Newsletter of
Darwin College
Autumn 2002

The Darwinian

Landmark year for Darwin and LMB

MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge.

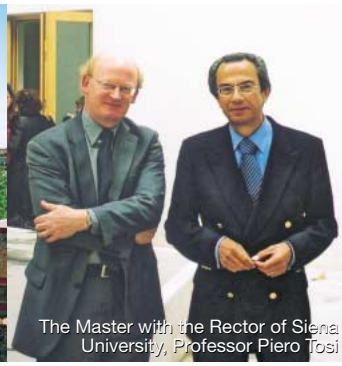
Darwin's many strong links with the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge have been brought into sharp focus this year by the deaths of Cesar Milstein (Fellow—pictured right) and Max Perutz (Honorary Fellow—pictured centre). We celebrate their lives in this issue.

The third Nobel Laureate pictured, Sir Aaron Klug, will be speaking in the next Darwin College Lecture Series on 'DNA Changing Science and Society' which celebrates 50 years since Watson and Crick cracked the code.

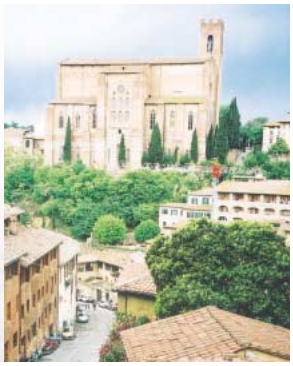
Among the several fellows and many students who have shared their Cambridge allegiance between the college and laboratory Richard Henderson (Fellow) is the current Director of LMB. This year LMB notched up their 12th Nobel Prize—we wish them many more.

A link with Siena

The College has gained an Italian connection. The major Italian universities are trying to reverse the traditional tendency for their students to go abroad for doctoral training. Central to their strategy is the provision of better facilities for their graduate students. Siena University, which is taking the lead in this, has adapted a nunnery in the heart of the old city as the Graduate College Santa Chiara. They have taken Darwin College as their model. In May the Master and Dean were invited to Siena to address a conference on the development of doctoral research in Italy, held at the new college. An audience representing most of the leading Italian universities heard about the role of the graduate College (and Darwin in particular) in graduate training in Cambridge. We can expect a continuing attachment with Santa Chiara as they copy our riverbank model on a Tuscan hilltop.



The Master with the Rector of Siena University, Professor Piero Tosi



DARWIN COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES 2003
DNA: Changing Science and Society

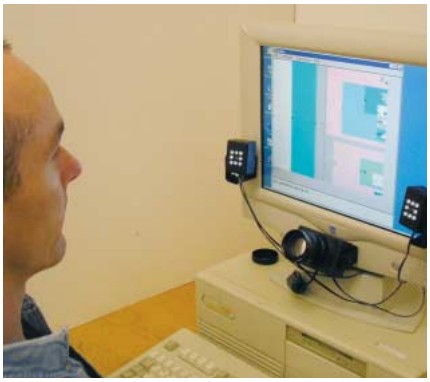
Alec Jeffreys	Genetic Fingerprinting	17 Jan
Aaron Klug	The Discovery of the Double Helix	24 Jan
Svante Pääbo	Ancient DNA	31 Jan
Onora O'Neill	DNA and Ethics	7 Feb
Ron Laskey	DNA and Cancer	14 Feb
Malcolm Grant	DNA, Biotechnology and Society	21 Feb
Robert Winston	DNA in Reproductive Medicine	28 Feb
Dorothy Bishop	Genes and Language	7 Mar

Fridays at 5.30 pm at Lady Mitchell Hall

Inside

Scientists find way to 'type with eyes'

By Steve Connor, Science Editor
22 August 2002



Co-inventor David Mackay (Darwin Fellow) demonstrates Dasher

Computer scientists have devised a method of "typing" without a keyboard using clever software that creates words and sentences using eye movements alone.

Two Cambridge University researchers have shown that their invention does not result in eye-strain, is just as fast as conventional typing and results in fewer mistakes.

David Ward and David MacKay, physicists in the university's Cavendish Laboratory, are making the software freely available in the hope that computer firms will use the idea, which promises to revolutionise technology for the disabled.

In a study published today in the journal Nature, the scientists say that the system, which monitors the gaze of the user's eye to type up to 34 words a minute, is faster and more reliable than similar "on-screen" keyboards that rely on eye movements.

The software works by following the eye with a tracker and camera as it runs along a list of letters arranged in alphabetical order on the screen. When the eye fixes on a letter, the computer offers a series of intelligent choices about what the next letter should be.

Dr Ward and Dr MacKay say that it is like choosing a desired piece of text from an enormous library of books on a shelf. Instead of choosing each letter in turn, writing becomes like a navigational task.

"The software works like a video game in which the user steers even deeper into an enormous library. A language model is used to shape this library in such a way that it's quick and easy to select probable sequences of characters, and hard to make spelling mistakes," Dr MacKay said.

To write "hello", the user first gazes on the letter "h" and automatically finds a series of further choices beginning "ha", "hb", "hc" and so on. The user enters "he" and the computer offers up the next most likely option, including "hel".

Tests showed that the software, called Dasher, worked so well because it relied on the natural ability of the human brain and eye to make continuous pointing gestures, Dr MacKay said. The language model in the software adapts to a person's writing style so that sometimes several words can be written with a glance.

The researchers are forfeiting patenting rights to Dasher, which can be downloaded free from: www.inference.phy.cam.ac.uk/dasher/

Reprinted from THE INDEPENDENT

THE 20 SMARTEST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

Meet the women who are out to change the world

You might not know these women yet. But you will – because the chances are they're going to change the way you live, even the way you think. They are inspirational, not only for their jaw-dropping achievements, but also for the energy and confidence that have enabled them to succeed while remembering they still have A Life. They're the kind of women who say, 'let's run a plc and go home on time/take maternity leave/work out of the office' and their records show just how it's done. So put your hands together and applaud…

THE WINNER

EMILY SHUCKBURGH, 28 meteorologist

Taking control of the weather is something men have tried to do for thousands of years, but it took a 28-year old woman to achieve it. Her company, Weather Informatics, issues long-range weather forecasts to energy companies, retailers, the NHS and government so they can plan ahead. Unusually, Emily Shuckburgh combines an impressive academic record (she's a research fellow at Cambridge and holds a Paris-based EC fellowship into climate change) with an astute business brain, which has helped her appreciate the commercial potential of scientific research.

Most memorable achievement? 'That I've helped bring cutting-edge developments in the scientific community to the outside world.'

Smart advice? 'I'm a realist who tries to make the best of any situation. Frequently, research can lead nowhere, you feel demoralised, and you have to gather motivation to try again. But eventually you progress.'

And your other life? 'I strongly believe in the importance of family, friends and leisure. I've always tried to make as much time as possible for my personal life, but it becomes more and more difficult as increasing numbers of people depend on you professionally. I take inspiration from Marie Curie. Not only was she the first woman to win a Nobel prize, but she also won a second and raised a Nobel prize-winning daughter!'

Tell us your mantra. It's Einstein's "Imagination is more important than knowledge."'

Reproduced from *eve* magazine.

Darwinian Achievements

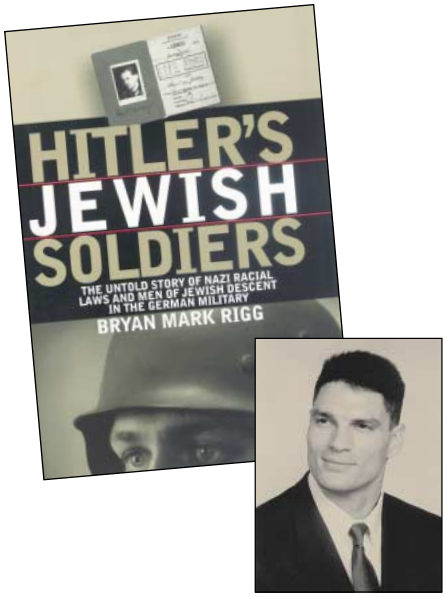
Prof William Brown (Master) received the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to Employment Relations.

Dr Chris Pickard (Research Fellow) has been awarded a 5-year EPSRC Advanced Fellowship to work on Condensed Matter at the Cavendish. His project is titled 'First principles prediction of experimental observables'.

Dr Chester White (Emeritus Fellow) was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for services to the youth of the County of Cambridgeshire (through his work for the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force).

In the last issue of the Darwinian we mentioned that **Dr Emily Shuckburgh** (Research Fellow) had been nominated in the BBC 'Smartest Woman in Britain' Award run in conjunction with *eve* magazine. We never doubted that she would win—and win she did (see feature).

Hitler's Jewish Soldiers



Bryan Rigg

Bryan Mark Rigg received his PhD from Darwin College in 2001. The material from his thesis has now been published as *Hitler's Jewish Soldiers: The Untold Story of Nazi Racial Laws and Men of Jewish Descent in the German Military*.

Crisscrossing Germany by bicycle, and carrying his own supplies—including backpack, video-camera, tripod, laptop, books, and documents—Bryan located and interviewed more than four hundred Mischlinge (partial Jews labelled under Hitler's racial laws) and their relatives and friends. Earning trust was often challenging and some men refused to speak with him, but he also encountered many who were grateful for the opportunity at last to discuss this part of their lives in war.

Michael Berenbaum, former director of the Research Institute at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, describes Bryan's conclusions thus:

"From his days as an undergraduate at Yale through his impressive dissertation at Cambridge, Bryan Rigg has worked indefatigably on the question of German soldiers of Jewish origin who served in the German military. The results are startling and unexpected.

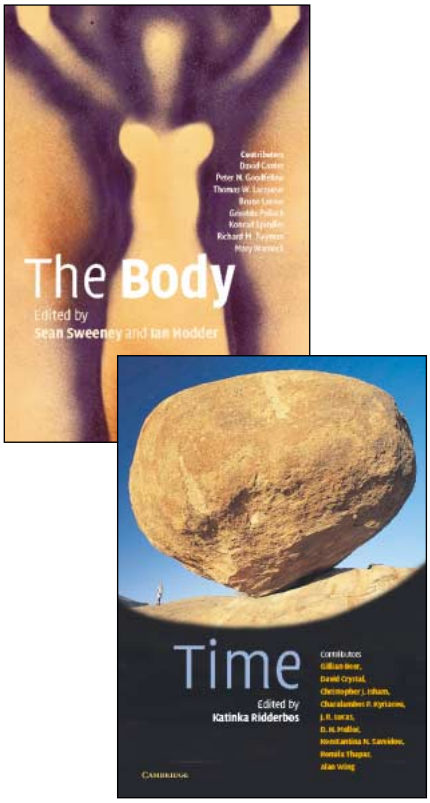
Rigg has demonstrated that there were numerous soldiers—some full Jews, some three quarter Jews, some half Jews, and some quarter Jews who received permission to serve in the German armed forces. They served their nation even as their nation was devaluing them and killing their kin—systematically and methodically.

Rigg's research is meticulous; his insights are significant for he conclusively demonstrates the degree of flexibility in German policy to the Mischlinge, the extent of Hitler's personal involvement, and most importantly that not all who served in the armed forces were anti-Semitic even as their service aided the killing process."

Helmut Schmidt, Former Chancellor of Germany, and among the many people interviewed, wrote: "Rigg's extensive knowledge and the preliminary conclusions drawn from his research impressed me greatly. I firmly believe that his in-depth treatment of the subject of German soldiers of Jewish descent in the Wehrmacht will lead to new perspectives on this portion of the 20th century German military history."

The thousands of pages of documents and oral testimonies the author collected for this study have been purchased by the National Military Archive of Germany and are housed as the Bryan Mark Rigg Collection in the *Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv* in Freiburg, Germany.

Published by University Press of Kansas, May 2002
Cloth ISBN 0-7006-1178-9



Darwin College Lecture Series

In the Second Term of every academic year since 1986, Darwin College has organised a series of eight public lectures. Each is built around a single theme, approached from a multi-disciplinary perspective and prepared for a general audience by a leading authority in his or her subject. These lectures have been revised, collected and published by Cambridge University Press.

The latest books in this series are *The Body* edited by Sean Sweeney and Ian Hodder and *Time* edited by Katinka Ridderbos. Both were published this year and are priced £25.00.

Books in this series are available to members and alumni of Darwin College at 20% off. For more details about the series and how to order, please email Hannah Proctor at hproctor@cambridge.org.

Gordana Apic (PhD student) and Nigel Whittle (MBA student) won the first prize in the Cambridge University Entrepeneur's Business Creation Competition along with colleagues Tijana Ignjatovic (Trinity) and Shahab Khokhar (Kings). Their company Cambridge Cell Networks (CCnet) will provide software solutions for silico drug target discovery and prediction of drug side effects.

Dr Ruth Kiew (Old Darwinian 1969-72) is the 2002 recipient of the National Tropical Botanical Garden's David Fairchild Medal for Plant Exploration (the botanic equivalent of the Nobel Prize according to the NY Times). Ruth is Keeper of the Herbarium and Library at the Singapore Botanic Gardens and featured in a Profile article in the January 2002 issue of Plant Talk (see also our e-articles on the website).

Sophie Tomlinson (Old Darwinian 1992-95) has been one of the few recipients in the humanities to receive grant funding from the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Professor Jack Jacobs (Emeritus Fellow and former Vice-Master) has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society for a 'lifetime's work in astrophysics and geophysics'.

Cesar Milstein and Max Perutz – a celebration of remarkable lives

MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, England

Dr Cesar Milstein, Nobel Laureate, Fellow 1980-2002

MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, England

Dr Max Perutz, Nobel Laureate, Honorary Fellow 1984-2002

Darwin has lost two very special friends this year. Each came to Cambridge under difficult personal circumstances—Cesar Milstein against the background of political persecution in Argentina, and Max Perutz against the background of Nazism in Vienna and his own internment during World War II. Each was a brilliant scientist whose seminal discoveries will ensure their immortality. But, to those who knew them, they will be remembered as much for their inspirational generosity to others as for their Nobel Prizes. Many of you will have read their full obituaries‡, and space restrictions prevent us from doing justice to their consummate academic achievements here. Each of them has won international honours and prizes the listing of which would occupy this entire newsletter. Instead what follows is a brief celebration of two great lives with an emphasis on their links to Darwin, Cambridge and LMB.

‡ On-line versions of obituaries can be found at: www.nobel.se/medicine/laureates

Cesar Milstein (1927-2002, Fellow of Darwin College from 1980)

Cesar Milstein was most recognised for his work on the structure of antibodies and the mechanism by which antibody diversity is generated. As part of this quest he, together with Georges Köhler (a postdoctoral fellow in his laboratory), developed the hybridoma technique for producing specific and pure 'monoclonal' antibodies in 1975. It was for this discovery that they were awarded the 1984 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Among his many other honours Cesar was awarded the Medical Research Council's first Millenium Medal in 2000. During the presentation ceremony Professor Sir George Radda emphasised that the discovery of monoclonal antibodies had revolutionised biomedical research and sparked an international billion-pound biotechnology industry. He added "No other MRC scientist has made such an outstanding contribution to Britain's science, health and wealth creation." Cesar was awarded the Companion of Honour in 1995.

Max Perutz (1914-2002, Honorary Fellow of Darwin College from 1984)

Max Perutz shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1962 with his colleague JC (later Sir John) Kendrew for their pioneering work on the elucidation of the structure of the biological macromolecules haemoglobin (Perutz) and myoglobin (Kendrew), the respiratory proteins of red blood cells and muscle. He was the founder and first Chairman of the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge—one of the most successful research laboratories in the world. LMB has been the locus of many fundamental discoveries, and has produced 12 Nobel Laureates (including 3 new ones in 2002 whose prize-winning work was started at LMB) and several dozen Fellows of the Royal Society. Max was also a founding member and first Chairman of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO). He was made Companion of Honour and subsequently received this country's highest civilian award, the Order of Merit.

From refugee origins to greatness in an adopted land

Both Max Perutz and Cesar Milstein have shown how bravery, genius and a glowing soul can turn adversity into triumph. Each started their studies in England through choice, but were forced to stay by political problems at home.

Max had been sent to Peterhouse in 1936 with financial help from his father (an ardent Anglophile), but when Hitler invaded Austria the family business was expropriated and they could no longer support him. Sir Lawrence Bragg, Head of the Cavendish Laboratory, was deeply interested in the promise shown by Perutz's work on diffraction patterns of proteins and obtained a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to employ him as his assistant. Max brought his parents to Britain, but both he and his father were interned in 1940. Together with over a hundred other German and Austrian refugee scholars, mostly Jewish, and all anti-Nazi, he was rounded up and taken first to Bury St Edmunds and then, with over a thousand others, to an internment camp in Quebec, crossing the U-boat infested Atlantic Ocean. At the

Cesar Milstein on his early life: 'My father was a Jewish immigrant who settled in Argentina, and was left to his own devices at the age of 15. My mother was a teacher, herself the daughter of a poor immigrant family. For both my mother and father, no sacrifice was too hard to make sure that their three sons (I was the middle one) would go to university. I wasn't a particularly brilliant student, but on the other hand I was very active in Student Union affairs and in student politics. It was in this way that I met my wife, Celia. After graduation, we married, and took a full year off in a most unusual and romantic honeymoon, hitchhiking our way through most countries in Europe, including a couple of months working in Israel kibbutzim. As we returned to Argentina I started seriously to work towards a doctoral degree. My PhD thesis work was done with no economic support. Both Celia and I worked part-time doing clinical biochemistry, between us earning just enough to keep us going.'

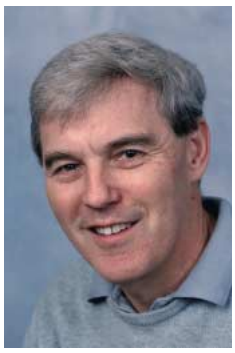
Max Perutz on creative thought: 'When Watson and Crick lounged around, arguing about problems for which there existed as yet no firm experimental data instead of getting down to the bench and doing experiments, I thought they were wasting their time. However, like Leonardo, they sometimes achieved most when they seemed to be working least, and their apparent idleness led them to solve the greatest of all biological problems, the structure of DNA. There is more than one way of doing good science.' *Thus Max gave the highest seal of approval to our Darwinian habit of taking coffee on the lawn after summertime lunches.*

Cesar Milstein displays his characteristic humility in describing his early research: 'What attracted me to immunology was that the whole thing seemed to revolve around a very simple experiment: take two different antibody molecules and compare their primary sequences. The secret of antibody diversity would emerge from that. Fortunately at the time I was sufficiently ignorant of the subject not to realise how naïve I was being.

Back in 1962 it occurred to me that antibody diversity might arise from the joining by disulphide bridges of a variety of small polypeptides in combinatorial patterns. I don't know whether anybody else had the same idea at the time, but of all the prevailing theories about antibody diversity that I am aware of, this was the widest of the mark. I hold it to my credit that I never put it into print.' *From the Structure of Antibodies to the Diversification of the Immune Response, Nobel Lecture, 8th December 1984*

Max Perutz on fostering a culture of creativity at LMB…: 'Every now and then I receive visits from earnest men and women armed with questionnaires and tape recorders who want to find out what made the Laboratory of Molecular Biology so remarkably creative … I feel tempted to draw their attention to 15th century Florence with a population of 50,000, from which emerged Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael, Ghibenti, Brunelleschi, Alberti and other great artists. Had my questioners investigated whether the rulers of Florence had created an interdisciplinary organisation of painters, sculptors, architects, and poets to bring to life this flowering of great art? … My question is not as absurd as it seems, because creativity in science, as in the arts, cannot be organised. It arises spontaneously from individual talent. Well-run laboratories can foster it, but hierarchical organisation, inflexible, bureaucratic rules, and mountains of futile paperwork can kill it. Discoveries cannot be planned; they pop up, like Puck, in unexpected corners.' From *I wish I'd made You Angry Earlier: Essays on Science, Scientists and Humanity.*

… and Cesar Milstein on its benefits: 'I owe an enormous debt to the atmosphere of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology, where all the work I have described was done, mostly under the Chairmanship of Max Perutz, and within the Division of Protein and Nucleic Acid Chemistry, of which Fred Sanger was the Head. From them, I always received an unspoken message which in my imagination I translated as "Do good experiments, and don't worry about the rest." ' *Nobel Lecture, 8th December 1984*



Richard Henderson (Fellow) is the current Director of LMB

The 2002 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine was awarded to John Sulston, Sydney Brenner and Robert Horwitz "for their discoveries concerning genetic regulation of organ development and programmed cell death". All three carried out much of their prize-winning work at LMB, Cambridge bringing to 12 the total number of laureates.

internment camp Max organised a 'university' at which many later famous scientists were to teach. Fortunately, his Cambridge friends rallied round and secured his release.

In Cesar's case, having returned to Argentina after his PhD in Cambridge, he resigned his post in Buenos Aires in 1963 due to the political persecution of liberal intellectuals and scientists which manifested itself as a vendetta against the director of his institute. He was welcomed back to Cambridge and became another example of how the University has been enriched by émigrés. By offering him a Fellowship in 1980 Darwin allowed many of us to benefit from his wisdom and kindness.

Another common feature in their success was a lifelong partnership with remarkable wives. Cesar describes above how his wife Celia supported his early success, and they worked together for long periods. Max's wife, Gisela Peiser, worked for the Cambridge-based Society for the Protection of Science and Learning and was an instrumental part in securing his return from internment in Quebec. Both survive their husbands.

Fellowship News

The most noticeable change in the Fellowship over the past year has been the arrival of **Peter Brindle** to the all important role of Bursar. He came to us from Christ's College and by general consent has settled in splendidly. Other new Fellows are **Peta Stevens**, who has a senior administrative post in the Old Schools; **Dr Felicia Huppert**, a Reader in the Department of Psychiatry, with a particular interest in ageing; and **Professor Martin Jones** of the Department of Archaeology who has done much to develop DNA testing as an archaeological tool. **Professor Dean Hawkes** rejoins the Fellowship after some years away running the Architecture Department at Cardiff University. He will help with the substantial number of architecture students we now have at Darwin. **Dr Ianthi Tsimpli** resigned from the Fellowship in order to return to her family in Greece.

A fresh group of Research Fellows joins the College in the Autumn. The new Adrian Research Fellow is **Dr Jim Endersby**, whose work on the history of science is concerned with the development of taxonomies in botany. The Charles and Katharine Darwin Research Fellow is **Dr Peter Jonker**, an astronomer working on observations of the interaction between black holes and neutron stars. **Dr Kostya Trachenko** is researching the physics of radiation damage to glass, a matter of great relevance to the storage of nuclear waste. **Atsushi Hotta** is another physicist, studying liquid crystal polymers which, among other applications, may provide artificial muscles. **Andrew Harris** is a chemical engineer analysing the behaviour of particles in fluidised bed combustion, a power generation method with great environmental potential. **Dr David Kreil** is at Hinxton deploying bioinformatics to model patterns of gene expression.

Three new Honorary Fellows are **Professor Sir Tony Hoare**, one of the founders of computer science; **Dr Milo Keynes**, a member of the Darwin family who has applied his medical expertise with great effect to biographical research; and the College's own **Professor Ekhard Salje**, now President of Clare Hall. The sad death of two other distinguished Honorary Fellows, **Dr Max Perutz** and **Dr Cesar Milstein** is reported elsewhere.

W.A. Brown

DARWIN DONS HIT TABLOIDS


Daily Mail

INSTANT CASH

John Leslie is a vile, arrogant man who despises women. What's even more depressing is so many of them let him get away with it … and come back for more

LYNDA LEE-POTTER HAS HER SAY: PAGE 15

Revolutionary screening test may be ready within a year

NEW CANCER 'LIFESAVER'

Daily Mail

The day I walked out on my Cherie

TONY BOOTH'S FURTHER INDISCRETIONS ON LIFE AT NO.10 IN THE SERIES THAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT – Pages 29-30

PARENTS MAY SOON OUTLIVE OBESE CHILDREN

£20,000 a day for Jagger's girl, 18

By our Media Correspondent

Two Darwin Fellows have been making front page headlines in the British tabloid papers in recent months. In October the Daily Mail praised Ron Laskey's announcement of successful trials of his new cancer screening method (see our coverage in the first issue of Darwinian). Professor Laskey cited this work as the most stimulating project with which he had been involved. 'We are really excited by our results so far. These suggest that our test is not only sensitive but also specific in that it does not accidentally pick out healthy people.' Sir Paul Nurse, chief executive of Cancer Research UK described the test as 'affordable, non-invasive and with the potential to revolutionise cancer screening.'

Earlier in September Andrew Prentice was misquoted as suggesting that parents will outlive their children following a paper he presented to the British Association for the Advancement of Science. His rhetorical title "The Obesity Pandemic – will parents outlive their children?" drew on a statement widely being quoted in the US. Prentice concluded that this claim was presently an exaggeration, but the tabloids sub-editors were loathe to see a good headline go to waste. In spite of the innaccuracy it is hoped that the coverage will raise awareness of the seriousness of the global trend towards obesity.


Congratulations to The Master on being awarded the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Darwinian Pairings and Descendants

As any good husband should, **David Wiltshire** recalls the exact day (28th September 1984) that he met his wife **Anna a Campo** in the Darwin Parlour. They have travelled the world producing Darwin descendants ranging from 5-14 years old: Kathlyn born in Trieste; Aidan in Hexham; and Roswyn and Merten in Adelaide. They now live in Christchurch, NZ.

Della Wilkinson and **Steve Zan** (both Darwinians in 1987-90 and both prominent members of the DCSA) have two sons Benjamin and Nathan Wilkinson-Zan aged 7 and 4 years.

Jenő Medveczky's Centennial Exhibition

In the growing collection of Darwin College paintings there is a still-life by the Hungarian artist Jenő (Eugene) Medveczky donated to the College by George Gömöri, Emeritus Fellow. Medveczky, born in 1902 in Savnik (Hungary, now Slovakia), made his debut in the late 1920s and belonged to the so-called "Rome School" of painters for having spent time in Rome on a Hungarian State Scholarship. From 1930 he attended several Venice Biennales and Milan Triennales, at the latter he was awarded a silver medal for his mural designs. After World War II his style changed from neo-Classicism to a kind of Modernism usually associated with the name of Henri Matisse. In 1967 he restored the peristyle of the Art Hall at Heroes Square, Budapest. Towards the end of his life he worked on a series of black-and-white engravings illustrating Homer's "Iliad" (now in the Hungarian National Gallery). Medveczky died in 1969, the year in which he was awarded the prestigious Mihály Munkácsy Prize.

The Centennial Exhibition from Medveczky's paintings took place in the Ernst Museum of Budapest, an art gallery where some of Hungary's best modern painters exhibit. It was opened on June 12, 2002 by László Szörényi, Director of the Hungarian Institute of Literary Research and ex-Ambassador to Italy; it was also attended by George Gömöri, stepson of the artist, from whose collection in Cambridge eleven paintings were borrowed by the Museum. A catalogue, displaying 16 colour reproductions of the artists' work, was published by Ernst Museum for the exhibition. The Hungarian press hailed the occassion as the "rediscovery" of an outstanding artist whose integrity had impeded his wider recognition during many decades of Communist rule in Hungary.

George Gömöri

Jenő Medveczky's 'Still Life with Chessboard' Darwin College

Alumni Calendar

6 December 2002
Former Fellows' Reunion Dinner

8 March 2003
Former Fellows' Buffet Lunch

14 March 2003
Darwin Society Dinner

16 May 2003
Darwin Society Dinner

6 June 2003
Guest Night & Former Fellows' Reunion

27 June 2003
Darwin Ball

Articles on the Darwin website

Several people have generously responded to our requests for articles from alumni. Due to our need to celebrate not one, but two, great men in this issue we cannot feature all of these and have therefore put them on the alumni website at www.dar.cam.ac.uk/alumni where you will already find full colour PDF files of each issue of the DARWINIAN. Please take a look at the e-articles attached to this issue. **Christophe Faurie** describes the innovative approach to 'change management' of his Paris-based consulting partnership. Quoting Kofi Annan's "Together we are the ultimate power. If we pool our efforts, we can do almost anything" **Maria Neophytou** describes her internship to the UN in New York which was part-funded by Darwin and the Gilbert Murray Trust. We also occasionally reproduce some articles from the world press featuring distinguished Darwinians: from the New York Times 'Begonias and Beyond: A Voice for the Tropical Forests' contains an interview with **Ruth Kiew** (see Achievements section).

Likely changes to Silver Street

Increasing traffic congestion in Cambridge is making a walk up the Silver Street 'canyon' even more treacherous than before, so forcing the authorities to consider extending the city centre traffic exclusion zone. The County Council's preferred option is to introduce a tidal flow (one-way eastbound in the morning and vice versa in the evening) with a part-time closure in the middle of the day. After wide consultation as part of the 'Investing in the Future of Cambridge' scheme councillors will make a decision in January 2003.

Darwin College Lecture Series 2002

'Power' was the theme of the 2002 Darwin College Lecture Series, and the Lady Mitchell Hall was packed for every lecture. The first lecture, a rousing performance by Tony Benn on 'Power and democracy', broke records by overflowing the overflow hall as well. Nobel Prize winning biochemist John Walker followed with a lucid account of the mechanisms of power generation within living cells. The Director of the New York Planetarium, Neil de Grasse Tyson, then took the audience on a vivid tour from the largest to the smallest magnitudes of the known universe under the title 'Powers of Ten'. The next three lectures moved into the arts. Maureen Thomas used interactive video techniques to discuss the power of narrative. Film, and in particular the treatment of life and death in film, was analysed in literary terms by Elizabeth Bronfen. Derek Scott gave a virtuoso illustrated discussion of the power of music. Any thoughts that mathematics might not be amenable to the popular lecture form were dispelled by John Conway's compelling talk that ended with the whole audience tying some of their members up in a knot and, mercifully, using his maths to release them. The series ended with Mary Archer presenting an impressive account of the potential of sustainable power, leaving us with the prospect of our world becoming cleaner by greater reliance on sun, wind, tide, elephant grass and chicken muck.

Jared Pava

Neil de Grasse Tyson, Director of the New York Planetarium spoke on "Powers of Ten"

From the Emails

Jonathan Lonsdale (1991-94) writes that he and Tim Foxton (1993-96), who had last met in the Darwin bar discussing environmental issues, shared the platform at a recent European Commission conference exploring the future of environmental technologies. Jonathan is a member of the Environmental Innovation & Growth Team at the Department of Trade and Industry and Tim is at Imperial College Centre for Energy Policy and Technology.

Lawrence Sherman (1972-73) writes to say that following the outset of a career as a criminologist in Darwin he is now completing his year as President of the American Society of Criminology and will serve three more years as President of the International Society of Criminology. Lawrence is the AM Greenfield Professor of Human Relations at the University of Pennsylvania and Director of the Lee Center of Criminology.

Godrun Politt, the first German Darwinian who arrived in College in 1969 writes: 'I recently attended the annual meeting of the German Cambridge Society in the Black Forest and met for the first time a former Darwinian. I was told that there have been many German students in our college in the meantime and even a German Fellow. What I would like to know is, whether there is an organisation of former Darwinians in Germany and if so, how to get in touch with it or with anyone who might be interested in such a group.'

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The editors especially welcome short articles, pictures, artwork and news from our overseas alumni.

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Roger Whitehead

Editor's reply to Godrun Politt:

If anyone is interested in contacting other Old Darwinians in their home country we can always provide a list of addresses. Past experience, in which the Darwin College Society has invested a considerable effort into trying to set up country 'chapters', teaches us that Darwinians are generally an independent lot who don't much like being organised. They do, however, enjoy the occasional reunion. To this end we can also advertise among current students and fellows if any overseas Darwinians would like to host someone from Cambridge when they travel to your home country.

Some recent publications:

Ruskin and Modernism Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave Publishers, 2001. Edited by Giovanni Cianci (1968-69) and Peter Nicholls.

Il Cézanne degli scrittori, dei poeti e dei filosofi. Milano: Bocca Editori, 2001. Edited by Giovanni Cianci (1968-69) et al.

The World of Odysseus by Moses Finley (Master 1976-82) has been reprinted by the Folio Society London, 2002.

Evidence-Based Crime Prevention Routledge, 2002. Edited by Lawrence Sherman (1972-73), David Farrington et al.

Hitler's Jewish Soldiers University Press of Kansas 2002. Bryan Mark Rigg (1997-2001) (see feature).

Reader's Guide to the History of Science Chicago & London: Fitzroy Dearborn Press, 2000. Arne Hessenbruch (1989-95).