The 2020–2021 academic year saw Wolfson College emphatically engage with the world. Under the yoke of the pandemic, and despite all the restrictions, roadblocks and ever-changing regulations we faced, the College did not simply ‘manage’, we thrived.

Whether online or in the open air, we found creative ways of sharing our research, our ideas, and our insight. We found new and powerful methods to draw our global community closer together. And more than ever, we witnessed the Wolfson community step up to tackle the big issues of today. Our communal successes are certainly worth highlighting here. They are successes achieved through the collective will of our entire community: staff, students, Fellows, alumni, donors, senior members, and researchers. And they are no better exemplified than in the work of our Interdisciplinary Research Hubs: Gender, Global Health, and Sustainability and Conservation.

We launched the Hubs in July 2020, bringing together Wolfson members from across six continents and from all different disciplines to examine and tackle the most pressing and urgent challenges facing the world. Their work has been exceptional.

While the pandemic appeared to exacerbate gendered issues and highlight a prevailing gender inequality, the Gender Research Hub created challenging and eye-opening events to spotlight many of the problems at play. Whether it was bringing together academics and activists to give voice to feminist movements outside the Euro-American world, hosting international sex workers and activists to challenge prejudice and harassment, or collaborating with the WCSA Welfare team for an event to highlight violence against women, the Gender Hub made a huge impact in College and beyond. The pandemic has of course driven conversations about long-term health and the future of our global communities, and The Global Health Hub faced these questions head on, particularly at the excellent Making the ‘Urban’ Better event in February this year.

And as we stare down the barrel of climate catastrophe, the Sustainability and Conservation Hub did some extraordinary work over the year, setting up a ‘Living Lab’ to support projects that have a green impact, sharing sustainability insight and success stories, facilitating mentoring, sharing a conference with the ASEAN early career researchers network, as well as many more bold activities to tackle the most urgent challenge of our time.

Beyond the Hubs, you’ll remember that we were all reeling from the shocking murder of George Floyd in 2020. After witnessing the events that followed, I challenged Wolfson to engage directly with the issue and face up to our own failings and responsibilities, to listen and learn more, and to explore the positive outcomes that we can take as a community. I was taken aback by the passion and commitment unleashed by this challenge.

We set up the Let’s Talk About Race and Racism initiative, and the work of this group, in particular the activities of our students, has already left a big imprint at Wolfson: workshops, a film series, an incisive and illuminating Windrush Day conference, a podcast series on black and minority ethnic experience called Shade in Cambridge, and a collaboration with CB Mentoring to provide tutors for Black and Asian young people in and around Cambridge. Talks organised by the participants ranged from explorations of the history of British Bangladeshis to the incredible story of Britain’s first Black psychoanalyst. We also took the opportunity to explore The Rules of Racial Standing at our annual Lee Lecture. Through these collective efforts, we have learned so much as a community.

The broader intellectual, cultural and social life of the College flourished over the year too. Look back at our calendar of online activities – all free and open to all – you see a dizzying list of inspirational events: scores of society talks, musical performances, a first Wolfson Enterprise Competition, alumni events, a Foundation Day celebration, and more. The way everyone has stepped up to the challenge has been exceptional.

And we have seen some of our talented sportspeople achieve great success, despite the blanket disruption of the pandemic. Our Blues, our women’s first boat who had a successful regatta, and our men’s football team, who would have won the cup final had Covid not intervened! In so many conversations in the corridors of College, in our dining hall, in our glorious gardens, I hear of more success in the arts, in music, and in drama. In the pages of this magazine, on our website, in our emails, and on our social media channels, you’ll have read of the incredible successes across our community over the course of the year, not least of which was the excellent achievement of two Fellows named on the Queen’s honours lists.

Our College is made up of talented individuals, but as a community, Wolfson has never failed to impress me. Working together is at the heart of what makes us special. It’s by working together, sharing our experiences, our passions, and our commitment to changing the world for the better, that Wolfson can and does make a difference.

We will never forget that this was a year when the pandemic gripped the world. Some of us will have very sadly lost friends, family, and colleagues. I extend my condolences to all those who have been affected by the pandemic. Many of the Wolfson community have been actively involved, in many forms, in fighting the disease, and it was a great joy for me to see a photo of our Porter and alumna Dr Louise Wilson receiving her jab from our Tutor and Fellow, Dr Martin Vestergaard in July. The family that jabs together stays together! My wish is for us all to continue to come together, to continue to collaborate and support each other, wherever we are in the world.

I hope you enjoy this latest issue of the Wolfson Review. It is but a snapshot of the life of our College and our community: a community of which you are all a part. I look forward to seeing you in College – or online – again soon.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
PROFESSOR JANE CLARKE
Building owners often put short-term cost before social and environmental considerations. At Wolfson, Caleb Deck developed a tool that might change all that.

Photographs by Martin Bond

It was miserable in that room. Every day, this place was terrible,” says Caleb Deck, a 28-year-old MPhil student in Engineering for Sustainable Development. Caleb took his six-month-old son to a swimming class every week for ten weeks back in Oklahoma City, USA, but the air quality in the room was so bad he almost abandoned the sessions. At the time, Caleb was a licensed mechanical engineer working for an architecture and engineering firm, and he happened to mention his bad experience to an air conditioning vendor. “They said they’d actually tried to sell the pool company a new air conditioning system; it was going to be 100% outside air, and it would have saved them a lot of money and energy long term. But it was a 5% or 10% increased cost in the beginning, so they said no.”
I thought, it’s crazy that we can’t get past a 5% increase cost. It’s going to be lower emissions and better for the environment, and it’s going to make it more enjoyable for the rest of us while we’re in there. But it really comes down to a lot of business owners thinking first cost only. So I started to think about how we could get past that.

The experience proved to be a lightbulb moment. Soon after, Caleb began a new side-project, attempting to collate huge piles of information on economic, environmental, and societal building considerations, and to present them in a way that an average building owner could understand in a couple of minutes.

I started working on a tool where all the building owner has to do is input the age, location, size and usage of an existing building. And it pops up a screen that allows them to select from a series of upgrade options.

“People can go into it and say, ‘Let’s look at what would be the cheapest way that maybe sparks those decisions for average building owners. It really is like the Wild West. You can build anything out there and carbon emissions are not considered a factor.”

Thanks to a Facebook algorithm, I stumbled across it. I met another international student, a film major, and we started talking about different things we’d read recently. We discovered we’d both read a very obscure and in-depth book on infrastructure planning. It’s a very niche topic and in my whole life I never expected to meet someone else who would have read this tiny book about Robert Moses.

“I think it’s a great way to connect with prospective students too, because I get involved before I even move here, as well as engaging current students and reaching out to alumni.”

“I’m in the process of recoding some of those things now, but I hope to have it ready in the next year or so for more public usage. I am looking around a lot of ideas of what I’m able to do with it in the future, whether it becomes something that the company I work for can use to stir up ideas, whether we share it to the industry, whether it’s utilised on a subscription basis, or maybe the government is interested in buying it and utilising it as a tool for the industry. There are a lot of options.

Caleb’s tool could help to green up an industry that contributes almost 40% of global energy-related CO2 emissions. It’s getting worse and worse every year,” he says. “For every dollar spent on a sustainable construction application, $37 are spent on conventional construction. So at the moment it’s not looking great.”

“It’s not looking particularly great back in Caleb’s home state either. ‘Oklahoma doesn’t even enforce the national energy codes. It’s getting worse and worse every year,” he says. “For every dollar spent on a sustainable construction application, $37 are spent on conventional construction. So at the moment it’s not looking great.”

“The problem, says Caleb, is part economics, part ideological. ‘Oklahoma is very Republican, it’s very strongly oil and gas fossil fuel industry based, and so climate change is seen as something that’s either a misnomer, not true, or not important at all.’

Growing up in the State, however, Caleb believes he has a unique advantage to help change minds. ‘It’s really been since coming to Cambridge that I have more academic rigour behind my understanding of the environmental impacts that we’ve seen lately. Knowing that this is the future of where the industry is going, where the future of our world is going, I feel better able to bring that understanding to a place I know. I grew up around that anti-climate change perspective, and I think that hopefully gives me standing to be able to reach those people who are probably the most reluctant to receive that information’.

Caleb has certainly met like-minded people at Wolfson. “It’s the weirdest thing! This guy is a film major, he’s not expected to meet someone else who would have read this tiny book about Robert Moses.

“I think it’s a great way to connect with prospective students too, because I get involved before I even move here, as well as engaging current students and reaching out to alumni.”

“I’m really excited that even though I’ve finished the course, I still have in the S&C Hub an avenue through which I’ll be able to connect to those people who are interested in learning and intriguing knowledge.

In the meantime, Caleb is heading back to Oklahoma with his interest in sustainability with members from across the entire Wolfson community. ‘I’ve been really involved in the S&C Hub throughout the last year,” he says. ‘I think it’s a great way to connect with prospective students too, because I get involved before I even move here, as well as engaging current students and reaching out to alumni.’

Before and after: Caleb has been involved in several renovations with FSB Architects and Engineers, improving building sustainability.

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THE VIEW FROM TUTORIAL

DR SUSAN LARSEN

F or all of us, the last academic year was irrevocably marked by the pandemic and the disruptions it brought to all our lives. Yet it was also a year of unexpected opportunities for positive change. A few standout events: the bar’s annual fund-raising quiz, graciously hosted by alumnus Eric Monkman. As restrictions began to lift, the WCSA organised some events for normal and special days—the spontaneous conversations that had been impossible to gather in person, they must go to our hardworking librarians for normal and special days—whether in the socially-distanced queues, waiting to fill our mugs or connect our own ice cream sundae, students and staff were able to meet, talk and laugh with one another.

“Despite lockdowns, we were able to achieve so much”

Members of the Wolfson College Student Association (WCSA) give an insight into the challenges of College life in the year of coronavirus, and pick out their highlights, from daily welfare Zooms to a globe treasure hunt during the COVID Cultural Diversity Weekend.

CHARLOTTE CLARKE
WCSA President
““I am delighted to report that despite the less-than-ideal circumstances in which our students had to work during the year, their results in undergraduate examinations were excellent.”

WCSA’s highlights

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“I wanted to finish something that I started almost two decades ago.”

Raquel Scarpa-Gebara – the education reformer who returned to study on a mission to make an impact.

After the father of her two children became ill, Raquel Scarpa-Gebara relinquished her ambitions for neuroscience research to focus on her family. She became a full-time carer on top of being a mother and the family breadwinner. “This type of life experience means it’s extremely hard to think of yourself when making choices,” she says.

Raquel moved into teaching at a secondary school in Brazil, but rather than being frustrated by the sudden directional shift, it proved to be an inspirational change. She became a passionate teacher of biology, a curriculum coordinator, and school auditor. She also grew keenly aware of the need for reform across the education system internationally, and in 2015, ten years after she had withdrawn from her Neuroscience PhD, one experience sowed the seed for a return to study with a totally different focus.

“As a school auditor, I came across the education reform in Kazakhstan and was fascinated by it. I discovered that a research group called Education Reform and Innovation of the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge had been deeply involved in implementing that reform. I decided that I would come to Cambridge and study that education reform from the people who had played a major role in it 25 years ago.”

Raquel applied for an MPhil programme in Educational Leadership and School Improvement (ELSI) and arrived at Wolfson with a clear ambition to deepen her understanding of educational reform and explore the possibilities of monitoring and evaluating education initiatives.

“L was driven by a desire to somehow contribute to education reforms and initiatives, and, if possible, help disenfranchised students by proposing network interventions in the systems they’re in. My previous professional experience had given me a lot of on-the-ground insight into initiatives for change in organisations linked to education. For example, because I chaired school audits in many countries before coming to Wolfson, I saw teachers all over the world struggle to serve their students the best way possible while, at the same time, serving administrators that reduced their job to test scores. I also saw schools with very limited resources offer amazing education which is not recognised in the mainstream international evaluation systems.”

MAKING THE LEAP BACK INTO LEARNING

Raquel was on a mission to make an impact, but it still wasn’t an easy decision to return to university.

“Being here at Wolfson means being away from my son, not to mention the financial investment. It was only possible because I have a partner now, Simon, who takes care of my son when I’m in Cambridge. Also, my daughter has her own life now, and doesn’t live at home anymore. We’re all together as a family whenever we can, but it’s hard. I worry that my son will look back and think that I neglected him in his final years of secondary school. I hope not. I hope that he will see my effort as an inspiration.”

The transition back into full-time education is a challenge for anyone, and Raquel was at first concerned she might not be adept at research in social sciences, having only had previous research experience in experi-
mental sciences. That fear quickly dissipated.

“I worked really hard and learnt so much during my MPhil year here at Wolfson. At the end of the year, I was awarded an MPhil with distinction and got two academic achievement prizes, one for best dissertation in the ELSI route and another from Wolfson (Lemmings Prize).

“That gave me the confidence that I had what it took to go further and do a PhD. Plus, I always had the feeling that I hadn’t quite finished the education path I had started years ago. I wanted to finish something I had started almost two decades ago.”

FROM ROMANIAN TEACHERS TO COASTAL AMAZONIAN FISHERWOMEN

Raquel is now working on her PhD in the Faculty of Education, conducting research in Education Reform, Teacher Learning and Education Impact Analysis. Her research involves designing, implementing and trialing evaluation tools for education programmes and education reforms – and it has an international reach.

“I am currently working with two very different communities: teachers in state schools in Romania who work in rural areas and deal with the challenges of very disenfranchised students, offering them professional development in active learning, online learning, and special education needs, as well as action research.

“And also a further education programme for fishermen in traditional communities on the Amazonian coast. The programme is being conducted as part of the ‘Fish Forever Programme’ for Rare Brazil, an NGO that catalyses behaviour changes to achieve enduring conservation results. The fisherwomen learn strategies of financial literacy that are aimed at enabling them to manage their fisheries’ resources collectively and sustainably, moving away from the vulnerability of grey economy. My preliminary data shows that the education programme has also had a deep impact on their own conceptualisation of self, group, and occupational identity.

“These are projects which have a clear and positive impact on individuals and communities. To get this work right, Raquel speaks of an approach that includes “a combination of tools, from qualitative methods, such as interviews, to mathematical modelling in network analysis.”

There are key questions driving her work: how can evaluation tools help education systems? How can these be tailored to unique circumstances to create powerful outcomes? And how can social network analysis help us address these issues and propose innovative initiatives related to racism and anti-racism. As part of that initiative, she proposed and co-created a podcast called ‘Shade in Cambridge’ to air the stories, perspectives, and experiences of Black and minority ethnic voices in Cambridge. She is part of a collaboration between Wolfson and a charity called CB Mentoring that offers mentorship and school tutoring for Black and Asian young people in and around Cambridge. She is on the steering committee reviewing the College’s diversity and inclusion strategies. She presented her work at Wolfson’s International Women’s Day Conference in March. And she is also part of the rowing club, having rowed with the W1 and W2 crews this year.

‘Let’s Talk About Race and Racism for me was the also that I need to realise that I can generate and implement impactful projects involving racism awareness and anti-racism actions,’ she says. ‘By being involved, I was able to get my ideas on the ground. In my case, I proposed the podcast series and the Wolfson-CB Mentoring partnership. These projects have taught me the power of listening to people’s personal journeys. It really makes you reflect about your positionality in relation to issues of ethnicity, identity and a sense of belonging.’

Raquel has her own experience of grappling with those issues of identity and belonging. She has Italian and Lebanese heritage, but was born in Brazil and raised there. Her family have spent time in Italy, basically about navigating how to be an outsider,” she says. ‘Being an outsider in Brazil, in the UK, and, even though I’m also Italian, I’m an outsider in Italy as well!’

She has, however, found a home at Wolfson. “I have found family,” she says. “One is to systematically carve time for family and the other is to make an effort to establish a ‘chosen family’ here at Wolfson. I have family Zoom twice a week with my extended family, daily with my partner, and three times a week with my children. I travel to see them whenever I can! I also make an effort to see me in Cambridge wherever they are. The second thing is that I also make an effort to find ‘tribes’ in Wolfson that play the role of my family. This has been a very important component of this balance for me because the people I connected here at Wolfson, in a way, supply a family vibe for my life and I think I do the same for them.”

JO CHEFFINS
BURSAR’S REPORT

This time last year, we were looking forward to welcoming back students, families and, after a long, quiet summer.

“We know 2020-21 wasn’t going to be a ‘normal’ academic year – teaching might still be online, lab capacities were limited, we still had two enormous temporary members, to enable evaluation, and the matriculation photos had to be photoshopped – but we were prepared and determined to give our students the best experience they could have.

Two national lockdowns and an impressive vaccination campaign later, I am very proud to report that, thanks to everyone’s preparation and cooperation, operations and activities ran smoothly throughout the year as we met the ongoing COVID-19 challenges with confidence and good humour.

For me, as well as our resilience, the last academic year really demonstrated the value of physical space at Wolfson.

Our site, in particular our gardens, provided an essential space for our students during the pandemic, and the experience highlighted the value of our site to bring together and inspire our community. Wolfson is a place where an incredibly diverse group of talented individuals can exchange ideas in our kitchens, dining hall, gardens, bar and at our events. We want to improve even further its capacity to deliver the best experience for our students and members, to ensure everyone fulfils their incredible potential and to flourish.

Long before the pandemic, it had been a strategic priority of the College to enhance and identify opportunities for development on our site, funding permitting. More recently, in light of the pandemic, Wolfson has decided to focus on the following: what are the key needs in the immediate post-pandemic period? How does Wolfson plan for growth in graduate student numbers, the College has recently signals its intention to increase its intake gradually, subject to its ability to provide appropriate accommodation?

In June, we embarked on an exciting exercise with internationally renowned architects, Grimshaw, to create a masterplan for our nine-acre site. This project will give us the roadmap, not only to plan and design appropriate accommodation, but also to make smaller-scale improvements to our site which will enhance the experience for all our members.

It will also allow us to consider and address wider and more long-term questions about future-proofing our site, ensuring it is digitally equipped and environmentally sustainable. The roadmap is informed by the results of an extensive consultation process which produced some valuable and thought-provoking material. I am very grateful to everyone who provided input into the process.

As you would expect, the extended pandemic restrictions have had a considerable impact on the College’s finances. Although income from student fees remained stable in 2020-21, income from accommodation and catering was drastically reduced and we have had no meaningful conference and events business since our lockdown and endowment impacts both current and restricted investment in our estate and endowment impacts both current and future generations of students and the pressure is on to address this challenging position as soon as possible.

Nonetheless, this year has proved that Wolfson has very strong foundations.

I am very confident that we can continue to build on those foundations in a sustainable and appropriate way. And with our new masterplan, it’s set to be an exciting time for the College. I look forward to reporting on our progress next year.”

“谴责对我的研究有帮助的领域和方法远超乎我的预料。”

“它也允许我们考虑和解决更大和更长期的问题，因为未来要为我们的学生和成员，以及每个人，尽其可能，实现其潜力，和蓬勃发展。

长时间以来，它都是一种战略上的优先事项，即在我们的校园中，寻找和发展机会。更近一步，鉴于当前的疫情，沃尔夫森决定将重点放在以下方面：在接下来的几个月里，我们的首要需求是什么？我们如何为研究生人数的增长制定计划？

在六月，我们与国际著名建筑师格里姆肖合作，共同制定一份九英亩土地的大学城发展计划。这个项目将为我们提供一份蓝图，不仅能够计划和设计合适的住宿，而且能够对我们的校园做出更小规模的改进，以提高所有成员的体验。

通过与学生和校友的广泛咨询，我们获得了有价值和富有启发性的材料。我非常感激每位提供输入的人。

作为您所期望的，延长的疫情限制对我们的校园已经产生了重大影响。尽管学生学费收入在2020-21学年保持稳定，但住宿和餐饮的收入大幅下降，我们没有举办任何有意义的会议和活动。

它也允许我们考虑和解决更大和更长期的问题，因为未来要为我们的学生和成员，以及每个人，尽其可能，实现其潜力，和蓬勃发展。
Andrew Fowles joined Wolfson as Porter in 2013 and served as Senior Porter for four years before stepping up to the top job in the Lodge this year. “When I started at Wolfson,” he said, “the Bursar at the time told me his aim was to have the friendliest Porters’ Lodge in the University. It’s an ambition that I still share.”

Prior to joining Wolfson, Andrew worked for the NHS in the UK and Australia, where he first specialised in Accident and Emergency and Cardiac Services, and later in the development and management of local health care services.

Andrew is not the first Head Porter in his family either. “My grandfather was Head Porter at Emmanuel College in the 1950s,” he said. “I remember his stories and imagine being a Cambridge Porter was very different from today.”

Andrew took the reins from Mike Winfield, who led the College after ten years, heading up the Porters’ Lodge. “Mike steered Wolfson’s friendly and talented Porters’ Lodge team through welcoming times, including the creation of the new Porters’ Lodge, as well as guiding the team through the challenges of the pandemic.”

Andrew was quick to pay tribute to his predecessor: “During my time as Senior Porter, I have been fortunate to enjoy friendship and excellent mentorship skills from Mike, he said. “He helped me gain an understanding of the team leadership skills required to be Head Porter. He has also taught me about the strategic plans and the opportunities and challenges they may present for the Porters’ Lodge.”

Andrew and his family all have a healthy dose of wanderlust. “We have the travel bug,” he said, “and we try to get away together as often as we can.”

His highlights include hiking high above the Cinque Terre in Italy, relaxing in the Hamman Al Andalous in Granada, driving the perimeter of Australia, drifting over the Great Barrier Reef in a glass-bottomed boat, standing on top of Table Top Mountain in Cape Town, and flying over Vancouver in a seaplane.

“The Library is an essential part of College life, and thanks to College staff, we carried out risk assessments, squelched away furniture to reduce capacity, and set up remote services so that students could benefit from the Library and its collections, whether in Cambridge or working remotely.”

Andrew’s tenure as Head Porter has also been marked by superb stewardship of the Library throughout the last seven years, Dr Meg Westbury left the role in 2020 to become Librarian at the Haddon and Academic Services Librarian (Human and Social Sciences). It was always going to be a challenge to follow in Meg’s footsteps. But to start the role just three days before another national lockdown certainly made things more interesting! Nonetheless, I am incredibly proud of the fact that Wolfson Library remained open throughout this academic year when so many others across the University had to close.

In addition to supporting current students and researchers online, we played an active role in reaching out to prospective students, delivering workshops for HE21+, Cambridge University Students’ Union Shadow Scheme, and offer holder events. It was superb to hear about the positive impact these online sessions had.

One student, who joined us in the new academic year, wrote: “Thank you for helping me to understand the team leadership skills required to be Head Porter. He has also taught me about the strategic plans and the opportunities and challenges they may present for the Porters’ Lodge.”

Andrew is delighted to announce Andrew Fowles as the new Head Porter in April 2021.

Laura Jeffrey has had a big impact on the Library since joining from Durham University in 2017. Here, she describes how the Library stepped up to support students during a challenging year.

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Laura Jeffrey has had a big impact on the Library since joining from Durham University in 2017. Here, she describes how the Library stepped up to support students during a challenging year.

Following superb stewardship of the Library throughout the last seven years, Dr Meg Westbury left the role in 2020 to become Librarian at the Haddon and Academic Services Librarian (Human and Social Sciences). It was always going to be a challenge to follow in Meg’s footsteps. But to start the role just three days before another national lockdown certainly made things more interesting! Nonetheless, I am incredibly proud of the fact that Wolfson Library remained open throughout this academic year when so many others across the University had to close.

In addition to supporting current students and researchers online, we played an active role in reaching out to prospective students, delivering workshops for HE21+, Cambridge University Students’ Union Shadow Scheme, and offer holder events. It was superb to hear about the positive impact these online sessions had.

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THE GLORIOUS GETAWAY

Our aim with the College gardens is to teach more and to inspire, helping people learn what's important right outside their door,” says Wolfson Head Gardener, Oscar Holgate. “The gardens will always benefit mental health and it’s a great way to de-stress, particularly if you have exams and essays on your mind.”

The College gardens have always been a glorious retreat for the whole Wolfson community, a source of enjoyment and calm, a social space to meet with friends, to explore with the family, and a place to party or to share ideas.

The pandemic year further highlighted the value and benefits of the gardens, and the Wolfson community engaged with the spaces more directly than ever before, whether exercising in the gardens, meeting socially-distanced walks and chats, taking time out, or even using the flowers for artworks as Santiago Sottil, an MPhil student in Engineering for Sustainable Development, demonstrated with his Waste to Art exhibition.

Santiago used flowers from the gardens for his College photo exhibition about food waste, picking them over the course of the year, reflecting the changing of the seasons and the academic terms. For Santiago, originally from Mexico, there’s also a small part of home in the gardens: “There’s a hidden portion of the gardens next to Chadwick House, which has lots of exotic plants, including several from Mexico, which is really cool. I’ve really loved the gardens.”

A NEW TEAM, A NEW ETHOS

Over the last year, Oscar has recruited two new gardeners to help achieve his grand garden ambitions: Will Greenfield, from RHS Wisley, and Peter Richardson, who arrived with a formal estate background, while long-time gardener Philip de Luca has now reached 21 years at the College. “I’m thrilled with the team,” says Oscar, “and a 50% new team brings a new ethos to the gardens – one that focuses more firmly on diversity, sustainability, and community engagement. We’re working hard to improve the quality of the gardens by adding a higher aspect to our planting and so we’re propagating a lot of plants ourselves, which reduces the carbon footprint of buying offsite, and we’re not acquiring any more plastic pots.

“We’re researching more organic weedkilling ways and working hard to only reach for the weedkiller when it’s in the paving. We’ll also be getting involved in more sustainability events, like those linked with COP24 this year, highlighting the importance to act on climate change.”

Elsewhere, the team has also re-established the President’s pond into a wildlife zone where fish no longer eat all beneficial insects. “We have a grass snake that lives on the edge of the pond,” says Oscar, “much to Jane’s grandchildren’s amusement!”

Left: Head Gardener Oscar Holgate.

FROM FLORESTRY COURSES TO TREE TOURS

Since taking over as Head Gardener in 2020, Oscar’s intention has been clear: “We want to encourage students and staff to engage with the gardens more than ever,” he says. The team are busy doing just that. Following the success of the student garden, Oscar and the team are developing more interactive initiatives, including a new cutting garden. The cutting garden will allow us as gardeners to teach students about creating a border from seed to flower and all that it entails. They’ll then be able to pick the flowers for their rooms, dining rooms, and offices, meaning more people benefit from the gardens. A floristry course will also be included!

“We’ve been madly cataloguing so that we could make a tree tour map available for anyone who wants to learn about our 150+ trees. And we’ll be undertaking a wildlife audit soon to understand exactly what insects and large mammals thrive in the gardens, an activity that will present plenty of opportunities for the Wolfson community to get involved.”

Oscar has also linked up with Laura and the Library team to ensure there are plenty of resources for those who want to take their interest further. “There’ll be a gardening and horticulture section in the library on a whole range of subjects that anyone will have access to, making the College a horticulture paradise for anyone who wants to delve into more subjects.”

Student garden success

The student garden has been a huge success over the last year. Created in 2018 from an area of garden around Barton House that was previously disused and neglected, student involvement has gone from strength to strength. Amelia ‘Milly’ Race, first-year PhD student in Physiology, Development and Neuroscience, looks back on her first year at Wolfson and explains how the Wolfson Student Garden has been a place of so much joy.

“The middle of a pandemic was not the easiest time to start a PhD, but I feel incredibly lucky to have had a community at Wolfson that inspires me and helps me to stay positive when times have been hard. During the whole of my first year, I had restricted access to the laboratory where I do my research socially-distanced practical training was really difficult so it took a while to get the hang of techniques. I used the Lee Library and other study spaces in Wolfson to do desk work which stops me from being distracted working in my bedroom.

“Spending time reading a book in the peaceful Wolfson gardens has been one of the many joys of living on campus. The real highlight of my year, however, has been getting my hands in the soil myself with my friends in the Wolfson Student Garden. We met almost every week over the past year and are now enjoying the rewards of our hard work: home grown lettuce, rhubarb, onions, garlic, and hopefully tomatoes in the next month.

“Being connected to the earth in this way is so important to me and helps me to stay grounded, especially during the challenges of the past year. It’s also been a great way to take my mind off work. For example, we built our own insect hotel from pallets, which involved some woodwork which I had never done before, I am looking forward to welcoming more people into the garden in the new term and doing even more gardening.”

Follow the new @wolfsonstudentgarden account on Instagram.

Right: Milly Race with spring onions from the student garden (below).
Despite the lockdowns, last-minute regulatory changes, and tight tier restrictions, last year was a year of non-stop, high-quality, intellectually rewarding College events. Here are just a few highlights from three terrific terms.

**Online Events**

Commemorating War Dead in Ancient Athens from Homer to Thucydides
- JRF Dr Dzazary Kacwicz brought Ancient Athens to life by explaining the unique significance of the war dead in the cultural imagination of the Athenians.

**International Women's Day Conference**
- A joint effort between WCSSA Women's Reps and the Interdisciplinary Research Hub on Gender, panellists and guests reflected on how we can challenge the inequalities in our daily lives, with excellent insights from talks on Real Experiences: Written Stories and Intersecting Inequalities.

**ASEAN Emerging Researchers Hub (2020)**
- The ASEAN Emerging Research Conference, partnered with Wolfson's Sustainability & Conservation Hub to address the integrated and disruptive actions needed to overcome global challenges in sustainability and conservation.

**Representation as a Matter of Fact**
- Akimian Torop discussed his seminal work of over five decades with curator Prof. Philip Kinsey ahead of his solo exhibition, Representation as a Matter of Fact, in the College.

**Diseases without Borders**
- Part of the excellent Wolfson Explores Borders series.

**2021 Wolfson Research Event**
- One of the highlights of the College calendar, showcasing the groundbreaking and innovative research of our students, alongside internationally renowned keynote speakers, including Prof. Juan Maldacena. Projects ranged from math to energy extraction from human waste.

**Beyond Borders: Women’s Movements Around the World**
- Another thrilling and informative Wolfson Explores Borders event, hosted by the Interdisciplinary Research Hub on Gender, this one featured international academics and activists who spoke in French, Somali, Spanish, English, and co-organised by new Fellow, Officer, Annoa Abekah-Mensah.

**Sex Work and Borders: International Sex Workers’ Rights Day**
- To celebrate International Sex Workers’ Rights Day, the Gender Hub hosted a powerful collaborative event featuring sex workers and activists from collectives in England, Ireland, New Zealand, Spain, and Sweden.

**Back to the Future: Ice Cores and Climate Science**
- New JRF Dr Helena Hoffmann outlined the strengths of ice core analysis, with examples from the European Alps and West Antarctica, and discussed the search for one-million-year-old ice in Antarctica.

**Representation as a Matter of Fact**
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**Interdisciplinary Research Hub on Global Health & Sustainability (2020)**
- The first term featured this insightful meditation on making the Urban Better: Planetary health conversations on building healthy sustainable cities in the era of COVID-19 and beyond.

**Dramatic Arts: ‘Waste to Art’ exhibition**
- Santiago Sotuli, MPhil student in Engineering for Sustainable Development, created unique artworks in lockdown, using unsalved food found in the College. The exhibition highlighted the global problem of food waste and its devastating impact in an alluring and challenging way.

**Wolfin’s Sustainability & Conservation Hub (2020)**
- Projects ranged from math to energy extraction from human waste.

**From Mississippi to Cambridge: Marie Battle Singer, Britain’s First Black Psychoanalyst**
- Prof. Jane Rhodes and Associate Prof. Lynn Hudson from the University of Illinois, Chicago, told the incredible story of Marie Battle Singer, a Black American born during the Jim Crow era in the Deep South. Marie fled to England, trained with Anna Freud, and became Britain’s first Black psychoanalyst.

**Beyond Nil-Zero**
- This event marked the end of a successful Anniversary Week for the Sustainability & Conservation Interdisciplinary Research Hub. Participants discussed and workshop what a repurposed Wolfson College might look like and how we might get there.
The Wolfson OCS Kenya Scholarship celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. The scholarship, a partnership between the College, The Oxford and Cambridge Society of Kenya (OCSK), and The Cambridge Trust, was launched in 2011 to enable outstanding students from Kenya, who have financial need, to pursue Masters degrees in any field of study tenable only at Wolfson.

These are, says Nadeem Ahmed, Scholarship Secretary at OCSK, “some of the most talented and interesting Kenyan students, and yet in almost all cases with our scholars over the last 10 years, the opportunity to study at Cambridge would not have been possible without the funding support.”

Every year for the last decade, some of the most exceptional scholars from Kenya have come to the College as part of the Wolfson OCS Kenya Scholarship.

For Alice Gathoni, OCS Kenya Scholar in 2013, this was certainly true. “Growing up as an orphan, I had very limited options for anything in life,” says Alice, “even raising fees for my basic education was a real struggle. Therefore, being able to study at Wolfson without having to worry about the tuition fees, accommodation, or food was a such a relief. It gave me a sense and confidence to attend classes and interact with colleagues and faculty with ease.”

In addition, the scholarship was a significant steppingstone for other opportunities, including a PhD scholarship, life-long friendships, and access to numerous networking and the benefits it comes with.”

During her MPhil in Education, Alice focused on what she found to be unstructured and chaotic educational transitions for youth with disabilities in Kenya. She also discovered that digital technologies allowed these groups to access knowledge about the outside world beyond their disability and to form ideas and aspirations about the lives they desired to live in adulthood.

This was a significant finding at the time,” she says, “because the use of phones or any other digital technologies in Kenyan schools was prohibited. This finding provided significant insights about the agency and aspirations of youth with disabilities and are important in helping change the perspectives of educators and other people working with youth with disabilities.

Alice has since graduated with her PhD in the same area and is currently a Research Fellow at the British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) in Nairobi, where she continues to build on her participatory research work with youth with disabilities. In addition, she’s involved in mentoring graduate attachés and early career researchers, supporting the next generation of scholars in Kenya. She also continues to volunteer with schools and organizations that support marginalised children with disabilities.

Yohana Ouma, 2019 OCS Kenya Scholar in Public Policy, had been accepted into the University of Oxford a year earlier, but could not enrol due to lack of funding. “The OCSK Scholarship enabled me to achieve a lifelong dream of studying at Oxbridge at the second time of asking,” he says.

Yohana studied the key factors required to ensure the successful realisation of effective participatory budgeting in developing countries like Kenya.

The study findings are important not only because they contribute to the debate on participatory budgeting,” he says, “but also because they contribute to the discussion on participatory governance, which is increasingly becoming an area of global concern in the making of long-standing challenges to the long-standing modes of governance.”

A common feature of OCS Kenya scholars is that their work so frequently adds to the knowledge, understanding, and progress of Kenya itself. One of the biggest issues facing Kenya is the tension between development and conservation, and several OCS Kenya scholars have engaged with this issue.

Peninah Mutonga, 2015 OCS Kenya Scholar in Architecture and Urban Studies, focused on the challenges of architectural heritage conservation. Her study uncovered very specific tensions between urbanisation and conservation and highlighted the need for a policy framework to guide the development of historic towns such as Lamu, Kenya. Peninah is now running an architectural consultancy and teaching at the Department of Architecture at the University of Nairobi.

Mercy Kariuki, 2019 OCS Kenya Scholar in Conservation Leadership, tackled the issue for her MPhil too. “I have come to appreciate that conservation is a complex web, Jesus says, “and as a conservation leader, it is important to consider various viewpoints and approaches to increase a collective conservation impact globally.”

Mercy was a big part renewed on the College during her year at Wolfson: a member of the Green Society Committee, which helped initiate the idea of establishing the society, she also represented Wolfson in the Engage for Change programme hosted by the Cambridge Hub in 2020 and was part of the African Society of Cambridge University Executive Committee.

Helena Rheinhard, MPhil in Conservation, of the Cambridge Trust, is particularly proud of the partnership, and points to the excellent work and the success of the students in Kenya too: “I have had the privilege of meeting some of the alumni leading this programme in Kenya which relies on the generosity of benefactors in the country. They have a striking vision based both on changing the lives of the scholarship winners, but also in supporting them to contribute to the ongoing development and flourishing of their country.

Last year’s OCS Kenya scholars, Anne Wabugi and Rheinhard Nyandie, certainly continued the tradition of contributing to the development and flourishing of Kenya.

Anne, MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development, focused her research project on Capacity Building in Africa’s Construction Industry: a case study of Kenya. Her work looks to identify strategies to enhance the capacities of individuals, institutions, and systems within the construction industry in Kenya to ensure sustainable development.

“Currently, the construction industry in Kenya and other African countries is dominated by foreign companies,” says Anne, “especially in large infrastructure projects. Therefore, building the capacity of local construction companies is crucial in ensuring that they can independently and effectively manage, maintain and construct such projects in future.”

Despite the disruptions of COVID-19 across the year, Anne threw herself into University and College life. “Being a member of Wolfson College has been quite an honour,” she says, “their support and response to the pandemic were exemplary, and my existence here has been fantastic. I would not have been able to undertake my studies effectively without the funding and necessary resources. Furthermore, I had the pleasure...”

“I am grateful for this experience, which has expanded my thinking and exposed me to immense opportunities and resources to build a sustainable future within and beyond my area of expertise. I look forward to applying my learnings as I head back to Kenya to advocate for sustainability in the built environment.”

The College’s Conservation Leadership, also made a huge impression on Cambridge and Wolfson. He was featured in the University’s This Cambridge Life series earlier in the year, where he told his incredible story of using social media to fight developers who threatened Nairobi National Park.

“Kenyan scholars and students come to the Wolfson OCS Kenya Scholarship...”

The people won; politicians began to take notice, the legal system intervened, and the fencing and building issues stopped. By adding his expertise and insight to the College, both as WCSA Green Officer and member of the S&C Hub, Rheinhard has contributed to the College’s ability to tackle sustainability issues, too. “I have loved every experience in Cambridge and the OCS Kenya Scholarship massively contributed to me getting the opportunity,” he says.

“Wolfson College, with its diversity and staff-friendliness all the way from the College President, the Senior Tutor, and the Wolfson College Student Association shaping my perspectives a lot, view of life and onto strategically positioning myself for my current job. I am proud to be a Wolfson!”

These are exceptional stories. And there are set to be many more of them too, we have more exciting news to bring in 2021 for another five years. The value of the scholarship has also increased from £35k annually, with additional funding of £5k paid by the College if necessary!

Dr Susan Larsen, Wolfson College Senior Tutor, said: “It is a great privilege to partner with OCSK and the Cambridge Trust in being so many remarkable students to Cambridge. It is a delight to work with them while they are here and to witness the diverse way in which they continue their accomplishments after graduation as, in keeping with the College’s mission statement: they continue to fulfil their potential and transform society for the good of all. I look forward to many more years of such scholarship work with OCSK and the Cambridge Trust in bringing the most promising Kenyan students to Wolfson.”
LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE & RACISM

A new working group - uniting members from across the entire College community - is tackling the issues of race and racism head on.

In January 2021, three Wolfson students launched a new podcast, Shade in Cambridge, which began sharing the stories, perspectives, and experiences of Black and minority ethnic voices in Cambridge.

The hosts and producers of the programme - Anna Abekah-Mensah and Megan Coe, both undergraduates studying Human, Social and Political Sciences, and Raquel Scarpia-Gebara, a postgraduate in the Faculty of Education - were inspired to produce the podcast after joining Wolfson’s Let’s Talk About Race and Racism initiative, which launched in 2020.

“There was a sense of urgency from the committee members, and especially from the Wolfson President, to take action,” says Raquel. Following the murder of George Floyd and the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, the President had challenged the College to engage with the issues directly. Let’s Talk About Race and Racism was the impressive result.

The working group brings together members from across the Wolfson community to explore positive actions the College can take to address and tackle racism.

“We understand that this is a first step in moving towards a more inclusive and welcoming space for all of our members,” the group say in their launch statement, “and intend this initiative to open up a conversation that will be difficult and challenging but can enact real change throughout our College community, the University of Cambridge, and society at large.”

Opening up challenging conversations was precisely the aim of the resultant Shade in Cambridge podcast.

“I think that part of it was just allowing for a more open dialogue about very pressing issues,” says Anna. “The things that most frustrated me when I was younger about racism was the fact that people just didn't like talking; there was that code of silence. That was the hardest thing to break, and I think that to me is the most tangible outcome of the podcast, that we actually talk about racism now, that people can actually talk about their experiences.”

For Megan, who was balancing her duties as WCSA Welfare Officer too, the podcast became an educational tool: “My parents shared the podcast with many of their work friends who are not coming from a place where these issues are clear, and they need to think more about it,” she says. “My parents have been talking to them about the episodes, and they have been listening to it and enjoying it! So it’s something that you can refer people to, to listen and educate themselves. When people ask themselves “Where do I start?”, Shade in Cambridge has become one of those resources, because we touch on so many different issues in the different episodes in a short amount of time.”

Megan, Anna and Raquel didn’t stop there either; following an idea from Lee Davis, fellow Let’s Talk About Race and Racism committee member, they volunteered to be part of a collaboration with a charity called CB Mentoring, offering mentorship and school tutoring for Black and Asian young people in and around Cambridge. “Back in December 2020, Lee and I started working with the people from CB Mentoring to make this happen,” says Raquel. “By March 2021, I had recruited and trained 11 Wolfson students, undergraduate and postgraduates, to become tutors. The Wolfson students are super engaged with the project and really happy that we have a structure here at Wolfson where they can give back somehow, sharing their academic talent with younger people of the local community.”

Anna, born and raised in South East London and of Ghanian heritage, also chaired a special panel discussion on Windrush Day in June. It was a powerful event, with testimony from women and men – whose parents or grandparents are members of the Windrush Generation – about how they have been inspired by the academic work of the Post-Windrush generation, the lived experiences of their families and communities, and how this has informed their own commitment to academic scholarship.

Other students took up the challenge of Let’s Talk About Race and Racism too. Abbernaa Dhvi Kukananthan, Wolfson College’s International Students’ Representative, teamed up with Wolfson MPhil students in Film and Screen Studies to launch an Asian film series. From January onwards, the group screened films from Saudi Arabia, Korea, Indian and Japan, followed by a Q&A with the MPhil panelists.

The Humanities Society shaped their events accordingly, organising talks that covered subjects such as Solomon Northup’s 1853 narrative, Twelve Years a Slave, the rise of the overseer state in Britain’s post-slavery Empire, the relationship between British activist networks, the American civil rights movement, and South African anti-apartheid movement in the 1960s, as well as a presentation from Dr Amvula Hoque MBE on the history of British Bangladeshi.

Other College events converged on the theme too. In March, Professor Jane Rhodes and Associate Professor Lynn Hudson from the University of Illinois, Chicago, shared the story of Marie Battle Singer, Britain’s first Black psychoanalyst, who navigated race, gender, and national identity on both sides of the Atlantic.
Dr Godwin Aleku is a Leverhulme/ Isaac Newton Early Career Research Fellow at the Department of Biochemistry, working at the interface of synthetic organic chemistry and industrial biotechnology. His research focuses on developing sustainable and clean approaches to Pharmaceutical synthesis. Godwin studied pharmacy at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria, graduating in 2008. He completed an MSc in Biotechnology and Enterprise in 2013 at the University of Exeter, and obtained a PhD in Chemical Biology in 2017, working with Professor Nicholas Turner FRS at the University of Manchester. He was a postdoctoral research associate at the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology between 2017 and 2020, in the group of Professor David Leys.

Dr Adrian Cazares is a microbiologist interested in the evolution of bacterial pathogens and their mobile genetic elements. He is an ESPRO Research Fellow at EMBL-EBI and the Sanger Institute. Adrian received his PhD in Genetics and Molecular Biology in 2017 from the Center for Research and Advanced Studies (CINVESTAV), Mexico. He completed an MSc Genetics and Molecular Biology degree at CINVESTAV and a BSc Biology at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He is part of the Zamin Iqbal and Nick Thomson groups and his main project combines state-of-the-art experimental and computational approaches to investigate the evolution of plasmids and antibiotics resistance. Currently, Adrian is a member of the Microbiology Society and the International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME).

Dr Nicholas Evans is a Clinical Lecturer and Honorary Specialist Registrar in Strang and Elective Surgery. Medicine. He is the joint lead for Cambridge’s INSPIRE scheme that aims to promote research skills and participation amongst students. He has co-ordinated examinations for the School of Clinical Medicine and served on the Faculty Board. He is also a tutor on the Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education at the Institute of Continuing Education in Cambridge, and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Nicholas is the Chair of the Trainee Committee at the British Association of Strake Physicians (BASP). He also serves on the Executive Committee at BASP, as well as the Joint Clinical Neurosciences Committee at the Royal College of Physicians.

Dr Jessica Fritz is a Research Associate in the Department of Psychiatry. Jessica conducted her BSc in Psychology and her Research MSc in Clinical and Health Psychology at Leiden University, in the Netherlands (2011-2016). She completed her PhD in Psychiatry at the University of Cambridge (2008). Since September 2020, Jessica is a Research Associate in the Department of Psychiatry and works together with Professor Tamsin Ford. Jessica also lectures and supervises for the Department of Psychology, specifically, for the Risk and Resilience Module of Psychological and Behavioural Sciences – 4, a course coordinated by Professor Claire Hughes.

Dr Marien Glauuard–Carbonnier is a European Union Marie Skłodowska–Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellow, affiliated with the programme ‘The Family at Work and French Culture, 1870-1914’. Marien is a graduate of the École Normale Supérieure, Lyon, and holds an agregation in Modern Literature. She completed a PhD in French Literature and Culture with Professor Alain Pagès at the Sorbonne Nouvelle University (Paris 3). From 2014-2017, she was a Research Associate at the Centre de Recherches sur les Poétiques du XIXe siècle in Paris. Since 2017, she has been affiliated with the ITEM/ CNRS Zola Centre. Marien has taught French literature and culture at the Sorbonne Nouvelle University (2014-2018) and at the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne (2018-2019).

Dr Helene Hoffmann is a Physicist specialising in Environmental Physics and ice core science. She is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Earth Sciences, Helene completed her doctoral degree in Physics at the Institute of Environmental Physics in Heidelberg, Germany, in 2016. In her doctoral studies, she focused on paleoclimate reconstructions from investigations of Alpine glaciers. After graduation she spent 18 months in Antarctica as part of the 38th overwintering team at the German research base Neumayer III. For her current project she moved back to paleoclimate studies but stayed with Antarctic research and joined the ERC funded project WACSWAIN (Warm Stability of the West Antarctic ice sheet in the last interglacial) led by the Professor Eric Wolff.

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Guy’s Hospital and from there to the Pathology Department. His current area of interest is pathogen evasion of the MHC class II antigen processing pathway.

Dr Nuri Kim is University Lecturer in Korean Studies in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. He is interested in history, memory, religious history, and the history of knowledge in early modern and modern times. Nuri received an MA from the University of Chicago and a PhD in History and East Asian Languages from Harvard University. After graduation, Nuri went on to gather extensive experience as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania as well as Johns Hopkins University. He moved to the University of Cambridge in 2021 as a lecturer in Korean Studies at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr Zsofia Lorand is an intellectual historian of feminism in post-WWII state-socialist Eastern Europe, focusing on Yugoslavia, Hungary and the German Democratic Republic. She has a degree in Comparative Literature, English Literature and Linguistics, Political Theory, and History. She received her PhD at the Central European University in Budapest and held positions at the European University Institute in Florence and the Lichtenberg-Kolleg in Gottingen afterward. Her book, The Feminist Challenge to the Socialist State in Yugoslavia was published in 2018 and was translated into Croatian in 2020. For eight years, she worked as an SOs helpline volunteer and trainer in the field of domestic violence.

Dr Thomas McCoy is a surface/coiled scientist and Ongenomer Research Fellow in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology. Tom finished his doctoral research in Physical Chemistry in 2018 at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. Immediately after his PhD, Tom commenced his postdoc at the University of Cambridge in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology (CEBiT). The project was in collaboration with Infinium UK Ltd. to explore the mechanism of friction reduction and anti-wear caused by small molecular additives in engine oil formulations using neutron reflectivity. Tom also delivers two lecture courses in CEB on Analytical and Physical Chemistry for CET1.

Dr Kenny Monrose is a researcher in the Department of Sociology. He is lead author on a paper about the effects of the pandemic of Covid-19 on Black British Voices Project at Cambridge Sociology. Kenny completed a PhD in Sociology at the University of Essex in 2013. He acted as a Research Fellow with Middelast University in collaboration with the Mayer of London’s office for policing and crime, examining the development of specialist support services for young people who have been victims of crime, abuse and/or violence. He is the author of Black Men in Britain, an ethnographic portrait of the post Windrush generation.

Dr Naozuke Mukiyama is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Politics and International Studies specializing in international relations and comparative politics. Naosuke is a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Overseas Research Fellow and a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Political and Social Sciences (POLIS). After receiving bachelor and master’s degrees from the University of Tokyo, he completed his DPhil in International Relations at the University of Oxford in 2021. During his DPhil, he held visiting positions at Georgetown University in Qatar and Sciences Po.

Dr Florence Nabwire is Prince of Wales Fellow in Public Health Nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL). She is also an Honorary Fellow in the MRC Epidemiology Unit. Florence was previously an Investigator Scientist in the MRC Nutrition and Health Research Unit (NHRU) Group, based in a visiting worker at the MRC Epidemiology Unit. She has a PhD in Biological Science from the University of Zimbabwe, and was awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship to conduct her PhD at the MRC Human Nutrition Research. She is a member of The Nutrition Society, the International AIDS Society, and the International Society for Research on Human Milk and Lactation.

Dr Darren O’Byrne is a historian of modern Germany. He received his PhD in History from the University of Cambridge, as well as a Bachelor’s Degree in History and Politics and a Master’s Degree in the History of International Relations, both from University College Dublin. During his doctoral studies he was a DAAD research fellow at Berlin’s Humboldt University, and a visiting scholar at the Technical University in Berlin. Since receiving his PhD he has held various visiting fellowships at the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich, and taken up positions as a Research Associate and Affiliate Lecturer in Modern German History at the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics.

Dr Rachael Rhodes is a Lecturer in the Department of Earth Sciences and specialises in research past climates using polar ice cores. She teaches at all levels of the Earth Sciences course within the Earth Sciences and particularly enjoys introducing students to the curiosity-driven nature of geological fieldwork. Rachael is a member of the European Geosciences Union, American Geophysical Society and collaborates with many international colleagues through Past Global Changes (PAGES) working groups. Thanks to a secondment at the journal Nature Geoscience in 2018, Rachael is also an Editorial Board Member at Communications Earth and Environment.

Dr Neil Rutter is Wolfson Undergraduate Admissions Tutor. Neil studied the Natural Sciences Tripos (1994-1997) specialising in Materials Science and then going on to the Department of Materials Science & Metallurgy. During this period he was a Fellow of Jesus College for seven years and Director of Education for the School of Physical Sciences for three years. In 2018, he became Associate Professor and Director of Teaching in Materials Science at Menash University. Melbourne. Neil has taught a wide range of courses in Materials Science and was awarded the University’s Pilkington Prize in 2016. He is also a Director of Studies at Clare and Selwyn.

Dr Henrik Salje is an infectious disease epidemiologist working on the spread and control of pathogens. He is a lead investigator in the Department of Genetics and particularly enjoys introducing students to the curiosity-driven nature of geological fieldwork. Rachael is a member of the European Geosciences Union, American Geophysical Society and collaborates with many international colleagues through Past Global Changes (PAGES) working groups. Thanks to a secondment at the journal Nature Geoscience in 2018, Rachael is also an Editorial Board Member at Communications Earth and Environment.

Dr Rong Wu is a historian of Africa. She is a China-Ching-kuo Postdoctoral Fellow and Affiliated Researcher at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Rong received her BA and MA in Asian Studies at Peking University. In 2020, she received her PhD in modern Chinese history at the University of Cambridge, with a dissertation entitled, “Facing the ‘European War’ in Early Republican China: ROC’s Constitutional Process and the First World War”. Rong was a Guest and Thomas Chan scholar from 2013 to 2016 and a visiting scholar at Academia Sinica, Taiwan, in 2016. She is member of the Association for Asian Studies, the British Association for Chinese Studies and the Royal Asiatic Society.

Dr Zhaoyang Liu is a Research Lecturer in Applied Economics at the Department of Land Economy. He obtained his PhD degree in Land Economy at the University of Cambridge. Upon the completion of his PhD, he worked on cross-country research project on the valuation of ecosystem services, in collaboration with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the University of Gothenburg and Peking University. After that, he has been appointed at the University of Glasgow as a University Lecturer in Environmental and Health Economics, and returned to Cambridge.

In November 2020, the Fellowship agreed to award Honorary Fellowship to former Fellow, Professor Gordon Dougan FRS, FMedSci.

Gordon has been a Fellow of Wolfson College since 2008. He is a Professor in the Department of Medicine, and has spent his career leading research into vaccines, pathogen genomics and epidemiology. His research work has helped to define our understanding of how infections spread around the world, a subject of direct relevance to the COVID-19 pandemic. After obtaining a PhD from Sussex University, he trained with Professor Stanley Falkow in Seattle, a Lasker Prize winner and world leader in studies on how bacteria cause disease. The team was one of the first in the world to apply gene cloning to vaccine development. He continued this work as a lecturer at Trinity College Dublin, helping to define vaccine antigens for animal diseases. His work has focused particularly on making DNA-based vector vaccines that can be used by those who normally cannot afford them. There are many vaccines and vaccine initiatives that would not have been developed without his strategic vision. During the coronavirus pandemic he helped set up testing for COVID-19 for hospital healthcare workers, established safe containment facilities for handling the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and worked on the COVID-19 Gavi/African Union Consortium virus sequencing project, tracking virus movement and across the UK.

Gordon was awarded the Albert B Sabin Gold Medal by the Albert B Sabin Institute in Washington. He is the first UK national to win the award. The medal is the highest international award for contributions to virology and disease control and it is given to a distinguished member of the public health community who has made extraordinary contributions in the field of virology or a complementary field.

Dr Henrik Salje is a University Lecturer and Director of the Centre for Infection and Genomics in Cambridge, a UK national to win the Albert B Sabin Gold Medal. The award is presented in recognition of Dr Salje’s work on the spread and control of pathogens, with a particular emphasis on pandemic influenza. Dr Salje is a leader in the field of vaccine development and has helped to define our understanding of how infections spread around the world. His work has focused particularly on making DNA-based vector vaccines that can be used by those who normally cannot afford them. There are many vaccines and vaccine initiatives that would not have been developed without his strategic vision. During the coronavirus pandemic he helped set up testing for COVID-19 for hospital healthcare workers, established safe containment facilities for handling the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and worked on the COVID-19 Gavi/African Union Consortium virus sequencing project, tracking virus movement and across the UK.

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Two Wolfson Fellows were recognised in the Queen’s Birthday Honours lists during the last academic year:

Dr Giles Yeo and Professor James Wood

Fellow and Tutor
Dr Giles Yeo was awarded an MBE for services to ‘Research, Communication and Engagement’ in the 2020 Queen’s Birthday Honours.

Principal Research Associate at the Wellcome-MRC Institute of Metabolic Science, Giles’ research focuses on the influence of genes on eating behaviour and body weight. He is a well-known broadcaster and author, presenting science documentsaries for the BBC’s Horizon and Trust Me I’m A Doctor, as well as presenting his own podcast, Dr Giles Yeo Chews the Fat. His latest book, Why Calories Don’t Count, was published in June of this year.

“I assure you that this was entirely unexpected,” said Dr Yeo. “Because it was in times of COVID, the notification, instead of being on expensive official stationery, came via email, and I initially thought it was a phishing scam!”

Anyway, it wasn’t and I’m deeply honoured to be recognised for my contributions to communicating and engagement in research. I am grateful to be working in Cambridge and at Wolfson College, which has allowed me to breathe and to follow my passion.

Giles is originally from San Francisco and received his bachelor’s degree in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of California, Berkeley. In 1994, he came to Wolfson and joined the lab of Professor Sydney Brenner (Nobel Laureate 2003) for his PhD studies. And in 1998, he began his postdoctoral training with Professor Sir Stephen O’Rahilly in the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, working on the genetics of severe human obesity.

In June 2021, Professor James Wood was awarded an OBE for services to Veterinary Science. Professor Wood is a veterinary epidemiologist with research interests in emerging and zoonotic infectious diseases, especially bat-borne viruses in sub-Saharan Africa and bovine tuberculosis.

Professor James Wood OBE

He is Alborada Professor of Equine and Farm Animal Medicine and Head of University of Cambridge Vet School. He also co-chairs the Cambridge Infectious Diseases Interdisciplinary Research Centre and conducts multidisciplinary research on infectious diseases.

Professor Wood said: “I am delighted and surprised to receive this. I feel very privileged to be part of the amazing international communities at Wolfson College and my research networks around the world; also to receive the amazing support from my funders. I am lucky to do a job that I love (most of the time)!”

Professor Wood is also involved in the Cambridge-Africa programme, which focuses on building links between Cambridge and African Institutions and which aims to strengthen Africa’s own capacity for sustainable research.

You can watch Professor Wood’s talk, Diseases without Borders, which was presented as part of the Science Society and Wolfson Explors Borders series, on the Wolfson College website Media Collection.
The Black British Voices Project (BBVP) is the first of its kind,” says Dr Monrose, a researcher in the Department of Sociology who was appointed a Wolfson Fellow in 2021.

“It’s a project that reaches out to black communities and it allows them the autonomy to speak for themselves and define themselves. Black people in Britain are not a standardised and uniform group. They are people from all walks of life, all different experiences, and hold a host of different views and perspectives, and I think it’s diligent that we try to capture these voices and speak to the real lived experience of what it’s like to be black in Britain.”

SURPASSING ALL EXPECTATIONS

The project – a partnership between the University of Cambridge, the black-led consultancy I-Cubed Ltd, and Britain’s only national Black newspaper, The Voice – set out to complete the first-ever comprehensive national study of Black British peoples’ views. Questions covered areas such as education, healthcare, media, youth, policing, identities, business, sport, disability, LBGT, religion, politics, the workplace, and more.

“Believe it or not,” says Dr Monrose, “it’s 2021 and this is the first time that a comprehensive survey of black British lifestyles, with all the intersectionalities being addressed, has been conducted. We’ve had thousands of responses, we’ve got some amazing interviews. It’s surpassed all our expectations and the momentum is still gathering.”

The survey ran throughout the summer and is supported by in-depth interviews of leading Black British commentators, including politicians, celebrities, writers, journalists and businesspeople.

A CATHARTIC, CLEANSING, AND HEALING EXPERIENCE

The project has had a big impact on everyone involved: “What we found is that a lot of the participants had never been asked these questions. It’s cathartic, it’s cleansing, it’s healing – and it’s very emotional. During some of the interviews I’ve conducted, people have cried because they’re unpacking these things as they speak. It’s been held in so long. So it’s good for all of us – we learn from these stories and it’s good for the storyteller to share. You don’t have to be a celebrity, you don’t have to be an intellectual, you just have to be a ‘normal’ person sharing your story.”

Dr Monrose and the team will harness the outcomes of the project to identify key areas of concern to influence policy, guide future research, and, fundamentally, to understand the nuanced realities of what it’s like to be Black and British.

“There will be an official report, there will be workshops, seminars and we’re looking to develop a toolkit to go into educational settings that will speak about what we’ve found,” says Dr Monrose. “And we’re harnessing these voices and listening to those voices, so that we can construct a reliable baseline dataset complete with granular data, so that if we look to challenge policy we can enter those rooms and those corridors where decisions take place, and say ‘look, here’s the data – this is what people think, this is what people feel, this is the experience’.

The principal of the BBVP – giving Black people the opportunity to speak for themselves – follows the example Dr Monrose had set previously with his 2020 book, Black Men in Britain: An Ethnographic Portrait of the Post-Windrush Generation.

The book was an attempt to understand one of Britain’s hidden populations: the post-Windrush generation, who grew up in post-industrial Britain during the 1970s and 80s. In the book, Dr Monrose attempts to spotlight this alienated and overlooked group using ethnography, participant observation, his own personal experience, and – most importantly – by giving Black men the autonomy to speak candidly and openly about themselves in reference to sociologically significant issues.

HIDDEN STORIES, INVISIBLE VOICES

This idea of giving a voice to the voiceless, and unearthing invisible stories, is key to the work that Dr Monrose is doing within the College too. He co-organised the College’s seminal Windrush Day event, Daughters and Sons of the Post-Windrush Generation: Reflections and New Directions, in 2021.

Chaired by Wolfson College BAME Officer, Aminah Abekah-Mensah, the event spotlighted the stories of women and men whose parents and/or grandparents are members of the Windrush Generation, and heard how they had been inspired by the academic work of the post-Windrush generation scholars.

“Students led the event,” he says, “and some of those students themselves are the grandchildren of the Windrush Generation. So it was fascinating to hear about how those students have been inspired to develop their own academic pathway by the academics and scholars before them.”

The Windrush generation, who arrived in the UK between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries, are among more than 500,000 UK residents born in a Commonwealth country who arrived before 1971. “It’s easy to say that West Indian people simply brought sport or music to Britain; what’s missing is an understanding of the broader contribution that Black people have made to Britain. This generation made Britain look at itself and question what Britishness actually is, and highlight that Britishness isn’t just tied to whiteness. That’s one of the key things we need to celebrate, and an important part of the established narrative that we need to change.”

LET’S TALK ABOUT RACE AND RACISM

Dr Monrose is also a member of the College’s Let’s Talk About Race and Racism initiative, launched at the end of 2020. “Wolfson is making huge strides in the right direction in terms of flagging up diversity and making the appropriate changes,” he says. “We have a President that gets it, and understands this issue. We have an incredible body of students, staff and Fellows who are also engaged, and we want to continue to build up that inclusive nature of the College. None of us are beyond race, and we should be able to speak about it in an open, comfortable, and realistic way.”
Last year, the Wolfson community engaged through digital events and activities like never before. We were a community that stuck together, that supported each other, in spite of all the obstacles.

We hosted special online events in place of our regular travel programme to the USA and SE Asia, and the ASEAN Emerging Researchers Conference in particular was a great success.

We were very grateful to everyone who made first-time donations or continued with their regular donations to the College during the turbulence of lockdown; activities such as music, the Boat Club, the gardens, art, the Library, and essential building works. At a challenging time for College finances, these donations continued to make a difference.

We once again received many kind and important donations and our members continued to be extremely generous – 535 donors gave 1820 gifts and the College was once again able to award over £700,000 in student support. £110,000 was raised for General Funds offsetting essential COVID-19 expenditure and when every penny counts, your gifts of every size truly made a difference.

We funded the College’s contribution to a “Get in Cambridge” scholar entirely by gifts given online during March and the first Women in STEM award was made. The ALBORADA Trust and Santander Universities UK continued their generous multi-year funding and a legacy gift received from the estate of the late Sir John Sparrow (Honorary Fellow) boosted the endowment as did further support from the estate of Dr John Grantham.

The Frank Jackson Foundation and Geistlich Pharma AG generously funded multi-year research projects, wrapped up over the second lockdown. We are grateful to the Frank Jackson Foundation for additional PhD support to cover unexpected fourth-year living costs because of the COVID-19 lockdown – the extension enabling an important research contribution to COP26.

A generous donation from the Hoath family propelled development of the Sustainability and Conservation Hub and the College greatly benefited from the revamped Porters’ Lodge over the last year, after an alumnus funded its wholesale renovation.

A massive thank you to everyone who has contributed to the life and the community of the College. Your warm thoughts and recollections helped us stay connected when we have not been able to meet in person.

Our key fundraising objectives:
• Student and research support - encouraging top class researchers and those who are historically underrepresented at Cambridge
• The College’s strategic developments including the estate Master Plan and intellectual, research and cultural life
• The College’s endowment - raising £75M in time for Wolfson’s 75th anniversary in 2040 to sustain the long-term financial health of the College.
reminded for several years, I agreed to write about my childhood for them.”

Professor Wang’s experiences in Cambridge are certainly less complicated, and he speaks fondly of receiving his honorary degree from the late Duke of Edinburgh at the 800th Anniversary Honourary Degree Congregation.

“That was a great honour,” he says. “One of the greatest gifts to humankind is the idea of a university and Cambridge is one of the finest examples of what is possible when the ideals of dedicated scholarship and academic freedom are protected from politicisation and irrational nationalism.”

As a Wolfson Honorary Fellow, with a student award named in his honour and numerous College visits under his belt, his connection to Wolfson is strong, too. “I have enjoyed all my visits to Wolfson College,” he says. “Under good leadership, the College has maintained the high standards that made Cambridge one of the most respected universities in the world.”

Now in his tenth decade, Professor Wang looks back critically but fondly on the past, and with a sense of deep authority. He is less certain about what might happen in the next 90 years. “Much will depend on the countries or peoples who have the power to provide global leadership,” he says. “If they concentrate on dominance and holding hegemonic power, and not on accepting differences and trying to work together, there is very little hope of a good world. I am not sure how far we can get that right in 90 years.”

Their writings circle and answer each other throughout the book. “By 2018, Margaret was unwell,” Professor Wang explains sadly, “and I wanted to tell our story of how we met and what a difference that made to my life, with her agreement and the children’s, parts of her story were woven into mine.” Unfortunately, Margaret passed away on 7 August 2020.

“While she saw the whole manuscript and agreed to the inclusions before the final version went to the publishers, I was very sorry she did not live long enough to see the published book.”

A clear ambition of both works is to provide a personal testimony on the past. In the introduction to Home is Not Here, Professor Wang writes that, “while we talk grandly of the importance of history, we are insensitive to what people felt and thought who lived through any period of past time.” Nonetheless, it took some encouragement before Professor Wang finally agreed to write his own version of that period in history.

“My Heritage Society friends convinced me that more people should be encouraged to write their stories — perhaps for the family and not necessarily for publication, but they should make sure to have them preserved in some form. My only regret is that others haven’t tried to write their stories, in the way that I have told mine.”

In the end, it was Margaret who led the way for volume two. “She had regretted the fact that her mother, a remarkable woman, had not written her story. She was especially sorry she did not ask her questions about her life while her mother was alive. So she set out to write her story for our children. The children so liked it that they turned to me and asked me to do the same. After being...
Philanthropy in action

It remains vital to Wolfson’s goal of attracting diverse and academically gifted students that we are able to offer them financial support, if they need it. It is thanks to the generosity of our donors that we are able to do so.

The support of students and postgraduate research by individuals and organisations are made in various ways: through the Annual Fund, gifts of shares, bequests, one-off or regular donations, or support pledged over multiple years. Whatever the size, it all makes a significant difference and last year 363 students were supported with prizes, awards, travel grants, hardship bursaries, and scholarships.

For the first time, we also fundraised specifically for students from groups historically underrepresented at Cambridge and we gave the first Wolfson Woman in Science Bursary and awards, 85% of which is raised directly from philanthropic donations during the year.

Spotlight on partner-funded studentships

The College significantly increases the impact of donors’ gifts through partnering with the Cambridge Trust, Faculties, Departments and Schools to offer full studentships to stellar scholars. Recent philanthropic support of £450,000 leveraged £700,000 and £1M in student and research scholarships and awards, 85% of which is raised directly from philanthropic donations during the year.

The Rowan Williams Cambridge and Wolfson College Studentship

Kenneth Okow received the Rowan Williams Cambridge and Wolfson College Studentship to help fund his PhD in the Faculty of Law. This studentship was established to support students who face severe barriers in coming to study at Cambridge. Kenneth is designing a legal and institutional framework to support West African efforts to establish a single currency.

“When I did my Masters here, studying was very difficult because I spent most of my time trying to figure out how I would pay my fees and maintain myself. Having experienced that, I am deeply grateful to the Trust for that,” says Kenneth. “But for the most part, the lockdowns have been very beneficial to me. Studying is now coming to fruition and the positive impact of these awards on the students and the College inspires me to take to heart and use when treating patients in my career as a doctor. I would like to thank Wolfson College for making this possible, as without the grant I would not have been able to afford these experiences!”

Kenneth Okwor

Valuable experience that could save lives

The College supports students’ academic and personal development by offering travel and research grants directly related to their degree, as well as vocational project grants that enable students to undertake internships, cultural projects, or charitable work during vacations or annual leave.

For Tsvetina Dimitrova, studying for a degree in Medicine, a travel award enabled her to experience two transformative hospital-based placements in England and Bulgaria: A&E at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge, and a haematology placement in Tokuda Hospital, Sofia. The A&E placement in Addenbrooke’s Hospital was a unique opportunity, as it put me in a somehow scary and uncomfortable, yet important position - to think and act like a junior doctor.

“The placement in the haematology department at Tokuda hospital offered a range of opportunities that I would have never had access to as student. I was able to dive deeply into the world of haematology and see the things from the perspective of a specialty doctor – which is an experience I am eternally grateful for.”

“The placement was incredible, and it only further confirmed my desire to specialise in haematology following completion of my Foundation training. "Both of these placements taught me different lessons that I would take to heart and use when treating patients in my career as a doctor. I would like to thank Wolfson College for making this possible, as without the grant I would not have been able to afford these experiences!”

Tsvetina Dimitrova

Changing the direction of international conservation

A five-year environmental research project, funded by the Frank Jackson Foundation and hosted by Wolfson and the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, came to an end this year – and its outcomes for conservation efforts have been extraordinary.

In cooperation with world-leading researchers, three promising early career scientists produced groundbreaking research that will influence the direction of international conservation. Their findings are feeding into international discussions and helping policymakers to tackle deforestation in a socially conscious manner.

In the year the UK hosted COP26, the research funded by the Foundation has played an important part. "I feel very fortunate to have received the Santander Bursary and Donald and Beryl O’May Studentship. "As an independent student, I usually spend my summer working in retail. The Santander UK Bursary was particularly helpful last year where I was able to afford summer accommodation despite not being able to find a part-time job. Through having this extra support, I was able to spend my summer reading for the next academic year and engaging in a programme where I received mentoring and coaching towards applying for jobs in the legal industry. “Being able to use my summer to work on personal projects and build my confidence has been pivotal in helping me land my dream job this term with my preferred law firm as a trainee solicitor. I have also seen an improvement in my academic work this year where the extra reading in the summer has really paid off. Thank you for supporting me on my journey!”

Leanne Gayle, BA History & Politics, 2019, Santander UK Bursary recipient

"I am very grateful and proud to have had the opportunity and the privilege to be a Frank Jackson Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge and Wolfson College. The generous support of the Foundation enabled me to design and pursue critical and timely research to understand how tropical forest landscapes can be effectively, and equitably, governed for people and nature.”

Dr Rachel Carmenta, Frank Jackson Research Fellow

Figures 2020-21

<table>
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<th>Amount expended on student support</th>
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Wolfson College Annual Review 2021
Making Wolfson a home for entrepreneurship

Artificial intelligence, healthcare, and social work proposals were among the exciting entries for the Wolfson Entrepreneurs’ Society’s (WES) first-ever Wolfson Enterprise Competition this year.

The new Wolfson Enterprise Competition – open to all University students and alumni – got off to a strong start in 2021. With over 30 entries in its fresh year, submissions ranged from incipient ideas to highly developed projects.

“The judges and committee members were impressed by the quality of the submissions the competition received,” said Thomas Desombre, a second-year Political Science undergraduate and the current WES President. “For a first event, I think everybody was a little bit surprised to see over 30 entries, which hopefully bodes well for the coming years.”

The winners of the first competition, selected after a three-stage process – initial submission, judging panel review, and live pitches – were Amy Rochford and June Y. Park with their innovative artificial intelligence systems for over £50K, and Blaise was also the first Wolfson Enterprise Competition winner.

“With over 30 entries in its freshman year, we have learned from each other and ultimately help the planet!” she says. “It’s been an amazing journey together.”

“Santiago, originally from Mexico, joined the Hub out of a shared passion for climate change. We’re all hoping for a vaccine to help us help each other and ultimately help the planet!”

“I have had the pleasure to bring the first mentors of the initiative,” he says.

Alumni have played a big part in the success of the Sustainability and Conservation (S&C) Interdisciplinary Research Hub – which celebrated its first anniversary in 2021.

“Santiago and I had a few discussions about everything from job applications, thesis writing, and the best pubs in Cambridge. We also talk about mental health, managing heavy workloads, and our visions of a sustainable future. The new mentoring initiative is a great way to bridge the gap between current and previous Wolfson students to help us help each other and ultimately help the planet!”

“Wolfson is a leader,” says Dr hoach, and “has the opportunity to couple its Fellows and international alumni with student projects to tackle the significant issues in research and education.”

The first Wolfson Living Lab Award – a mark of excellence that recognises projects that have a demonstrable green impact on the College community, estate or wider network – was won by Santiago Sottili, MPhil student in Engineering for Sustainable Development, whose ‘Waste to Art’ exhibition showed the global issue of food waste through a photographic exhibition that cleverly presented College food waste as art.

“Santiago, originally from Mexico, joined the Hub out of a shared passion for climate change. We’re all hoping for a vaccine to help us help each other and ultimately help the planet!”

“Wolfson Living Lab has allowed me to follow my passions and contribute to the sustainability of the College, even during the pandemic.”

Through the S&C Hub, alumni have also provided mentorship to current students who want to take their interest in sustainability further. Alain Kiljan, former WCES Green Officer and MPhil graduate (2016) was Santiago’s mentor, and he is effusive about the experience.

“I have had the pleasure to bring the first mentors of the initiative,” he says.

Charlie Barty-King, PhD student in Engineering for Sustainable Development, and former WCES Green Officer and ETS Officer, has played a central role in the success of the S&C Hub. Charlie picked up a Vice-Chancellor’s Social Impact Award 2020-21, in large part for his contribution to the Hub.

“We are making serious and impactful headway in setting up a grassroots movement within the Wolfson community,” he says. “Whether it be one of the first mentors of the Hub.

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We are grateful to the following, and to those members who prefer to belong to the Society anonymously.

The Morrison Society

JOINED 2008
Dr Peter Beaumont
Dr William Block
Mrs Susan Bowring
Mr Colin Dunneghan
Dr Steven Hand
Mrs Carol Handley
Mr David Harris
Dr Edward Kessler MBE
Professor Gordon Kingsley
Dr John Reeves
Dr Joan M Whitehead

2009
Mr Michael Albrecht
The Hon Chief Justice Susan Kiel AC
Mrs Angela M Lucas
Professor Peter J Lucas FSA
Mr Richard C Meade
Dr Margaret E Shepherd
Dr Laurence Smith
Dr Anna Snowdon

2010
Dr R Harry Bradshaw
Dr Brian D Cox
Dr Thomas Davies
Dr Margaret Whelchelow

2011
Dr Donald Adamson: JP FRSL
Group Captain Bruce Blackney
Dr David Dymond
Dr Martin Evans
Professor Thomas C Fischer and Brenda A Fischer
Dr Peter Roberts
Mr Barry Saunders
Professor Anthony Swain
Professor Christopher Todd
John V Ward
Mr David Weatherup
Dr Janet West

2012
Dr David Frost FRSA
The Reverend Dr Peter Hayler
Mr J Ieuan Jones
Mr George Liebmann
Professor William Lubenow
Mr John Sanford McIvor
Margonie J McKinney

2013
Dr Roger Bancroft
Mr Conor Bowman
Mr Timothy Cartidge
Professor John Edwards
Dr John Gibbins
Philip Kirk Esq
Mr Jonathan Louth
Professor Roger Middleton
Dr Ian O Neil
Dr Dorrie L Rapp

2014
Mr Sandy Criss
Dr Peter D Earle
Dr Mellor Hennessy
Mrs Lynn Hestor
Mr Ray Palmer
Mr Clive Powell

2015
Mrs Doreen Burgin
Mr Robert Burgin
Miss Christina Symonds

2016
Professor Nicholas de Lange FBA
Dr Andrew Herbert OBE
FREng FBCS, in memory of
Mrs Jane Herbert
Professor Adrian Kent
Mr Jonathan Lee
Dr Helen Reynolds
Ms Joan Sadler
Dr Christopher Town

2017
Lady (Sally) Oliver
Dr Karen Ottewell
Dr Stefan Pastke
Mr Michael Tindale

2018
Miss Mary V Osinhom
Mr Alan W Farrow
Mr Robert Fishwick
Ms Dawn Leeder
Professor George P Smith II
Professor John White

2019
Mr Robert Arnould
Mr Anthony Hopkinson
Mrs Sylvia Hopkinson
Professor Derek McDougall

2020
Mr Peter Donovan
Mrs Monika Erlinghagen
Dr John Harvey
Dr Matthew Gibson Lynas
Dr L John Reeve

2021
Mr Graham Allen
Mr Dale Mills
Mr Charles Reese.

Big challenges should not overcome big ambitions. Despite the many obstacles of the last year, our 75 for 75 Campaign has continued successfully.

The campaign aims to raise £75m by 2040 – the College’s 75th anniversary – through legacy bequests and major gifts to substantially boost the College’s endowment.

In the past year, we have been notified by College members of their generous intentions to leave c. £3.5M in their wills to boost the College’s future finances, either through new members to the Society or by existing members getting in touch to update us of their intentions. We’re on our way to fulfilling our aims thanks to the wonderful Wolfson community.

Pledging a legacy to Wolfson leaves a lasting impact on future generations of students and researchers, and the benefits to the College of a healthy regular income from a larger endowment means that we can plan with more certainty and are better able to strategically deploy funds for student support, enhancing sporting, cultural, and social facilities, and maintaining the estate.

If you’d like to contribute to the 75 for 75 Campaign, you can make a pledge for future support by joining the Morrison Society. Named after Wolfson’s first President, John Morrison, the Society was established in 2008 to recognise all those who have included a legacy to Wolfson in their will.

Members’ names are displayed in a special commemorative book and we are delighted to invite Society members, with a guest, to an annual event to show our appreciation for this important commitment.

You can find more information on our website: wolfson.cam.ac.uk/legacy. Alternatively, you can contact our Development Director, Sian Cook, at development-director@wolfson.cam.ac.uk.

We are pleased to continue our 75 for 75 Campaign, and if you would like to contribute, please get in touch with our Development Director, Sian Cook, at development-director@wolfson.cam.ac.uk or members@wolfson.cam.ac.uk.

We are grateful to the following, and to those members who prefer to belong to the Society anonymously.

The Morrison Society

75 for 75
1965–2040
The College is grateful to the following, and to those who made anonymous donations, from 1 May 2020 to 30 July 2021.

* An asterisk denotes a member of the President's Circle.
“For me the bursary was a great help! Cambridge is an expensive place to be a student, and having that little bit extra can make resources for learning more accessible. Thank you.”

Jack Alderman

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Page 47 Wolfson College Annual Review 2021
As a graduate student at Wolfson, I did Chinese Studies (1981–84) and later a Master’s in Chinese literature (1987–88). The Cambridge Chinese program was heavy: both modern and Classical Chinese, classes all morning, and homework until late at night. Wolfson was home and a respite from the heavy homework. It held so many happy memories. This started right at the door, when the Porter saw I was homesick. He sat me down, brewed a cuppa and cheered me up — right at the door, when the Porter saw I was homesick. Homework. It holds so many happy memories. This started right at the door, when the Porter saw I was homesick. It led to lifelong friendships. Curious and interested, I was inspired by listening to people’s stories and learning from them. Learning was the quality of the Wolfson human experience. Even more profound than the Cambridge academic learning was the quality of the Wolfson human experience. It led to lifelong friendships. Curious and interested, I was inspired by listening to people’s stories and learning from them. This helped shape my life and work. Meals in Hall were the occasion to meet amazing people with fascinating stories. Former President John Morrison told us of his efforts to reconstruct the Trinome; scientists talked about their sprints at the British Antarctic Survey station in South Georgia; our own President, (later Sir) David Williams, shared his personal experience, being considered a suspect, after his narrow escape from not just one, but several IRA bombings. Journalists, police officers, public servants, scholars, were all open to connect and share experiences.

Friends and I took a break for tea and biscuits in the afternoon and shared progress of our studies. We sang together after dinner, led by our Welsh bard, Dai Burns. Ahead of one May Ball, a competitive ballroom dancer among us undertook to teach us the basics. She and her partner glided effortlessly across the polished floor, while the rest of us, befuddled and flustered, kept tripping over each other in the vain attempts to distinguish our right feet from our left feet.

However, even the clumsyest of us wholeheartedly enjoyed the vigorous Scottish dancing of the ceilidh. The caller’s stentorian voice led us through circles, jigs, reels, waltzes, and then, alas, marking the end of the evening, “Strip the willow”.

Many decades have passed since I last stripped the willow in a Wolfson ceilidh. The happy memories, though, have not faded. I am very grateful. For me, Wolfson will always be home.

Dr Berenike Ullmann worked in consumer research in China, developing markets of Asia and Africa, and former Soviet Union countries for 34 years, mostly spent hands-on in the field. She is now working on international and cultural research projects.

Dr Jill Bambury
[1985]

In 2015, I returned to Wolfson College to earn my PhD in History and Philosophy of Architecture, more than 20 years after earning my MPhil. Not only did I enjoy the privilege of studying as a ‘mature’ student, but I was awarded a full scholarship.

While my PhD concentrated on urban New Orleans, the global perspectives at Wolfson complemented the local and national. My work was part of international and interdisciplinary discourse. Through discussion with other scholars, I was able to relate issues faced in a black American neighbourhood with issues of segregation and isolation, but also cultural sharing, in Jerusalem, Nicosia, and Johor Bahru, urban neglect in Detroit, and migration in Amman and Toronto. This has reinforced my belief in crossing disciplines, international study, student exchanges and academic collaborations.

My PhD received excellent review, and while my department and the University played a role in my success, my work also directly benefitted from my College environs and interaction with many Wolfsonians.

It is always a privilege to learn from each other, but also to work with windows facing superb gardens, to render the gardens in watercolours, practise with the choir on Monday evenings, and enjoy so many fascinating discussion over wine, Zumba, or penning “Queence of the Chor” with Dr Andrew Goldman as a tribute to Lyn Alcantara, our choir mistress.

My understanding and love for the great value of diversity was made possible by Wolfson College, through diversity initiatives, funding, alumni associations and warm cosmopolitanism.

Dr Jill Bambury’s research focuses on the architecture of an African American neighbourhood in New Orleans as community empowerment. Jill has recently taught on Diversity in design education and Global Architectural History at the University of British Columbia, University of Oregon and currently at the University of Hartford.

Below: Dr Jill Bambury, front centre, on the way to Senate House.

Dr Robin Fitzsimons
[1982]

I was fortunate to have been a Visiting Scholar at Wolfson during the 1980s when Sir David Williams was President. I was a young post-doc at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology. I treasured the international connectedness and eclectic vibrancy at Wolfson, and the power of chance encounters.

Wolfson influenced my still-continuing working life in a most unexpected way. I would not have segued from medicine/science to a parallel life in journalism had I not been sitting next to John Slee, an Australian Press Fellow, at dinner one evening.

I was venting my concerns about anomalies in Australian Citizenship law, when he invited me to write an op-ed for The Sydney Morning Herald. The article would lead to the eventual passing of The Australian Citizenship Amendment Act 1990.

That experience alerted me to the power of the press and opposition in a free society - and from that time on I continued writing for a diversity of newspapers, and especially on Hong Kong political issues.

My main scientific and clinical interest has focused on a debilitating muscle disease called facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy. That development was also the result of a chance encounter, in London - with a dystrophy patient with a retinal disease.

Wolfson was my Cambridge social and interactive home, which still draws me back.

Dr Robin Fitzsimons is a Wolfson Former Visiting Scholar. She is an Honorary Fellow at the University of Sydney and Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney. 
Despite the restrictions of COVID-19, Professor Jason Pomeroy, Wolfson MSt in Sustainability Leadership for the Built Environment (2003), has continued to put the green agenda at the heart of design projects in Singapore and beyond.

Professor Pomeroy – founder of the sustainable design firm Pomeroy Studio and sustainable educator Pomeroy Studio – continues influencing through broadcast media, most recently with the TV series, Climate for Change – The Circular City, for Channel News Asia in July 2021.

The series examines how Singapore, with its green plan and sustainable practices, is driving change, while other forward-thinking countries are unlocking economic opportunities by closing the resource loop.

The programme features some of the smart, motivated entrepreneurs, including Professor Pomeroy, who are making it happen: “Look at waste as a design flaw,” he says, before sharing his perceptive thoughts on how to optimize the use of space and unlock lucrative opportunities in closing the resource loop.

Professor Pomeroy has previously designed the first zero-energy prototype house in Asia (like Sims Darby IDEA House in Malaysia) and the Kallang Alive Masterplan in Singapore – an 89 hectare sports, leisure and recreational precinct set to be one of the most sustainable sports precincts in the world.

This year, Pomeroy Studio has been appointed to two cutting edge green projects, taking them to the sea and the sky. “In the case of the former, the project will be ‘the largest’ eco resort in the Pacific Islands and will apply modular methods of construction to minimise disruption to the natural habitat,” says Professor Pomeroy. “In the case of the latter, we are designing ‘the first’ air taxi terminal in Asia.”

The Pomeroy Academy scholarship seeks to support ASEAN region students at Cambridge University with a passion for the green agenda. This year’s winner of the Pomeroy Academy Scholarship for Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment at Cambridge University was Liam Walsh. Through the scholarship, Liam will seek to develop new research regarding the design of cities to enhance urban food production.

The Academy has also participated in the British Council’s Climate Connection global initiative, which unites people around the world to meet the climate challenge. Taking place in the run up to the United Nations climate conference, COP26, Professor Pomeroy was selected to share his thoughts on the importance of cutting down emissions in our built environment and how the lessons of the past can inform the design and research that we provide for the current generation.

Look out for Professor Pomeroy’s exhibition next February, coinciding with the Singapore Air Show, which looks at the future of urban mobility as part of the design exercise.

**Yeang at one with nature**

Honorary Fellow, Dato’ Dr Kenneth Yeang RIBA (PhD, 1971) is an architect and ecologist best known for his ecology-based signature architecture, with its distinctive verdant green aesthetic and performance beyond green rating systems. Driven by a pioneering spirit, Yeang’s long involvement with sustainable design began in 1971 with his research work on ecological design.

Since then, he has developed ideas, principles, and systems in ecological and bioclimatic architecture and master planning, contributing significant advances in this field evident in his design, research, built work and writings. An active supporter of the S&A Hub, he was listed by The Guardian newspaper in the UK as one of the 50 individuals who could save the planet. His key buildings include Suasana Putrajaya (Malaysia), Solaris (Singapore), Menara Mesra Malaysia, a recipient of an Aga Khan Award, Genome Research Building (Hong Kong), and Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital Extension (UK).

Dr Yeang has authored over 12 books on ecological design. His latest publication, At One with Nature, published in July 2021, showcases his latest ideas, built projects designs, research work and advances in the field of designing with nature, a topic that Yeang has pioneered and developed over many decades since his doctorate on ecological design and planning at Cambridge. Each project features and highlights not only the systems and devices adopted, but also outlines the intentions and ecological considerations demonstrating best practices for how we can proceed moving forward. The book role models our living Earth and shows how we can behave as stewards of our planet.
Soon after he arrived at Wolfson, Tom co-founded the Friends of Wolfson Boat Club, with a view to fundraising for the Club and developing a supporter network for rowing. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of Tom and the Friends, students at Wolfson continue to have access to high-quality boats and equipment.

Tom is always recognisable down by the river by his marvellous long stripey socks. Although he has stepped down as Senior Treasurer, Tom has assured us that he will continue to be a presence by the river and at Boat Club events, stripey socks included.

The Wolfson Boat Club (WCBC) has been in existence for over 50 years. All members of Wolfson are welcome to join, and you can support the Club on the Wolfson College Boat Club page on the website. To become a Friend of Wolfson College Boat Club, simply get in touch with the Alumni & Development Office.

Dr Tom Davies

'The heart and soul of Wolfson rowing' says farewell

Last year saw Dr Tom Davies retire as Treasurer of the Boat Club and Boat Club Friends. Tom, who joined the College as Fellow in 1996 and has been Emeritus Fellow since 2005, has been a consistently supportive presence for everyone involved in College rowing over the last 20 years, and has been described as ‘the heart and soul of Wolfson rowing’ for his significant contributions. As well as being a committed Senior Treasurer, Tom gave fantastic guidance to each new student committee, successfully coached many Wolfson crews (getting up very early in the morning to do so!), pushed just as many crews out at the start of the Bumps races with great tactical acumen (timing is very important!), and was part of towpath support crews for many teams, cycling alongside, giving guidance and encouragement. Not so long ago, following a race, Tom turned up at a Boat Club Dinner battered and bruised having been knocked off his bike along the towpath, such was his commitment to the cause!
He collected numerous awards in recognition of his distinction, including honorary doctorates from the universities of Hull and Sheffield. He was made an Honorary Fellow of Swansea University in 2007.

It was not until after his retirement from Hull that Professor Bevan settled in Cambridge, at the invitation of Sir David Williams. He taught the Faculty’s undergraduate and LLM students with great enthusiasm into his eighties.

Professor Bevan was a very kind and inspirational teacher and will be very fondly remembered for the clarity of his exposition as well as the stories he would tell in seminars. Several of his students have become a Family Law academic or practitioner thanks to his example. He will be greatly missed.

Dr Owen Edwards, Emeritus Fellow and former Vice-President, gave the following (abridged) personal tribute at Hugh’s funeral:

When Hugh was born in October 1922 in the small town of Neath, which lies on the banks of the river Nedd a few miles from Swansea, it was a thriving industrial town. In the 18th century, the Neath valley had rivalled the Wye in beauty, but rich coal seams were discovered. The valley became heavily industrialised, but above the beautiful Pont Nedd Fechan the river can still be followed past many spectacular waterfalls to the summit of the Brecon Beacons. This was the town and countryside over which young Hugh cycled and walked.

In 1941, Hugh started his military career in the Home Guard, in a unit which appears to be composed of friends and family, with his Uncle George as its commanding officer. In October of the same year, he went up to Aberystwyth University to read Classics, starting Greek from scratch. He always maintained that a classical education was an excellent brain trainer for the study and practice of law.

His military career resumed in 1943 as he was conscripted into the Royal Artillery, but during assault course training, while crossing a stream on a rope bridge, the training sergeant bellowed “Bevan, jump!” – and Hugh, perhaps unwisely, obeyed, falling and breaking both wrists and requiring hospitalisation. The battalion moved on without him, to be decimated in the invasion of Italy at the battle of Salerno. After further service in Kenya, he was demobbed in 1946 and returned home to Neath. He met Mary on his Uncle’s doorstep and seized the opportunity to invite her to the Plaza cinema in Swansea, after which the romance flourished. He returned to Aberystwyth University but changed subjects to read Law.

So the pattern of his life is: start: marriage to Mary, a career in law, and a family. Two children: Vaughan, who follows Hugh into Law, and Jane, who becomes an accomplished flautist and teacher of music.

In 1961, when Hugh and Mary are attending a legal dinner, they meet the talented young lawyer David Williams and his wife Sally, and begin a lifelong friendship. Hugh continues his academic career at the University of Wales, with a strong association with Wolfson begins in 1989 as a Visiting Fellow in Law on the invitation of David, who had been elected President of Wolfson.

In 1992, Hugh was elected to an Honorary Fellowship at Wolfson and set up a permanent home in Cambridge. However, tragedy struck when Vaughan died suddenly of a catastrophic brain haemorrhage. He was at that time a Senior Lecturer in Law at Sheffield University and on the verge of major advancement.

Hugh’s great gifts of friendship, discretion, and empathy, his incisive mind and legal training, made him a friend and counsellor to Wolfson Presidents and their families. While he was a much loved committee member, he had the ‘go to person’ for those discreet enquiries that Colleges and institutions face from time to time.

He was a much respected undergraduate supervisor in Family Law at numerous Colleges, including Wolfson and Emmanuel, founding at Wolfson the Hugh Bevan Prize for Best Final Trial in Law.

However, Mary and Hugh were much loved by members and staff of the College because of their hospitality, personal warmth, and friendship, which I can illustrate with a typical evening in term.

After a Formal Hall dinner, Hugh and Mary would have made the point of staying at home with students, engaging them in warm and deep conversation on their studies and aims. After coffee, we would not return for dessert but stroll round to Hugh’s house at 1 Gough Way, where wine and glasses were laid, and table of damaged books and pamphlets displayed. One would be welcomed for many years with great affection and the first call many would make on returning to Cambridge was to visit Hugh and Mary and be surprised at their instant recognition and enquiries as to their family.

A great love and an abiding and deep knowledge of music was shared by them both. After Mary’s death, Hugh, with advice of Lyn Alcántara, Wolfson’s Director of Music, and then Bursar, Christopher Lawrence, Wolfson established the Mary Bevan Recital Series, an annual concert given by the winner and runner up of the Cambridge University Music Society Concerto Prize.

Hugh also had a great passion for cricket, playing the game into middle life as a slow right arm bowler with craft and skill, and was a long-time member of the Marylbone Cricket Club. Following Mary’s death, he and with advancing age and progressive infirmity, he left Gough Way for Gretton Court where he was comfortable, visited by his many friends, and supported constantly by his family.

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Staying in touch
Please send any recent news which you would like to share with your fellow Wolfson members to rsvp@wolfson.cam.ac.uk. Your news may be included in the next issue of the Wolfson Review 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 This Week at Wolfson wolfson.cam.ac.uk/whats-on.

Have your details changed?
Please let us know by sending your new details to: development-admin@wolfson.cam.ac.uk

Published in 2021 by Wolfson College, Barton Road, Cambridge CB3 9BB.
©Wolfson College, 2021.
Editor: Nick Osbourne.
Design: Smith (www.smithltd.co.uk)
Photography:
Cover image: Wolfson graduands before they walk to Senate House for the ceremony.
Cover photography: Martin Bond @CambridgeDiary
Image credits:
Courtesy of FSB Architects and Engineers, WCSA, Raquel Scarpa-Gebara, Amelia Race, Courtesy of Sir Cam, Mercy Kariuki, Alice Gathoni, Courtesty of Jane Rhodes and Lynn Hudson, Courtesty of Jerelle Joseph, Courtesty of Gabriella Bocchetti, Giles Yeo, Courtesy of NUS Press, Dr Ronjon Nag, Amy Rochford and June Y. Park, Dr Bernike Ullmann, Dr Jill Bambury, Dr Robin Fitzsimons, self-portrait courtesy of Dr Tom Davies, Courtesy of Poemroy Studio, Tsvetina Dimitrova.

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– stay in touch with our global alumni community.

WolfsonConnect connects you with the Wolfson alumni worldwide. It is a useful online tool and resource enabling members to rediscover old friends and make new ones. Use WolfsonConnect to keep up-to-date with Wolfson news and get notice of forthcoming alumni initiatives and events. Upload your profile, post your own personal stories and news, develop your professional network and help and support other alumni.

www.wolfsonconnect.com

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Alumni Events

2021
Thursday 11 November
Commemoration of Benefactors’ Dinner

Saturday 11 December
Festive Celebration

To keep up to date with all Wolfson events, visit wolfson.cam.ac.uk/whats-on

2022
Thursday 20 January
Wolfson in London

Friday 11 February
Half Way Drinks

(TBC) May
Wolfson in the USA

Friday 17 June
May Bumps Boat Race & Marquee

Sunday 19 June
Benefactors’ Reception, College Garden Party & Mary Bevan Recital

Wednesday 30 June
Foundation Day Celebration

Saturday 17 September
Alumni Reunion & Dinner

Thursday 10 November
Commemoration of Benefactors’ Dinner

(TBC) December
Varsity Rugby Match

(TBC) December
Wolfson in SE Asia

Thursday 15 December
Festive Celebration