Welcome to the first issue of our new newsletter Ring True. We are sending this out to keep you up to date with developments at Wolfson. The Magazine will continue to be published annually as the main record of the College. It will have expanded space for news of members and more articles of general interest.

We are just over halfway through the present academic year, with around 800 students from over eighty different countries living and working together.

Most of our students are pursuing original research for the PhD degree, or are taking advanced Masters’ courses. Wolfson is now a popular first choice for graduate students coming to Cambridge and it looks as though the number of applicants for October 2002 will be higher than ever before.

Competition from mature and affiliated students seeking admission to study for the BA degree is also fierce. We are set to reach our target of having too such students in residence next October.

The College has joined with the University in offering places to those on a new fast-track medical course. This is designed to encourage graduates in the humanities, social and physical sciences to enter the medical profession.

Wolfson has grown steadily over the past ten years and we are now nearing our optimal size. So far, emphasis has been on increasing the number of research students, so crucial to the life of the College and the intellectual vitality of Cambridge.

For the final phase of our expansion we are looking to those taking the University’s new professional Masters’ courses. These require intensive periods of study in Cambridge coupled with assigned course-work done away from Cambridge while the student remains in normal employment.

The College’s commitment to vocational education and collaborative research is highlighted by recent distinguished appointments won by two of our Professorial Fellows: Andrew Pollard, in the School of Education, is Director of the UK’s Teaching and Learning Research Programme, while Nick Oliver, in the Judge Institute of Management Studies, is one of the four Directors of the Cambridge-MIT Institute with special responsibility for professional practice.

Wolfson received its Royal Charter as a full-fledged College in 1977, and in November of that year Her Majesty the Queen officially opened the new buildings provided largely by the munificence of the Wolfson Foundation. We look forward to celebrating the anniversary of that event this November, and I hope that many members of the college will be able to join us then.

Gordon Johnson
March 2002

Contents

Building on success
Plans for a new recreational block

College News
The latest news and events this term

Travelling Fellowship/
Meeting our Alumni
Bill Kirkman and his forthcoming trip to India

Dates for your Diary
Keeping you up to date with the forthcoming events

How you can help Wolfson
How you can contribute to the development of Wolfson College
Building on Success

As Cambridge develops innovative Masters’ courses to meet the demands of professional refreshment through post experience and industrial outreach programmes, so Wolfson has developed the vital collegiate site for these courses to flourish. The College has already gained much experience in providing facilities for post-experience and career integrated students attending Cambridge University, through the provision of residential accommodation and meeting rooms during the vacations. The growth of these courses is such that they could be offered throughout the year with the added benefit that these students would have a full exposure to university lectures and other term time events.

As part of Wolfson’s strategy to further strengthen its collegiate reputation, a new building has been proposed which will enhance the current facilities for post-experience students who come to Cambridge for short but intensive periods. Facilities will include a fifty seat lecture room, six syndicate rooms, a common room, thirty large and twelve standard en suite rooms, plus two flats for course leaders or visiting fellows.

Wolfson’s response is to propose a new building dedicated to the needs of a wide range of students who come to Cambridge for short but intensive periods of study. The new building would occupy a distinctive position facing the Barton Road to the south of the residential building opened in 1995. It will provide a fifty seat lecture room, six syndicate rooms, a common room, thirty large and twelve standard en suite rooms, plus two flats for course leaders or visiting fellows, together with service and storage rooms. This development of about 2500m² will cost around £3 million.

As an integral part of the new building programme, and to enhance the overall facilities of the College campus for all Wolfson members, a new recreational block will also be built, comprising gym, squash court and swimming pool, together with a music room and adjacent practice rooms. This three storey building covering 1100m² will cost a further £2.5 million. Not only will it prove attractive to the “executive” student but it will provide a communal facility for all the College’s population of nearly 1000 members.

We have already raised a significant sum of money towards this project, but to take these plans forward we need further funding. We would be keen to hear from you if you are able to help personally with a donation or perhaps you might be able to introduce the College to a major benefactor.

(For further information contact: The Bursar, John Seagrave, tel: +44 (0)1223 335039 or email: jrs40@cam.ac.uk)

View of proposed building from the Barton Road

Site plan illustrating the plan for the new building programme
College News

Keeping you up to date

Many congratulations to Dr Eric Kerrigan (Junior Research Fellow) and Dr Manish Chhowalla (Fellow) who have been elected to Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellowships.

Members of the College will also be delighted to learn that Mr Jack N King (Honorary Fellow) was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours List and Professor Roger Needham (Fellow) was awarded a CBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List.

Yet another innovative programme began in the Michaelmas term with Cambridge welcoming the first of the Gates Cambridge Scholars. Thanks to the generosity of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation an initiative has been set up to enable gifted graduates from all over the world to study at Cambridge. Wolfson was delighted to welcome 14 scholars this year.

Members of the College will be delighted to know that Professor Mary Hesse FBA, Fellow of the College since 1966 and Honorary Fellow since 1994 is to receive the degree of Doctor of Science honoris causa at the Congregation in the Senate House on 24 June 2002.

Medicine in Demand

The four-year graduate course in medicine commenced in October 2001. Such was the demand for places that 85 candidates were interviewed for 20 places. At Wolfson 8 candidates were accepted. This graduate course is targeted at those who have a previous degree, be it in a science or arts subject, and aims to integrate basic medical clinical subjects throughout the four years. Within the next five years the number of medical students at Wolfson is expected to rise to between 30–40, a splendid contribution to our nation’s desperate medical manpower shortage.

Don Wilson Retirement

Don Wilson retired as Director of the Wolfson Course at the end of the Michaelmas term. His successor is Ms Anne McGowan. A graduate of Lucy Cavendish, Anne has a first degree, MPhil and MLitt in History, and is planning to begin a PhD when work commitments allow. Anne brings a unique perspective to the Wolfson Course, not least the understanding that ‘mature’ has to comprise a vast category of very different individuals, and that it will not be appropriate for all of those to study full-time. The Wolfson Course is an important part of college life; Anne intends to make sure that it remains as high profile as it has done in the past.

Cosmopolitan reputation

Wolfson now has 836 students from 84 countries so our reputation as being the most cosmopolitan college in Cambridge continues to grow. These record student numbers meant that our first ever accommodation crisis was narrowly averted at the start of the Michaelmas Term 2001 when Wolfson, despite having more rooms for its students than any other college, had an unprecedented surge of admissions. After much effort Marilyn Motley, our accommodation officer, managed to squeeze in everyone. Three matriculation dinners were needed, with the President introducing subtle changes in each of his welcoming addresses, if only to retain the attention of the college officers.

College Magazine

If you have not received the latest issue of the College Magazine, (no. 26, 1999–2001) and you would like a copy, please contact:

Mrs Julie M Jones, College Secretary:
TEL: +44 (0)1223 335935 or EMAIL: jmj10@cam.ac.uk
Our Travelling Fellowship/Meeting Our Alumni

Bill Kirkman will be visiting India in March-April this year to conduct interviews for the Press Fellowship Programme. He will be happy to meet all Wolfson Members in Chennai on 26 March 2002, in Delhi on 28 March 2002 and in Kolkata on 4 April 2002. Notices have been sent out, but further details can be obtained via e-mail from jmj10@cam.ac.uk.

Gordon Johnson will be in the USA (Seattle) on behalf of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship programme on 8 April 2002; he will be speaking at the Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race Dinner in San Francisco on 9 April 2002 and he will be meeting Wolfson College Alumni in Austin, Texas on 13 April 2002.

Stephen Large will be visiting Japan between 25 March and 25 April 2002 and he will be attending the spring meeting of the Wolfson College Cambridge Association of Japan on 14 April 2002. Further details via e-mail from NaitouKenji@aol.com.

Plans are progressing for Gordon and Faith Johnson to meet with Irish Alumni at University College, Cork on 20 May 2002 and at Trinity College, Dublin on 21 May 2002. Notices have been sent out, but further information can be obtained via e-mail from ss406@cam.ac.uk.

There are provisional plans for the Bursar, John Seagrave, to visit Wolfson College alumni in Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore in September 2002.

How you can help Wolfson College

How You Can Help Wolfson College
Our Alumni are a living link between Wolfson past and Wolfson future. The College continues to grow and play an active part as a constituent part of the College of the University. Our current and future students need your support to meet these challenges.

Some of our immediate needs include the following:

The Wolfson Isaac Newton Fund
In 2000 the Sir Isaac Newton Trust generously offered the College £35,000 per annum for five years. The condition attached to this grant is that the College must match this sum annually to create an endowment of £350,000, the income (approximately £14,000 pa) from which would be used for student support. It is very encouraging to be able to report that we have succeeded in matching the Trust’s £35,000 for the first two years. We must however ensure that we continue to raise this amount annually until 2005. By succeeding we will ensure that the outstanding young men and women who come to Wolfson in the future can be supported in their endeavours.

The Lee Library
Dr Lee Seng Tee’s gift of the magnificent library building in 1994 has meant that Wolfson is unique among the Cambridge graduate colleges in having such a first class library service for its community and it is a vital resource in attracting the best students to the College. With student numbers increasing more demands are being placed on this service, while the cost of providing both printed and electronic resources continues to rise dramatically.

In the Elizabeth Williams Library Fund we have a foundation for a permanent endowment for the Library. Without doubt, we must continue to build on this fund to provide for the needs of members of Wolfson College involved in courses of study at the University of Cambridge.

To take these plans forward, we invite you to help, in one or more of the following ways:

Individual Gift Aid Donation
Corporate Gift Aid Donation
Gifts of Shares and Securities
Introducing a Friend

For further information, please contact: The Bursar, Dr John Seagrave, Tel: +44(0)1223 335 939 or Email: jrs40@cam.ac.uk