, medicine is something that I have always been incredibly passionate about since a young age.

“Before attending the United States for my undergraduate degree, I knew that medicine was the route I wanted to pursue in the future. Of course, it can be very challenging, especially when undertaking an accelerated medicine course. During these tough times, I remind myself what I would have given to be in the position I am in now if I hadn’t been accepted into medical school – and I am incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to study Medicine at the University of Cambridge.”

#### A happy home at Cambridge

Fran is very content to call Wolfson her home at Cambridge, a college she chose specifically because she was “told it was a very sociable, diverse college with mature students”.

“Wolfson has been very welcoming since day one,” she says. “I admire the social atmosphere, tight-knit community,

and friendliness of the staff. I have made some amazing friends here and would encourage anyone else to apply to Wolfson.”

And while medicine is her priority while she’s here, Fran

**“I ADMIRE THE SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE, TIGHT-KNIT COMMUNITY, AND FRIENDLINESS OF THE STAFF”**

is clear that football will always be one of the loves of her life and is thrilled with how the women’s game is taking off in the UK and around the world. “I’ll always be grateful for the places it’s taken me and the challenges it’s presented,” she says. “And it is incredible to see where the women’s game has progressed to since the Euros. It is truly inspiring and the players in that team can take full credit for that.”

As an England youth player, Fran played with some of the Euro winning team, including Euro winning captain, Leah Francis, who is still a friend: “I could have predicted their success from back then,” she says. “They are all role models, to say the least.”

Ask any of Fran’s teammates and fellow sportspeople at Wolfson and beyond, and they will very quickly say she’s a role model too.

#### Where football and medicine meet?

So what does the future hold for Fran? Football careers don’t frequently linger much longer than a player’s thirties, but there could be a time when Fran does manage to combine – rather than simply balance – medicine and football in some respect. “I am particularly interested in Sports Medicine,” she says. “When I played for a team several years ago, we had a Sports Doctor who travelled to all of our games and training camps with us. I was always fascinated by the job, and since then have always aspired to have a job like that in the future. So that is where my interests currently lie.

“With that being said, you are exposed to many fields of medicine as a student and foundation doctor, so I can never be too sure if something else will catch my eye.”



Above: Jessi Rogers, winner of the Arts Award, performing at the University’s Musical Society Gala 2023.

#### Awards

# WCSA SPORTS & SOCIETIES AWARDS



Lucy Bewliss

The Wolfson College Student Association (WCSA) celebrated student achievements at one of the big events of 2023: the WCSA Sports and Societies Awards. The event, organised by WCSA Sports and Societies Officer, Éireann Attridge, saw students from across the sporting and societies spectrum come together at a formal hall, followed by the presentation of awards. The aim was to celebrate each and every student who has gone above and beyond to contribute to a culture of sports, arts, volunteering, participation, and inclusion at Wolfson. "I can't express enough how fortunate we are within the College to have so many students working hard outside of the lecture theatre," said Éireann, "not only sharing their talents but leading and supporting others to try something new or develop themselves. There were seven categories in this inaugural Sports and Societies Awards, covering individual and group achievements in sport, societies, the arts, and significant contribution to College life.



Above and right: Award winners and presenters from the WCSA team.

## Categories, Winners & Nominees

### Sportsperson of the Year

(University level)

**Winner: Muireann Anna de H-Óra** (Australian Rules Football)

**Nominee:** Jonathan Romic.

This year, Muireann has taken on the role of Co-President of the University Australian Rules Football Club (CUARFC). This is alongside being one of the best players on the team, frequently being top scorer and getting voted as MVP in several games. She started up an Australian Rules Football Society within College, with the aim of promoting the sport and its well-being effects to Wolfson students. She also plays a variety of other sports within College, notably as a key member of the pool team, including winning some tight tie-breaker frames to secure victory for Wolfson.

### Sportsperson of the Year

(College Level)

**Winner: Franklin Lo**

**Nominees:** Brendan Ng Wee Hong (Volleyball), Callum Caldwell (Football, Rowing & Rugby), Carla Hardy (Rowing), Charles Norman (Rowing), Ye Haoran (Badminton & Table Tennis).

This year, Franklin has shown incredible leadership skills in the College basketball team, with a commitment to uplifting others and diversifying the skillset of the team. He was credited in his nomination for being one of the key reasons the team has won all their games this year.

### Arts Award

**Winner: Jessi Rogers**

**Nominees:** Alex Lau (Photography), Jeff Feerick (Music), Lily Blundell (Music & Theatre), Mithiran Ravindran (Theatre).

Jessi was praised for her involvement in both the Wolfson music community and the University-wide theatre community. She was recognised for her performance in multiple musicals, but also for her incredible mentorship of younger performers. She is not only a great performer, but she really cares about championing the arts and the joy and healing it can bring to people. Her priority is always keeping performers happy and comfortable, making her a great leader in the community.

### Sports Leadership Award

**Winner: Vamsi Viraj** (Badminton)

**Nominees:** Brendan Ng Wee Hong (Volleyball), Carlos Navia Canales (Tennis), Fanny Seizilles (Rowing), Min-Kyoo Kim (Rugby), Nancy Karreman (Rowing), William Oxley & Siddharth Venugopal & Jack Talboys (Football).

Alongside being an exceptional player for the badminton team, within the span of a term, Vamsi has revived the Badminton Society through organised regular trainings, carefully observing teammates' performance, selecting and encouraging players, and finally leading the team to a momentous division win in the college league.

### Society Leadership Award

**Winners: Raquel Scarpa-Gebara, Annoa Abekah-Mensah, and Megan Coe** (CB Mentoring)

**Nominee:** Mitali Gupta (WCSA Welfare).

Following their successful podcast, Shade in Cambridge, Raquel, Annoa, and Megan volunteered to be part of a charity called CB Mentoring, offering mentorship and school tutoring for Black and Asian young people in and around Cambridge, recruiting and training other Wolfson students to become mentors.

### Significant Contribution to College Life

**Winner: Millie Race** (Wolfson Student Garden & Choir)

**Nominees:** Blanche Gonzales de Lineras (WCSA Ents), Mitali Gupta (WCSA Welfare), Rob Steele-Browne (University Challenge & Wolfson College Quiz).

Millie is head of the student garden and works tirelessly to tend to the garden and enable other students to access and enjoy it. Millie is also a choral scholar for the choir and is an active member of the Music Society. She is always inviting new students to join or attend music events.

### Society of the Year

**Winner: Wolfson College Boat Club**

**Nominees:** Wolfson Badminton Society, Wolfson College Tennis Team, University Challenge Team.

After all boats qualified to row in this year's Lent Bumps, Wolfson enjoyed a strong showing with the men's first boat (M1), earning 'super-blades', and not a single crew was bumped. All in all, a great showing from all the crews, with more to come soon.



Five Wolfson students represented the University in the Varsity matches against Oxford University at Twickenham in March. Phoebe Jackson (MPhil Polar Studies) was fly half for CURUFC Women, while there were four Wolfson College students in the squad for the men's match, the joint most selected from any Cambridge college: Prop Angus Peters (PhD Engineering), Second Row Byron Hodge (MSt Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment), Back Row Christian Stehlik (MPhil Real Estate Finance), and Hooker Ben Mills (MAST Maths). There were mixed fortunes for the two teams, with the women's team tasting defeat for the first time since 2016, and the men's success preventing an Oxford threepat.



Rugby

## Australian Rules Football

Muireann Anna de H-Óra, winner of Sportsperson of the Year (University Level) at the WCSA Awards, started up an Australian Rules Football Society in College in 2022/23 – with the aim of promoting the sport and its well-being effects to Wolfson students. And it's been a big success, with a number of students joining the Cambridge University Australian Rules FC after their College experience.

# SPORTS SHORTS

Competing in the 300m steeplechase in this year's British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) Championships, student Terry Fawden (PhD Engineering) put in a stellar performance and – despite suffering a fall while in the lead pack – brilliantly clawed back position and only just missed out on a podium position, finishing fourth.



Athletics



President's Cup

The President's Cup returned to the College calendar in June – a cricket match that pits a President's XI (composed of Fellows, staff & alumni – and captained this year by Wolfson Fellow, Professor Nick Wareham) against a Student XI. It was the student team who were stylishly triumphant this time – buoyed by three cricketing blues, including the captain, Philosophy PhD student, Aiden Woodcock.

Wolfson College Boat Club (WCBC) had a historic year. An early highlight was the Champs Head race, where M2 won their division's trophy. Following that, all four crews competed in both May and Lent Bumps, a feat only achieved once before in WCBC history. M1 picked up superblades in Lent Bumps, while W1 secured their own in May. It's no wonder the Club won the Society of the Year at the WCSA Sports and Societies Awards.



Boat Club



Men's First Boat



Women's First Boat

Basketball

The team followed up last year's promotion and Cuppers success with another big year, under the leadership of Franklin Lo.

BLUES	<b>Full Blue</b>	<b>Half Blue</b>
	Terence Fawden Athletics	Elise Chang Athletics
	Frances Steele Football	Terence Fawden Hare & Hounds
	Zoe Starbuck Netball	Tads Ciecierski- Holmes Modern Pentathlon
	Phoebe Jackson Ben Mills Angus Peters Christian Stehlik Byron Hodge Rugby Union	Ying Yue Chan Revolver & Pistol
	Alex Cope Squash	Francisco Javier de Haro Arbona Damjan Denic Aleksandr Jestin Nathan Magnan Brendan Ng Wee Hong Volleyball



## Sustainability

# WOLFSON WINS HIGHEST AWARD

Wolfson's sustainability charge is making an impact – and winning awards.

**F**or the second year in a row, Wolfson won a Platinum Green Impact Award in 2023 – the highest award for sustainable practice within the University.

Green Impact is the University's environmental accreditation scheme. It supports and encourages departments and colleges across the University in reducing their environmental impacts.

Wolfson's second consecutive Platinum award follows three previous Gold awards and an Excellence Award for the creation of the Wolfson Living Lab, which supports sustainable projects in College.

This year's accolade is the result of coordinated sustainability initiatives across the College, led by Head Gardener Oscar Holgate, alongside Laura Jeffrey in the Library, Emeritus Fellow Dr Steve Hoath, Food Services Manager Charles Correa, as well as many others who are committed to improving sustainability across the entire College.

"I am so proud of how the team worked hard to achieve platinum for a second year," said Oscar. "It's a testament to all the staff and students on the team who are passionate to make positive changes at Wolfson. "We will debrief and work towards a new year of making more changes from grassroots to upper-scale changes that will educate, influence, and make Wolfson stand out as one of the best green colleges in Cambridge."

### Inspirational green leaders

This year's awards ceremony – which took place at Wolfson, and follows other successful University-wide green events held in College – also saw inspirational individuals recognised for leading the way with sustainability activity.

Deidre Boodoosingh, MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development, won the Student Leadership Award for excellence within her role as Cambridge Climate Society Green Officer Coordinator, as well as Convener for the Interdisciplinary Research Hub in Sustainability and Conservation (S&C) Hub, and in the WCSA Green Society.

"I am incredibly honoured to receive this sustainability award," said Deidre. "It has been a privilege to work with such passionate individuals who share the vision of creating a more sustainable future and I am immensely grateful to the Wolfson community for their hard work and commitment to sustainability. As the Cambridge Climate Society Green Officer Coordinator, I have been privileged to collaborate with Green Officers from across the colleges, supporting their work and fostering a sense of community and collaboration."

"Together, we have successfully organised two university-wide Cambridge Green Weeks over this year which has been truly inspiring."

Head Gardener Oscar Holgate was also "Highly Commended" in the

Left: the Wolfson 'Green Team' with the Green Impact Platinum Award.

Sustainability Hero Award category. "Oscar embodies sustainability inspiration, hope and action to many at Wolfson College," said Charlie Barty-King from the College's S&C Hub. "He goes above and beyond his departmental duties time and again, often creating and leading on sustainability initiatives not just for biodiversity and estate outcomes, but for our collective and individual well-being."

Another Wolfson initiative, the Sustainability Thinking Space, was also "Highly Commended" in the Innovation for Engagement Award category. The Sustainability Thinking Space – which took place in Michaelmas Term 2022 – was a free, interactive sustainability education and thinking space open to all Wolfson members and beyond, which provided a guided space to develop sustainability thinking, action and development.

Led by Rick Manlove, Wolfson alumnus and graduate of the CISL Master's in Sustainability Leadership; Elizabeth Wild, Wolfson alumna and graduate of the CISL Master's in Sustainability Leadership; and Lili Jia, Senior Research Associate at the Department of Engineering, the Sustainability Thinking Space provided eight sessions alternating between a 'Personal' and 'Research' space.

Sustainability has been at the top of the agenda at the College this year, and the academic year ended with the 'Transforming Sustainability' conference held on Friday 14 July.

The conference brought together members of Wolfson's international community of students, staff, Fellows, and alumni, along with attendees from across the University, to celebrate the progress in sustainability that has been made by the College over the past three years.

The event was organised by Dr Charlie Barty-King, Wolfson alumnus and S&C Hub Lead Convener, who was presented with a special award in recognition of his contribution to the College. "The event brought me so much hope," said Charlie, "hearing, celebrating and acknowledging the amazing people, action, and knowledge of so many. In only three years, we've developed and demonstrated a Theory of Change in collaboration with our whole community, and empowered and embedded grassroots actions and decision-making."

"We've helped trigger climate action at all levels of the College, and this was on full display at the event. Seeing staff, students, alumni, Fellows, and friends come together to share what they have achieved and want for the future was incredible."

## Enterprise Award

# COMPETITION GIVES WOLFSON ENTREPRENEURS KICKSTART

**I**nfluencer marketing start-up, Hypesetters, won the third annual Wolfson Enterprise Competition this year. The competition offers Cambridge-affiliated teams the chance to pitch their start-up ideas to a judging panel of entrepreneurs and business experts.

Hypesetters won from a strong field of five other finalists, whose ideas ranged from carbon capture to a unique approach to an aggressive form of brain cancer, and a platform that mints customer reviews as NFTs.

Hypesetters aims to scale influencer campaigns and minimise cost with a platform that leverages AI, data analysis, and automation. The team was composed of Wolfson alumnus Louis de Benoist (Advanced Computer Science, 2020) and Trinity College alumnus Khalid Aleem.

The two met while studying Computer Science at the University. Louis has experience in theoretical machine learning and software engineering, and helped develop Elyze, number one on the French app store with over three million downloads. Khalid has experience

in software engineering and applied machine learning and has worked at the Swiss Office for Defence Procurement (armasuisse).

"It was definitely an unexpected result," said Louis, "but it's a good sign that we're addressing an important area that needs innovation and investment. Advertising is undergoing a radical change, where micro-influencers are becoming the new drivers of consumer behaviour and preferences. Through Hypesetters, it is our aim to empower and support these emerging voices in the digital space."

Online dental company Smyle picked up second prize, while the Audience Choice award went to GlioQ, a unique approach to an aggressive form of brain cancer, founded by Wolfson PhD student and Gates Scholar Nemira Zilinskaite and Selwyn's Jocelyn Tang.

The Enterprise Competition – now in its third year – is run by the Wolfson Entrepreneur Society and offers a cash prize as well as mentoring and network connections for Wolfson College and Cambridge-affiliated start-ups.

"It was another great success this year," said Sian Cook, Director of College Networks. "The standard of the pitches was very high and it was another tough decision for the judges. Wolfson has become a home for entrepreneurs and I'm delighted that the competition is going from strength to strength."

Below: WES winners, Wolfson alumnus Louis de Benoist (Advanced Computer Science, 2020) and Trinity College alumnus Khalid Aleem.





2022

## OCTOBER BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Wolfson hosted a range of events during October to commemorate and celebrate Black History Month. Convened by Fellow Dr Kenny Monrose and undergraduate student Annoa Abekah-Mensah, the programme included an Afro-Caribbean lunch menu, a formal dinner, film screenings, music night and book club, as well as a series of 'in conversation' events with high-profile speakers Dr Maggie Semple OBE, Jane Oremosu, Dame Elizabeth Anionwu and Laura Henry Allain MBE.

## 6 NOVEMBER DIWALI

In November, Wolfson celebrated the Festival of Lights with an exciting programme organised by a team of six students. There were four stages to the day: a teatime social with chai and snacks, an Indian dance and music performance in the Lee Hall, a special Diwali dinner cooked by the Wolfson catering team, and a social with music and dance to end the day.



## 23 NOVEMBER COP27

Following the negotiations at the 27th UN Conference of Parties (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, a Cambridge University panel met at Wolfson to discuss the successes, failures, and next steps for international climate policy, politics, and negotiations. The panel included Wolfson Fellow Dr Tolu Oni, alongside Directors from the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and Cambridge University PhD students.



## 11 MARCH DOING GENDER CONFERENCE

The Wolfson Gender Hub hosted a day-long conference 'Doing Gender' which, it is hoped, will be the first instalment of an annual College conference during Women's History Month. The conference was divided into three panels, with presentations given by a mix of students and Fellows, asking tough questions and sparking new connections.

2023

# EVENTS

## 2022/23



## 20 JANUARY PLANT-BASED POSSIBILITIES

This event in January saw Wolfson students and staff join forces with teams from across the University and beyond to champion the possibilities of plant-based food. The event combined panel discussions on the issues facing global food production, how our diets can be made more sustainable, and how this is being done in Cambridge with a chance to try plant-based food options from a variety of suppliers.

## 28 MARCH THE RIGHT TO REPAIR

In March, Professor John Naughton delivered a talk on the 'right to repair': a growing global movement that campaigns for the right to repair and modify electronic devices without being restricted by policies from manufacturers at a time when more than 50 million metric tons of e-waste are generated globally every year.





## 29 APRIL MILTONATHON

Organised by Fellow Dr Rachel E. Holmes, the first Wolfson 'Miltonathon' offered students from Wolfson and beyond the opportunity to join a communal reading of Milton's extraordinary epic poem, *Paradise Lost* from start to finish in eight hours of live recital.

## 15–21 MAY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

A programme of wellbeing-focused events was on offer during Mental Health Awareness week in May. College members were invited to take some time for themselves during the busy Easter term to enjoy yoga, pot painting, creative writing and poetry workshops.

## 14 JULY TRANSFORMING SUSTAINABILITY AT WOLFSON

Sustainability is at the heart of our College and the 'Transforming Sustainability' conference, organised by the Sustainability and Conservation Hub, proved the perfect platform to showcase the innovative research, award-winning innovations and institutional changes that are taking place at Wolfson to ensure a greener future.

Below: Painting plant pots – part of the Mental Health Awareness Week.

## ART EXHIBITIONS

As ever, the Arts Committee provided College with a series of vibrant and exciting art exhibitions throughout the year. The artwork on display ranged from embroidery, with Gavin Fry's hand stitching in 'Things Put Differently', to award-winning photography in 'Signs for the Living' by Hannah Lister, winner of this year's Wolfson Royal Academy Schools Graduate prize. Local artist Gurpran Rau's paintings in 'Patterns of Renewal' were inspired by walks in the woods of Cambridgeshire during the challenging days of lockdown and Turner Prize shortlisted artist Simon Patterson's contemporary works were on display in his solo show 'Out of Order'.

6 Nov – 22 Jan: 'Out of Order' by Simon Patterson  
29 Jan – 23 Apr: 'Signs for the Living' by Hannah Lister  
30 Apr – 10 Sep: 'Things Put Differently' by Gavin Fry  
13 May – 10 Sep: 'Patterns of Renewal' by Gurpran Rau.



## HUMANITIES SOCIETY

The Humanities Society continued to deliver weekly talks each term on a range of cultural contexts and themes, spanning historical periods and perspectives. Topics included the use of constructed languages such as Tolkien's Elvish in academic research, Black music as an instrument for decolonisation, and how the archaeology of temples can account for people with disabilities.

## SCIENCE SOCIETY

Alongside their usual events, this year the Science Society gave Wolfson's PhD students the opportunity to share their research in a series of friendly and engaging talks. Subjects ranged from implantable bioelectric devices, holographic quantum gravity, and emergent spacetime to spinal cord tissue stiffness and the mathematics of turbulent fluids.



**“IT WAS AN HONOUR TO WORK WITH SO MANY AMAZING PEOPLE TO BRING THIS MAY BALL TO LIFE”**

WCSA May Ball President

**C**elebrating the hard work and amazing achievements from this academic year, Wolfson College was transformed for a night into an eclectic fair of retro-futurism for the May Ball – complete with fairground rides, one-man flying machines, and electromechanical marvels. Highlights from a magic night included internationally-renowned cabaret from Neon Moon and a barnstorming performance from the headliners, UK indie rock band, The Sherlocks.

The wonderful celebration was the result of incredible effort and team work of the May Ball Committee, volunteers, and staff – a truly incredible feat. “We hope everyone enjoyed the celebrations and picked up a few memories for life,” said May Ball President, Scott Dunleavy. “It was an honour to work with so many amazing people to bring this May Ball to life. It felt like a perfect way to end the year, and it’s been great to hear amazing feedback since the event: so many people have said that it was a real banger this year!”

Photos by Dik Ng.

# MAY BALL 2023







# NEW WELFARE & WELLBEING TEAM OFFERS INCREASED STUDENT SUPPORT

Above: Welfare and wellbeing events this year included painting plant pots out in the gardens.

Student welfare and wellbeing support at Wolfson has expanded over the last academic year, with a new team in place to increase provision across the College. The new team, part of the wider Tutorial department led by the Senior Tutor, Dr Susan Larsen, is intended to increase the support, activities, and general provision of welfare and wellbeing across the entire student body at Wolfson.

Wolfson College President, Professor Jane Clarke, said: “Our mission is to give every member of our international community of scholars the opportunity to fulfil their potential and transform society for the good of all. To achieve their full potential, all students who come to Wolfson must have the confidence that there is expert guidance and support available to help them on their individual journeys. We have invested significantly in new resources to support student wellbeing in College. By expanding our Welfare and Wellbeing Team, we can now do even more to listen, to act, and to give the members of our diverse community the individual and collective support they deserve.”

Dr Susan Larsen, Wolfson College Senior Tutor, said: “I was delighted to welcome Tania and Kiran to join Sally and our team of hardworking Tutors to support student wellbeing at Wolfson. These new roles were devised to bring the College into alignment with the University’s new Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan, which aims for closer coordination of College, University and external services to ensure that students receive the ‘right support at the right time’.

“Since the pandemic, Cambridge, like so many other universities, has noted a steady increase in the number of students with increasingly complex mental health challenges. Our new, larger College wellbeing team now has the resources not only to respond effectively to students in difficulties, but also to develop proactive, preventative programmes to help students develop strategies for coping with concerns before they become crises.

“Our goal in this, as in everything we do, is to enable students to thrive both academically and personally while they are here. I look forward to working with Tania, Kiran, Sally, and our Tutors to develop new programmes that will further enhance the Wolfson College student experience.”



From left to right:  
Sally, Tania, and Kiran.

**“BY EXPANDING OUR WELFARE AND WELLBEING TEAM, WE CAN NOW DO EVEN MORE TO LISTEN, TO ACT, AND TO GIVE THE MEMBERS OF OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY THE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE SUPPORT THEY DESERVE.”**

Professor Jane Clarke

## MEET THE TEAM

### **Sally Maccallum** College Nurse

Sally Maccallum is the Wolfson College Nurse and has been at the College for 14 years. She trained in Glasgow and holds further qualifications in Counselling from the University of Cambridge, and Health Service Management from the Royal College of Nursing. Sally is employed part-time, offering consultations in person to Wolfson College members every weekday. Students can see her in her room at Morrison House, in the garden, or online, about anything at all concerning their health and/or wellbeing.

### **Tania Davies** Deputy Senior Tutor

The Wolfson Welfare and Wellbeing Team is led by Deputy Senior Tutor, Tania Davies, who is responsible for coordinating welfare roles and provision for students, as well as overseeing the strategies and policies for enhancing the student experience. Tania previously worked as a portfolio manager, governor, and senior lecturer in Health Research and Social Policy at the University of Wales. She has also trained as an addiction counsellor and worked with young people in the prison system.

### **Kiran Bhatti** Student Wellbeing Advisor

Tania is supported by Dr Kiran Bhatti, the new Wolfson Student Wellbeing Advisor. Kiran is a counselling psychologist and offers confidential one-to-one support to students regarding their mental health or wellbeing. This involves signposting to wider student support available within the College and University, and goal setting. Alongside individual support, she aims to run workshops to provide practical coping skills and strategies for common stressors.

# THE END OF THE JUDAS TREE

Wolfson's iconic tree, which has welcomed generations of students, finally fell this year.

In the final term of the year, Wolfson's iconic Judas tree – which has welcomed generations of students to the College – finally fell. Although Judas trees can live up to 100 years in the wild, rotting at the base of the tree had created structural weakness, and the branches, which were already so close to the ground, finally gently collapsed.

"I was expecting that it might eventually fall in the summer, with the foliage and the rain," said Oscar Holgate, College Head Gardener, "but we lost it a little earlier. It's really, really sad. It's been part of the College for such a long time. Students have always gathered near it, and it's always provided a lovely welcome to everyone arriving at College. But that's nature, and out of something old, something new might come."

Indeed, a young tree has been growing

from the centre of the Judas tree for a while, and this newbie – Judas Tree Mark 2 – has now taken the place of its iconic forebear.

"In a way, it's a lovely symbol of the generational journeys we see at the College," says Oscar. "The old makes way for the new. We'll see how this young tree gets on over the years," says Oscar. "One thing's for sure, it has a lot to live up to."

Once the tree fell, the team made flowers available to pick up outside the Porters' Lodge, for students and College members to put in their rooms and offices. And they have plans to make use of the wood from the branches too.

"We're already using it for log piles, but we'll be doing some fun stuff too: using it for carving spoons, for example," says Oscar. "And we'd like to make decorations for Christmas as well!"



# GARDENS' REPORT

"It's been a great year for getting involved with the gardens," says Head Gardener, Oscar Holgate.

"The majority of the green space at Wolfson is not out of bounds: it's there to engage with and to enjoy. So, as well as maintaining the gardens, we put a lot of effort into encouraging people to step out and indulge in our green spaces in as many ways as they can!"

Oscar and the team organised numerous events over the course of the year to get even more people to interact with and enjoy the gardens.

"As well as opening up the gardens to the public with our year-round Wolfson Tree Trail, we've had College-wide events for all staff and students," he says, "including opportunities to get stuck in with wildlife surveys for mammals, bats, moths, butterflies and birds, botany surveys, and bird box building! It's been brilliant!"

The team have also implemented a new traineeship programme, using the Working To Retain a Gardener Scheme (WRAGS), ensuring that there is a new traineeship in the College gardens each January.

"The trainees not only help with the team's workload, they also help the horticulture industry by giving new gardeners experience. Our latest trainee is the brilliant Naomi Rose, who's a university graduate in Psychology looking to change career path — and she's doing an amazing job with us."

Student volunteers also join the team across the year, to reduce their stress levels, learn new skills, and understand the gardens around them. David Salmon, MPhil student in Development Studies, followed up his history-making appearance as the

standard bearer for Jamaica at the King's Coronation with a stint volunteering in the gardens. "It's something I've always wanted to do," said David.

Oscar, who also leads the College's Green Impact Team, which helps to coordinate departmental sustainability initiatives, is also keen to highlight the garden team's ever-improving sustainability credentials.

"We're taking bigger and bigger sustainability steps," he says. "We've been working hard to collect data to find our biodiversity baseline within the site. We'll then be able to focus on improving our biodiversity and work with other colleges and wider Cambridge to improve."

This year, the team installed a new composting facility that helps to reduce waste at Wolfson with greater ease, as well as to provide better compost outputs for the gardens. They've also increased the rainwater harvesting capacity — for re-use across the site — by 4,000 litres, up to 13,000 litres in total. Next year, the team will move away from petrol-based equipment, with a view to cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 63%.

"We've also been tapping in to local experts through wildlife charity groups, which has meant we've had help pulling together a carbon capture survey of all our 340 trees, discovering the CO<sub>2</sub> holding capacity of each tree."

The team are also using an app called iRecord to show flora and fauna across the site and are using industry experts to identify specific species of insects. "We may have lost the Judas tree, but there's so much going on in the Wolfson gardens!" says Oscar.

"IT'S BEEN  
A GREAT YEAR  
FOR GETTING  
INVOLVED WITH  
THE GARDENS"

Oscar Holgate

# THE SOUNDTRACK OF WOLFSON



**“HER PASSION AND PROFESSIONALISM, HER OPENNESS AND EXPERTISE HAVE BENEFITTED SO MANY MUSICIANS”**

**T**his year, Wolfson's Director of Music Lyn Alcántara marked thirty years leading the College choir and twenty-five years as Director of Music. Lyn celebrated the milestones with a Lent Term concert and choir reunion, after which there was no shortage of love and appreciation for the legacy that Lyn has so far left at the College.

“Before Lyn, music in College was mainly for listening and admiring; since Lyn arrived, music in College is mostly for doing and delighting,” said Emeritus Professor of Music and Science in the Faculty of Music and former Director of the Centre for Music and Science, Professor Ian Cross.

“Lyn and I first met in 1994 when I was asked to become a Fellow & Director of Music at Wolfson,” says Ian. “When I arrived, Lyn was already directing the choir; I quickly realised that she was, effectively, a far better Director of Music than I could ever hope to be, and she eventually was appointed to the position. Lyn's presence has ensured that the College enjoys high-quality musical performances, while her mentorship of the Music Society and leadership of the choir have opened up the pleasures and benefits of music-making to all.”

This appreciation is felt by countless Wolfson choristers. Many speak of her

technical expertise and highly-valuable advice, and all remark on the warm, welcoming, and joyful environment that Lyn creates at choir.

“My two hours at choir are my favourite in the week,” says Susie Triffitt, PhD candidate in Theological Anthropology. “And Queen Lyn is actually sent from above!”

Wolfson College President, Professor Jane Clarke was quick to add her own tribute. “Lyn has been the soundtrack of Wolfson College for thirty years,” said Jane, “not only by leading the choir but by putting music and musical performance at the heart of College life. Her passion and professionalism, her openness and expertise have benefitted so many musicians, from beginners to world-leading performers, as well as opening all our ears to some memorable performances.”

The Lent Term Concert and Choir Reunion saw forty current choir members and twenty former choir members join in the celebrations, with a dozen more members in an audience in a packed St Mark's Church in Newnham.

“Lyn's impact on College cultural life has been immense,” continued Jane, “and it was wonderful to celebrate her achievements with more joyous music in the air!”

Photos by Alex Lau.



# MUSIC

## Music Director's Report

"2022/23 was an important year for me, celebrating two significant anniversaries. I was thrilled to welcome back former choir members from three decades to our *Gloria* concert with an alumni chorus joining our current choir, accompanied by Prime Brass and alumnus organist Dr Stephen Rose, to perform Rutter's ever-popular *Gloria*. The packed concert at St Mark's Church was followed by a choir reunion dinner in College, where ninety or so singers helped me celebrate thirty years at Wolfson. We ended the evening with everyone in the dining hall singing Amy Beach's beautiful anthem, *Peace I leave with you*. I may have shed a tear or two."

Lyn Alcántara

## THE MUSIC RETURNS

This was the first year that finally felt "normal" following COVID. Concert attendance was back to pre-COVID numbers with almost 3,000 people attending Wolfson music events, and choir numbers were very healthy again with a large and supportive student membership. Our PhD students performed at lunchtime concerts, organised new music performances, premiered recordings of their PhD compositions, or gave talks on their work through the Humanities Society.

Wolfson College Music Society (WCMS) President, Saman Samadi released *Thus Spake Earth* – a recording of compositions written as part of his PhD thesis.

Wayne Weaver (Music PhD candidate) gave a fascinating talk on his research on music in eighteenth-century Kingston and the life and works of the Anglo-

Jamaican composer Samuel Felsted (1743–1802). The finished journal article, "Eighteenth-century Music", was available in the summer, and we look forward to a future performance of Felsted's oratorio *The Dedication*.

Undergraduate music student Lily Blundell conducted or played in various University musicals and wrote and performed a one-woman show at the Corpus Playroom. She also accompanied Wolfson students at lunchtime concerts and sang in ensembles. This August another of her musicals was performed at the Camden People's Theatre.

## WOLFSON ON THE UNIVERSITY STAGE

Brian Moore Accompanist Scholar, Patrick Pan, was a finalist and prize-winner in the University Concerto Competition, playing Prokofiev

– Piano Concerto no. 3, mvt. 1. At his prize-winners concert, he performed the entire Prokofiev Concerto with the University Symphony Orchestra at West Rd Concert Hall. Patrick gave a farewell recital in June before leaving for further studies in the USA.

WCMS Secretary & Choral Scholar, Jessi Rogers, performed in the University's Musical Society Gala, and sang roles in several shows including *Kiss me Kate*, *Chess*, and *Mr Burns*. Next term she will direct *Drowsy Chaperone* at the ADC Theatre.

## CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

Our **Saturday lunchtime concert series** included performances by students ranging from classical piano through to music theatre and jazz. Our **Jazz & Madeira concert** welcomed back alumnus pianist Franz Nowak, and **Early Music & Madeira** treated a full Lee Hall to music of the Scottish Baroque, directed by Dr Dan Tidhar. Dynamic young vocal ensemble, The Swan Consort, directed by Anita Datta presented a programme based on Bird Song from the Renaissance through to the modern day. The **College Choir** diversified its repertoire, exploring many new works by female contemporary composers, and enjoyed trying new styles, including Reena Esmail's *Tarekita*, a fusion of Hindustani and Western Classical music at the Diwali concert. Our **Garden Party performance** was somewhat dampened by a torrential downpour, but spirits remained high as we sang in the Club Room instead of the gardens, encouraging the large (wet) audience to join us in a performance of a song from the Brazilian Rainforest. The **Mary Bevan Recital** wrapped up the year with some thrilling playing by the winner and runner-up of the University Concerto Competition. Madeleine Brown (piano) and Jenny Ryan (oboe), accompanied by pianist Alex Trigg.





From left to right: Professor Melody Clark, Dr Jiawei Wang, Dr Oumie Kuyateh, Dr Yair Litman, Dr Meelan Thondoo, Dr Thomas P. Barrett, Dr Katherine Sanders, Dr Hannah Kurz, Dr Beth Barker, Dr Claire Howlin, Dr Adam Welstead.

# NEW FELLOWS

## DR BETHANY BARKER

Beth is a Research Associate at the Centre for Research on Play in Education, Development, and Learning (PEDAL) in the Faculty of Education. Beth completed her PhD in 2021 at Imperial College London. Her PhD focused on the important role caregivers play in their children's lives, with close attention paid to children's behavioural development between the ages of one and five. Beth currently works as a Research Associate on the Helping Little Minds Thrive project which focuses on working alongside families themselves and services to develop new ways to strengthen mental health in early life (aged 0–4 years).

## DR THOMAS BARRETT

Thomas is a Japan-trained historian of East Asia, who specialises in the international, diplomatic, and transnational history of the region up until the end of the nineteenth century. Thomas was trained in the Japanese Tōyōshi 東洋史 tradition, completing his BA at Aichi University and his MA at the University of Tokyo. In 2016, he began his PhD at the University of Tokyo as a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science DC Research Fellow. He completed his doctoral work at the University of Oxford. He has also studied at Nankai University in Tianjin, China, and at National Taiwan University in Taipei.

## DR TUGBA BASARAN

Tugba serves as the Director of the Centre for the Study of Global Human Movement. Her expertise is international relations in research and in practice. Her research is located at the intersection of politics, law, and society, examining global practices of governance. Tugba has held visiting positions at Harvard Law, Princeton, Sciences-Po and the Institute for Advanced Studies

(Princeton). She also held tenure at the University of Kent. Her expertise of international studies was moulded not only through research, but equally through residency and work in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

## MR MOHAMMED CHOWDHURY

Mohammed is a National Institute of Health Research Academic Lecturer and researcher in Vascular Surgery. His research involves molecular imaging of blood vessels in patients with vascular disease. He currently serves as a British Heart Foundation (BHF) Clinical Career Development Fellow and is working to look at the role of optoacoustic imaging in preclinical vascular disease. He completed his PhD in Surgery at Wolfson, was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University, and a Research Fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Langer Lab), where he explored methods of intravascular drug delivery techniques.

## PROFESSOR MELODY CLARK

Melody is a molecular biologist, leading the Adaptations Group at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). Melody's research interests are in understanding how polar marine species have adapted to life in freezing seas and their responses to climate change. She read Genetics at Queen Mary University of London, followed by a PhD in Genetics at Imperial College, London. Melody is an Honorary Professor at the University of Plymouth, and holds a Visiting Chair at the University of the Highlands and Islands. She also holds an Honorary Researcher position at CNR in Naples, Italy.

## DR CHRISTOPHER COLERIDGE

Chris is Management Practice Associate Professor at the Cambridge Judge Business

School, where he teaches Entrepreneurship and Strategic Management. He is also CEO of Carbon13, the venture builder for the climate emergency. Chris came to academia in midlife after spending his twenties and early thirties as an entrepreneur. He has an MBA from London Business School, an MSc in Organisational and Social Psychology from the London School of Economics, and a PhD in Management, focused on business model innovation, also from LSE. He worked at the UCL School of Management and was Director of the MSc in Technology Entrepreneurship.

## DR TANIA DAVIES

Tania is the Deputy Senior Tutor for Welfare and Wellbeing. A social research scientist specialising in wellbeing within policy contexts and psychopathological disorders, Tania is a Senior Fellow of the HEA. She completed an MRes at Swansea University and a PhD at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. She was Health Portfolio Director and then Manager at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and has held positions within the Military Education for Wales, the Research Centre of Expertise Cymru, and the Higher Education for Future Generations Group. She has also worked as an addictions counsellor for young offenders within the criminal justice system.

## DR CARMEM MAIA GILARDONI

Carmem is an experimental physicist using quantum-optical tools to investigate materials. As a Rubicon Fellow funded by the Dutch Research Council, she explores how materials with engineered symmetries can have added functionality for information processing technologies. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physics from the University of Brasilia, and has a Master's and PhD from the University of Groningen.

## DR RACHEL HOLMES

Rachel is Wolfson College Assistant Professor, Director of Studies, and Fellow in English. Her research is interdisciplinary and transnational in focus, anchored in early modern English literature and culture but invested in the spaces between and beyond conventional national, disciplinary, and period boundaries. She has a BA from St Hugh's College, Oxford, and an MA and MLitt in Shakespeare Studies, and PhD from the University of St Andrews. She has been a Research Associate at CRASSH and the Faculty of English at the University of Cambridge, a JRF at Wolfson, and a Lecturer in Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature at University College London.

## LAURA JEFFREY

Laura is Wolfson's Librarian and Research Skills Specialist. A chartered, academic librarian, Laura is responsible for leading and developing the College's research and academic skills programme, as well as managing the provision of the Library's core services. Laura studied History at undergraduate level at Durham University before graduating with a Master's in Information and Library Management from the University of Northumbria. She began her career in academic libraries at Durham, before joining Wolfson in 2017 as Academic Skills Librarian. She became a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in 2008 and is currently one of three leads of the Information Literacy Strand for the Cambridge University Libraries' Education Programme.

## DR HANNAH KURZ

Hannah is an inorganic chemist working as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry. Her research focuses on the intersection of coordination and supramolecular chemistry. Hannah received her BSc in Chemistry and MSc in Materials

Chemistry and Catalysis from the University of Bayreuth (Germany) in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Driven by her fascination for coordination chemistry, she performed a PhD in the workgroup of Professor Dr Birgit Weber at the University of Bayreuth, supported by a two-year Kekulé-Fellowship from the Fond der Chemischen Industrie.

## DR OUMIE KUYATEH

Oumie is Sanger Excellence Fellow at the Wellcome Sanger Institute. She is a pathogen genomics scientist interested in the early life respiratory microbiome of humans and how it differs between healthy and diseased states. Oumie holds a Biochemistry degree from University College London. She has a PhD from the University of Edinburgh, where she used metagenomics to understand host-virus coevolution in insects. During her PhD, she was awarded a Varley-Gradwell Travelling Fellowship in Insect Ecology by the University of Oxford and a University of Edinburgh Student Experience grant to lead a bioinformatics workshop at the University of The Gambia.

## DR CHNUXIAO LI

Chunxiao is an epidemiology researcher specialising in understanding how genetic and behavioural factors influence type 2 diabetes and related metabolic disorders and advancing population health through preventive approaches. Chunxiao received her Bachelor's degree in Preventive Medicine from Shandong University and a Master's degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Peking University in China. She was a Jardine Cambridge Scholar between 2018 and 2022, and is now a Research Associate at the MRC Epidemiology Unit.

## DR YAIR LITMAN

Yair is a theoretical chemist at the Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry. His research focuses on understanding how molecules move at the atomic

scale, including reaction rates and vibrational motion, where quantum effects play a decisive role. He received his diploma from the University of Buenos Aires in 2014, and his PhD from the Fritz Haber Institute in Berlin in 2020. He has since been working on theoretical and method developments of non-adiabatic rate theories and non-linear spectroscopies at the Max Planck for Structure and Dynamics of Matter (Hamburg, Rossi Group), Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research (Mainz, Bonn Group), and the University of Cambridge (Althorpe Group), where he is based currently as a DFG fellow.

## DR PETER NEYROUD

Peter is Director of the Police Executive Programme at the Institute of Criminology and is an Associate Professor in Evidence-based Policing in the Jerry Lee Centre for Experimental Criminology. After gaining a Modern History degree from Oriel College, Oxford, in 1980, Peter joined Hampshire Police and was a police officer for more than 30 years, serving in Hampshire, West Mercia, and Thames Valley, where he was the Chief Constable (2002–2007). He received a PhD in Criminology from Cambridge in 2017. In 2014 he became the Co-Chair of the Campbell Collaboration and has been leading an international partnership to systematically review the evidence on what works to prevent terrorism and radicalisation.

## DR XIN PENG

Xin specialises in film history, classical Hollywood cinema, critical race and postcolonial theories, Asian American studies and transnational cinemas. Xin received her PhD degree from the University of Washington in Seattle, Master's from the University of Chicago, and Bachelor's from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She has served as the Managing Editor for *Feminist Media Histories* and Assistant Editor for the *Journal of Chinese Cinemas*.

## DR FARHANA RAHMAN

Farhana is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow and Isaac Newton Trust Fellow at the Department of Politics and International Studies. Prior to this, she was a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Tokyo and a Non-Residential Fellow at the Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies at the University of Auckland. Farhana received her PhD from Cambridge University's Centre for Gender Studies. Her research interests include gender, forced migration, development, and ethnography in Asia.

## DR KATHERINE (KATE) SANDERS

Kate is a Postdoctoral Researcher working in the Engineering Department. Her research interests concern the scalable processing of nano- and micro-structured functional materials, and the use of droplets for material synthesis and assembly. Kate graduated from University College London with an MSci in Chemistry (2016) and received a MRes (2017) and PhD (2021) from the University of Cambridge as a student of Wolfson. Kate currently works on a new manufacturing process for microparticle production, which emerged from her PhD research and was previously supported by a NanoDTC Translational Prize Fellowship (2021–2022).

## DR ZOLTÁN TARACSAK

Zoltán is an igneous petrologist studying basaltic volcanism on Earth. His work currently focuses on the carbon and sulphur content of volcanic rocks, which can be used to infer the distribution of these elements in the Earth's mantle. Zoltán studied Earth Sciences and Geology at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, and received his PhD from the University of Manchester. He is an Early Career Research Fellow, funded by the Leverhulme Trust and the Isaac Newton Trust, and a member of both the Mineralogical Society of

Great Britain and Ireland and the European Association of Geochemistry.

## DR MEELAN THONDOO

Meelan is a medical anthropologist and environmental epidemiologist working in the global health arena. Meelan's research interests are in city-level health impact assessments (HIA) and multi-sectoral interventions and integrated policies for health. She read Biology (Bsc), Medical Anthropology (Msc) and Health Economics (Mph), at the University of Geneva, University College London, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In 2017, she was selected as a Transglobal Health Fellow for the European Commission Joint Doctorate Program (EMJD) and completed a PhD in Medicine and Translational Research with excellency. She is currently a Research Associate at the MRC Epidemiology Unit, and a Fellow of the Global Humanitarian Forum, the Cambridge Philosophical Society, and the UK Royal Anthropological Institute.

## DR JIAWEI WANG

Jiawei is a Marie Curie Fellow and EMBO Non-Stipendiary Fellow at the European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI). Jiawei's background covers multiple disciplines, from single-cell genomics, computational biology and microbiology to computer science and software engineering. He has a Master's degree in Computer Science from Peking University, and Bachelor's degree in Software Engineering from Tongji University, and a PhD from Monash University, Australia. He has been awarded three internationally prestigious fellowships: the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship, MSCA-co-funded EIPOD Fellowship, and EMBO Long-term Postdoctoral Fellowship.

## DR ADAM WELSTEAD

Adam is the University of Cambridge's Head of Student Wellbeing. His professional experience and specialist interests are in cognitive behavioural therapies, mental health and suicide-safer strategy, communications, and wellbeing in education. Following the completion of his PhD at the University of St Andrews, Adam pursued a career in mental health support, strategic development, and service leadership at the university. He completed his postgraduate qualification in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy on the NHS South of Scotland CBT Programme at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. Adam is a registered member of AMOSSHE, the Student Services Organisation, and holds an active interest in sectoral best practice and innovation.

# LOOKING BACK AS VICE-PRESIDENT

## GRAHAM ALLEN

“It’s been a very satisfying third phase of my career,” says Wolfson Fellow, Graham Allen, who this year stepped down as Vice-President after just over seven years in the position. “The VP role exceeded my expectations,” he says. “We’ve achieved a lot working with some great, hard-working colleagues and learned a lot about how the colleges work. I’ve got to know many highly motivated students; and it renewed my acquaintance – which started when I worked at the Open University – with mature students.”

Graham – who first visited Wolfson forty years ago and became a Fellow in 1999 – was VP during some interesting times, including the COVID-19 lockdowns, which began in March 2020. “Seeing how well the entire College community pulled together during the restrictions was a particular highlight,” he says. “I think the experience really demonstrated the importance of the Collegiate system: supporting each student as an individual not one of 24,000.”

“The 50th anniversary in 2015–16 was another highlight – and a busy year,” he says. “And it’s been satisfying to witness the College’s endowment grow: that means we’re able to be more generous with student financial support and develop plans for capital projects.”

Indeed, Graham is confident about the future of the College, which this year will select the next President. “Over the last few years, we’ve developed a Strategic Plan, which set out Wolfson’s vision for the future, and a Masterplan, which outlines the opportunities to develop the College site. These documents are a great step forward, roadmaps that really demonstrate our ambition to our supporters. They are dynamic documents, and they will have to be flexed as we hit bumps in the road or take the odd diversion, but Wolfson is confidently striding into the rest of this decade.”

One of the main roles of the Vice-President is to run the election of the next College President. Graham led the recruitment of Professor Jane Clarke, the first woman and the first scientist to hold the position at Wolfson.



Though his tenure as Vice-President has come to an end, Graham remains heavily involved with Wolfson: a college he says he values for its “informality, inclusivity, and internationalism”. I’m doing lots of travel and more cricket, but I’m still pretty well occupied by Wolfson,” he says. “As well as chairing the Finance Committee, I also chair the Arts Committee and I’m Senior Treasurer of the Boat Club. I’m also Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Babraham Institute, the life sciences research institute, so there’s much that keeps me in Cambridge.”

Jane Clarke, Wolfson College President, said: “I, and Wolfson generally, owe an enormous debt to Graham Allen. From the moment of my election to the role of President, his encyclopaedic knowledge and understanding of how the University in general, and the College in particular, function was invaluable. Graham supported and encouraged me to bring together a strategic plan for the future of the College and has been an effective sounding board as we move forward to deliver our ambitions. His commitment to the College is demonstrable and eclectic. I also want to pay tribute to Graham as a friend – always supportive and wise. Thank you, Graham.”

# FELLOWS' NEWS

## Professor Sewell elected Fellow of the Royal Society

In May, College Fellow, Professor Peter Sewell FRS, was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society. The Royal Society is the UK's national academy of sciences and the oldest science academy in continuous existence. New Fellows join the ranks of Stephen Hawking, Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Lise Meitner, Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, and Dorothy Hodgkin.



Professor Sewell was among 80 outstanding researchers, innovators, and communicators from around the world – and among seven from Cambridge – elected on account of their “substantial contribution to the advancement of science”.

A Professor of Computer Science and an ERC Advanced Grant holder at the University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory, Professor Sewell's research aims to build mathematically rigorous foundations for the engineering of real-world computer systems, to make them better-understood, more

robust, and more secure.

“This honour is a testament to the work of many excellent colleagues over the years,” said Professor Sewell at the time, “without whom none of this would have been possible.”

Within the field of Computer Science, Professor Sewell and his group are best known for their work on what's known as subtle relaxed-memory concurrency behaviour and detailed sequential semantics of processors and programming languages. They have brought this work into the mathematical domain, creating experimentally grounded models that de-mystify them for practitioners and theoreticians, to enable more rigorous engineering and more realistic theory.



## Promotions for four Fellows

Four Wolfson Fellows were promoted by the University of Cambridge in last year's review.

From top left, clockwise: Dr Celia Donert (History) was promoted to Professor (Grade 11); Dr Tolu Oni (MRC Epidemiology) was promoted to a Clinical Professorship; Bye-Fellow Dr David Bulmer (Pharmacology) was made University Associate Professor (Grade 10); Dr Matt Farr (History and Philosophy of Science) was promoted to unestablished Associate Teaching Professor (Grade 9).



“Jane has had an extraordinary and, by her own account, somewhat unusual career as a scientist.”

Dr James Keeler, Head of Department,  
Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry



### President elected to USA National Academy of Sciences

Wolfson College President, Professor Jane Clarke, was elected as an international member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of the USA in May. Professor Clarke joins a small group of 23 international members – including Department of Chemistry colleague, Professor Sir Shankar Balasubramanian – who were elected by the NAS in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

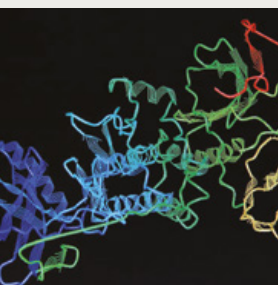
The National Academy of Sciences is a private, non-profit society of distinguished scholars. Established by an Act of Congress, signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, the NAS is charged with providing independent, objective advice to the nation on matters related to science and technology.

Scientists are elected by their peers to membership in the NAS for outstanding contributions to research: its members are active contributors to the international scientific community and approximately 500 current and deceased members of the NAS

have won Nobel Prizes. “I am delighted and honoured to have been elected to the National Academy,” said Professor Clarke. “I have to thank and give credit to all the amazing young scientists who worked alongside me – this success belongs to them as well. I hope that my election gives encouragement to others who had unconventional career paths.”

Dr James Keeler, Head of Department, Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry, said: “Her research career started somewhat later than is usually the case, but really took off in a spectacular way and this election to the National Academy of Sciences is a very special and fitting tribute to her international standing.

“Jane has not only had an impact through her science but also through the example she sets and the great support and encouragement she has offered to many who have come into contact with her. Here in the Department, we are very proud of what Jane has achieved and the recognition which this has brought to her.”



### New food labelling system

Professor James Wood OBE was part of a Cambridge University team that this year created a new system of measuring animal welfare. Thanks to this development, animal welfare can now, for the first time, be properly considered alongside other impacts of farming to help identify which farming systems are best.

This is vital for improving animal welfare in livestock production, at a time when demand for meat is rising globally and the way animals are farmed is changing – with concerns about the welfare of intensive and indoor systems.

Animal welfare assessments could also enable consumers to be better informed when choosing what to eat. Professor Wood said: “This work opens up possibilities for greater rolling out of welfare assessment scores in food labelling, including in other species as well as pigs. Until now, the methods available have made this impractical.”

Britain has various labelling schemes for meat products to assure consumers that certain standards have been met. The team used their new system to test how the different labels compare in terms of animal welfare.

Farms producing woodland labelled pork products scored best for pig welfare, followed by organic, then free-range, RSPCA assured, Red Tractor, and finally those with no certification. The results were published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, and the research was funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Royal Society, MRC, and The Alborada Trust.





## Dr Mark Wills wins Student-Led Teaching Award

Fellow and Tutor, Dr Mark Wills, won the Inclusive Practice Award at the 2023 Cambridge SU Student-Led Teaching Awards. The Student-Led Teaching Awards (SLTAs) exist to reward outstanding teaching and student support across Cambridge. In the latest awards, they received over 400 nominations, “a testament to all the amazing work done by our staff”, say the SLTA Team, “and the gratitude felt by students”.

The shortlist and winners were decided by panels of students, who volunteered for the “heart-warming task” of reading through the many nominations and selecting the standout individuals. “It was a very nice surprise to be nominated, and a complete shock to win,” said Mark.

“The award ceremony was a fantastic event, so well done to the Cambridge Students Union for making such a brilliant celebration. And it was particularly rewarding to attend with students who had nominated me too!” The Inclusive Practice Award celebrates teaching or support that is particularly inclusive of all students, in terms of disability, race, gender, or class, for example. This refers especially to teaching practice which is created to be inclusive of all, rather than special efforts made with adjustments for individual students. The SLTA Team said: “We were so pleased to see staff creating content which was universal by design, whether that was incorporating students’ lived experiences into discussions, resources, material or advocating their department for continued lecture recordings.

“The nominees certainly went above and beyond to make their teaching environments inclusive and fun, and the panels thought it was great to see a focus on professional development and support coming through in the nominations.”

Winners and highly commended in each of the nine categories were announced at a ceremony held at St Barnabas Church, Cambridge.

Dr Susan Larsen, Wolfson College Senior Tutor, said: “I’m delighted, but not surprised, to see Mark honoured for his inclusive work with postgrads. As a Wolfson College Tutor for the past four-plus years, Mark has been a consistent, compassionate source of support for our students.

“He brings a wealth of teaching and research experience to the role, but also – most importantly – a sympathetic ear and a kind heart. On behalf of the entire tutorial team, I congratulate him on this richly deserved award.”

Mark is a Director of Research based at the Department of Medicine and Cambridge Institute of Therapeutic Immunology & Infectious Disease (CITIID).

He has an active research group of PhD students and postdocs focused on understanding the immune response to persistent viruses. His group has also worked on T cells responses to SARS-CoV-2 infections and vaccination, and this year he has been working on immune dysregulation in Long COVID. His group is also interested in the ageing immune system and the consequences this might have on the control of persistent/latent virus infections.

Mark’s laboratory has a long-standing interest in the generation and maintenance of Human Cytomegalovirus (HCMV) specific CD4/CD8 T-cell and natural killer cells, and the role these effector cells have in the control of HCMV during long-term latent viral carriage and reactivation. He is ultimately interested in approaches to eliminating latent HCMV carriage in important clinical settings.

**“I’M DELIGHTED, BUT NOT SURPRISED, TO SEE MARK HONoured FOR HIS INCLUSIVE WORK WITH POSTGRADS... MARK HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT, COMPASSIONATE SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS”**

Dr Susan Larsen



THE FELLOW  
BEHIND  
CAMBRIDGE'S  
REFUGEE  
HUB

As Director of the Centre for the Study of Global Human Movement, and convenor of the University's Refugee Hub, **Dr Tugba Basaran** is making a significant contribution to our understanding and response to global movement, migration, and the refugee crisis.

**T**ugba, who became a Wolfson Fellow in February this year, has held visiting positions at Harvard Law, Princeton, Sciences-Po, and the Institute for Advanced Studies, and had tenure at the University of Kent.

Her research gets to the heart of some of the biggest challenges in global movement and human rights. "I'm particularly interested in states' ways of governing, and the contradictory and repressive natures of law in liberal democracies in relation to human rights, especially for non-

citizens" she says.

"I like to analyse the operations of law in micro-settings, such as refugees at airport waiting zones, rescue and indifference on the high seas, criminalization of humanitarian assistance, extra-territorial obligations of states."

Ultimately, her work asks big questions about the rule of law and, with it, liberal political philosophy itself.

"I am interested in legal techniques of creating boundaries and borders in the past and present, how legal violence, that is authorized violence, is deployed, and how laws are deployed to interrupt social relations and undermine societal norms. Exploring these detailed socio-legal practices is illustrative of fractures and fault lines of our societal norms, of our times."

#### A global perspective on global problems

Tugba's expertise in international relations comes as much from in-country experience in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe as it does from her research, however.

"Berlin, Brussels, Princeton, Paris, New York, Izmir, Sarajevo, Santa Ana, Port-au-Prince, Davao, Medford, Cambridge – both in the US and UK! – have been some of the stations in my life," she says.

"I have been a foreigner most of my life, in a very good sense. My journeys

have allowed me to temporarily join various communities – linguistic, intellectual, and social – and learn from the encounters and experiences, concepts and practices. They have also enabled me to become a keen observer of people, cultures, and societies – an anthropologist of sorts."

These global encounters also opened up new perspectives and gave Tugba first-hand experience of many of the themes and issues that she explores in her research, at the intersections of politics, law, and society.

"Being able to cross borders when my friends and colleagues could not; not being able to return the hospitality that I have received in so many places, whether in El Salvador, Haiti, or the Philippines; these things have made me very much aware of our differential rights, privileges, and opportunities," she says.

"It is a global world for some, but it is a world of borders for many, and a lot depends on what has been coined by Ayelet Shachar as 'birthright lottery'. Our passports, our nationalities, can open or foreclose whole parts of the globe for us."

#### The Refugee Hub: coordinating the University's response

After Harvard Law, Tugba joined the University of Cambridge in 2018 and The Centre for the Study of Global Human Movement, which was created



as “a response to the importance of movement as one of the greatest achievements and challenges of the 21st century” and “to lead an innovative and transformative programme that impacts global policy and practice on migration and mobility”.

After her arrival, Tugba set up the Refugee Hub in 2021/22 to enable the University to have a more coordinated impact on the issues.

## “A HUB CAN HELP US PUT BETTER STRUCTURES AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS IN PLACE TO PROVIDE FOR SYNERGIES AND EFFICIENCIES ACROSS THE COLLEGIATE UNIVERSITY”

“Afghanistan, Ukraine, Sudan – conflicts, crises, and emergencies generate quick humanitarian reactions. And this is important. But relying on reactive capacities can lead to fragmented and uncoordinated responses,” she says.

“It was surprising to see that the University of Cambridge had so far no central coordination point, or a dedicated research or practice hub centred on refugees. A hub can help us put better structures and coordination mechanisms in place to provide for synergies and efficiencies across the collegiate university, whether in terms of research or practice. We also need to better understand conflicts, crises, and emergencies within their unique histories and cultures, to offer appropriate responses.”

The Centre and the Refugee Hub – which now serve as the point of contact

on refugees and displaced persons at the University – have also been active in spotlighting the voices of refugees and people affected by conflicts.

“We are in the process of planning, setting up and exploring opportunities for setting up dedicated country/region desks,” says Tugba, “including Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Sudan, as well as in regions, such as the Mediterranean and East Africa, to foreground the voices of those who have experienced conflict, together with expertise at Cambridge, to shape our responses.”

“More generally, we need to expand our public and policy outreach to protect rights and improve lives of people affected by conflict, whether they are at home or abroad.”

**The refugee crisis: “we can think differently”**

According to UN figures, a record 103 million people were forcibly displaced around the world in mid-2022. How do we deal with this problem? Well, first we need to deal with that word problem, says Tugba.

“It is only when we close borders that refugees become a ‘problem’,” she says. “This problematization seem to be ingrained in the devaluation of the rights of – unwanted – non-citizens on the one hand and the continuation of colonial discourses, entry policies, and exclusions on the other.”

“We can think differently, however, and learn from policies for welcoming political dissidents in the past and Ukrainian refugees in the present.” One way the Refugee Hub is thinking differently is through imaginative collaborations with those affected by wars, conflicts, and crises.

“We will soon be holding a closed

workshop with young Afghan leaders on the future of Afghanistan,” says Tugba. “The objective of this workshop is to bring together young Afghan leaders and researchers, now in diaspora, to establish a diverse and representative platform, which will meet regularly over the following years to discuss and create consensus on key issues, such as women and minority rights, reconciliation, and, in particular, educational initiatives for Afghan women and refugees.”

“As result of these workshops, we hope to develop position papers and shape interventions, with the support of academic experts at the University of Cambridge, to share with global stakeholders.”

**Standing with refugees as a Cambridge community**

Through her research, the work of the Centre, and the Hub, Tugba is committed not only to creating collaborative methods of engaging with these issues, but also of facilitating collaboration and bringing the topic to wider attention, here in Cambridge, as well as internationally.

This year, as part of Refugee Week, Tugba and the Hub team organised a programme of events to coincide with World Refugee Day on 20 June, an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees. The event aimed at centring the diversity of refugee experiences in finding better ways to uphold refugee rights.

“It was a great opportunity for us to create awareness and solidarity with the situation of refugees,” says Tugba, “and to stand with refugees as a Cambridge community.”

“We must keep finding new ways of learning from each other, exploring new ways to connect, and discovering how to make a difference locally and globally, whether as volunteers, practitioners, or researchers.”

# DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

“

In 2022/23, the Development Team had our most successful year in recent history, and we are grateful to all those who contributed to Wolfson during the year.

Our goal is to raise much-needed funds for Student Support, Capital Projects, Research, and other aspects of College life, such as the Boat Club and the Music Society.

I also wish to extend my personal thanks to everyone who has made me feel so welcome in my first year as part of the Wolfson community.

We were delighted to be able to announce two new endowed postgraduate scholarships donated by alumni during the year. John Hughes (1969) endowed a PhD scholarship with matching funding from the University's Student Support Initiative, and

Mark Boyce (1993), endowed an MPhil scholarship for a student working in the area of sustainability and conservation.

Both John and Mark have been elected to a Bredon Fellowship at Wolfson in recognition of the incredible difference their support will make to our community.

Other significant gifts during

the year included the donation of a new boat for the Men's First Eight, by alumni and former Wolfson College Boat Club members, Allison and Tom Ujejski (1985), as well as a major contribution to the Tao Gung Wu Scholarship fund from Singapore resident, Alan Chan.

In addition, having experienced the transformational impact of a Wolfson education in his own life, alumnus Ibrahim Mohammed (2016) has introduced us to a new partnership with the Aziz Foundation to support MPhil students from British Muslim communities – a very important step in our goal of widening access to Wolfson.



TOTAL RAISED

**£2.25M**

TOTAL PLEDGED FOR FUTURE USE

**£1.7M**

Some of our most loyal and generous donors joined us for our inaugural President's Circle Lunch in the Combination Room on the day of the College Garden Party in June. You can read more about the President's Circle on page 55.

In total, we raised over £2.25 million during the year, with an additional £1.7 million pledged for future payment. Wolfson continued its commitment to support as many students as possible with scholarships and bursaries, with over £1.5 million being awarded to students during the year, of which donations from alumni was matched more than one-to-one by external funding bodies such as the Cambridge Trust.

As we look to the coming year, our priority is to continue funding student scholarships, whilst beginning to address the challenging goals that the College has set for capital expansion under the Masterplan. To this end, we will be continuing to seek more support, particularly among alumni, both through gifts this year, and through legacy pledges to support the long-term future of the College. In these challenging economic times, we need to be able to provide our students with the best possible opportunities to succeed and thrive.

Have you thought about giving your support to the students of tomorrow?

SIMON CROOKALL  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

”

## THE BOYCE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND



### Donor Profile

Since leaving Wolfson in 1994, **Mark Boyce** has demonstrated a deep passion for creating and sustaining organisations and places that enhance the health of human and natural communities. He is a Founding Partner of True Homes, one of the largest private homebuilders in the United States, and the Co-Founder of the Byron Fellowship, a week-long transformational experience for young social change agents and a community of generative leaders.

# BIGGEST DONATION FROM AN ALUMNUS IN 30 YEARS CREATES MPHIL SCHOLARSHIP

**A** new endowed MPhil scholarship in Social Sciences will be available at Wolfson College in 2023/24 – thanks to the biggest single donation to Wolfson from an individual donor for over thirty years.

The new scholarship will cover the fees of one full-time, one-year MPhil student, as well as a contribution towards the successful student's maintenance costs. It is intended to improve access to postgraduate education for outstanding students who face financial challenges in taking up a place at Cambridge and is open exclusively to students who are normally resident in North America (including the Caribbean) and South America.

Preference is given to students from backgrounds under-represented at postgraduate level in their field of study, in the first instance, to women and minority students – as well as to those who are pursuing an MPhil in Land Economy, or another course with a focus on the built environment, sustainability, and/or conservation.

### An “extraordinary gift”

The Boyce Family Scholarship Fund is the gift of Wolfson alumnus, Mark Boyce, who completed his MPhil in Land Economy as a student at Wolfson in 1993-94.

“It is a joy and honour to be able to establish the Boyce Family Scholarship Fund,” said Mark. “It is our hope that this scholarship will provide future generations of students with access to similar extraordinary experiences to the ones I had as a student at Wolfson.

“I was at Wolfson during the first year of my marriage, and Wolfson accommodated us and a few other newly married couples. We are deeply grateful for the hospitality and opportunities provided by the College during our time there 30 years ago.

“Gratitude is the animating impulse for this gift. We have a conviction that generosity is an act of love that naturally flows from gratitude. It is certainly an act that you will never regret.”

The impact of the gift will, as Simon Crookall, Wolfson's Development Director, says, be deeply significant: “Mark's extraordinary gift to the College will have a transformational

impact on the lives of future students in Social Sciences at Wolfson. The Boyce Family Scholarship Fund is a thrilling example of a Wolfson member sharing their success and inspiring the next generation of academics and leaders.”

Mark's year of study at Wolfson had a significant impact on his career and his outlook. “My studies in Land Economy remain a strong influence on my vocation as a real estate developer and home builder,” he said. “At Cambridge, the emphasis on public responsibility in land use and the built environment was a great counterbalance to the prevailing ethos of private rights in the US.

“And being mentored by [city planner, educator, and author] J. Barry Cullingworth and studying with [former Professor of Law] Sir Malcolm Grant was a great honour that is a unique signature of the Cambridge experience.”

Mariana Gnecco Polania

## 2023/24 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The first Boyce Family Scholar, starting in October 2023, is Mariana Gnecco Polania, who will study at Wolfson as an MPhil in Conservation Leadership. Mariana runs an NGO in the Caribbean region that focuses on coastal and marine conservation and restoration. Her career goal is to lead marine ecosystem management projects that are financially sustainable over time and provide alternative livelihoods for local communities, particularly fisherfolk. “The more I work to preserve and restore the ecosystems in my region,” says Mariana, “the more I feel the urge to acquire appropriate skillsets to understand not just nature but the social and economic factors that play a role in conservation. “The Master’s in Conservation Leadership provides the perfect scenario for this: it aligns with the work I’m currently doing, as well as my goals. It will also allow me to apply personal, organisational, and system leadership to be the leader my region and country needs.”



**“The Boyce Family Scholarship Fund is a thrilling example of a Wolfson member sharing their success and inspiring the next generation of academics and leaders”**

Simon Crookall, Development Director

For Mark, Wolfson was the perfect base for this experience: “The Wolfson community was a richly diverse collection of students and Fellows. In particular, we share great memories of the service and care provided by the hospitality and Porter staff. “I remain grateful for the camaraderie and life-long friendships established in the Wolfson II Boat, culminating in an oar-winning achievement in the May Bumps. As timpanist in the University Orchestra led by [organist and music director] Sir Stephen Cleobury,

I had the privilege to perform at King’s College Chapel, Ely Cathedral, and the Royal Albert Hall. These were all once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.”

### Addressing “the leak in the pipeline”

Wolfson has a strong history of students in the Social Sciences, with a flourishing body of students in Land Economy and related subjects in sustainability and the built environment. For Dr Susan Larsen, Wolfson College Senior Tutor, the new scholarship will play a big part in continuing that tradition: “The Boyce Family Scholarship enables Wolfson to advance its commitment to widening participation at postgraduate level,” said Susan. “Financial barriers prevent too many talented undergraduates from less advantaged backgrounds from pursuing postgraduate study. This scholarship is one way we can help address the leak in the pipeline that leads from undergraduate study to higher degrees. The successful scholars will join a thriving community of students and Fellows from across the globe who are committed to changing the world for the better.”

**You can find details of the Boyce Family Scholarship, as well as other postgraduate funding available at Wolfson, on the Fees and Funding page of the College website.**

# PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

Senior Tutor, Dr Susan Larsen, reflects on the impact of philanthropy for Wolfson students at the start of the new academic year.

**W**olfson College relies on philanthropy to fund the education of many exceptional candidates as well as to ensure that all Wolfson students have an incredible Cambridge experience. In 2022/2023, the College was able to expand the support we can offer our students in ways both large and small. Thanks to generous gifts from friends and alumni of the College, we were able to offer an incredible total of 57 studentships for new Wolves joining us this October.

We have worked creatively with our funding partners so that we were able to offer 17 brand new fully-funded PhD studentships to Wolfson students matriculating in October 2023, for a total of 22 full PhD studentships as well as partial scholarships for another 13 doctoral, 10 Master's-level, and 12 undergraduate students. This means that almost 30% of our 2023/2024 PhD cohort will be funded by generous scholarships.

Working with the Cambridge Trust, departments and faculties, the College has been able to, on average, double the value of each contribution to our Student Support Fund. Importantly, our success in securing partner funding is based on the quality of our applicants: only the highest-ranked are eligible for these joint awards.

## CASE STUDY

### John Hughes Scholar

A PhD student in Geography, Charles's work centres around the 'climate-history' nexus, identifying and exploring interplays between climatic variation and the development of past societies and cultures. Currently focusing on oak-chronology-derived drought extremes in the Late Antiquity West, Charles's PhD will later utilise high-altitude juniper, pine, and cedar to create a new, annually resolved, and absolutely dated chronology of climate variability from south-eastern Turkey. This new chronology will be a significant addition to the tree ring and wider paleoclimatic record, facilitating novel insights into the history of the Near East. "It will allow us to expand our knowledge of early Cilician and Eastern Mediterranean societies through a climatic lens," says Charles, who aims to environmentally contextualise the development of religion in the Eastern Mediterranean, and explore how climate variability may have contributed to this region being a "plague reservoir" throughout the Common Era.

The John Hughes Studentship covers three years of tuition (at the Home rate) and maintenance costs for a PhD candidate in any subject.

**CHARLES NORMAN**



## CASE STUDY

## Hoath Family Scholar

Slaveya is an MPhil student in Environment Policy. Her research will explore how the implementation of renewable energy projects can be tailored to local environmental contexts in Bulgaria and how private and municipal actors can be incentivized to do so. If implemented carelessly, renewable energy projects can adversely affect wildlife and landscape, causing habitat loss and fragmented migration corridors. “My research aims to provide insights into how countries with unsupportive national governments can privately scale up renewable energy projects in ways that avoid wildlife damage,” she says.

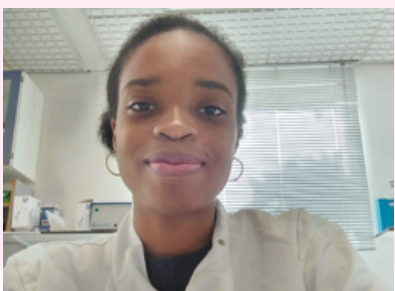
The Hoath Family Master's Scholarship offers, in partnership with the Cambridge Trust, one annual award of £12,000 for a Home fee status MPhil student in a field related to sustainability and conservation.



## CASE STUDY

## David James and Wolfson College Pharmacology Studentship

“In my research project, we aim to further investigate in biochemical studies how drugs can regulate nucleotide hydrolysis in PatAB, and how this regulation affects drug transport,” says Onyeka, a PhD candidate in the Department of Pharmacology. The bacterial heterodimeric ATP-binding cassette (ABC) multidrug exporter PatAB has a critical role in conferring resistance to common first-line antibiotics in infections of multidrug-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. “We will also further study the locations of drug binding in PatAB by cryogenic electron microscopy (cryo-EM) and examine the change in the accessibility of these drug binding sites during the transport cycle of PatAB.”



## Expanding access to a Wolfson education

Several new gifts this year have funded awards that advance the College's commitment to widening participation, supporting students from backgrounds under-represented in specific fields. Our small but growing Fund for Women in Stem is currently contributing to partner-funded scholarships for PhD students in Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics.

Another new award supports Women Entrepreneurs from Emerging Economies to pursue Master's-level study that will prepare them to take a leading role in business or policy-making in their home countries. The recently endowed Boyce Family Scholarship also supports students who are under-represented in their fields.

Donors have enabled us to offer more Rowan Williams & Wolfson College scholarships, jointly funded with the Cambridge Trust. These cover all costs for students whose

education has been disrupted by conflict. Since their inception in 2018, Wolfson has funded at least one such award each year (three in 2023/2024!), supporting students affected by conflicts throughout the world.

It is wonderful to report that two recipients of these awards completed a Master's degree at Wolfson and have been

## THE SHORTLIST FOR THE NEW JOHN HUGHES PHD STUDENTSHIP, WAS SO STRONG THAT WE WERE ABLE TO ARRANGE FULL STUDENTSHIPS FROM OTHER SOURCES FOR THE TOP THREE ALTERNATE CANDIDATES ON THE LIST!

supported to continue to a PhD here with a Rowan Williams Scholarship. Similarly, a gift from a new donor to Wolfson, the Omidyar Trust, will enable us to provide scholarships in 2024/2025 to assist Sudanese students whose studies have been disrupted due to conflict.

Another recent major gift expands support for doctoral and postdoctoral scholars to build connections between the College and the University's Centre for Geopolitics. That gift is currently supporting the work of Wolfson Junior Research Fellow Dr Donatas Kupciunas and will fund at least one PhD student in each of the next three years, thanks to additional support received from the Cambridge Trust. Other recent gifts are supporting students to work on topics related to the Interdisciplinary Research Hubs on Sustainability & Conservation or Gender.

## Supporting our students

The impact of philanthropy on student lives is not limited to scholarships, of course. Donations to the Student Support Fund in the last year have enabled us to expand our programme of Wolfson College Enhanced Bursaries for undergraduates who come from households with particularly low incomes. We have also drawn on the Student Support Fund to increase the amounts we are able to offer as support for students pursuing Varsity-level sport, making over 40 awards for the 2023/2024 year ahead.

Every gift to Wolfson contributes to the life-changing impact of philanthropy on our students' lives. In enabling students from all over the world and the widest range of backgrounds to take up educational and extracurricular opportunities at Wolfson, our donors both transform their lives, and enrich our community as a whole. Our vital work would not be possible without your support. Thank you!

# AZIZ FOUNDATION: A NEW POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP FOR BRITISH MUSLIM STUDENTS



Ibrahim Mohammed

Wolfson alumnus Ibrahim Mohammed (known online as Ibz Mo) played a significant role in one of our big partnerships of 2023.

Ibrahim Mohammed (Psychological & Behavioural Sciences, 2019), a former social media influencer, is now Communications Manager at the Aziz Foundation, one of the largest postgraduate funding bodies in the UK – and he saw an opportunity to link up two institutions committed to making education accessible to all. “I hold cherished memories of the College-funded Ramadan iftars and the accommodations made for the Muslim community,” said Ibrahim, who served as WCSA Vice President in 2018.

“I established the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Officer position at Wolfson, and four years after graduating, I am amazed at Wolfson’s progress.”

Since leaving Wolfson, Ibrahim has been actively involved in promoting inclusivity and access to Oxbridge through social media and access programmes. And after enjoying the experience of being an Aziz Foundation scholar, he took up the opportunity of a role at the organisation when it came up. “I’ve witnessed the remarkable generosity and sustainable impact of the Aziz Foundation,” he says of the organisation which is committed to empowering British Muslims and promoting positive social change. “A collaboration with Wolfson felt natural: a perfect fit. And I am thrilled to have played a role in making it happen.”

Thanks to Ibrahim’s approach, the College announced the partnership with the Aziz Foundation in June – creating a new scholarship programme to support postgraduate education for students from British Muslim communities. The joint initiative seeks to address the underrepresentation

of British Muslims in postgraduate programmes by offering financial assistance to exceptionally talented and deserving individuals from this community to study at Wolfson.

The scholarships will cover the cost of tuition fees for full-time and part-time postgraduate courses at the University of Cambridge which align with the Aziz Foundation’s priority areas, including Law, Policy, Journalism and Media, Arts & Culture, Sustainability, Technology, and Sports. In addition to financial support, the scholarship recipients will have access to a range of resources, mentorship opportunities, and networking events provided by the Aziz Foundation.

This comprehensive support system will enable them to thrive academically, develop leadership skills, and make a positive impact on their communities and society as a whole.

College President, Professor Jane Clarke, said: “Education is the most important gift anyone can bestow. In funding these scholarships, the Aziz Foundation is offering a precious opportunity for members of the British Muslim community to join scholars from across the world to study here in Wolfson College, Cambridge. We promise that ‘if you come to Wolfson, you will learn to see the world in a different way’. We look forward to welcoming the first Aziz Foundation scholars to Cambridge in October 2023.”

Below: Ibrahim Mohammed (second from left) with members of the Aziz Foundation team.





# THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

For the financial year  
2022-2023.

The President's Circle recognises Wolfson's most committed supporters. Donors giving at least £1,000 are eligible for individual membership of the President's Circle in the year of their gift. There are exclusive benefits available to members, and the benefits of each level are cumulative.

**Bronze Membership** £1,000 pa

**Silver Membership** £5,000 pa

**Gold Membership** £10,000 pa

**Platinum Membership** £50,000 pa

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*The benefits of Platinum Membership are also conferred on Bredon Fellows.*

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Dr Jeremy Webb FRCGP (2003)  
Dr Adam Westlead (2023)  
Miss Daniella Wenger (2019)  
Dr Margaret Westbury (2014)  
Captain Maximilian Westland (2003)  
Mrs Rosalind Weston (1972)  
Dr Margaret Whichelow (2004)  
Professor John White (1974)  
Professor Linda Wicker (2007)  
Dr Alexandra Wigzell (2021)  
Dr Stephen Wilford (2018)  
Professor Alun Williams (1985)  
Mr Roy Williams (1991)  
Lady (Sally) Williams (1980)  
Dr Mark Wills (2008)  
Dr Catherine Wilson (2020)  
Dr Louise Wilson (2007)  
Dr Lucy Wilson (2007)  
Mrs Rachel Wilson (1990)  
Mr Charles Wojcik (2016)  
Professor Howard Wolf (2006)  
Professor Paul Wolfson (1993)  
Dr Meng Yan Wong (2015)  
Professor James Wood (2004)  
Professor Terence Wright (2008)  
Mr Sebastian Wrobel (2016)  
Dr Rong Wu (2021)  
Dr Catharine Wyss (1993)

**Y**  
Professor Yuhiko Yasunaga (1990)  
Dr Giles Yeo MBE (1994)

**Z**  
Ms Cristina Zametzer (2001)  
Dr Chao Zhang (2015)

## CORPORATE

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# THE MORRISON SOCIETY LEGACY DONORS

Named after Wolfson's first President, John Morrison, the Morrison Society was established in 2008 to recognise all those who have notified us that they have included a legacy in their will. We are delighted to invite Society members, with a guest, to an annual event to show our appreciation for this important commitment. We are grateful to the following, and to those members who prefer to belong to the Society anonymously.

Deceased legators are indicated with an asterisk \*

## List of donors

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## THE MORRISON SOCIETY: BENEFICIARY



# A LEGACY SUPPORTING A NEW FIELD OF RESEARCH

Cleo's research – which was, in part, inspired by her own experience of a brain infection – is so original, in fact, that it didn't tick the boxes for any one conventional source of funding. "It's not architecture, it's not pure science, it's not humanities – you have to be open-minded to support this kind of research," she says. That said, when Cleo applied for funding for her PhD, she faced a series of closed doors. "Time was running out," she says. "It really was at the very last minute that I managed to get the funding from Wolfson."

PhD candidate Cleo Valentine is treading thrilling new ground with her research. As the only Cambridge student supervised between the Department of Architecture and the Computational Neuroscience Group, she is taking a uniquely interdisciplinary approach to the impact of architecture on human health. While academic research has previously examined the link between architecture and neuroscience, there has been no research into the possibility that the visual experience of architecture can mediate neuro-inflammatory activity, a process which can result in damaging outcomes for human health. "The research I'm doing is really about manipulating specific architectural variables to see if they elicit very subtle neurophysiological stress responses that can result in what we call an inflammatory cascade," says Cleo. "If encountered infrequently, these exposures are likely benign; however, encountering them persistently, five or six times daily, day after day, can potentially push an individual towards a stress-induced state known as 'allostatic overloading'.

CLEO VALENTINE



“Without the generous support of Mary Hesse’s legacy, my pursuit of a PhD simply would not have been possible.”

Cleo Valentine, PhD Candidate 2022



Cleo is the recipient of legacy funding left by one of the College’s first Fellows, Professor Mary Hesse.

“Without the generous support of Mary Hesse’s legacy, my pursuit of a PhD simply would not have been possible,” she says. “The research would have just died.”

Thankfully, the research is now very much alive – and has the potential to have significant benefits. While researchers from the field of neuroarchitecture have found evidence that exposure to specific variations in architectural form may mediate physiological stress responses within the body, the significance of these findings may be greater than previously understood, says Cleo. “Evidence from the field of neuroimmunology strongly suggests a causal relationship between physiological stress and neuroinflammation. Neuroinflammation, in turn, has been implicated in the development of multiple neurological disorders, including depression, dementia, and schizophrenia.”

By examining the relationship between architectural design and neuroinflammation, Cleo’s research aims to establish the field of architectural neuroimmunology and support the creation of a healthier built environment.

“There are really tangible changes we can make to promote human wellness within architecture, but we can’t make those changes without the research. Moreover, many of these changes are not expensive or onerous, however; they are conscious design choices that can be made and can make a significant difference to human health. Even a difference in ceiling height, from 2.5m to 2.7m, can make a significant difference, for example.”

**Cleo Valentine** is a systems designer, neuroarchitectural researcher, and doctoral candidate in the Department of Architecture. She received her MPhil in Architecture and Urban Studies from the University of Cambridge, before which she earned her MSc in Sustainable Urban Development at the University of Oxford and received her Bachelor’s in Urban Systems and Economics from McGill University and the University of Copenhagen.

Cleo – who incorporates virtual reality and brain scans as part of her research methodology – wants to bridge the gap between academia and architectural practice, which she says is simply not absorbing the research. “The status quo in architecture isn’t serving public health; and there can be profound consequences,” she says. “It is not the case that by altering the built environment, we will eradicate illness or disease.

However, we should consider the impacts of architecture alongside diet, exercise, as being part of the incremental changes we can make to improve our health and wellbeing. And the industry needs to take this research on board.”

In the meantime, Cleo is committed to building the research foundation within this new exciting field. “Neuroarchitecture is not new, but the practice of architecture and neuroimmunology specifically is very new, very niche. Hopefully it will start to grow as a discipline, and other people will come along and start their research and prove me wrong and we’ll do it again, and we’ll try to get it better – that’s what we’re hoping for.”

**You can find out more about leaving a legacy to the College in our legacy brochure, available online at [wolfson.cam.ac.uk/legacy-brochure](http://wolfson.cam.ac.uk/legacy-brochure)**

“Wolfson’s mission is to enable all members of our community, from students to Fellows, staff, members and alumni, to achieve their greatest potential and in turn, to make a positive impact on the world. The Networks Office provides the means to do just that by fostering strong alumni relations and actively promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and research through Hubs and associated Special Interest Groups.

Last year, we supported programmes designed to involve every member of the College community and connect with Wolves across the globe. With activities ranging from events and reunions to mentoring, volunteering, and sharing career advice, all added value to Wolfson’s offer, in particular helping students to make the most of their time here at College.

A survey of College alumni over the summer will help us to target resources next year and to advertise our programmes more clearly – which means activities more appropriate and visible to you!

Thank you to the generous Hub’s donors whose support included £150,000 towards the Gender Hub, seed funding to re-establish the Entrepreneurs Society and the ongoing support of the Sustainability & Conservation Hub.

**Our flourishing Research Hubs**

Launched in July 2020, the Wolfson College Interdisciplinary Research Hubs are the catalyst to bring together our international membership partners from differing disciplines to better progress the pressing problems in our world today.

The Hubs are now an integral part of College life. By drawing together the Hubs and associated partnership activity into one office with Alumni Relations, we’ve been able to have a really positive effect. The Sustainability & Conservation, Global Health, and Gender Hubs have flourished, and at the end of the academic year they were joined by a new Hub, the Race, Ethnicity, and Cultural Heritage Hub



(REACH), and an expanded Wolfson Entrepreneurship Society. With this new approach, the College can be bolder in its aspirations, reach, and impact, not only for students but also for Fellows, alumni, and the wider Wolfson community.

**Volunteers**

Volunteers play a big part in the success – and the sense of community – of our College. From alumni hosting events worldwide to over 60 volunteers for the Research Hubs, for example. Our thanks go to everyone who gives their time, enthusiasm, and expertise, whether it’s running workshops, contributing to organising groups, or offering invaluable ideas and advice. Our volunteers are supported by a team of part-time convenors and coordinators – so thanks to them for their dedication too.

**Activities**

Around 3,000 participants attended at least one of a wide range of alumni and Hub activities – online and in person events, workshops, dinners, socials, and more in 2022-23. That’s the most active participation by our community recorded in the past six years! Post-COVID, involvement by international members and those under 30 are the fastest growing segments of our audience. Students and those at the early stages of their careers have told us they have a great interest in collaborative research opportunities, internships, mentoring, and other career support. Arising from this feedback, the Hubs are working together to extend our Living Lab initiative: an initiative that encourages and supports projects that have an actionable or demonstrable ‘green’ impact to the College estate, community, or its wider network. We’ll also be developing a structure to support other research collaborations and mentoring initiatives across all activity channels.

**The Early Career Researchers’ Programme**

In December, in response to feedback from our Junior Research Fellows (JRFs) and College Research Associates (CRAs), we launched a new initiative of workshops and networking events to provide career support. So far, around 50% of our Early Career Researchers have attended one or more workshops.

**Other networks activities**

Alongside the Hubs, informal networks sprang up for Education and for Asian Culture led by Fellows, Professors Paul Ramchandani, Steve Watson, and Nuri Kim. These initiatives are geared towards students, their purpose being to generate debate and conversation in relaxed settings around specific areas of interest.

**SIAN COOK  
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE  
NETWORKS**





# RESEARCH

# HUBS

Launched in July 2020, Wolfson College's interdisciplinary Research Hubs are the catalyst to bring together our international Fellows, students, and other partners from differing disciplines to better progress the pressing problems in our world today. Here's a glimpse of some of the achievements and activities of the Hubs in the last year.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP HUB

**B**uilding on the success of the Wolfson Enterprise Competition, the student Entrepreneurs' Society is being relaunched in the 2023-24 academic year along with the development of a new Entrepreneurship Hub to form a global network of students, alumni, and Fellows to explore and encourage the many facets of entrepreneurship. To establish our newest Hub, the judges of the 2023 competition formed a steering group, under the chairmanship of Fellow Chris Coleridge. The aim is to demystify entrepreneurship and make it a natural career choice for Wolfson students and alumni, opening up one of the avenues to achieving our College mission of enabling our students to fulfil their potential. Providing momentum is a partnership with King's College Entrepreneurship Lab; eight Wolfson students will take part in its residential week before the start of Michaelmas term 2023. A donor is generously funding the Wolfson Entrepreneurship Hub's administration costs of the first year.

**Eva Shannon**  
Entrepreneurship Hub Administrator



## GLOBAL HEALTH HUB

Prof Rosemary Fricker  
Global Health Hub Convenor

The Global Health Hub has continued to develop a strong membership base, hosting events and speakers, both in College and globally. The Hub aims to broaden its reach in 2023-24, bringing in a more diverse membership, including more students and alumni. New initiatives will be launched, including a mentoring scheme and support for Global Health research and engagement projects.

Highlights include:

- A talk by Prof Alaa Abdessaheb al-Alwan – addressing the global challenge of non-communicable diseases
- The Global Diet and Activity Research Network annual meeting
- A talk by Fellow, Prof Gordon Dougan, in Singapore
- A visit from Prof Florian Marks & Hyonjin Jeon, International Vaccines Institute, Korea
- A talk by Johanna Ralston, World Obesity Federation
- A talk by Dr Thiago de Sa, WHO's Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities in low-and-middle income settings
- A talk by Dr Padmasayee Papineni – What is the lived experience of a person with tuberculosis in London in 2023?
- A talk by visiting student Ibrahim Adamu – The fight against antimicrobial resistance in Nigeria.

Top: Tom McCoy, Anna Brugulat Panes, Ala Alwan, Lamed Tatah, and Tolu Oni.

## THE SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION HUB

Prof Steve Evans  
Chair, S&C Hub  
and Wolfson's Sustainability Committee

The S&C Hub is now three years old, and we had a fantastic anniversary celebration on 14 July. It was fantastic to hear about our young researchers enjoying the discussions and bringing their own knowledge to bear on the problem. Some of them had even proposed and delivered active projects on campus, as part of our Living Lab programme.

It is exciting to see direct results from various Living Lab projects. We now know more about where our heat leaks out of our buildings, and we have been inspired by visions of food waste that chose not to confront but to pull people in through beauty and was a great example of working across boundaries, with leadership from Arts and the involvement of staff and students.

We reflected on the many successes and the multiple awards. Those awards are based on joint action, which is the special ingredient of the three-year journey to date. We are changing our food habits in the canteen, we are changing our energy habits, and we are integrating the gardens into our mental health programme. I could go on, but it is this desire to get things done, to try new ideas, to work together across disciplines and across the parts of the College that has been at the core of the three-year journey of the S&C Hub to date. My own greatest joys have been watching alumni and students developing plans together, as in the Thinking Space, and in watching staff and students staring at data, photos, or art together and working out what to do differently at Wolfson.

We also said goodbye to Charlie Barty-King who brought his energy and unwavering love of Wolfson to the development of the Hub. Charlie will be missed.

We also explored the future with a rich and enthusiastic debate. We do not have fixed plan, what emerges will depend on what people bring – enthusiasms, irritations to do better, knowledge and desire to know more. So do please come along next year and shape the future of sustainability at Wolfson. The Hub wants you.

Below: Karen Alvarenga, Rodah Owako Okeyo, Raquel Scarpa-Gebara, and Majdi Osman at a panel titled "Is the Climate Emergency a failure of inclusion?"







## THE GENDER HUB

**Dan Scott**  
Gender Hub Coordinator

**T**he Gender Hub formed a student-led Fem Soc in the autumn term and relaunched the Hub in 2023 with the generous funding of a donor whose gift is covering administrative and running costs and associated student funding awards for the first two years.

Highlights include:

- “Women of Wolfson” Panel Discussion (see right). The event served as a platform to celebrate the strength of Wolfson’s community of women and was one of the most widely attended College events, bringing in nearly 200 attendees between the panel discussion and dinner which followed.
- Women’s History Month Conference: we hosted what we hope to be an annual conference during Women’s History Month featuring research presentations from our students and Fellows. This event showcased the breadth and depth of gender-related research within our community and provided an enriching space for intellectual exchange.

Top: Meelan Thondoo, Rosemary Fricker, Sheila Ojwang, Lorraine Hilder, and Kimberley Andrews at the Women of Wolfson panel.

Right: Kimberley Andrews at the Women of Wolfson Panel Discussion.

- Invited Talk on Gender-Based Violence in Higher Education: sparked by conversation during the Women’s History Month conference, the Gender Hub supported a student-led initiative to host two external academics who delivered compelling talks on the pressing issue of gender-based violence in higher education. Their insights and expertise stimulated critical discussions, raising awareness and promoting action within our community.

## Women of Wolfson Panel Discussion

“It brought the whole College together,” said College President, Professor Jane Clarke, of March’s Women of Wolfson Panel Discussion. “And it showed just how well we can take on the big issues as a community.”

The Women of Wolfson event, organised by the Gender Hub to coincide with International Women’s Day, saw a panel of inspirational Wolfson women discussing their academic and professional journeys, their experiences as women in their professional lives, and the challenges they have overcome.

It was followed by an International Women’s Day Dinner, which was open to all Wolfson members, and which saw staff, students, Fellows, and alumni continue the discussions into the evening. “It really encapsulated the spirit of Wolfson,” said Chantal Holland, Events Coordinator. “The discussions were topical, perceptive, and inspiring – and seeing such a diverse set of people engage with the issues, and with each other, was really exciting.”

The entire cross-section of Wolfson members were represented on the inclusive panel, which – amongst others – included: Lorraine Hilder, a detective superintendent in the Metropolitan Police, who is leading a Public Protection Team focussing on child protection; undergraduate student Kimberley Andrews, who is studying for a Law degree and, alongside her studies, has developed a pathway for Wolfson lawyers to experience marshalling at the Upper Immigration Tribunal in the City; and Junior Research Fellow Dr Meelan Thondoo, a medical anthropologist and environmental epidemiologist working in global health who is currently a Research Associate at the MRC Epidemiology Unit.

“The Women of Wolfson panel was a truly inspiring experience,” said Meelan. “The panel taught me that being a ‘Female Wolf’ means something: it means that no matter what, you must ‘ring true’. As one of the most modern colleges of Cambridge, Wolfson provides a stimulating and safe place for me to be myself and grow through excellent mentorship and peer support. Thank you, women of Wolfson.”





Left: Laura Henry-Allain MBE presents her children's book *My Skin, Your Skin* in a REACH Hub sponsored event with Annoa Abekah-Mensah.

## THE RACE, ETHNICITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE (REACH) HUB

**Dr Kenny Monroe**  
Lead Convenor

Launched in 2023, the REACH Hub is an interdisciplinary meeting place for the promotion and facilitation of research that impacts on global communities from diverse cultures and ethnicities.

Within academia, minority ethnic researchers are often under-represented across many levels. For example, African Diasporic research and research focused on indigenous communities remain largely under-explored across all disciplines. Therefore, one of the core objectives of REACH is to establish a research platform that is perceptibly inclusive of the ground-breaking research conducted within the College. The REACH hub will deliver 3 Ps: to provide, promote, and publish the research across its members and partners.

Highlights include:

- The Black British Voices project, led by principal researcher and Wolfson Fellow, Dr Kenny Monroe, compiled insights from the largest dedicated survey to date of over 10,000 Black Britons from across the UK. The findings covered a range of social and cultural issues from education and the workplace to media, politics, and mental health (bbvp.org).
- Preparations were made for a new "Hierarchies of Racism" series to explore the operation of racism through three different lenses: antisemitism, Islamophobia, and racial discrimination against Roma and Traveller communities.
- Dr Dita N Love conducted a two-hour workshop at the Cambridge Faculty of Education to imagine new ways of being together in education and working towards a future of personal and institutional healing.

## THE EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS' PROGRAMME

**Prof Rosemary Fricker**  
ECRP Convenor

The Early Career Researchers' Programme was launched in October 2022, to support Wolfson's 60+ Junior Research Fellows and College Research Associates as they navigate their career path from postdoctoral researchers to first permanent job. The aim is twofold: to provide professional development support to our ECRs, and to help them to build networks and connections across College and the wider community. Monthly events have allowed ECRs to explore career options, meet with senior academics, professionals, and alumni, and build their skills in the workplace. Events run this year have included:

- Networking with Fellows
- Supervising and being supervised
- Senior leadership in academia
- Alternative careers to academic research
- Communicating your research
- Understanding your research career options
- Socials and mixers

The programme aims to maintain momentum throughout 2023-24, to build up a base of support for our ECRs, tailoring activities to the challenges they face as they enter the workplace, within academia or beyond.



# WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY



## JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

“Being a Wolfson Junior Research Fellow has been a transformative, career-changing experience. The support I have received towards my career development is second to none. Either through the numerous events organised by the Early Career Researchers’ Programme or the casual interactions with the fantastic network of world-leading Fellows from all career stages and disciplines, there’s always something going on in Wolfson to boost your career. Wolfson also makes it very easy for you to contribute to the community; from mentoring students to sharing your research and hobbies in multiple forums the societies and research hubs have to offer, you will always find opportunities to learn from others and make new exciting collaborations to enrich your projects. If you have an idea for an event or want to invite a speaker, you can do that, too. Wolfson College has helped me grow personally and as a researcher; it is truly a fantastic place because of its people. So, find your favourite event on the website, reach out to organise an event, or just come over for lunch or dinner and experience it yourself.”

**DR ADRIÁN CAZARES**

## PROF NICK WAREHAM

### FELLOW

“I think that Wolfson’s Global Health Hub plays an important role in bringing together people from different disciplines. It can be very synergistic with our University department goals and ambition in global health, playing a particular role in our educational and capacity building efforts, both for individuals who are undertaking degrees in Cambridge, but also for our wide network of partners and collaborators around the world.”

## MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN STUDIES

“At Wolfson, I found a thriving and diverse community of staff, alumni and students invested in climate change mitigation. The College’s focus on being a hub for environmental initiatives and sustainability events at the University of Cambridge exposes me to experts in varied disciplines and industry-leading organisations and valuable networks. Meeting like-minded individuals interested in positive social impact and global development has enriched my research as I now approach it from an interdisciplinary context.”

**SHEILA ATIENO OJWANG**

### ALUMNUS

“The Sustainability and Conservation Hub is a great example of how to leverage the full range of College membership, including alumni and current students. I had the pleasure of supporting Gates Scholar Alberto Borges, and it was great to have the opportunity to contribute. This multi-generational approach is something Wolfson College is ideally placed to do.”

**DR RICK MANLOVE**

## IMOGEN SHARKEY OCHOA

### MEDICAL STUDENT

“I was so excited to engage with the diverse research and national backgrounds of everyone in the Global Health Hub. It’s a space for sharing research and for making an impact by taking advantage of the wide spectrum of Wolfson students and staff. I am privileged to be a part of it!”

### ALUMNUS

“I had two wonderful and extraordinary years with Wolfson. I matriculated in 2020, in the midst of Covid. Due to travel restrictions, I completed my entire MSt degree online. Despite the difficulty in attending my programme in person, Wolfson had extended their best effort in assisting me in completing the programme, such as writing seminars organised by the Wolfson Library team.

**CAROL YUEN**

“I was grateful to Wolfson’s care and support. In return, I want to contribute my twenty years of financial knowledge and network in Asia to Wolfson. I joined the Wolfson Entrepreneur’s Society and worked closely with the President, Thomas Desombre, an undergraduate student at that time. WES hosted a number of entrepreneurs from Asia for online speaker forums. We also hosted two Wolfson Enterprise Competitions successfully. With the strong postgraduate research clusters in Wolfson, I truly believe WES can bring value to Wolfson’s current students and alumni, by bridging research ideas to the commercial world. It’s worth finding out more and getting involved.”



Alumni events

# CONNECTING WITH OUR ALUMNI

Over the past year, we have been fortunate enough to have another series of fantastic alumni events. Once again, it has been a delight to welcome so many friends back to College and to continue making memories together. We would like to thank everyone who has attended our events this year and all those who have helped to make them a success. Here's a snapshot of some of our favourites...



Our Easter Market was filled with quirky delights: the Rowing Race was never short of competitive students and alumni vying for the coveted prize of a bottle of College champagne, and the Easter Egg Hunt proved to be very popular. A successful day for Cambridge on the river ended with a raucous cheer from the packed Club Room.



Easter Market and Boat Race Event



Alumni Weekend

Our Alumni Weekend in September is an annual favourite, and this year it was once again filled with great activities that united old and recent friends. Highlights of the weekend included a popular garden tour from our Head Gardener, Oscar Holgate; an insightful discussion about the College's Art Exhibition, Kill or Cure, led by curator Anna Dempster; and a talk on extending the frontiers of knowledge and place with a panel comprising Wolfson Fellows and alumni. This year, the Alumni Reunion Weekend also featured a trip down to the riverside, where our alumni congregated at the Wolfson Boat House for a picnic and had the opportunity to give rowing a try in one of the Wolfson boats.

## May Bumps

It has also been a great year for Wolfson rowers, and alumni have been present to watch much of the success. In June, we stocked up on strawberries and prosecco and took a trip down to the river for the May Bumps. The fantastic rowing was supplemented by good weather, delicious food, and great company.



February saw the return of our popular Wolfson Alumni Law Event. This year's event highlighted the strength of the College's tradition of Law study and brought together Wolfson Law and Criminology alumni, students, and others who work in law, for a day of panel discussions, tours, and a formal dinner. The panel discussions focussed on the topics of 'Crime and the Constitution' and 'International Law'.

## Wolfson in Singapore & Malaysia



After a gap of three years, our third trip to Singapore and Malaysia felt like meeting old friends. From a talk by Hon Fellow Gordon Dougan on his work on infectious diseases and vaccines at the National Gallery Singapore, to music by alumna and pianist Churen Li at an event hosted by alumna Dato' Professor Elizabeth Lee in Malaysia, all our events were a delight to be part of.

Alumni are always welcome in College. Whether for specific alumni reunions or to host your own, for College events, to stay, or to attend Formal Hall, we love to see you back at Wolfson. To make sure you are taking full advantage of your benefits, check out the alumni benefits section of the website. Don't forget that this also includes our former Fellows or other academic visitors.



2023 Alumni Law Event

### ALUMNI EVENT STATS

**1,200** PARTICIPANTS  
**9** INTERNATIONAL EVENTS  
**30** EVENTS

# ALUMNI MAKING AN IMPACT

Serena Kennedy



Four Wolfson alumni were among those recognized in the King’s first Birthday Honours list in June. Their selections – which are also reflective of the College’s historical strength in Criminology, International Relations, and Education – continue a long line of alumni recognition in the royal Birthday Honours lists, including Wolfson Fellow, Professor James Wood OBE, and Fellow and Tutor, Professor Giles Yeo MBE.

## MERSEYSIDE CHIEF CONSTABLE – AWARDED KPM

**S**erena Kennedy, Merseyside Police’s first female Chief Constable, was awarded the King’s Police Medal (KPM). She was recognised for her long-term commitment to policing, the COVID response, and for driving improvements in wellbeing for officers and staff. Serena told the BBC that the honour reflected the hard work of everyone at the force. “It is them that I want to thank for me being recognised,” she said. “I am so proud to be the Chief Constable of Merseyside Police and lead such professional, dedicated, passionate staff who are committed to putting the communities of Merseyside first.” Serena and her team have been working hard on Operation Evolve which is focusing on pursuing organised crime gangs in Merseyside and working with communities and partners to build stronger and more resilient communities. “As the National Police Chiefs’ Council Chair of Prevention, I have also been working hard with colleagues on the historic data wash of police officers and police staff through the Police National Database,” she says. “This is critical work to ensure that policing can rebuild trust and confidence with our communities which we know has been affected over the past couple of years due to a number of high-profile cases.”

**SERENA KENNEDY**

(2013, APPLIED CRIMINOLOGY)

**FOUZIA YOUNIS**

**BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL FOR TORONTO – AWARDED MBE**

**F**ouzia Younis, the British Consul General for Toronto, was awarded an MBE for her services to the UK’s foreign policy. Before her posting in Toronto, she was Communication Director for the Pakistan Network, as well as the Co-Chair of the FCDO Race Network. “Can’t quite believe I am tweeting this,” she announced on Twitter, “but [I am] honoured to be part of the King’s Birthday Honours list & be awarded with a MBE for contributions to foreign policy. As we say in Birmingham, I am well chuffed. Thank you!”

(2011, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)



**CHIEF OFFICER OF KENT SPECIAL CONSTABULARY – AWARDED OBE**

**G**avin McKinnon, the Chief Officer of Kent Special Constabulary, was awarded an OBE in recognition for his work to transform Kent Police’s Special Constabulary. “I was shocked and deeply honoured when I received the news,” said Gavin. “In 2014, we became the first Special Constabulary in the UK to receive the highest national honour for volunteering, The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, which is a collective MBE. That recognition was for our ‘innovative, community focused, volunteer policing’. We have continued to deliver exactly that, so I view this OBE as a higher collective award for the exceptional team of Specials I have the privilege to lead.” For Gavin, one of the most important ways to build trust and confidence in the police is to involve the public in as much of their work as possible. “Special Constables are a vital part of that,” he says, “bringing the skills from their ‘day jobs’ as well as external attitudes and experiences that policing can draw on to make itself more legitimate and relevant to the communities we serve. It’s a mistake to equate ‘volunteer’ with ‘amateur’ and not learn from them. One of the things my Master’s programme at Cambridge taught me, and my experience of networking with the many and varied fellow members of Wolfson College, is that innovation is critical if we are to keep public services relevant and focussed on outcomes for the public. Wolfson College is a wonderful place to be because of the diversity of backgrounds, opinions, and experiences I found there, probably more so than any other Cambridge University College.”

**GAVIN MCKINNON**

(2008, APPLIED CRIMINOLOGY AND POLICE MANAGEMENT)



**FOUNDER OF SAHARA SISTERHOOD – AWARDED MBE**

**N**avleen Kaur was awarded an MBE for services to women and to interfaith relations. As the founder of Sahara Sisterhood, Navleen works to provide a safe and secure space to assist women in releasing, relaxing, and recuperating from trauma and violence. She is also actively involved with strengthening faith institutions in providing safeguarding training to places of worship. “Since the MBE, I have been working closely in the Sahara Sisterhood project in conjunction with the Mayor of London’s office on community engagement projects,” says Navleen. “I have also become head of Sikh Ministry of the Sikh Academies Trust working to empower young people in spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development and empower them with faith, belief, and values across the trust.”

**NAVLEEN KAUR**

(2000, EDUCATION WITH PSYCHOLOGY)



# IN MEMORIAM

These are the names of our members who have passed away, or of whose passing we were made aware, between August 2022 and August 2023.

**Professor Maurice 'Wayne' Adams**

23 June 1918 – 9 September 2015  
(Visiting Fellow, 1975)

**Professor Jonathan Aldrich**

22 January 1936 – 6 January 2021  
(Visiting Scholar, 1988)

**Mr Elijah Aleng**

28 November 1937 – 30 October 2014  
(Alumnus, 1974)

**Miss Hannah Annor**

College informed of her passing  
(Press Fellow, Michaelmas 2009)

**Professor Barend 'Bard' Bakker**

12 September 1934 – 2 March 2023  
(Visiting Fellow, 1982)

**Dr Peter Beaumont**

4 November 1943 – 5 December 2022  
(Fellow, 1990)

**Mr Ernest Bonyhadi**

9 January 1924 – 24 November 2016  
(Visiting Scholar, 1985)

**Professor Leyland Burns**

Passed Away 16 May 2021 aged 87  
(Visiting Scholar, 1981; Visiting Fellow, 1988)

**Dr Mavis Campbell**

Passed Away 2 November 2019  
(Vacation Visitor, 1999)

**Professor Brian Coote CBE FRSNZ**

26 November 1929 – 15 July 2019  
(Visiting Fellow, 1991)

**Miss Sylvia Cummins**

12 June 1954 – 25 October 2022  
(Alumna, 1976)

**Mrs Cherry Dainty**

23 December 1927 – 25 August 2021  
(Alumna, 1987)

**Ambassador Mignonette Durrant OJ**

30 May 1943 – 26 November 2019  
(Alumna, 1969)

**Dr George Erdosy**

25 December 1955 – 22 August 2000  
(Alumnus, 1980;  
Junior Research Fellow, 1985)

**Professor Thomas Fischer**

2 May 1938 – 30 May 2021  
(Visiting Scholar, 1990;  
Visiting Fellow, 1996)

**Professor Brian Flumerfelt**

1 January 1941 – 10 January 2023  
(Visiting Fellow, 1999)

**Dr Patrick French**

28 May 1966 – 16 March 2023  
(Visiting Fellow, 2015)

**Mrs Agnes Sok Leng**

Gabriel 20 January 1973 – 17 November 2020 (Alumna, 2009)

**Mr Daniel Galloway**

16 April 1958 – 14 April 2015  
(Alumnus, 1979)

**Professor Moshe Gil**

8 February 1921 – 23 January 2014  
(Visiting Scholar, 1989)

**Professor Rose Louise Greaves FRHS**

12 February 1925 – 9 April 2017  
(Visiting Scholar, 1981)

**Mr Anthony Green RA**

30 September 1939 – 14 February 2023  
(Senior Member 2012;  
Honorary Fellow, 2014)

**The Reverend Nigel Hancock**

2 May 1935 – 30 January 2023  
(Senior Member, 1992)

**Dr Mila Haňka**

16 April 1937 – 3 August 2023  
(Senior Member, 2007)

**Miss Jennifer Harris**

18 November 1939 – 22 May 2022  
(Press Fellow, Easter 1983)

**The Right Honourable The Lord Hemingford FRSA**

25 July 1934 – 17 December 2022  
(Honorary Senior Member, 1981)

**Mr David Ivan Hill**

14 July 1958 – 9 January 2023  
(Alumnus, 1987)

**Professor Yoshinori Honda**

24 September 1932 – 12 May 2021  
(Visiting Scholar, 1984)

**Mr Abdul Halim Ibrahim**

College informed of his passing  
(Alumnus, 1994)

**Squadron Leader Nicholas Jenkins**

College informed of his passing in  
November 2022  
(Alumnus, 2001)



**Mrs Ruth King**

7 November 1939 – 10 September 2022  
(Senior Member, 2006)

**Mr James Kinnier Wilson FSA**

27 November 1921 – 22 December 2022  
(Fellow, 1968)

**Mr William 'Bill' Kirkman MBE**

23 October 1932 – 25 November 2022  
(Fellow, 1967)

**Professor Jack Knetsch**

30 March 1933 – 5 August 2022  
(Visiting Fellow, 1984)

**Mr Jacob Kpohanu**

Passed Away on 20 October 2015  
(Alumnus, 1969)

**Mr Iain Laird**

31 March 1966 – 28 December 2022  
(Alumnus, 1989)

**Mr Vikram Lall**

27 April 1963 – 27 December 2020  
(Alumnus, 1998)

**Professor George Lindbeck**

10 March 1923 – 8 January 2018  
(Visiting Fellow, 1975)

**Mrs Dorothy 'Judy' Lowe**

20 September 1939 – 13 May 2023  
(Employee, 1975;  
Senior Member, 2001)

**Ambassador Shehu Malami**

14 November 1937 – 19 December 2022  
(Visiting Scholar, 1987)

**Professor Joseph Malikail**

24 January 1926 – 24 December 2019  
(Visiting Fellow, 1976)

**Mr Kenneth Morgan OBE**

3 November 1928 – 5 August 2015  
(Associate Press Fellow, 1998;  
Senior Member, 2014)

**Mr John Mott FEng FICE FIStructE**

18 December 1926 – 17 December 2022  
(Alumnus, 1996;  
Senior Member, 2003)

**Dr Vlastimil Novák**

9 September 1964 – 6 June 2020  
(Visiting Scholar, 1998)

**Dr Cyriac Pullapilly FRSA**

15 June 1932 – 17 December 2017  
(Visiting Fellow, 2006)

**Professor Jason Reese FEng FRSE  
FInstP FIMEchE**

24 June 1967 – 8 March 2019  
(Visiting Fellow, 2005)

**Dr Sam Ridgway**

26 June 1936 – 10 July 2022  
(Alumnus, 1970)

**Professor Raymond Robinson**

26 December 1932 – 8 October 2015  
(Visiting Fellow, 1987)

**Professor Seth Schor**

College informed of his passing in  
April 2014  
(Visiting Scholar, 1973)

**Mr Charles Settle**

College informed of his passing  
(Alumnus, 2000)

**Professor Charles Shaffert**

6 July 1932 – 2 May 2021  
(Visiting Scholar, 1997)

**Professor Jack E Shepherd Jr**

14 December 1937 – 26 December 2022  
(Senior Member, 1993;  
Fellow, 1995;  
Associate Press Fellow, 2000;  
Visiting Fellow, 2001)

**Professor Franklin Shupp**

9 April 1936 – 15 March 2021  
(Visiting Fellow, 1981)

**Mr Henry 'Keith' Siddall**

12 October 1932 – 16 June 2021  
(Alumnus, 1982)

**Mr Felix Wai Ming Soh**

13 November 1951 – 1 May 2015  
(Press Fellow, Michaelmas 1987)

**Professor Rosamond Sprague**

16 May 1922 – 10 September 2022  
(Visiting Fellow, 1976)

**Professor James Street**

17 November 1915 – 20 June 1988  
(Senior Member, 1972)

**Mr Charles 'Chuck' Thacker**

26 February 1943 – 12 June 2017  
(Visiting Fellow, 1997)

**Mr Michael Toole**

30 July 1944 – 19 November 2011  
(Alumnus, 1985)

**Dr Henry Tribe**

25 September 1927 – 17 November 2022  
(Fellow, 1977)

**Dr Matthew Woolhouse**

30 May 1965 – 19 May 2023  
(Postdoctoral Research Associate,  
2006; Junior Research Fellow, 2007;  
Visiting Fellow, 2016)

**Mrs Shirley Wozencraft Goodwin**

18 September 1931 – 23 August 2022  
(Senior Member, 2010)

**Mrs Eleanor 'Custis' Wright**

5 November 1924 – 21 January 2023  
(Senior Member, 1999)

**Professor Masayuki Yamagishi**

13 November 1938 – 8 January 2015  
(Visiting Scholar, 1983)

**Professor Toshiki Yamamoto**

9 March 1930 – 19 December 2019  
(Visiting Scholar, 1973; Senior Member,  
2002)

**Professor Emeritus Richard Young**

15 December 1929 – 18 May 2016  
(Visiting Fellow, 1976)

**Professor Steven Kuan-Tsyh Yu**

College informed of his passing  
(Alumnus, 1985)

**Long-serving member of staff  
who has passed away****Mr Paul Ward**

Passed Away 30 September 2022  
(Employed October 2008 – September  
2022).



## DR PETER BEAUMONT

4 November 1943 – 5 December 2022

Fellow 1990–2011;  
Emeritus Fellow 2011–2022

Dr Peter Beaumont was a Fellow of Wolfson College from 1990 to 2011 and Emeritus Fellow 2011–2022.

Peter was Assistant Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) (1970–1973) before becoming Reader in Engineering Materials at the University of Cambridge Engineering Department in 1973. Over four decades, Peter researched the relationship between structure and properties of engineering materials, especially composite materials, polymers, and ceramic systems. His research led to a new formulation of the principles of damage mechanics of composite materials for which he received the Distinguished Research Award of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Peter was also a recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award presented by the University of California (UCLA) for Dedication to the Teaching of Engineering in Industry and Commerce.



## MR ANTHONY GREEN RA

30 September 1939 – 14 February 2023

Honorary Fellow 2015–2023;  
Senior Member 2013–2015

Mr Anthony Green RA, was a Senior Member of Wolfson from 2013 to 2015 and Honorary Fellow from 2015 to 2023.

A distinguished artist who studied at the Slade School of Art from 1956 to 1960, Anthony Green exhibited world-wide in many cities including London, Tokyo, New York, Rotterdam, Chicago, Berlin, Hamburg, Brussels, and Sydney during a career spanning six decades. Largely inspired by his wife Mary Cozens-Walker, whom he married in 1961, his work was shown in Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions every year from 1966 onwards and is held in many public collections around the world.

Anthony was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1971 and made a full Royal Academician six years later. Elected a Fellow of University College London in 1991, he was short-listed for the Jerwood Painting Prize in 1996 and, in 2000, appointed Trustee of the Royal Academy. In 2002 Anthony was elected to the New English Art Club, a society of contemporary painters whose ethos resides in art informed by the visual world and personal interpretation, where his large, irregularly-shaped narrative paintings were a highlight of their annual exhibitions.

Anthony was a long-serving member of Wolfson's Fine Arts Committee, which he joined in 2013, and very much a driving force behind the development of the College's thriving programme of exhibitions which included his own highly-acclaimed show 'The Small World of Anthony Green'. As well as his distinction as a Senior Royal Academician he brought vision and common sense to the Committee's deliberations, together with a welcome sense of humour. His wise guidance and engaging presence will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

## MRS RUTH KING

7 November 1939 – 10 September 2022

Senior Member 2007–2022

Ruth King was a Senior Member of the College from 2007–2022. Ruth was the widow of Jack King MBE, who was a Founding Fellow of this College, serving as Bursar 1968–79 and Vice-President 1984–88, and was an Emeritus and Honorary Fellow until his death in 2007. Ruth played a significant formative role in the development of the College from its earliest years at the side of her husband Jack, under whose oversight the College estate grew through a building programme supported by the Fairleigh Dickinson and Wolfson Foundations. Ruth remained a loyal friend and supporter of Wolfson in the years since, and her kindness and hospitality to members during her long and active association with the College was greatly valued and is remembered by many.

## MR WILLIAM 'BILL' KIRKMAN MBE

23 October 1932 – 25 November 2022

Fellow 1968–2000; Emeritus Fellow 2000–2022

William 'Bill' Kirkman MBE was a Fellow of Wolfson College from 1968 to 2000, and Emeritus Fellow from 2000–2022. A central figure in the life of the College, Bill served as Vice-President from 1980 to 1984. His journalistic background led him to co-found the College's Press Fellowship Programme

in 1982, serving as its Director for fourteen years during which time Wolfson hosted Press Fellows from more than twenty countries.

Bill began his career as a journalist on the *Wolverhampton Express & Star*, which he joined on graduating from Oxford. He then moved to *The Times*, where he was Africa Correspondent and Commonwealth Staff Correspondent in the early 1960s, covering the period of rapid de-colonisation. He was a frequent broadcaster with the BBC World Service and Africa Service in the 1960s, and with BBC Radio Cambridgeshire in the 1990s. In 1983 Bill was awarded the MBE for services to journalism.

Bill was Head of the University Careers Service from his arrival in Cambridge in 1968 until 1992, following four years as Careers Advisor at Oxford, and played an active part on the national scene, serving for a period as Chairman of the National Association of Careers Services. He was University Advisor on Public Relations from 1992 to 1996, having been much involved in establishing in 1990 the University's first Press Office. In 1992, he became Secretary of The Cambridge Society, and editor of its magazine *Cambridge*, until the end of 2003.

For more than ten years Bill was also a non-service member of selection boards for the police, fire, and prison services. Outside Cambridge, Bill served for many years as a Trustee of the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, which awards grants for medical, social, and religious projects with a focus on the prevention of human suffering.



## MRS 'DOROTHY' JUDY LOWE

20 September 1939 – 13 May 2023

Employee 1975–2005; Senior Member 2002–2023

Judy was a member of staff at Wolfson from 1975 to 2005, working for many years with Dr Don Wilson as the Wolfson Course Administrator. She was appointed Senior Member in March 2002.

Judy came to the College in 1967 when Wolfson took in the YMCA Industrial Course, and was employed directly by the College from 1975. The YMCA withdrew in 1978 and the College took responsibility for the programme. When Jack King retired as Bursar in 1979, he became the Director of the Wolfson Course and Programme. Judy worked with Jack for fifteen years and continued the development of the outreach programme for the College to business and industry. They were successful years, during which Judy was a sterling support to Jack and the Course, all done with her well-known gently wry sense of humour.

## MR JOHN MOTT FRENG FICE FISSTRUCTE

18 December 1926 – 17 December 2022

Alumnus 1996–1999;  
Senior Member 2004–2022

John was a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the Institution of Structural Engineers, and a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, of which he served as Vice-President from 1986–87. A graduate of Wolfson where he achieved his BA in English in 1999, John was awarded his MA in 2004. His subsequent generous support enabled the College to establish the Wolfson English Fund to encourage and enhance the teaching of English at Wolfson.

## PROFESSOR JACK E SHEPHERD JR

14 December 1937 – 26 December 2022

Fellow 1996–1999; Senior Member 1994–1995 & 2014–2015;  
Associate Press Fellow 2001–2002; Visiting Fellow 2002–2006

Professor Jack E Shepherd Jr served as Director of the Global Security Fellows Initiative at the University of Cambridge from 1993–1999, where he taught postgraduate students as well as the mid-career professionals. Jack had various connections to Wolfson College during his Cambridge career, including as a Senior Member (1994–95 & 2014–15), Associate Press Fellow (2001–02), Fellow (1996–99), and Visiting Fellow (2002–06).

Alongside his work and teaching, Jack published over 100 articles in publications including the *New York Times*, *Look Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *Harper's*, the *Atlantic*, and *Reader's Digest*. The author of nine books, he wrote in genres ranging from satire to investigative reporting.

In 2010, based on an idea that arose from his teachings at Wolfson and later Dartmouth, Shepherd wrote *Hunger: The Biology and Politics of Starvation*, together with John Butterly. The book explores the biology of human malnutrition and associated health-related factors, the political theories of chronic malnutrition and starvation, and the historical behaviours that cause hunger and malnutrition to remain major health problems today.

Additionally, Jack published papers on environmental issues and resource scarcity in Africa, and he delivered dozens of lectures on resource scarcity, environmental refugees, and global security concerns.

## DR HENRY TRIBE

25 September 1927 – 17 November 2022

Fellow 1978–1969;  
Emeritus Fellow 1989–2022

Dr Henry Tribe MA was a Fellow of Wolfson from 1978 to 1989 and an Emeritus Fellow from 1989 to 2022. When he joined the College in 1978, Henry was Assistant Director of Research in Soil Microbiology at the University Department of Applied Biology; he retired from the Department in 1989.

## MR JAMES KINNIER WILSON FSA

27 November 1921 – 22 December 2022

Fellow 1968–1989;  
Emeritus Fellow 1989–2022

Mr James Kinnier Wilson FSA, was a Fellow of Wolfson from 1968 to 1989, Emeritus Fellow from 1989 to 2022, and a member of the College for well over 50 years.

Born in Marylebone, London, in 1921, James was the youngest son of the neurologist Samuel Alexander Kinnier Wilson. He combined a skill in reconstructing Mesopotamian epics and legends with an enduring interest in the study of the organic and mental diseases of ancient Mesopotamia, subjects on which he published during the course of his academic career.

James studied Akkadian and Hebrew at Exeter College, Oxford, after wartime service on the North-West frontier and Burma. He was appointed Lecturer in Assyriology at Durham University in 1950. Following a research year at The Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, and a lectureship at University College, Toronto, he was appointed Eric Yarrow Lecturer in Assyriology at Cambridge in 1955, a position he held until his retirement in 1989.

During that time, James was Chairman of the Faculty of Oriental Studies from 1965–67. In partnership with Margaret Munn-Rankin, he established and developed the Assyriology course until his eventual retirement in 1989.

Thanks to his participation in the work of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary, during which he edited the botanical series, *Uruanna mashtakal*, his students benefitted not only from his own innate abilities, but also from the insights he brought from the likes of Leo Oppenheim, Benno Landsberger, and Thorkild Jacobsen.

Like the Faculty, which replaced 'oriental languages' with 'oriental studies', his enquiring mind embraced a range of fascinating topics, from the menus of the kitchens at the Assyrian palace at Nimrud, to the story of Etana and the eagle, the legendary accounts of the flood and connections between Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley.

## DR MATTHEW WOOLHOUSE

30 May 1965 – 19 May 2023

Junior Research Fellow 2007–2011; Postdoctoral Research Associate 2007; Visiting Fellow 2017–2018

Matthew Harold Woolhouse (born 30th May, 1965) passed away on the 19th of May, surrounded by his family, following a battle with prostate cancer, in St Gemma's Hospice in Leeds. Matt and his wife Sarita were living in Leeds, a street away from where Matt had grown up.

Matt was the son of botanist Harold and Australian botanist and artist Leonie Woolhouse, a loving husband to Sarita, doting father to Emily and Rosalyn, and caring brother. Matt graduated from Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1989 and briefly flirted with a composition Master's in Cambridge before heading to Belgium to sing with De Vlaams Opera in Antwerp. On his return to England in 1995 he continued to sing with many leading professional ensembles (including Richard Hickox Singers, London Voices, etc.) and taught music at Westminster Kingsway FE College as well as becoming Director of Music at St Stephen's Walbrook in the

City in 1999. In 2002, he returned to academia to undertake an MPhil in Musicology at the Centre for Music and Science (CMS) in the Faculty of Music at Cambridge, staying on to complete a PhD in 2007. He then took up a research fellowship at Wolfson College, Cambridge. He joined McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario in 2011, where he was Associate Professor of Music at the time of his passing. He was a beloved teacher, ran two labs, and conducted the McMaster Symphony Orchestra.

Matt was a musician and scientist, engaging in both domains at the highest level. His research expanded from an initial focus on mathematical approaches to understanding aspects of the cognition of musical pitch. His work also embraced issues in implicit musical learning, in the social, cognitive, and therapeutic consequences of active engagement with music and dance, and in psychologically-informed approaches to Music Information Retrieval. He developed links with Nokia which provided access to a massive and unique resource that enabled him to bring together cognitive and computational treatments of music in the exploration of large-scale demographics. He worked with Hamilton City Ballet to build on earlier experiments on the effects of engaging in dance to create a computer system for use in the treatment of movement disorders, with particular reference to Parkinsons. His recent papers have explored how we experience relationships between non-adjacent musical phrases, how timbre interacts with pitch structure in our perceptions, how live and recorded music may lead to different types of embodied experiences, how we make visual sense of non-Western dance forms – and so on. Matt’s interests were diverse and eclectic – if something intrigued him he wanted to understand it and would expend huge amounts of energy in the pursuit of that understanding, but his approach was always rigorous and empathetic.

Music was a part of him. While in the CMS and at Wolfson, Matt wrote many pieces for the College choir (including a piece just a few weeks before his passing) and sang and performed, always happy to stand in to conduct or direct when the need arose. Matt’s musical persona, evident in the pieces that he wrote for the choir, was always confident and open but never overbearing. At times music simply poured out of him, as when sitting at the piano improvising in the style of JS Bach while having a casual conversation; when asked how he was doing it, he simply replied (as he continued to play) “No idea. Not a clue – I just don’t think about it and it happens.”

Matt also had many hobbies and passions. He loved gardening and DIY, and was always building or fixing something, whether raised beds, a greenhouse, or a trellis for grape vines. He was fascinated by vintage cars, doodled

caricatures, and turned scrap wood into beautiful sculptures. Though half-Australian, Matt was a Yorkshireman, and one of the most English people one could meet – a large and gentle soul, but fiercely committed to what he believed in and to those he loved. He was the best that England has to offer in his selfless kindness and care for those with whom he worked and whom he taught. Like all musicians, Matt was willing to make sacrifices to get it right or at least to try to do it in style, perhaps best seen on one occasion when he appeared with a large splint on a finger, rendering him completely incapable of playing piano or typing. It transpired that he had been playing cricket and had broken his finger in attempting to pluck the ball out of the air from very close range. When remonstrated with, he acknowledged that he had been somewhat unwise, but excused himself by saying (a little wistfully) “But it would have been a great catch...”.

## MRS ELEANOR ‘CUSTIS’ WRIGHT

5 November 1924 – 21 January 2023

Senior Member 2000–2023

Mrs Wright, known as Custis, was appointed Honorary Senior Member in the year 2000, on the death of her husband who had been an HSM since 1986. She was also benefactor of the College.

She accompanied her husband Professor Charles Alan Wright of the University of Texas Law School, on numerous overseas stints teaching law. These included several visits to Cambridge and especially his time at Wolfson in 1990–91 as the visiting Goodhart Professor. A keen golfer, Custis played on many of the famous golf courses in the UK, and was also a member of Cambridge Ramblers.



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Please send any recent news which you would like to share with your fellow Wolfson members to [rspv@wolfson.cam.ac.uk](mailto:rspv@wolfson.cam.ac.uk). Your news may be included in *Ring True* or on the College website or social media accounts

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Check the website for ongoing events, exhibitions and concerts and sign up for our weekly events newsletter *What's on at Wolfson* [wolfson.cam.ac.uk/whats-on](http://wolfson.cam.ac.uk/whats-on).

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Published in 2023  
by Wolfson College Cambridge,  
Barton Road  
Cambridge CB3 9BB.

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Editor: Nick Osbourne  
Co-editor: Joseph Cotton  
Design: © Smith ([www.smithltd.co.uk](http://www.smithltd.co.uk)).

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Photography:  
Joseph Cotton

Additional photography:  
Emma Burbidge, Sian Cook, Alex Lau, Dik Ng, and  
Cambridge University Sport.

Image credits:  
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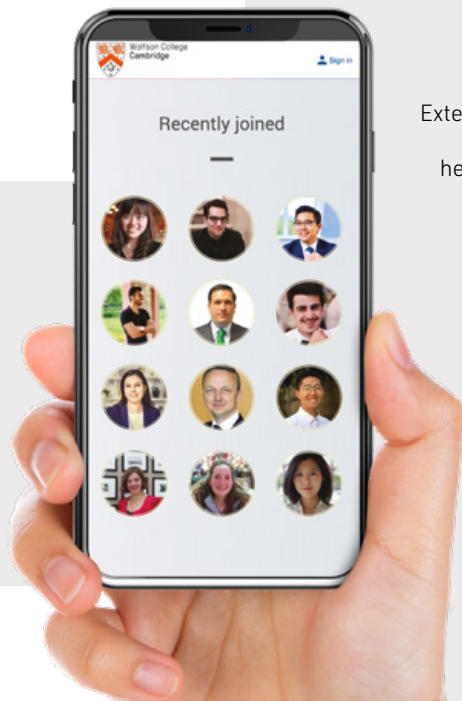
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# Alumni Events

2024

Thursday 18 January  
London Drinks  
Reception

Friday 2 February  
Halfway Drinks

Saturday 17 February  
Sir David Williams  
Law Society Dinner

Saturday 2 March  
Varsity Rugby Match

Saturday 9 March  
WCBC Lent Term  
Dinner

Sunday 17 March  
Wolfson Enterprise  
Competition

25-30 April  
Wolfson in the USA  
– East Coast

Friday 14 June  
May Bumps Boat  
Race & Marquee

Saturday 15 June  
WCBC May Bumps  
Dinner

Sunday 16 June  
College Garden Party

Friday 21 June  
May Ball

Friday 28 June  
Foundation Day  
Online Celebration





Wednesday 10 July  
4th Annual S&C Hub  
Celebration

Saturday 21  
– Sunday 22 September  
Alumni Reunion  
Weekend



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