Jess Hrivnak wins the RIBA President's Medal

Jess Hrivnak, Darwin Alumna (2003 - 2005), was awarded the Diploma in Architecture in 2005. Her dissertation was the best in the year and was chosen by the Department of Architecture to represent Cambridge in the annual competition for the President's Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects. In this competition work is submitted by all of the schools of architecture in the United Kingdom. Jess' dissertation, 'Is Relative Sustainability Relevant?' was awarded the medal and she received this from the President, Jack Pringle, at a ceremony held at the RIBA headquarters in Portland Place, London.

The issue of sustainability is now at the forefront of architectural education and practice and Jess' research made a detailed study of a restaurant pavilion recently built in St. James' Park, London to the design of Sir Michael Hopkins. In this she explored how the term sustainability may be effectively quantified and how the impact of a sustainable building might be measured.

Upon graduation Jess worked in Sir Michael Hopkins' practice, but at the beginning of June 2006 she took up a new post at the environmental consultancy, Bioregional, where she is now Supply Manager and Product Specialist for a UK government funded project, 'One Planet Products', which aims to make sustainable building products more competitive in the construction industry. This presents her with the opportunity to develop further her interests and expertise in sustainable construction. On a more personal note, Jess has recently become engaged to be married to Andy Macintosh who is also a graduate of the M.Phil and Diploma in Architecture courses in Cambridge.

Dean Hawkes

Darwin Magazine Puzzle by Groucho

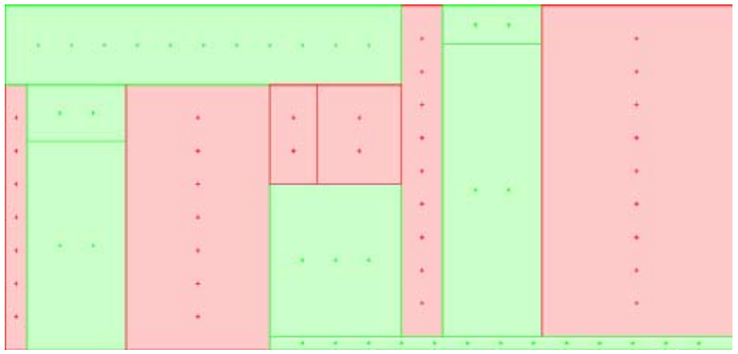


Figure 1. A big rectangle filled with little rectangles. All the red rectangles have integer height. (For example, the bottom-left red rectangle has height 8.) All the green rectangles have integer width.

A number of small rectangles perfectly tile a big rectangle. If the small rectangles all have the property that at least one of their sides is an integer, can you show that the big rectangle also has at least one integer side? That is, either the width of the big rectangle is an integer, or its height is an integer, or both.

For various solutions please see:
www.inference.phy.cam.ac.uk/mackay/abstracts/rectangles.html
David Mackay (Darwin College Fellow) asserts they can all be understood by a 10-year old, but the editors are inclined to dispute this!

Editors:

Andrew Prentice
Sophia Smith
Richard Jebb
Dean Hawkes

The editors especially welcome short articles, pictures, artwork and news from our overseas alumni.
Correspondence to:
darwinian@dar.cam.ac.uk

Calendar of alumni events

2006

Friday 17th November
Reunion Dinner (1978-85) - 7.30pm

Friday 1st December
Former Fellows' Reunion - 7.30pm

2007

Saturday 10th March
Former Fellows' Buffet Lunch - 12.45pm

Friday 16th March
Darwin Society Dinner / Reunion Dinner (1983-1990) - 7.30pm

Friday 18th May
Darwin Society Dinner - 7.30pm

Friday 8th June
Guest night and Former Fellows' Reunion - 7.30pm

Friday 15th June
Reunion Dinner (1988-95) - 7.30pm

Friday 13th July
Old Darwinian Summer Party

Newsletter of
Darwin College
Autumn 2006

THE DARWINIAN

New Sponsorship for Darwin Boat Club

The Darwin College Boat Club has been supported during 2006 by a one year sponsorship deal with the Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (CfEL) part of the Judge Business School, University of Cambridge. The CfEL sponsorship deal, set up by the DCBC committee and Dr Shai Vyakarnam (pictured above), Director of CfEL and Senior Member at Darwin provides the Boat Club with a generous contribution that enables it to maintain and improve the high standards of equipment and coaching. In return, the relationship with Darwin helps to raise awareness of the activities of the Centre to key undergraduate and graduate audiences within the University.

Jost Schatzman, Mens Captain DCBC said "We are absolutely delighted about the deal with the CfEL because it allows us to continue to put out some of the fastest crews in Cambridge and also because the events and programmes run by the CfEL will be interesting to many of us in DCBC and the rest of Darwin."

The Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (CfEL) aims to spread the spirit of enterprise to the University of Cambridge and beyond by delivering a range of educational activities to inspire and build skills in the practice of entrepreneurship. The Centre collaborates with over 200 experienced entrepreneurs, innovators and other practitioners to provide relevant, credible and practical training. The programmes offered include elective modules in undergraduate and postgraduate courses at the University, weekly lectures and workshops, as well as open programmes such as Enterprise Tuesday, CfEL Summer School and Enterprisers.

The relationship with Darwin College Boat Club has also proved to be a great vehicle for hospitality events for CfEL delegates and contributors. During this summer, CfEL were able to co-ordinate one of their teaching programmes with DCBC's participation in the May 'Bumps' on 15th June. The Cambridge Summer Forum was conceived as an opportunity for practitioners and policymakers to learn about what makes such enterprising places as Cambridge work. CfEL offered a two-day module in entrepreneurship aimed at professionals working in this field. During the programme, delegates were invited to a special networking dinner at Darwin College attended by the DCBC President, Dr Chester White, Dr Shai Vyakarnam, and CfEL Entrepreneurs in Residence Jack Lang, Alan Barrell and John Snyder among others. Following that, CfEL invited key contributors, entrepreneurs and delegates along to a day at the boat races which was organised with help from the Darwin Boat Club Committee. The day was a great success for all those involved and an inspiration for future events.

Shai Vyakarnam is married to Darwin alumna Anna Vyakarnam (1977-81)

Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning

CAMBRIDGE Judge Business School

Inside

Darwinian Achievements

The Vice-Master, Prof Andy Fabian and Old Darwinian Dr Ann Prentice (1975-8) were both awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's 80th Birthday Honours list.

Amir Shirzadi (Research Associate) has been awarded the Armourers and Brasiers Fellowship. This is a National Fellowship which has been awarded for the first time ever, in recognition of outstanding and continuing contributions to Materials Science.

Prof Sally Shuttleworth (1975-80) has been appointed the Chair and Divisional Head of Humanities at Oxford University. She is a Fellow of St. Anne's College (see separate article).

Professor Dame Jean Thomas FRS (1967-69) has just been elected as Master of Catz.

Jess Hrivnak (2003-05) has won the Dissertation Prize in this year's RIBA President's Medals awards (see separate article)

Virologist Dr Nancy Cox (1970-75) has been named as one of Time Magazine's 100: People who Shape our World and one of Newsweek's 15 People Who Make America Great (see separate article).

Dr Anne Ferguson-Smith (Fellow) has been appointed to a Royal Society Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship and has also been elected a member of the European Molecular Biology Organistaion (EMBO).

Dr Paul Robertson (Research Fellow) was awarded the World Leadership Forum Award for the Lecturer of the Year.

Old Darwinian gathering in Uganda

Roger Whitehead (former Vice-Master) invited Ugandan ODs to a meal at the Guest House of Makerere University, Kampala. Left to Right: John Kakitahi (1974-5) is Associate Professor of Public Health Nutrition at Makerere University Medical School. Joseph Luswata (2003) is an advocate in a leading Ugandan law firm. Eldad Tukahirwa (1976-80) is Programme Manager for the Association for Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA). There have been a total of 6 Ugandans at Darwin so this reunion represented 50%.

Hungary – 50 years on

This year we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Hungarian revolution. It was a momentous event, the first revolution against a regime which called itself "Socialist" but was in fact a one-party dictatorship modelled on Stalin's Soviet Union. Though the revolution was suppressed by Soviet tanks, its memory remained a beacon showing the way to the eventual demise of the Soviet Empire.

As a student, George Gömöri (Emeritus Fellow), took part in the 1956 revolution both as an organiser and the editor of the student paper University Youth. He celebrated the anniversary by the publication of a book (alas, only in Hungarian), entitled Az én forradalmam (My Revolution) published by PONT publishers in Budapest. In November he will also take part in a conference at St Anthony's College, Oxford, devoted to the events of the year 1956.

Many books have been published on 1956 and this year there is a new crop of them, three by British authors. Peter Unwin's `1956: Power Defied' (Michael Russell) discusses all the important events of that year, including the Suez affair. Victor Sebestyen's book `Twelve Days' (Weidenfeld and Nicholson) deals specifically with the Hungarian Revolution and Sir Bryan Cartledge's masterful history of Hungary `The Will to Survive' (Timewell Press) devotes seventeen pages to the event which "shook the Kremlin". The books by Sebestyen and Cartledge will be discussed at an evening, chaired by Francis Bennett in the Barbican on October 6 this year, while on October 8 a literary evening is planned at the same venue with the participation of George Szirtes, Tibor Fischer, Stephen Vizinczey and George Gömöri. Poems will be read on this occasion by Angela Pleasance.

The Darwin and Cambridge Community around Calcutta

Above: *At the British Council offices in Bangal. Centre (in yellow Sari) is Sohini Banerjee, the secretary of the Darwin College India Society. Second from the right is Professor Shiv Brat Singh and third from right is Harry Bhadeshia.*

Below: *From right to left, Judge Bose, Sohini Banerjee and her husband.*

In January 2006, Harry Bhadeshia (Darwin College Fellow) visited Tata Steel in Jamshedpur, the Indian Institute of Technology at Kharagpur, the Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESU) at Shipur and the British Council/Darwin College Society in Calcutta. The list of the Cambridge contacts he met illustrates the depths of the links – and these are only in the field of engineering and materials science!

In Calcutta, Sourabh Chatterjee (current PhD student at Darwin). At Tata Steel in Jamshedpur, Saurabh Kundu (current PhD student at Darwin), Dr Debashish Bhattacharjee (did his PhD at Churchill College), now Director of Research at Tata Steel, Jamshedpur. At the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, Prof Shiv Brat Singh, (obtained his PhD at Darwin). Sohini Banerjee, who did her law degree in Cambridge, now is a lecturer in law, and the founding Secretary of the Darwin College India Society based in Calcutta. Prof Partha Chattopadhyay, Bengal Engineering and Science University, spent six months in Cambridge and had frequent meals in Darwin. He initiated the now highly successful Neural Networks and Genetic Algorithms activity at the BESU. Prof Marimuthu Murugananth, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, did his PhD at Queen's College. Prof Datta, BESU, who contributed to the special issue of ISIJ International on Neural Networks, organised in 1991 by Harry Bhadeshia and Prof Hidetoshi Fujii of Osaka University (formerly visiting member of Darwin).

Profile

Dr James Patrick Mixon, CEO and Chairman, Kherion Technology Limited

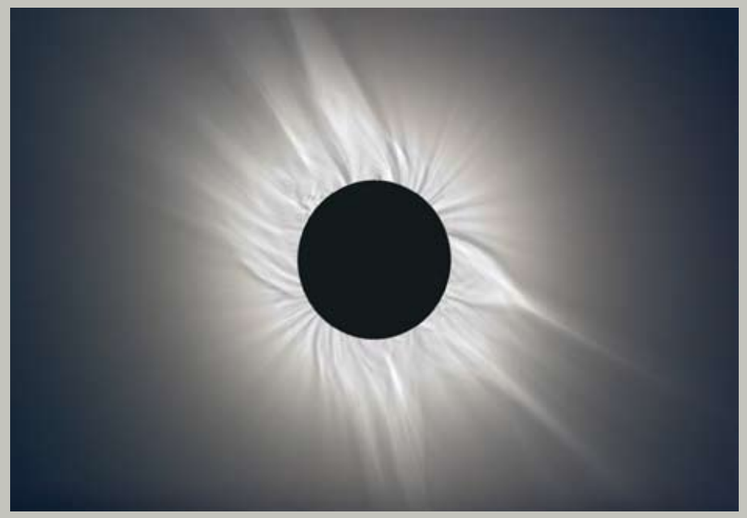
James Patrick Mixon completed his PhD in Molecular Virology at Darwin in 2002, and has since gone on to create a new biotech company Kherion Technology with fellow Cambridge graduates Jabed Chowdhury, Marc Creus and Mohib Uddin. Kherion Technology Limited's mission is to be a world-leading provider of antigen-based therapy by employing cutting-edge proteomics technology for the discovery, characterisation, manufacture and commercialisation of novel therapeutic products.

Explains Dr Mixon: "We aim to develop highly-effective immunodiagnostics and vaccines, ultimately participating in the launch of products in multi-billion dollar markets by entering into early partnerships and licensing agreements with existing leading vaccine and immunodiagnostic producers."

Kherion Technology Limited is a pioneer in technologies for the development of novel vaccines and immunomodulators. Such applications include the use of data obtained from differential protein expression patterns for antigen screening and to delineate and validate protein targets and the elucidation of biomarkers to improve the efficacy of therapeutic responses. The company is also participating in a pan-European collaborative project to develop a new bio-nanotechnology-based, "lab-on-a-chip" diagnostic device. Kherion Technology's vision is that its novel protein technology will revolutionise the ways debilitating diseases such as cancer, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis are diagnosed and therapeutically targeted in the near future.

Patrick Mixon, a US citizen, was assisted in establishing Kherion Technology by the Global Entrepreneurs Programme at UK Trade & Investment. He also attended the CfEL Summer School 2002 (see our front page lead story on CfEL). Commenting on why the company is based in Cambridge Patrick argues: "It made sense to us to stay in the Cambridge area, not only because Cambridge is a beautiful city and we have built up a network of contacts here, but also because of the East of England's world-renowned reputation for excellence in the life sciences sector."

THE TOTAL ECLIPSE



Main photo: *A professional picture of the eclipsed Sun taken from the Turkish coast during totality and showing the corona (the shapes are in part due to the Sun's magnetic field)*

Like all objects in sunlight, the Moon has a shadow. We don't usually notice it unless the shadow touches the Earth, at which place an eclipse is seen. A particularly long one was visible this Spring, on March 27th, from the Eastern Mediterranean and several Darwin Fellows independently travelled to Egypt and Turkey to view this spectacular natural phenomenon.

I was with my family close to the centre-line of the eclipse path where it crossed the Turkish coast, Chris Bishop and his family were a few miles along the beach, Nicholas Branson was in Western Egypt and Felicia Huppert and Jane Selby in Capadochia, Turkey. Totality lasted almost 4 minutes when, together with the gorgeous solar corona, both Mercury and Venus could easily be seen in the dark sky. Being at a total eclipse is unforgettable and difficult to describe in words since it engages so many senses. The temperature drops, birds go quiet as they're fooled into thinking night has approached, (some) people 'ooh' and cheer, the sky darkens and the million degree outer solar atmosphere - the corona - appears. It is well worth travelling thousands of miles to witness.

Curiously the Moon and Sun have almost exactly the same angular size in the Sky as seen from the Earth (about half a degree). This is in part why total Solar eclipses are rare. The next one which is reasonably accessible and with likely clear skies is well over a decade away. Since the diameter of the Earth is 4 times that of the Moon, its shadow is much larger than that of the Moon and lunar eclipses are much more common. (Shame on you if you've never seen one.)

There is an interesting link between eclipses and Darwin College. George Darwin (Charles' second son and Plumian Professor of Astronomy) was the first to show that the raising of the tides on the Earth by the Moon's gravitational pull causes the Moon's orbit to slowly spiral away from the Earth at about an inch per year. Long ago the Moon appeared larger and eclipses more common and in a million years or so it will have receded so far that there will be no more total Solar eclipses visible from Earth. George Darwin probably worked this out sitting in his armchair in his study in Newnham Grange, right where the Bursar now manages the College finances!

Andy Fabian
Vice-Master and Royal Society Research Professor of Astrophysics

Chris Bishop and family viewing the eclipse as totality approaches

Shadows under a bush before totality (the gaps between the leaves act like many pinhole cameras producing multiple images of the partially eclipsed Sun)

Turkey during the eclipse

The 2006 Darwin College Lecture Series: Survival

There were packed audiences once again for the 2006 Darwin College Lecture Series, this year on the theme of Survival. Brought together by Emily Shuckburgh (Darwin College Fellow), our speakers explored urgent issues in both human and natural worlds. A fascinating light on the vulnerability of those most ambitious of political projects, empires, was cast by Paul Kennedy's account of the communications systems that held them together. To explore how culture survives, Edith Hall took one of the oldest stories, Odysseus and the Cyclops, and traced its varied retelling to the present day. Victims of improving communications, the world's languages perish by the day, but in describing this remorseless process, Peter Austin gave a vivid account of efforts to restore Aboriginal languages to today's young native Australians. A nice twist to the question of our own survival came with Cynthia Kenyon's engaging account of the discovery of the genetic mechanisms that programme ageing into living things.

From here we moved to more apocalyptic subjects. Richard Feachem's discussion of surviving disease gave a reassuring overview of international public health policy in an ever-more crowded world. Set against this, we had James Jackson's fascinating geological explanation of why ever more people are vulnerable to earthquakes and tsunamis. The College's own Andrew Prentice captivated the audience with a deeply moving account of humanity's eternal struggle with famine, ending with the paradox that those freed of this curse are predisposed to the emerging menace of obesity. Finally and appropriately, it was left to Diana Liverman to provide an authoritative account of the threat of global warming that lies behind all these things. But it would be misleading to leave the impression of a pessimistic lecture series. One message that stood out above all others was that the various routes to survival are to be found through rational intellectual enquiry.

Willy Brown
Master

Main image: *Surviving Famine in Sudan. Photo courtesy of Tom Stoddart/Getty* Images

`Lost' Old Darwinians being sought by alumni

The Alumni Office regularly gets e-mails from Old Darwinians seeking friends they have lost touch with. Please look at the list of 'lost' alumni below, if you know of the whereabouts of any of them please take a moment to phone or e-mail the Alumni Office.

Michael Jonathon Smith PhD Engineering 1973-1978

Carlos Martins Applied Mathematics 1994 and 1997/8

Sofie von Graevenitz Mphil in Environmental Studies 1996/7

Piyapat Bunnag Mphil International Relations 1997/8

Chris Luecke Science 1995-2000

Philip Owen Davies PhD Genetics 1998

From the emails

Mark Joshi writes:

After six years working in banking, I made a return to academia and I am now an associate professor (reader) at Melbourne University teaching financial mathematics. I have also published two books with Cambridge University Press (C++ Design Patterns and Derivatives Pricing and The Concepts and Practice of Mathematical Finance). Jane and I have had two sons,

A Message from the Alumni Office

On 31st March Darwin College held its inaugural Alumni Reunion dinner for alumni who matriculated between the years of 1964-1975. We had a fantastic turnout and many Old Darwinians travelled from great distances to attend. These dinners will now be held regularly on a rolling basis – so on 16th June we welcomed back alumni who attended the College between 1975-1980. The next meal will be in the Michaelmas term for the 1978-1985 cohort.

The University Alumni Weekend took place from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th September. The theme this year was 'Flights of Fancy' with lectures on subjects as diverse as 'Wonderful Lives' by Dr Nick Baylis (who writes for the Times magazine as 'Dr Feelgood') and 'Intelligence on the Wing: From Crafty Crows to Philosophical Parrots' by Nicola Clayton. Many tours of departments and Colleges were also included in the programme. As part of this popular weekend Darwin College held a Family Buffet lunch for Old Darwinians in our beautiful grounds on the Saturday. If you and your family would like to attend future alumni weekends, more details are on our website www.dar.cam.ac.uk/alumni/dcs_cal.htm or phone the Alumni Office. All events are advertised on the website, in this newsletter and also in the e-bulletin. If you want to be at any alumni gathering just e-mail or phone the Alumni Office and we will ensure that your name is added to the guest list or an invitation will be sent to you. But do remember that some functions and events have limited space, so make contact early.

Also, please remember, to let us have your new contact details if you move, so we can continue to keep you informed and involved.

If you rowed whilst at Cambridge then the Darwin College Boat Club would like to keep you in touch with the Club, its events and alumni. Log on to www.dar.cam.ac.uk/dcbc/alumni/index.html.

Finally, can we ask you please to take a few moments to fill out the alumni questionnaire that has been mailed with this newsletter. You do not have to answer every question but please complete what you can. The aim of the Alumni Office is to organise events and give you news that is relevant to you. Ultimately, it should be possible to link groups of Old Darwinians by career. So, for instance, Material Scientists could have e-mail contact with one another and perhaps meet up for 'networking' events. Filling out the questionnaire will be pivotal in being able to provide this and many other services to you.

We would like to thank the many alumni for all the positive feedback we are receiving; but please don't stop! We hope you will not hesitate to e-mail, phone or pop-by when in Cambridge.

The Darwin Alumni Team consists of:

The Bursar and Development Director, Peter Brindle
Tel: +44 (0) 1223 335664
E-mail: bursar@dar.cam.ac.uk

Alumni Secretary, Sophia Smith
Alumni Office tel: +44 (0) 1223 335690
E-mail: alumni.office@dar.cam.ac.uk.

The Bursar's Secretary, Sandra James
Tel: +44 (0) 1223 335666
E-mail: sj265@cam.ac.uk.

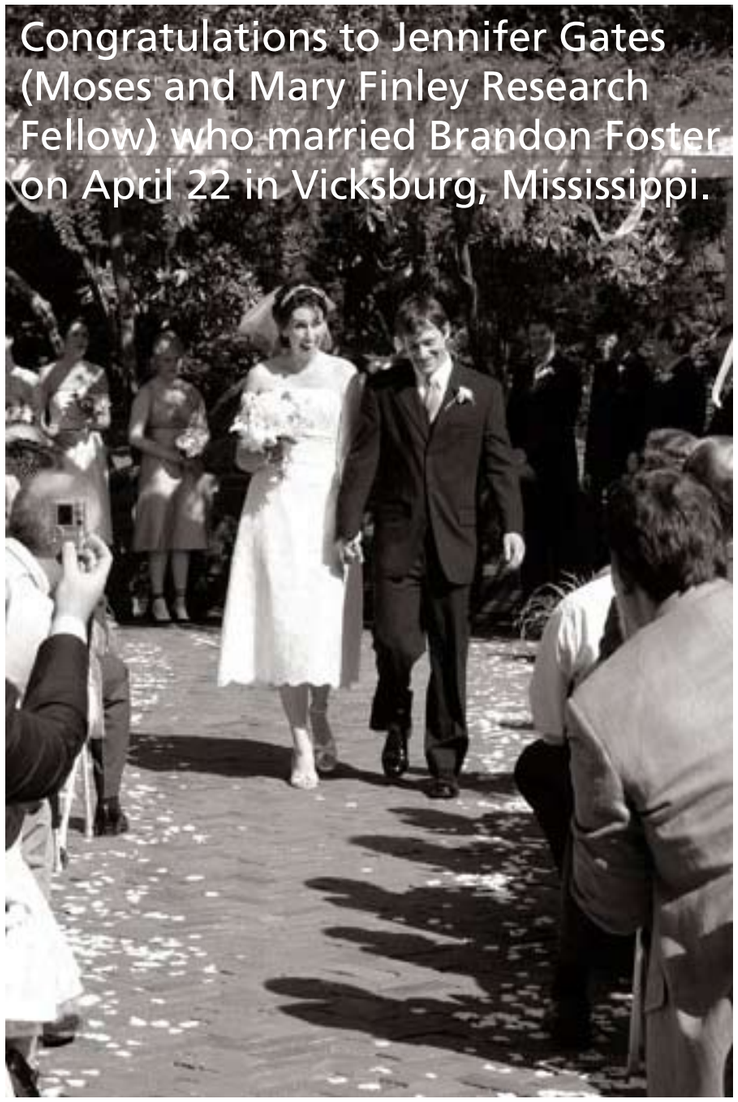
Secretary to the Darwin College Society, Andrew Prentice
Tel: +44-20-7168-5444
E-mail: andrew.prentice@lshtm.ac.uk

Overseas Alumni Groups

Darwin College Alumni groups continue to flourish. After much hard work by alumna Sohini Banerjee (LLM 2002-03) the inauguration of Darwin College Society India took place in mid January at the British Deputy High Commission in Calcutta. The evening was very successful starting with a lecture from Professor Harry Bhadeshia which was followed by a cocktail reception (see separate article). If you would be interested in joining this group please contact the Alumni Office.

In Tokyo alumni Erek Speckert (PhD Material Sciences 1999-2004) has recently initiated a Darwin College Alumni group. Erek hopes that this informal group will meet for meals and other social events several times a year. Again details are available from the Alumni Office.

In Zagreb, Croatia, Julien Goodman (MPhil Criminology 1997-1998) is setting up a UK University Alumni Society and is already involving Darwin College alumni. Julien, who successfully helped to set up the Paris group a few years ago, is a great ambassador for Darwin!



Congratulations to Jennifer Gates (Moses and Mary Finley Research Fellow) who married Brandon Foster on April 22 in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Sally Shuttleworth

Professor Sally Shuttleworth (1975-78) has recently been appointed Head of the Humanities Division at the University of Oxford, and a fellow of St Anne's College. After leaving Darwin she took up a fellowship at Harvard University, followed by an academic post at Princeton, before returning to the UK to teach at the University of Leeds. In 1994 she took up a chair in the English Department at Sheffield University, serving subsequently as Dean of Arts. She has published widely in the field of her original PhD – nineteenth-century literature and science. Most recently she has co-directed a major research project on 'Science in the Nineteenth-Century Periodical', with fellow ex-Darwinian Jonathan Topham as a key member of the team (for details of publications and the electronic database, see www.sciper.org).

Farewell to Karen Asplen

Karen Asplen worked in the Deanery for over twenty years, first as a junior secretary and then as Chief Secretary. She was a tower of strength performing her duties with great dedication, accuracy and always in good spirit. The fund of knowledge she built up about the job and her ability to remember names and faces meant that she was always able to deal with the many queries from students in a personal and friendly manner. She and the other Deanery secretaries frequently worked beyond the call of duty. This was particularly evident at Christmas when they spent hours buying and wrapping presents for the children's Christmas party. Karen left Darwin to begin a family; she recently married Simon and now has a beautiful boy, Finley. She will be sorely missed by all who knew and worked with her. We wish her, Simon and Finley a very happy life and hope to see them in college from time to time.

In celebration of Hugh Fleming

Emeritus Fellow of Darwin College

Dr Hugh Fleming, the first cardiologist at Papworth College and longtime Fellow of Darwin College, died on 5th August 2006 after a short illness at the age of 82. Hugh was raised in New Zealand and completed his medical studies there. He began his career working with a remote Maori community from whom he probably contracted the TB that was almost to blight his medical career. However, with typical perseverance he was determined to succeed and was inspired to visit the UK after attending a talk. He later wrote: 'My first knowledge of Papworth came from a lecture by Sir Charles Hercus, our professor of public health, who had visited Papworth Hospital on sabbatical from New Zealand. I have never forgotten the feeling and enthusiasm with which he, in 1944, described to us the work that was being done there. When I visited in 1953, I never dreamt that I would spend 30 years of my life establishing and developing cardiology there.' In the years he worked at Papworth, he saw the hospital grow into one of the world's leading medical facilities.

The Master gave these words of thanks and appreciation at a reception in Darwin which followed a packed memorial service at Great St Mary's Church at which Richard King gave a longer address:

`It is an honour to express the deep debt of gratitude that Darwin College owes to Hugh Fleming. A Fellow of the College for 37 years, Hugh's contribution was enormous. His warm, out-going personality, and lively curiosity added so very much. His kindness to others and caring for those in difficulty – staff, students or fellows - were far beyond the call of any duty. To the end of his life, he took great interest in College matters, and his advice was always shrewd, sensitive and really useful. His photographs provided one of the College's finest Christmas cards. But the greatest reflection of his and Julia's generosity was the gift of our beautiful bridge to the Small Island. A gift, it need hardly be said, that was greater than the £12 – 10s that the original bridge cost in 1885. It is with pride that I announce today that we shall officially name it the Fleming Bridge. At the bridge's opening, he made a particular point of its symbolism. For Hugh saw Darwin College as a bridge – between disciplines, between nations, and between scholars. Hugh Fleming was a central span of that bridge and we shall all deeply miss his lovely company.'

Hugh leaves his wife, Julia, and two daughters, Jan and Jennie.

Hugh Fleming 22nd October 1923 - 5th August 2006.

Jenny Baker retires after 22 years service

Jenny Baker worked at Darwin College from 7th May 1984 until she retired in May 2006. During the first 2 years of her employment she fulfilled the role of Assistant Accommodation Officer. She then moved on to become Accounts Manager, a position she held for 20 years. Always good company and very good at her job – all at Darwin will miss her.

In the last few years Jenny has unfortunately been suffering with poor health. Many of you have fond memories of her and will wish her well.

Jenny cutting a magnificent 'retirement' cake at her leaving party.

DCBC celebrates successful season 05/06

Darwin College Boat Club during Lent Bumps

Our proud First Ladies after 4 successful days in the Mays

Good times in Seville for DCBC

Glorious sunshine and great results made May Bumps Week a fantastic success for our Darwin boaties this year! All four of our crews maintained or improved their position in the Bumps chart. After bumping up 3 places in the Lents and winning pots at the Spring Head-2-Head Race, our First Men went "Up 1" in the Mays. Our First Ladies fought off some serious competition in the upper half of the second division and impressively demonstrated that they are still the fastest Ladies Graduate Boat in Cambridge. Our Second Men also successfully maintained their position at the Head of the 4th division. The boat (which was stacked with several old boys including Darwin Fellows Torsten Krude and Mark de Rond) unfortunately suffered from two equipment failures during the week. On the positive side, our old boys can now add yet another unbelievable story about last-minute repairs involving shoestrings and gaffer tape to their immense repertoire of rowing anecdotes! Finally, our legendary Second Ladies turned into all-time heroes by going up four and "winning blades"! Well done, W2!

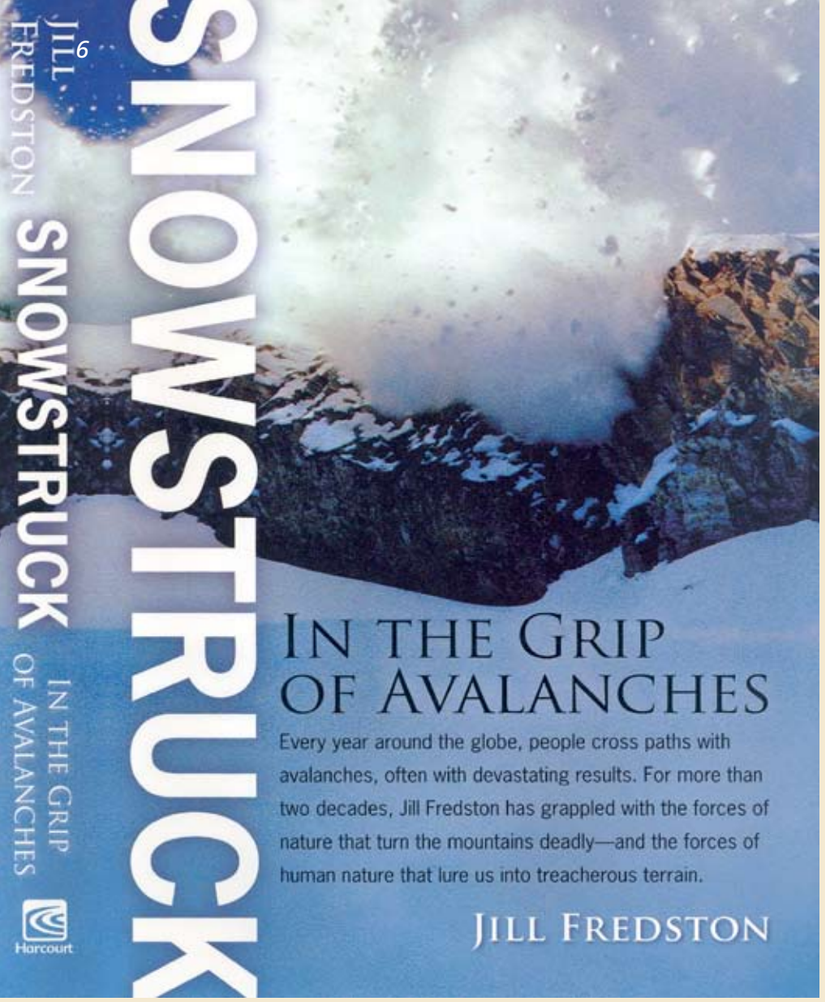
The club celebrated the end of the season in style with a reception in the college gardens, a brilliant dinner followed by port and speeches in the Old Library, drinks at the bar and midnight punting on the Cam!

Besides Bumps Week, 2005-06 saw a number of other highlights for DCBC. In early March, more than 25 Darwin boaties travelled to Seville, Spain, for a weekend of rowing, sightseeing, eating, drinking and partying in one of Europe's hottest cities! The trip was a truly memorable experience and it strengthened the club's team spirit throughout the year!

The committee also secured a new sponsorship deal with the Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning at the Judge Business School (see front page) and it launched a new DCBC Alumni Website. Over 200 Boat Club Alumni from all over the world have registered already. If you would like to find out more about your former crew mates, please visit www.dar.cam.ac.uk/dcbc/. We look forward to hearing from you!

A busy year of fantastic events and exciting races is now drawing to a close for Darwin College Boat Club! On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank everyone who has supported DCBC this year. Special thanks must go to our head coaches Brett Saunders and John Martin! I would also like to thank Dr. Chester White and Prof. William Brown for their continued support and enthusiasm!

Jost Schatzmann



Review by Florence Williams

As natural disasters go, avalanches are underappreciated. Although there are scientific disciplines devoted to their study, snowslides don't have the status of their big meteorological siblings. In the wake of ferocious tsunamis and hurricanes, it's easy to see why. But avalanches, as Jill Fredston makes vividly clear in "Snowstruck," have their own lore, and they can chill even those of us far removed from their deadly trajectories.

Consider Europe's "winter of terror" in 1951, when avalanches pummeled 1,489 ill-sited buildings and killed at least 198 people in Switzerland and Austria. Or the ice avalanche that broke off Huascarán in Peru in 1962, sliding 13,000 vertical feet in 15 minutes to crush 4,000 villagers and 10,000 animals. In 2002, a glacier fractured in Russia's Caucasus Mountains, killing at least 141 people.

Fredston, a native New Yorker with a degree in polar studies from Cambridge, made her way to Anchorage in 1982. Once there, she soon found herself not only forecasting avalanches but also conducting dramatic search-and-rescue missions. In quieter but nevertheless messianic moments, she taught skiers and snowmobilers how to save their own skins. Back then, she writes, "It was as though I had been pushed inside the tiger cage at a zoo, clutching a briefcase full of tiger statistics."

Part memoirist, part natural historian, Fredston (who is also the author of "Rowing to Latitude: Journeys Along the Arctic's Edge") writes that to keep herself and others alive, she has to rely on field observation and experience. Nearly every winter day for 23 years, Fredston has traipsed into the mountains with her snow shovel, her inclinometer and often her husband and fellow avalanche chaser, Doug Fesler. As the directors of the Alaska Mountain Safety Center, they have dug out frozen, smashed bodies too numerous to count, hurled explosives at steep slopes from doorless helicopters in order to trigger slides and advised everyone from utility workers to snowboarders when to stay home with a hot toddy. Like a true scientist, Fredston loves her subject, finding it beautiful even in its most menacing and heartbreaking moments. Also a fine writer, she ably imparts her passion. "Watching the slope for signs of instability was like keeping vigil at a deathbed, except that I was waiting for the snow to come alive," she writes. Somewhat adrenaline-charged herself, she describes one morning when she surfs an avalanche that she has deliberately set off on a mountain behind her house. "After sliding a hundred feet, I could feel the mounting speed and turbulence of the avalanche and knew, with an ache of regret, that it was time to take my leave."

In avalanches, Fredston finds both physics and metaphor. They teach her about impermanence and variability. What they so aptly, repeatedly teach the rest of us, she says, is that "acts of God" - while shocking and tragic - should not be unexpected. But alas, we don't always listen any better than we prepare. It's a lesson that strikes home powerfully after Hurricane Katrina. Frustrated by the city of Juneau's reluctance to plan for the inevitable in one of its mountainside neighborhoods, Fredston writes: "The option of doing nothing to diminish a hazard is often the cheapest and easiest, and therefore the most attractive. . . . In Juneau, however, the 'do nothing' option is destined to be the most expensive. To paraphrase U.S. historian Thomas Bailey, every time history repeats itself, the price goes up."

Jill Fredston studied at Darwin and the Scott Polar Institute in 1981/2. Snowstruck is currently available in hardback published by Harcourt ISBN 015101249. In January 2007 it will appear in paperback from Harvest Books as ISBN 0156032546.

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The Giving Back Awards

15 People who Make America Great

Nancy Cox was 9 years old when she had her first run-in with the influenza virus. It was 1957, and the so-called Asian flu was making the rounds of her Iowa hometown. Cox, her four siblings and her mother all got sick. "I recall being very ill and having very strange bodily sensations [from the high fever]," Cox says. That year the flu killed some 70,000 Americans. Cox's family recovered, but Nancy had caught an influenza bug of her own. She went on to study bacteriology at Iowa State, then headed to Cambridge University in England, where she earned a Ph.D. in virology. Cox was fascinated by what she calls the "changing nature of the beast," the way flu viruses adapt and jump from animals to humans. In 1976 she landed a fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, figuring she'd return to academia after a few years. But she got hooked on public health. "I wanted to be sure that the work I did was having an impact on people's lives," she says.

At 57, Cox (above) has devoted her entire career to battling flu for the CDC - where she heads the influenza branch - and the World Health Organization. From inside the bureaucracy, Cox has already saved thousands of lives. Twice a year she identifies strains of virus to be used in the latest flu vaccine. It's an arduous process that never earns her much credit. "There is nobody who puts in such time and attention to making sure things are done right," says Dr. Keiji Fukuda of the WHO. Now facing the possibility of a global avian-flu pandemic, Cox is at work on every front: researching vaccines and devising systems for tracking an outbreak in the United States so that antivirals and protective gear can get where they're needed. "She has worked to mobilize America's government to prevent and prepare for a disaster," says Max Stier, president of the Partnership for Public Service, which has selected Cox as a finalist for its Service to America Medals, honoring extraordinary achievement among government workers.

Together with her CDC team, Cox developed a nasal-swab test for infection with the H5N1 virus, which causes avian flu. Working with colleagues outside the CDC, Cox's team reconstructed the flu virus that killed tens of millions of people in 1918, hoping to learn what made it so deadly. Her team conducted another bold experiment: combining the current H5N1 virus with a contagious human-flu virus (in her ultrasecure lab). "What we're trying to determine is whether or not the avian-flu virus gene and the human-influenza gene can work together," Cox says. If they do, it's a potentially deadly combination. But at least the world will have someone like Cox working on our side.

Debra Rosenberg

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Nancy Cox is a Darwin College alumna (1970-75)

Darwin tops Colleges' Environmental League table

In June this year, it was announced that the College had achieved first place in the Colleges' Environmental League Table for 2006. The League Table is compiled during the Lent and Easter Terms each year by the Cambridge University Environmental Consulting Society (CUECS).

The College had been making determined efforts over the last five or so years to be as environmentally aware as possible, especially when repairs or refurbishment schemes were necessary. We saw the main benefits as being that: we are 'doing something for the environment'; we are adding to our members' wider education on the need to lower consumption; we are showing various useful means of achieving such reductions, for example, by using 'green' suppliers, improving recycling, etc – all ideas and examples that can be taken away by current members as they become Old Darwinians; and lastly, while incorporating green systems is often expensive, still we are able to reduce some costs – a result much beloved of bursars!

We approached the conversion of No 1 Newnham Terrace into new public rooms and the refurbishment of The Malting House and Nos 45 and 49 Newnham Road as new student accommodation with environmental issues as a high priority; even this year's major refurbishment and extension of the outdated public toilet facilities incorporates the latest 'green' water, heating and lighting installations! In its final report, CUECS highlighted one system we, with the DCSA, had devised and implemented over the last couple of years as an excellent low-cost way to raise environmental awareness across a college: this involved identifying a Green Room in each property. Occupants of these rooms are responsible for organizing, monitoring and promoting the recycling activities in each property, receiving a discount on their room charge as compensation for taking on the responsibilities. The Green Room system has since been adopted in many other colleges.

When we changed our approach to these environmental issues, we were not planning on giving a lead in the higher-profile green campaign now underway across the colleges and University. We were just aware of the need to consider any possibility in order to achieve better facilities at the best possible return. So it was a very pleasant surprise to be told that our efforts had been recognized by CUECS in this way. Of course, now we have the challenge of maintaining and improving on our environmental activities….!