FROM THE EDITOR

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Conrad Guettler
ditor@wolfson.cam.ac.uk

Front Cover: (left to right): Andrew Goldman, Stephanie Ware and Amber Ruigrok. Harpsichord donated by Wolfson Fellow, Professor Brian Moore FRS.
Cover photograph: Fran May
Design: H2 Associates, Cambridge

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Like many other heads of Cambridge Colleges I am, among other things, a working academic, teaching and lecturing (in my case) in the History Faculty, researching and writing books, articles and reviews. This is also my fourth (and final) year as Gresham Professor of Rhetoric, which involves giving six public lectures a year on History for Gresham College, an old-established City institution, in London.

In addition, I’m involved in a variety of activities outside academia, most notably the Spoliation Advisory Panel, which advises the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on claims for the return from British public galleries and museums of art that was looted during the Nazi era. And – coincidentally – I’ve been for some years a judge of the annual Wolfson Foundation History Prize, which awards up to £50,000 to the two best-researched and most readable books each year written by British historians resident in the UK.

So while the College always has the first claim on my time, its claim is not exclusive. This is the case with all College heads, whether they are working academics, or retired ambassadors, or senior civil servants, or lawyers, or from some other walk of life. In various ways, engagement with the world outside the College keeps us from becoming too inward-looking, and enables us to make contacts, gather information, and try to bring to bear such influence as we have on the College’s behalf. A case in point is my participation in an ongoing series of discussions taking place over dinner with David Willetts, Minister of State for Universities and Science and organised by the Royal Historical Society. As well as voicing our concerns about History at the universities, I’ve been able to put to him arguments about research funding for the Humanities, support for graduate students, concerns about the difficulties of obtaining visas for overseas students, and other issues that directly affect the future well-being of the College.

Like other research-active academics, I’m preparing for the national Research Excellence Framework, in which every university department is assessed and awarded points for research excellence, forming the basis for infrastructure funding over the next five years. The College generously helped by granting me sabbatical leave for Michaelmas Term 2012, to run concurrently with my leave from the Faculty of History, freeing up my time to devote myself to writing and research. The Vice-President carried out my duties while I was tied to my word-processor, and I’m extremely grateful to him for doing so with such efficiency and aplomb. I got a lot done during the term; but I’m very glad to be back after my break, to take a full part in the activities of the College once more.
CONSPIRACY THEORIES  Professor Sir Richard Evans

Every year the Leverhulme Trust invites applications for three Programme Grants, for which it prescribes the topics of investigation. One topic in the 2012 funding round was ‘Conspiracies’, and since this touched on a number of my own interests, from conspiratorial interpretations of history to nineteenth-century secret societies, I put together an application. Once the preliminary case had been accepted by CRASSH — Cambridge’s Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities — which was co-ordinating the bid, I followed their advice and broadened it to make it genuinely interdisciplinary, with co-investigators Professor John Naughton, our Vice-President and an internet engineer by background, and Professor David Runciman, a political theorist in the Politics and International Studies Department.

Together we put forward an ambitious five-year programme involving the appointment of six postdoctoral research fellows, visiting speakers and fellows, and regular seminars and lectures, based in CRASSH, on ‘Conspiracy and Democracy’. We will test the hypothesis that while authoritarian and dictatorial governments suspect the people of conspiring against them, because opposition can only be carried out in secret, democratic political systems create the expectation of transparency in decision-making, an expectation that can never be wholly met, so that the people end up by suspecting government of conspiring against them, above all in the age of the internet. We were awarded £1.58 million by the Trust, and the next five years will see whether our hypotheses stand the test of rigorous research.

DOUBLE QUEEN’S AWARDS FOR CAMBRIDGE TECHNOLOGY COMPANY

Ten years ago, Wolfson Senior Member Dr Rupert Curwen founded a company, Ubisense, with colleagues Dr Andy Ward, Dr Paul Webster and Mr Pete Steggles. Today, Ubisense is going from strength to strength. In 2012, Ubisense won the Queen’s Award for Innovation, and also for International Trade. The Award for International Trade recognised Ubisense’s outstanding growth in overseas earnings, with export markets now representing 97% of total revenue. The Award for Innovation was given for developing a real-time, location-tracking system for complex manufacturing processes through multiple factories in multiple countries. Last October, the company hosted HRH The Duke of York as part of a meeting with Cambridge business innovators. Founders Rupert (below left) and Pete Steggles (below centre) demonstrated the Ubisense tracking system which is, for example, used in the production of the Airbus A380 super-jumbo.

RESEARCH & NEWS

News in Brief

ALUMNA The Reverend Eileen Harrop was the first woman from South East Asia to be ordained a Minister of the Church of England.

ALUMNUS Vojtech Olle was awarded a Marie Curie Early Career Fellowship for two years to work on low noise and high power short pulse generation from semiconductor devices.

WOLFSON MEMBER Stephen Munday, Executive Principal of Comberton Village College, was made a CBE in the 2013 New Year Honours for improving education for pupils across the country.

SENIOR MEMBER Sherry Coutu was awarded a CBE in the 2013 New Year Honours, in recognition of her support of UK start-ups and services to entrepreneurship.
CAMBRIDGE IN 2033

John Naughton, Vice-President
Last October the University’s Vice-Chancellor, and Wolfson Honorary Fellow, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, gave his annual address in the Senate House. In it, he set out the University’s ambitions for the next two decades. His message was that the University needs to grow, but also that it needs to change to adapt to new conditions. There is, however, one area where it will not grow – undergraduate numbers, which will be capped at the present level of 12,000. From now on, all the growth will be in postgraduate student numbers, which will increase annually over the next ten years. Given that Wolfson is primarily a postgraduate College, this is significant for us.

The motivation behind this switch of emphasis is the need to sustain the University’s excellence in research. This requires a small army of postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers. But where are these students and researchers to live? As far as the

From now on, all the growth will be in postgraduate student numbers, which will increase annually over the next ten years. The former are concerned, the University hopes that the Colleges will provide accommodation for many of them. But property prices in Cambridge mean that the housing position of postgrads and postdocs in Cambridge is dire and getting worse. And that is one of the drivers behind the biggest expansion project in Cambridge’s history – the North-West Cambridge development, which is now getting under way.

It’s a truly massive project – a 150-hectare site between Huntingdon Road and the M11 which will eventually house 2,000 graduate students and provide 1,500 rental homes for University and College employees, 1,500 homes for sale and 100,000 square metres of research space (including up to 40,000 square metres for external research institutes and facilities linked to the University).

The North-West Cambridge development, plus the plans for expansion of biosciences on the Addenbrooke’s site, suggest that the shape of the University will change quite radically over the next two decades. Wolfson aims to play an important role in this process of change.
MEET THE COLLEGE

Wolfson’s unique sense of community is the result of its diverse and lively membership. Here, *Ring True* meets a selection of College members.

ESTER ORAS  STUDENT

Ester arrived in Cambridge in 2010 to conduct research on the Iron Age archaeology of the Baltic region. She aims to look at archaeology from a variety of perspectives and introduce the subject to a wider audience. She explains: “Wolfson has contributed much to achieving these goals. Its warm and friendly atmosphere, well-organised and supportive College team, and the variety of subject specialists have opened my eyes more widely to different people, cultures and subjects and helped me to spread ‘my word’ as well.”

She feels the variety of events and societies is almost overwhelming but, for her, the highlights of the College community are Wolfson Howlers, yoga classes, Saturday brunch and just meeting friends in the Club Room after a hard day’s work.

MIKE WIGNALL  HEAD PORTER

Mike joined Wolfson in 2008 as Deputy Head Porter after working in the motor trade and as a Security Officer at the Palace of Westminster.

He says: “You may hear people say that they have the job of their life, and question whether that really happens. Well, since becoming Head Porter in August 2011, it is certainly true in my case. Wolfson is a wonderful place to work. They’ve even built me an office under the main stairs, although I still have a slight suspicion that their kindness to do so might have been so that they could call it a ‘grotto’ or call me “Harry Porter.”

Mike’s typical day might involve dealing with security matters, solving first aid issues, organising staffing, attending meetings, culling decrepit bicycles, trying to answer many and varied questions (what shall we do about a deer with its head stuck in the College railings?), dealing with flooded bedrooms at midnight or giving impromptu talks to visiting overseas students.

The job is “always a challenge, endlessly different and always interesting,” he says, adding, “I am very lucky to have great staff in the Porters’ Lodge to stop me from getting too big-headed about it all.”

By the way, the deer escaped unscathed.

GABRIEL M ROSENBAUM  VISITING FELLOW

Gabriel, Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was a Visiting Fellow in 2003-2004 and is back for one and a half terms. He specialises in Modern Egyptian Arabic language, literature and popular culture.

He is accompanied by his wife, Michal, a teacher working on the development of social awareness and mutual respect among early elementary school pupils. Michal is also a Visiting Fellow.

Gabriel is now finishing a book on Egyptian Arabic as a literary language and explains: “Traditionally, Egyptian literature has been written in Standard Arabic, with strict cultural norms prohibiting writing in the colloquial. For the first time, and exclusively to Egypt, many works are now written in the Cairene dialect that has become a second written language.

Cambridge is an inspiring place, Wolfson such a welcoming College, and Michal and I hope to come back soon.”
JOCelyn ProBERT
College research
associate

Jocelyn joined Wolfson in 1998 as a PhD student and is currently researching the financing of innovative start-ups and collaborations between university, industry and broader society at the Centre for Business Research, Judge Business School.

“After 15 years working in Japan and France, returning to the UK as a student could have been quite daunting,” says Jocelyn, “but Wolfson was perfect for me with its diverse body of international students and visitors. It’s always a pleasure to come to Formal Hall and other evening events because I meet people doing amazing things in fields far from my own research.”

Jocelyn contributes to College life by helping international students to finalise their dissertations, saying: “It’s a great way to ‘give back’ a little to a College that has given me so much over the years.”

LOU FIORAVANTI
student and WCSA green officer

Lou is a second-year English undergraduate who always dreamed of studying at Cambridge. He says: “I am now living the dream! I am a member of the rowing team, and a crazy Wolfson supporter. Wolfson is, after all, the place where my dream is coming true.”

He shows a keen interest in recycling and small-scale energy production, and this has contributed to him becoming WCSA Green Officer and a member of the Carbon Reduction Committee. He is proud that “Wolfson is quietly becoming one of the Colleges leading the implementation of environmental policies in the University.” His main aim is to help implement user-friendly green policies at Wolfson, such as more unified recycling, and to ensure Wolfson’s prominence in the University’s green agenda.

KEI MIYAMOTO FELLOW

Kei came to Cambridge from Kyoto University and is working with 2012 Nobel Prize winner Professor John Gurdon. He describes his research as “aiming to understand how adult cells are reprogrammed to become embryonic cells in eggs” because “this is important to improve current technologies for future regenerative medicine.”

He continues: “I really wanted to experience collegiate life, because Japanese universities don’t have a college system. Ever since I became a Fellow, I have been enjoying the friendly atmosphere of Wolfson. I am often inspired by conversations and delighted to learn something new from College members.”
**KAZUO TERANISHI PRESS FELLOW**

Kazuo is economic correspondent for Japanese newspaper *The Asahi Shimbun* and, as a Wolfson Press Fellow, is researching the government debt issue in the Euro area and Japan. Following up on previous visits, he is interviewing politicians and economic experts in the Eurozone countries and explains: “Japan has the highest government debt ratio among the advanced countries. We might learn lessons from this crisis.”

The media environment has changed fundamentally with the advent of social media and he considers that “it is essential that we as journalists make great efforts to understand what is happening, and we then must reflect the experience of people, and not just of official government news sources.”

**JENNY SARGENT COLLEGE LIBRARIAN**

Jenny took up the post of Librarian in the Lee Seng Tee Library last April and describes her role with enthusiasm: “Being a College Librarian is not just about shelving and cataloguing books and it’s certainly not, as many of my friends and family seem to think, about reading them! There’s a great deal of communicating to be done, and a lot of work involved in trying to achieve a pleasant and safe environment for study and in keeping abreast of the changing information needs of our students.”

Jenny is delighted she has been able to get involved in College life: she convenes the Contemporary Reading Group, and has joined the Choir, saying, “Both these activities give me the chance to meet Wolfson members whom I wouldn’t necessarily encounter in the Library, and enhance my feeling of being part of the community.”

**DAVID JACQUES ALUMNUS**

David’s archaeological team has discovered remains of the oldest domestic site in Amesbury near Stonehenge, showing it was inhabited far earlier than previously thought. Their discovery has been featured on BBC television. He says: “The support I have received from Wolfson, from student through to the present day, has led directly to this discovery.”

**ZHAO NG STUDENT**

After spending two years firing M-16s in the Singapore army and one year in Paris wrestling with squealing French bébés, Zhao came to Cambridge and says: “After my nomadic gap-years, Wolfson felt like home.” Now a third-year English undergraduate, Zhao describes her studies as “a somewhat unhealthy penchant for literary theory [that] has led me to gender and psychoanalytic criticism, and has turned me into a pathological fan of such academic superstars as Butler, Irigaray and Derrida.”

Multicultural and multinational Wolfson has been a good fit for Zhao, who is transgendered and transcontinental herself. She says: “I have found friends here, and am, without a doubt, the happiest I’ve been”.

**FRIEDA MIDGLEY ARCHIVIST AND RECORDS MANAGER**

Frieda arrived at Wolfson in January as Wolfson’s first Archivist and says that she is “excited to have the opportunity” to undertake the important job of archiving Wolfson’s many documents and artefacts. She has ambitious exhibition plans for the collection.
CULTURE & SPORT

A MUSICAL MICHAELMAS TERM
Lynette Alcântara, Director of Music

Michaelmas saw the start of a new Wolfson Music Society venture: Early Music recitals in the Lee Hall before occasional Formal Halls. Performers included harpsichordists Dan Tidhar and Francis Knights, baroque oboist Kim Ashton, and cellist Emily Ashton. And there was an extraordinary performance of Beethoven and Rachmaninov given by world-class cellist Leonid Grigarokh and pianist Olga Vinokur at a Music and Madeira evening.

At 'Feel the Spirit' (the Michaelmas Term concert), Wolfson’s Choir gave an exuberant performance of five Spirituals from Tippett’s A Child of Our Time. Student soloists included guitarist Georgios Drakakis and singer Curtis Sharma. In November, Wolfson music lovers attended a performance at West Road concert hall of Samuel Barber’s Piano Concerto, played by Wolfson’s own Andrew Goldman (joint winner of last year’s CUMS Concerto Prize).

At the College Advent Service we were fortunate to have King’s College junior organ scholar, Douglas Tan, play the organ for us, and we premiered a new carol, In the Starry Night, by Jamie Hall.

FINE ARTS EXHIBITIONS
Margaret Greeves, Emeritus Fellow

The first of a series of temporary exhibitions in the Gallery outside the Dining Hall resulted from a partnership with the Fry Art Gallery, Saffron Walden. During Michaelmas Term, College had the loan of the London Market series, a set of six colourful lithographs from Edward Bawden’s linocuts of the 1960s. These conjured up the original meat, fish, fruit and vegetable markets, Smithfield, Billingsgate and Covent Garden.

The Lent Term show is of unusual paintings and prints by distinguished realist painter and printmaker Anthony Green RA, with the generous assistance of the artist. The ten works have been selected by Dr Frank Whitford, Senior Member, on behalf of the Fine Arts Committee, and feature Green’s warm family life, which he hopes may "brighten your day". Future plans include an exhibition of Edward Bawden’s series of illustrations of Aesop’s fables, again from the Fry Art Gallery.

BOAT CLUB
Rasha Rezk, Captain

WCBC welcomed a mix of new members in Michaelmas, experienced as well as novice rowers, and senior rowers and alumni who returned to coach us. New to our senior coaching team was alumna Stephanie Rehkuh, and, together with our coaches from Rob Roy BC, we all enjoyed a very exciting and hard-working Term preparing for Lent Bumps.

February saw a 24-Hour Ergo Challenge to raise money for a much-needed new set of blades for our W1 crew, as well as for a lightweight scull, which will help us maintain the range of competitions entered. Many rowers and non-boatie friends took part, and we are grateful to the alumni and Friends of WCBC who support our fundraising activities.

FOOTBALL
Ben Jones, Captain and Treasurer

After a 2011-12 season of transition, the Wolfson College Football Club made a good start this season. With a new Captain and record levels of attendance at both training and match days, our hopes were high, not only for immediate success, but for stability in the long term. The team is currently challenging for promotion to the first division of the MCR league and also has the Cup competition to look forward to. We are grateful that WCSA has also acknowledged the revival of one of the College’s best attended clubs by supporting the team through funding the purchase of a new playing strip, reflecting the College crest and colours.
FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

KAREN STEPHENSON

What makes Wolfson’s members special?

As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2015, I have been speaking to a wide range of our membership to try to find what it is that gives Wolfson’s members the strong affinity to our College that we see all around us. Members of Wolfson take very different routes to make their way here and come from many different places – both physically and emotionally – and bring with them a whole raft of experiences. And yet once here, they join the common purpose of intellectual ambition and social inclusiveness that is Wolfson.

We are fortunate that our membership is so international, and that our College has been – from the very beginning – egalitarian and outward-looking: the first College to admit both women and men as students and Fellows, and with no high-table dining to separate the membership.

So one answer could be that Wolfson is a place that unites people from diverse backgrounds, through a variety of journeys, and helps them to fulfil their academic potential. It promotes active engagement with those different from ourselves, from whom we learn and among whom we find a common purpose. And Wolfson’s members take those lessons with them into the wider world, for the good of society.

One initiative for our 50th anniversary is Wolfson in 50 words. Do send us your thoughts on what Wolfson means to you: communications@wolfson.cam.ac.uk

We’ll compile them for the website to capture a picture of Wolfson – created by its members.

Wolfson film: ‘Ring True’

During the past 12 months, we have been making a film which captures a year in the life of Wolfson College. Through its alumni, students, Fellows and staff, ‘Ring True’ tells the story of our foundation and history, and of those who have built the College to what it is today: the largest Cambridge College for mature undergraduates and graduate students, growing from one building and six students at its inception to almost 1,000 students today and a site of nine acres. As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2015, the film also looks to our future.

A short version of the film is on the College website, and the full version is available as a limited edition DVD. Contact alumni@wolfson.cam.ac.uk to buy your copy.

Our future: our focus

Wolfson’s students are at the heart of our fundraising drive for Wolfson’s 50th anniversary: bursaries, scholarships, conference grants, academic prizes and improved accommodation and facilities are all needed to help us attract and retain more excellent students and researchers, who will change the world. Read more about the Wolfson Fund and the students we have been able to support on our website, and join us in our endeavours at www.WolfsonGiving.com

Our College has been – from the very beginning – egalitarian and outward-looking.

Fran May

Keith Hepwell

what makes wolfson’s members special?
WHAT CAN WOLFSON DO FOR YOU?
We’ve enhanced the privileges available to Wolfson members around the world, and thought this would be a good place to show what your College can offer you. Alumni of Wolfson College are welcome to:

- Join the Wolfson Network, including a searchable worldwide database of members and access to a Wolfson email for life – sign up at www.WolfsonNetwork.com
- Come in to College for lunch and dinner (including Formal Hall) – relevant costs are on the website at www.wolfson.cam.ac.uk/catering and bookings can be made at www.formalhall.wolfson.cam.ac.uk
- Receive College publications – keep us up to date with your contact details by emailing communications@wolfson.cam.ac.uk
- Join the Wolfson career mentoring scheme – sign up at www.WolfsonNetwork.com
- Receive invitations and notifications from Wolfson about worldwide events – keep us up to date with your email address by emailing communications@wolfson.cam.ac.uk
- Rent overnight accommodation, when available – contact accommodation@wolfson.cam.ac.uk
- Receive your invitation to a year-group reunion in College every five years – keep us up to date with your email address by emailing communications@wolfson.cam.ac.uk
- Receive notification each time our events calendar (www.WolfsonEvents.com) is updated – set your profile preferences at www.WolfsonNetwork.com

Wolfson seminars and lectures are now online on our podcast page. For a direct link, you can scan the QR code with your mobile, or visit: www.wolfson.cam.ac.uk/podcasts

WCSA NEWS
Anastasia Kamenska, WCSA President
The main aims of this year’s Committee are to bring fresh energy and excitement to College life; to enhance the strong sense of community among Wolfsonians; and to strengthen the link between the Committee and our student body.

So far, we have set up a series of WCSA Student Surgeries to understand better the needs and concerns of fellow students and improve the transparency of our work. As we write this, we are trying hard to approach and involve as many Wolfsonians as possible. While continuing with previously successful events, we are also striving to introduce new ones, such as screening a series of Green movies (‘Can’ Film Festival), a Charity Casino Night with alumni, and a Children’s Craft afternoon. In order to reach more students, we are improving our advertising by providing term cards, refining the Weekly e-Bulletin and arranging more attractive noticeboards.

We are also planning joint events with our sister College in Oxford, St Antony’s, as well as with our neighbouring Colleges to re-establish the West Group Alliance. So get inWolfed!

Some members of the WCSA team (left to right): Julian Conrad, Lou Fioravanti, Anastasia Kamenska, Sasha East, Krista Kemppinen and Curtis Sharma.
**GARDENING: SUNHAT OR UMBRELLA?**

PHIL STIGWOOD, HEAD GARDENER

2011 was the driest year since 1922 and then 2012 was the wettest year since records began, with widespread flooding and chaos! So what does the future hold for gardeners and gardens in Cambridge?

Cambridge is historically the driest region in Britain and we gardeners were being encouraged to grow drought-tolerant Mediterranean plants like lavender, sedum and artemisia to cope with the dry weather and warming climate. However, these plants do not tolerate extremely cold winters and wet summers, which have become the norm recently, and are thus dying as a result.

For the sake of sun-loving plants and gardeners alike, let us hope for a warm, dry summer this year!

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