

The magazine of Linacre College, Oxford

LINACRE

News

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Cover image: Linacre College
from University Parks.
Photo by: Ros Connell



First Thoughts



Phil Sayer

Our front cover shows the University Parks in all their spring glory – a scene that we are still dreaming about. Rain continues to lash down on Oxford and although the flood waters have subsided sufficiently for the Abingdon and Botley Roads to re-open, the playing fields around the College are still awash. Linacre Fellow Myles Allen has scarcely been off our television screens for the last month, discussing whether the finger of blame for the recent severe weather can be pointed at climate change. He has estimated that about £10m a year would be sufficient to support a real-time system for determining the climate change effect. He and many others feel it is scandalous that funding is not forthcoming to provide clarity on this issue. ‘The public deserve to know what climate change is doing to them,’ he said.

On 19th March the College will celebrate the Admission of Junior Proctor. The Proctors and the Assessor are responsible for upholding the University statutes and regulations and their job includes student discipline, investigating complaints about University matters and the running of examinations. They are members of key University committees and they play an important ceremonial role. They are nominated annually by three colleges in turn according to a fixed cycle - and this is only the fourth time in its history that Linacre College has made a nomination. The Fellows and (in Linacre’s case) the Common Room Executive, dressed in *sub fusc*, will escort our nominee to the Sheldonian Theatre in a procession led by a University Bedel. The College has selected Fellow Dr Hubert Ertl, University Lecturer in Higher Education and Director of the MSc in Higher Education. Dr Ertl will take the Junior Proctor role specialising in overseeing the education side of University affairs. His expertise suits him ideally for the role and it may afford an unrivalled opportunity to examine the Oxford student learning experience.

I’m delighted that Linacre’s profile continues to grow both within the University and globally, through the achievements of our students, Fellows, and Old Members. This issue, with its focus on science, will give you a flavour of some of their work.

Nick D. Brown.

Message from the Common Room



The Common Room continues to excel as a community of proactive and engaged individuals eager to question the status quo and whose passion for making a difference to the life of the CR benefits us all. Our reputation as Oxford’s Green College remains firmly in place thanks to our Green Students and Operations Manager rallying us together to win the Oxford University Switch Off Campaign. Over 4,600 Oxford students entered the competition with an impressive 55.5% of Linacre students taking part. 100 tubs of ice cream are soon to be delivered as the 1st place prize.

Sporting life also flourishes with a resurgence of clubs and organised matches under our Sports Secretary, including squash, badminton, rugby and table tennis. The Linacre Cricket Club continues to show fine form and the Darts Team is currently 3rd in the Top Division League. The Linacre Ladies that Lift are increasingly becoming a Linacre icon.

A key focus of the CR this last year has been to enhance the integration of Fellow and student activities and maximise the opportunity Linacre’s unique egalitarian environment offers. The CR Executive Team now boasts a Fellow Engagement Officer, or FEO, as part of the *Linacre Lines* Editor role, and the new Linacre Research Assistant Programme has begun, connecting students seeking resumé-relevant experience with Fellows’ research assistant needs and projects.

With over 180 Freshers joining the Linacre ranks from every corner of the globe, the richness of diversity and interaction at Linacre continues to instill a global experience and perspective across our community – bonds that make our time here so memorable.

Andrew Dansie, Common Room President

Advancing Linacre



What if... ?

It is often said that donations make a difference; such a familiar phrase can however risk being diminished through over-use. 'Making a difference' means changing the course of someone's life for the better, which is an awe-inspiring deed.

The increasing number of Scholarships, Junior Research Fellowships, and gifts for Hardship at Linacre are doing just this; they enable individuals who wouldn't previously have had the means, to study, to progress their career, or to find assistance in the face of unexpected events.

So it is hugely pleasing to record that in 2013-14 we were able to offer 23 scholarships, that we have achieved our Campaign goal of 20 Junior Research Fellowships, and have been able to fulfil 53 requests for hardship or conference travel support, and award 5 prizes, 3 for academic work and 2 for service to Linacre. Many recipients have let the kind donors know that these awards and gifts have opened an important door, and provided an opportunity, acting as springboards for the future.



A group of Linacre's Scholarship Holders, 2013-14

Before this year, I would have never believed that it was possible for me to study at the University of Oxford. It's something I didn't even dare to dream because it felt so beyond my reach. Thank you for helping to open a door I barely found the courage on which to knock.

I am writing to you to express my gratitude for your kind donation of this Scholarship to Linacre College. As I am sure you are aware, without such supports as these, budding researchers like myself would often be excluded from pursuing further study, participating in the course of intellectual progress, and eventually establishing themselves in academic careers.

What if ... these gifts had not been made? It is really wonderful to see this outworking of the College's fund-giving, in the tangible form of life-enhancing opportunities being enjoyed by Linacre members. Some scholarships and JRFs are enabled by one or two donors; others, like the C. A. Scholarship, and the Fellows' JRF, are supported by a group of individuals. We are incredibly grateful to all supporters, and encourage others interested in building up our funds for scholarships, hardship, Junior Research Fellowships or prizes, to contact either Anne Keene or Ros Connell in the Development Office (contact details on page 2).

Anne Keene



A group of Linacre's new Junior Research Fellows, 2013-14

The value of small gifts

Linacre's Development work benefits hugely from regular donations from nearly 90 individuals, most of whom make monthly gifts, with some providing annual, quarterly or once-a-year support. Non-donors occasionally suggest that their small gift would not really benefit the College, but in fact Old Members who have been giving, for example, £10 monthly for 5 years have already made a handsome donation of £600, with taxpayers in the UK having given £750, including the reclaimed Gift Aid.

Would you consider a regular financial commitment to Linacre? For many people, it is an easier and less painful means of giving than a one-off donation.

If you live in China, the UK or the US, a regular gift process can be set up. If you live elsewhere, and would like to make a regular donation, we will happily send you a regular reminder, if that would be helpful.

We value greatly all gifts made for Linacre's Development Funds, and we encourage you to consider making a small gift, and to see it grow.

Thank you!

Linacre Events

The 14th Year



ILL Group 2013

On Saturday October 19th 2013, Linacre's Old Members in Italy held the 14th annual lecture given by a former Linacre student. This is an astounding record, and we salute our 100 Italian Old Members for their dedication and determination. The stimulating lecture, followed by lively discussion, was given in Rome by **Professor Vittorio Conti** (1969), recently retired as Commissioner of CONSOB, the public authority in Italy responsible for regulating the securities market; his lecture title was: *La tutela degli investitori in tempo di crisi: tra*

dibattito teorico, tutele ed approcci regolamentari in Europa. The event was held, for the second time, at the offices of the law firm Gianni, Origoni, Grippo, Cappelli & Partners, with the kind assistance of **Dr Eutimio Tiliacos** (1970). We warmly thank Mr Eugenio Grippo and colleagues, Professor Conti, Dr Tiliacos, **Dr Rasmus Brandt** (1970) who masterminded the day, and also Professor Richard Caplan, Professor of International Relations and Linacre Fellow, who represented the Principal.

The lecture was preceded by a fascinating tour of Capitol Hill, led by Rasmus Brandt, Emeritus Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Oslo, and, honouring a well-established Italian Linacre Lecture tradition, a lunch and a dinner were included in the day's events.

The record highlighted here sets a challenge not only for other national groups, but is a wonderful precedent for current students; we hope that you will be meeting with former Linacrites in similar vein, in 40 years' time! The date for 2014's lecture has not yet been finalised, but publicity will be circulated in due course, and the Italian Linacre Society would like to welcome Old Members from all countries to their annual autumn event.

Anne Keene

Old Members share expertise

From time to time a Linacre Old Member is invited for an informal supper in the Small Dining Room, to talk to current students about his or her career path since Linacre, and current post. Happily, December and January provided three opportunities for students to engage with Old Members from three different decades.

Ishmael Dodoo currently works at the UN in New York as Country Advisor/ESA in the Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme. He came to Linacre from Ghana in 2003 to study for an MSc in Environmental Change & Management, and was a Norman & Ivy Lloyd Scholarship holder. After leaving College he remained in Oxford working for Proforest before being selected for the UNDP LEAD programme. His advice on how to use all your abilities learned at Oxford was eagerly received.

Robert Spencer, 1997 MSc Land Use & Forestry, worked in various parts of the world before winning a sustainability challenge business plan competition for 'integrating sustainable thinking more widely across engineering and environmental services', and is now Sustainability Director for the Europe region of URS, which is a business development role. This huge, multinational company is constantly recruiting from the



Hans-Georg von Lewinski (L) and students in CR

very best candidates and, obviously, Robert wanted to engage with Linacre students over the work opportunities within URS.

On January 31st we had the great pleasure of hearing from **Hans-Georg von Lewinski** (1989), MD at Accenture, who, having worked in China and Japan, is now based in London, and lives locally. The room was full, with students keen to learn from his wide professional experience. Many appreciative comments were made during and following these events, and we thank Ish, Robert, and Hans-Georg very much for their kind willingness to share their time with Linacre in spite of heavy professional commitments.

Informal photos are often taken at Linacre events, and may be used in College publications or on the website. Please let us know if you do not want to be photographed.

Linacre Events

Japanese hospitality



A small Linacre reunion took place in Kamakura, Japan when (L-R) **Yukihiro Nomura** (2009) invited Linacre friends **Dr Benjamin Outram** (2010) and **Melissa Lever** (2011) to a

Japanese-style New Year's celebration, hosted by Yukihiro's uncle, **Takashi Uyeno** (1968), a Linacre Old Member and Honorary Fellow. They are shown holding the first limited edition print of Linacre College by Ian Fraser.

Legacies and lunch



Linacre's Legacy Book

Now a firm fixture in the Michaelmas term calendar, the Thomas Linacre Circle lunch took place in early December; members of the

Circle joined the Principal for a leisurely gathering. College members and Friends who have indicated their intention to make a legacy gift are a growing number, and we are most grateful for every pledge. It is a real long-term commitment, and Linacre is proud to have the Thomas Linacre Circle. The Principal was able to announce successes in the 50th Anniversary Campaign, particularly in the funding of extra Junior Research Fellowship posts. In fact, he had been interviewing all morning for one such Fellowship. A book giving short biographies on all who have made legacy gifts to Linacre is now on display in the Nadel Room. Every donation made through people's wills, has benefitted the College. If anyone is interested in setting up a bequest, please contact Anne Keene for further information and advice. Additionally, if you have already mentioned Linacre in your will, we would be delighted to welcome you to the Thomas Linacre Circle.

Ros Connell

Young professionals in the City

Twice a year Linacre Old Members working in Business, Finance or Law meet for an informal evening meal in central London. The most recent gathering was on **Thursday, October 31st**; the Vice-Principal, Dr Catherine Walter, attended in one of her first official duties. This was the 6th BFL event and a pattern has emerged. Start time is 6.30 pm, but in practice attendees arrive when work lets them go, one Old Member having arrived at a previous dinner just as the Oxford-based diners were leaving for the 9.48 from Paddington. So it's an informal event, but now firmly fixed – twice – in Linacre's annual calendar. If you aren't on the e-mail list, please e-mail ros.connell@linacre.ox.ac.uk. The next event will be in early May.

Anne Keene

Looking Ahead...

Thursday, March 27 • Linacre Lawyers' Network event in London with Professor Richard Macrory, CBE, Linacre Supernumerary Fellow, barrister, and Professor of Environmental Law at University College, London on *Reforming Regulatory Sanctions – Revolution or Nightmare?*

Friday, March 28 • Murder Mystery Dinner for Old Members, Linacre College.

Tuesday, April 8 • Old Members' Dinner in Chicago with the Principal.

Friday, April 11 • Thomas Linacre Circle Tea and Linacre Lawyers event, both in New York with the Principal.

Saturday, April 12 • Linacre Dinner in New York, held in conjunction with the biennial Oxford University North American Reunion.

Thursday, May 15 • 2014 Tanner Lecture on Human Values *Human Rights as Human Values*, Ms Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty. Enquiries to Ros Connell (contact details page 2).

Friday, June 13 • Linacre Reception in Wargrave (near London).

Saturday & Sunday, July 5 & 6 • Linacre Summer Gaudy, matriculation years 1992-2005.

Friday, September 19 • Linacre Dinner for Old Members in conjunction with Oxford *Meeting Minds* Alumni Reunion Weekend. A two-course dinner at 7.30, followed by entertainment in the Tanner Room. Details will be posted on the Linacre website.

Keep up to date on Linacre events, which are published on the College website, <http://www.linacre.ox.ac.uk/Development/Events>. Additional events will be posted as they are finalised. Your current e-mail address will also help us notify you about events in your region. If you are traveling and in the area at the time of a Linacre event, please get in touch, as we'd be delighted for you to join us.

Linacre Scientists:

Let's hear it for Science!



Professor Heather Couper, CBE (1973) is a British astrophysicist and an international broadcaster and writer on astronomy, space and science. She co-authors the annual guide to the night sky, *Philips Stargazing*, with Nigel Henbest. They are currently working on *The Astronomy Bible* for Octopus, and a book on planets for Dorling Kindersley. www.hencoup.com

Oh dear! I remember it vividly... the morning that I was hauled into the Prof's office in the Department of Astrophysics at Oxford (then in South Parks Road). I was studying clusters of galaxies for a DPhil and was a very happy student at Linacre. But my professor (he who shall remain nameless) was *not* a happy bunny. 'Miss Couper,' he addressed me. 'I understand that you were out on the town last night *prostituting* your subject. We don't do this kind of thing in our department.' My crime? To give a talk to the local Oxford Astronomical Society about the excitement of astronomy, astrophysics, and science in general. This was the 1970s, when it was not seen to be 'decent' to talk about science to the public.

I felt pretty furious. At that time, science was seen as something elitist - an exclusive club that only the highly knowledgeable could join. At the other end of the spectrum, science was also regarded as just an activity for kids. They played with chemistry sets, built fireworks, or crafted hand-made telescopes. Of all the subjects we studied at school, most eventually became 'grown-up'. English became 'literature'; geography became 'travel'; history morphed into 'biography'. But not so science. It stayed in the realm of 'something that children do'. Or - on the other hand - something that *very* clever people engage in, but would rather not deign to reveal to the public.

Thanks to new communicators in the media - plus enlightened producers and directors - things are changing. Science has become sexy! Now, it has once again become integrated into our culture. People are enthusiastic about advances in the world of the unknown. And broadcasters have cottoned on to this massively - I know, from the numbers of interviews I give on radio and TV (usually before 7am!) Like them, I see science as a vision. As a landscape. As a perspective for us to reflect on the events that are happening in the world - and how to see a way ahead.

I'll take the last statement first. Science doesn't always have a great press. Stem-cell research, genetic modification and cloning are looked upon as unnatural. But - in the long term - science has the power to change lives, and to help humankind move forward. However, the bottom line is that I believe science underpins our whole existence. It's the driver behind our culture, our mores, and our beliefs. It's incredible how science has gradually replaced mythology with rational explanation. The god Thor used to hurl

thunderbolts; but now we know the reasons behind our electric skies. Deities - like Mars and Jupiter - used to grace our night skies as powerful gods. In the 21st century, we know that these are fascinating worlds in their own right.

When it comes to culture, I find it amazing that - in just over 500 years - scientific thinking and observation have dethroned Earth from being the centre of the Universe. Our world has become a mere blob circling an average, suburban, middle-aged star in an unremarkable galaxy. Now we know that it's one of thousands of planets orbiting other stars - many with the potential for life. And that says a lot about us. By discovering our real place in the cosmos, we're now motivated to explore. And soon we will have people - who may even be your next-door neighbours - realising their dreams to travel into space, to the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

For me - personally - it has been a fantastic privilege and delight to tell the world about science - how it fits into our culture; how it enmeshes with music and the arts; and how it inspires our thoughts, inspirations, and aspirations.

Scientist as historian



Professor Stefan Buczacki (1968), a British horticulturist, botanist and broadcaster, is a former panel member and Chairman of *Gardeners' Question Time*, and author of many books on gardening and natural history. The results of his historical research include *Churchill and Chartwell*, and a five-year study, just completed, of the life of Venetia Stanley.

Some of my best friends are historians. Oh dear; where is this leading? Nowhere I hope that will upset those friends but towards a self-evident truth that has manifest itself in recent years when I have partly deserted the scientific world that nurtured me to indulge a long-standing and passionate interest by writing on British twentieth century socio-political history. Yes, I know Appelles' advice about cobblers sticking to lasts, but the pull and the fascination were just too great when seven or eight years ago I was invited by my publisher to take a fresh look at Churchill's life. It was the start of a new professional experience: the first time anyone had paid me to do something historical rather than merely indulge a passion. The resulting book was well-received critically, and over the years since, my studies have revealed some interesting parallels and contrasts between the scientifically and historically trained mind.

On the face of it, the discipline is the same. Historical research is pretty close to scientific investigation, and not so far from the legal world, a field into which I also venture through my work as an expert witness. It is a ruthless seeking after the truth through the marshalling of every available fact. But while the scientific truth can be proved by rigorous testing, it seems so-called historical

Points of view

truth can rather often just reside in the mind of the beholder. After all, it was an eminent historian who pointed out that history can be subdivided in three ways: what happened in the past, what people believe happened in the past, and what historians say happened in the past. And that highlights an area where the scientist and the historian can sometimes part company.

I recently came across an interesting example of this in a book written by a respected historian - although whether he is self-taught or professionally trained I do not know. The book received some good reviews and apparently pleased general readers as it garnered a few five star ratings on Amazon. In it the author drew some intriguing and quite fascinating conclusions from apparently careful and meticulous study of an archived collection of letters. He told a good story that added up and made sense to the reader - and obviously to reviewers also. But what not one reader in ten thousand - nay, I suspect ten million - would know is what I know because I have read the same letters. The conclusions were in significant measure spurious because the author had not taken the trouble to gain familiarity with the subject's somewhat idiosyncratic handwriting and had spectacularly misread numerous important words. Now I am sure an historian would say, 'So what; that is simply poor and sloppy research,' and could apply in any subject. Perhaps, but my contention is that any scientist would have studied the handwriting until he/she was totally familiar with it in all its nuances before attempting to draw a serious inference. And he would then have fully cross-referenced to other independent sources to verify or support his conclusions.

And I do mean independent sources because I have realised some historians spend their time interpreting and re-interpreting what other historians have said without ever doing much real testing. I contend it was a scientific training that imbued me with one guiding principle when I started on this fascinating path: in so far as it is humanly possible, I go first to primary sources, and only when I have read and fully analysed them do I look at other people's interpretations and decide if they make sense.

But I'll now step back and prepare to dodge the brickbats, though still, I hope, retain my valued friendships.

Portugal and the quest for gender equity



Professor Lidia Ferreira, born in Coimbra, Portugal, is presently Professor at Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon, and earned her DPhil in Theoretical Physics while at Linacre. Her main topics of research in Nuclear Physics are the study of nuclear structure and decays, and properties of exotic nuclei. She was inspired to learn about physics at an early

age, reading popular books on Science for Young People. The career in science came as a consequence.

Portugal is a country of contrasts and surprises. We are labelled as southerners, friendly people living in warm lands along pleasant waters. In reality, we are friendly Atlantic people, under a light of the far North, subjected to sudden storms, a surging sea, and constant winds, but ready to sail away.

What happens to women in Portugal? Are they just the muses of artists, the essence of passions, or do they stay in their classical roles of housewives and unqualified workers? The answer is that they go to school, pursue higher education, and contribute actively to the growth and innovation of the Portuguese society. They have done so for a long time. Similarly to other European countries, by the end of the 19th century education for women went beyond aristocrats and wealthy families, and was extended to other social classes by the appearance of special schools for women, where they could learn a profession, such as nursing. By that time, they were also encouraged to enrol at universities. The first women medical doctors graduated from the Medical Faculty in Lisbon, and besides their profession they specifically fought for women's rights during the first years of the republican era. The first women engineers graduated only in the third decade of the 20th century.

In 1960, already around 32% of university students were women, and in the eighties, they became the majority, except in engineering faculties where they reached one third. According to recent figures, they total 67.1% of Portugal's graduates in all areas. It is the highest percentage of female students in Europe according to the EUROSTAT, where the average does not exceed 59%. In science, they also play a dominant role, being 58.2% of the total science graduates. Portugal tops the list for the number of female PhD graduates, 62% in contrast with the 46% average found in the 27 EU countries, and they are almost equally distributed and in a majority in all fields.

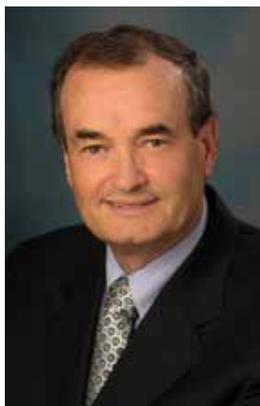
The proportion of female researchers in any subject is 46%, much larger than the 33% average found in EU-27, increasing in the last few years at the highest annual growth observed. They are distributed between the higher education (50%), government (60%) and business enterprise (30%) sectors, whereas the corresponding average values in EU-27 are 40%, 40% and 19%, respectively. The percentage of women scientists and engineers in the total labour force is 1.64%, just slightly lower than EU values, but quite comparable to 1.78% for men. From these numbers, we can observe a strong feminisation of the labour market in Portugal in the science and technology domain, achieved before the majority of other European countries.

However impressive these numbers might be, they did not prevent the glass ceiling anomaly that glooms women's careers in all countries. Few women occupy senior academic and scientific research positions, in spite of being leaders of successful projects. They are not heads of education institutions, and not well represented in governing bodies where decisions concerning the future of science are being made. Comparing statistics on women in science across Europe, Portugal has been in a very favourable position, but this note cannot end without mentioning the darkness that the neoliberal market economy of present times brought to science and education in Portugal. Drastic cuts in funds are preventing the access of many to post-graduate studies, and making highly-qualified young people jobless, forcing them to emigrate. The result is the highest brain drain ever experienced here. Sadly, we are also a country of successful sailors.

Old Members' Focus

My Linacre experience – a preparation for things that have come

Professor Gérard Lachapelle (1971)



graduated from the University of Oxford with a Master of Science in 1972 and then studied at the University of Helsinki and the Technical University at Graz, Austria, where he received his doctorate in 1975. He is a professor of geomatics engineering at the University of Calgary, Canada. More on <http://plan.geomatics.ucalgary.ca/professors/lachap/>

I joined Linacre College for my Master of Science in October 1971. How quickly time has passed! Little did I know about the explosion in technology and globalisation that was about to hit the world and how my interaction with the truly international group of students at Linacre was to prepare me for such an on-going challenge. The formal and informal discussions we had in the Common Room before and after dinner were always lively, thanks to the rich variety of ethnicity and culture. If things slowed down, Dean Leyton in particular was an expert in prodding us to debate on a wide range of topics by promoting different points of view and often heated discussions, not the least the Indian-Pakistani conflict at the time. Yet the passionate conflicts of ideas which naturally occur between confident young people knowing so clearly the distinction between right and wrong never degenerated into conflicts of personality. After all, we were Oxford students and had to exercise restraint while developing dignified debating skills...

During the 40-plus years that have elapsed since, I have been fortunate to be involved at the forefront of research and development in technology, namely satellite-based navigation and location, the most ubiquitous being GPS (Global Positioning System). This technology can be viewed as a subset of telecommunication technologies that have grown by leaps and bounds during the past 30 years and have enabled the World Wide Web and the myriad of increasingly capable smartphones and other portable devices that improve our quality of life (although often at a cost...). Location-based services are now common and deliver accuracies of metres to millimetres anywhere on earth. Like any other engineering system, the devil is in the details and the range of engineering specialisations required for its understanding and operation is vast. Geomatics, a field that did not even exist 40 years ago and

that has been the focus of my career, deals with geospatial data gathering, analysis and management and countless applications. Such developments, coupled with telecommunication, are instrumental for environmental monitoring, globalisation in trade and culture, human interaction and understanding and, not least, education. Yet broadmindedness and openness to cultures other than one's own often remain elusive, witness never-ending conflicts occurring at any point in time in the world.

I worked for 13 years in government and industry organisations prior to becoming a university professor 26 years ago. Given the nature of my activities and constant desire to interact with people outside my natural boundary of comfort, a trait that I acquired during my stay at Linacre, I have had the chance to collaborate with people from around the world throughout my career, be it for business or with colleagues sharing similar interests. The rewards have been wonderful and have given me an outlook on life that I treasure and that I have hopefully passed on to our children and the 120 graduate students from 20 different countries that I have had the honour to supervise. Interacting with young people full of ambitions and dreams to change the world has been the most rewarding of all. My Linacre experience was a great preparation for what was to follow!

Linacre Wedding



John Zablocki (2011) and Els Dauven (2011) celebrated their marriage at Oxford Town Hall on 9 November 2013 with friends and family from Belgium, the USA, and Oxford. It was an eventful weekend as both graduated the previous day. The couple now live in Reno, Nevada. Top L-R: Cameron Taylor, Andrew Faull, Jesse Boamah, Rob Noble, Maan Barua, Tom Haywood. 2nd: Gaia Donati, Laura Canevari, Filipa Botelho Moniz, Sylvia Wicander, Claire McFadden, Francesca Fernandez and Patrick Michelberger. Front: John and Els. Photo: Abdossalam Madkhali

Win-Win

“We would like to set up a new Scholarship; may we come and talk to you about this possibility?”

“When I achieve this (specific) goal, I plan to make a gift of £X, and name it for Z.”

“Please could you send me the web link so I can make a gift for the Z Junior Research Fellowship?”

“Following our discussion, I have thought some more, and I would like to commit to an annual gift of £X for five years.”

“I would like to increase my monthly donation of £10 to £20; can you send me details of how to implement this?”

“I would like to discuss a new gift I plan to make for student support.”

Hearing or reading messages like these is exciting and rewarding, and is a major factor in the joy of working in Development for Linacre. The above show by what varied routes donations come into College. They may come unexpectedly – either from a known or unknown source – or be given after years of meetings and discussion, or be a promise for the distant future. We have had experience of welcoming gifts through all of these avenues.

So, if you hope to support Linacre in the future, are considering supporting one of our existing scholarships, would like to make a legacy pledge, or if you know that your monthly gift has been stuck at £10 for many years of earning an ever-higher salary, please do get in touch. It is such an inspiration to us, to see the funds increasing, making Linacre the best it has ever been. **Every gift counts towards our 50th Anniversary Campaign total.**

As with the quality of mercy, philanthropy too, ‘is twice blest; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes.’ Or, less sentimentally, and as the current saying goes, philanthropic giving is a ‘win-win’ situation. We thank you all warmly for your support to Linacre.

Anne Keene

Linacre news and information

posted every Friday

on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn



Fundraising humour

Yes, fundraising is a serious business, but with some amusing overtones. One story heard at a conference cleverly pokes fun at the dogged determination needed to succeed in this profession. It’s the tale of two men shipwrecked on a deserted island, with absolutely no hope of being rescued. One is in the depths of despair, completely beside himself with worry, and utterly convinced that all hope for the future is lost. His companion, however, is lolling around on the beach, smiling serenely, and about to fall into a deep sleep. ‘Why aren’t you desperate, like me?’ shrieks the other shipwrecked person at the top of his voice. ‘We are lost for ever!’

‘I have no concerns whatsoever,’ replied his friend calmly before he drifted into a deep sleep, ‘for I know without a shadow of a doubt that – wherever I am in the world – the Alumni Relations Department at my alma mater will always find me.’

Friendship Bench

Between the January cloudbursts, the College was delighted to receive the newest item of outdoor named furniture. The donors are Abdossalam Madkhali (pictured), Elaine Chew (Singapore), Minah Kang (Paris) and David Lamoureux (ex-Kellogg, now in Cambridge), aka the ‘Strada Fund’, for the restaurant where they would often meet. The dedicatory plaque on the solid teak bench is to ‘the Happiest Place in Oxford, Linacre College’ and celebrates their close friendships, formed during their time at Linacre.



Abdossalam on Strada Fund Bench

Fellows' Focus

Martin Castell, Professor of Materials



clearly loves his work, enjoys explaining it to others, and is a natural teacher. We start by looking at several of the very special ultra-high vacuum scanning tunnelling microscopes (which in 1986 won a Nobel Prize in Physics for the inventors) used to examine the surfaces of materials at the atomic level. The capabilities of these amazing instruments are difficult to comprehend. While an optical microscope has a resolution limit of about 1 micron (1/1000th of a mm), the microscopes Martin uses are 10,000 times better, and thus enable a materials scientist to see individual atoms. The instruments are so sensitive they must float on a cushion of air so no vibration will disturb them. The samples under study are in ultra-high vacuum to ensure that they remain free from airborne contaminants. An image of the atomic structure of the surface of a silicon crystal is shown in the figure below.

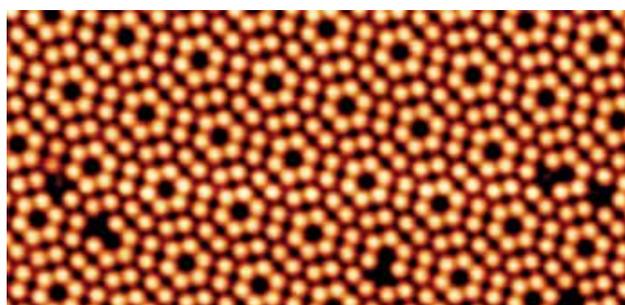
Materials science incorporates aspects of chemistry, engineering, and physics. Microscopy, which looks at shape, size and distribution, and spectroscopy, which examines what a material is made of, help provide the basic information that is needed in order to learn about, understand, and then exploit the properties of myriads of materials. Exploitation may take the form of making established materials, such as steels, perform even better, or sometimes a new material may be found that will act as a driver for new technological advances. This has been the case with the new material called graphene, which has many unique electrical properties that have only been discovered in the last few years.

There are three main areas of interest to Martin: investigation of very small crystals and how they change shape as they grow; basic research into the surface structures of oxides, especially strontium titanate; and the development of a molecular sensor for detecting very low concentrations of gases.

He has been investigating the surface structure of strontium titanate for the past 14 years, and still spends a lot of time on basic surface structures, which are almost always more complicated than the crystal itself. He enjoys asking 'why', with research often driven by curiosity and a search for understanding, rather than an immediate application. His work considers the relationship between structure and the material's properties, and how you can control that structure in order to obtain particular properties.

A tiny difference in the chemical makeup of a material can make a critical difference in a material's properties or how it looks. For example, both rubies and sapphires are essentially aluminium oxide crystals, and their crystal structures are very much the same. However, a ruby contains a tiny amount of chromium, which makes it red, while trace amounts of titanium and iron produce a blue sapphire. From a materials science point of view, the differences caused by that trace element are critical. Consequently, work in the lab includes experimentation with the addition of trace elements to materials, or 'doping', to manipulate and extend the properties a material exhibits.

Martin believes that, within an academic setting, the primary focus should be on basic research. New scientific discoveries may have the potential to lead to significant technological innovations, but that should not be the main motivation for doing science at a university. It often takes some time after the basic research has been completed before the potential of that research is realised.



Scanning tunnelling microscope image of a silicon crystal. Each bright spot is an atom.

An idea he first had about ten years ago for a highly sensitive electro-chemical gas sensor emerged from some fundamental studies of how metals and organic molecules behave on oxide crystal surfaces. He has now built the sensor, which is about the size of a fingernail, and its development is being taken forward through Oxford's Isis Innovation. It potentially has major applications in chemical waste monitoring, security screening, and landmine detection in particular. The current technology used for locating landmines, for example, is very time-consuming. If development of Martin's sensor is as successful as hoped, it could make humanitarian demining of large areas a much faster, less expensive, and safer process. Martin hopes the sensor will be a commercial success, and while he is staying involved, he is happy to let others build and optimise it, while he focuses on his research.

He also delights in overseeing the development of DPhil students, who are generally biddable when they arrive, but leave as scientists, able to take responsibility for what they are doing, form their own questions, and think independently. As I glance around his office, I note the race bibs from the two London marathons he has run, and which he describes as a 'very painful' experience; his current main sporting interest is squash. There is also a bike helmet, as well as a sizeable collection of chemical models. Interestingly, there is no evidence of the Oxford Teaching Awards or the Oxfordshire Science Writing Awards he has won, and which he never mentions. It is clear that, for Martin, the reward comes from watching students develop into colleagues, and the pleasure he takes in discussing science with them in an interactive 'tutorial' in materials science, I'm certain that the feeling is mutual.

Marsaleete Anderson

Fellows' News

Emeritus Fellows

Professor Mark Williams, recently made an Emeritus Fellow, is co-author of a newly published book, *The Mindful Way Workbook: An 8-Week Program to Free Yourself from Depression and Emotional Distress*. Available on Amazon, it provides a step-by-step guide to mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT) to develop more constructive ways to respond to negative thoughts and feelings. (See *Linacre News* 41 for more on mindfulness.)

Professor Anne Watson has been elected Linacre Emeritus Fellow following her retirement as Professor of Mathematics Education. Most recently she has co-written *Key Ideas in Teaching Mathematics: Research-based guidance for ages 9-19* with Keith Jones and Dave Pratt, published by Oxford University Press. A related website, hosted by the Nuffield Foundation, who funded the research that contributed to the book, may be found at <http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/key-ideas-teaching-mathematics>. The publication is also available as an eBook.

New Fellows



Professor Nando de Freitas, Professor of Computer Science, moved to Oxford from the University of British Columbia, where he was Professor of machine learning and artificial intelligence, as well as an adjunct professor of statistics and cognitive systems. His multi-disciplinary research, which seeks to understand intelligence and how minds

work, includes machine learning and computational statistics, artificial intelligence, computational neuroscience, Monte Carlo simulation, and vision, robotics and speech perception. He is a fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, and his recent awards include the 2012 Charles A McDowell Award for Excellence in Research, and the 2010 Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems Young Researcher Award.



Dr Jerry Tsai, a fellow of Linacre since September 2013, is a University Lecturer in Economics. His main areas of interest include asset pricing, portfolio choice and financial econometrics. His recent work focuses on explaining asset prices with consumption-based models. He earned his PhD in Finance at the University of Pennsylvania.



Professor John MacKay, Wood Professor of Forest Science, was previously Professor of Forest Sciences at Université Laval, Québec, Canada. He trained in forest resource management and gained a PhD in genetics. Since 2002, he has led large-scale multidisciplinary research projects aimed at identifying genes that control growth and wood

quality traits in forest trees using genomic tools. His research focuses on the molecular regulation of wood formation and the genetics of wood properties in softwood (spruce, pine) and hardwood (poplars) trees through investigations that encompass gene discovery, functional genomics, association studies and quantitative genetics. Current activities also include genome sequence exploration with next-generation sequencers. Research outcomes include applications in tree breeding (gene-base selection) and biotechnology.



Dr Man Yee Kan is University Lecturer in Sociology. Her research interests are gender inequalities in the family and the labour market, marriage, the gender division of labour, time use research, and welfare and public policy regimes in Western and East Asian societies. After graduating with a DPhil in Sociology from the University of Oxford, she worked at the Institute for Social and Economic Research in University of Essex (2004-2006). She is the recipient of a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship (2008-2011) and a Research Councils UK Academic Fellowship (2008-2013).



Dr Christopher Morton, Linacre Adjunct Fellow since 2005, was elected Linacre Senior Research Fellow (SRF) from October 1. Dr Morton is Curator of the Photograph and Manuscript Collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum, and Lecturer in Visual and Material Anthropology at the Oxford Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. He trained in history (UEA) and social and cultural anthropology (ISCA, Oxford), carrying out fieldwork in the Okavango Delta region of northern Botswana. Since 2003 his research has focused on the relationship between photography and anthropology, photographic histories in Africa, and the return of collections of photographs to indigenous communities in Africa and Australia.



College also welcomed **Louise Clarke** as a Linacre Adjunct Fellow and College Librarian Fellow. She is Head of Social Sciences Libraries and Head of Research and Learning Support, Bodleian Libraries. This includes responsibility for the library and information services delivered to the Social Sciences Division, including the Anthropology, Business, Education, Latin American Studies, Law and Social Science Libraries. Louise also oversees a range of shared library services across the Bodleian. She holds an MA in Information and Library Science and BA Geography, and was recently awarded an Oxford University Teaching Award for the development of a training programme that cultivates core competencies in information skills and knowledge of resources for key social science research themes.

College News

Library News

The New Year commenced with new leadership at the Linacre Library. In addition to the appointment of Louise Clarke as the new Library Fellow (see page 11), **Fiona Richardson** (LN 42 and 44) has returned to College as Linacre Librarian following the departure of **Emma Huber**, who has taken a new post at the Taylor Institution Library as Subject Librarian for German (Languages and Literatures). Emma would welcome seeing any Modern Linguists from Linacre.

Fiona will be working hard to keep Linacre's library relevant to the needs of today's students. This includes continuing to purchase books from taught-Master's course reading lists, which the Linacre library has been doing for the past 3 years, thanks to some generous gifts. She will also be running a document supply service for researchers and giving individual help to students to find the books, papers and information they require to support their studies. The Linacre Book Group, initiated by Fiona during her previous year at Linacre, also continues.

In Memoriam

Kurt Schult, 1922-2013



The College was saddened by the passing of Kurt Schult, former Chef at Linacre for 17 years, on 6th December 2013, just a few days before his 91st birthday. A member of the Oxford Guild of Chefs, he became Linacre's chef in 1970 at the original College site in St Aldate's, and continued in that role when Linacre relocated to Cherwell Edge in 1977. He retired in 1987, but maintained his contacts in the catering industry and attended Guild of Chef meetings for many years after his retirement. He is fondly remembered by many Oxford chefs, including Linacre's present Head Chef, Michael Bockett, who worked under him early in his career. Kurt set a high culinary standard at Linacre, which continues to this day. Our condolences go to his wife, Hilde, and their sons Michael, Colin and Andy. He is pictured here at Linacre's 50th Anniversary Celebration in September, 2012.

Keeping Up Appearances

The challenge of keeping the physical fabric of the College clean, in good repair, and up-to-date is an on-going challenge, both in terms of manpower and financially. Happily, some major refurbishment has been accomplished in the past year.

Neil Fraser-Bell House, enabled by generous Old Member donors, is a late Victorian townhouse in the East Oxford conservation area. Before opening to Linacre students last April (LN 44), it underwent a total refurbishment and renovation, including upgraded insulation, garden landscaping, new electrics and plumbing, installation of an energy-efficient boiler and central heating, up-to-date fire alarms, energy-saving lighting, and refitted showers and kitchens – all accomplished in 13 weeks. This work, and the research, planning, and discussion which preceded it, have set a new, high benchmark for future refurbishment of College properties.

This was followed by an 8-week renovation of *The Beeches*, a University-owned property which has been occupied by Linacre for many years, but which is coming under Linacre ownership. The major part of the renovation cost was enabled by a generous grant from the College Contributions Fund, a University Trust which makes grants and loans to the least well-off colleges. Again, good quality, high-efficiency appliances and fittings were used to minimise the environmental impact, and also improve the comfort of residents. Input from students living in satellite accommodation who wanted an area in the building which provides a social hub resulted in the creation of an open-plan kitchen with a seating area.

Linacre Archives, previously an area in need of renovation located under the entrance stairs, has been transformed with improved heating and lighting, and fitted with a purpose-built archival shelving system to replace the vintage filing cabinets. Warm thanks are due to Rebecca Waterman who, in her previous capacity as Archives Assistant, did much of this work, and to Simon Bailey, Archivist. Improvements to Linacre's gym are highlighted in this issue's Sports Report (page 16).

Finally, the Nadel and Thomas Linacre rooms, part of the original 1886 Victorian house at the core of the College, have also been refurbished. The lovely parquet floor was sanded and waxed, while specialists restored the striking carton pierre ceiling. New curtains with thermal linings were hung, and furniture was refurbished and reupholstered with the comfort of guests in mind. The upholsterer was very excited to discover that we had a valuable, but previously unnoticed, Howard & Sons sofa (the pre-eminent upholstery makers of the 19th century) lurking in a corner. Dr Laura Peers, Linacre Vice-Principal until October 2013, spearheaded this project in tandem with Simon Barker, Linacre Operations Manager, and saw it completed in just seven weeks over the summer.

All of this has required substantial financial outlay, made possible by generous gifts from individuals and organisations that have supported the College. Although much of it remains hidden from the casual viewer, it is part of Linacre's on-going efforts to provide comfortable, safe, efficient, and welcoming facilities to nurture and attract high-calibre students, academics, and staff.

Marsaleete Anderson

College News

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of the following Old Members of Linacre:

Dr Thaddeus Joseph ‘Thad’ Trenn (1968) died on 3 November 2013 at the age of 76. He had a long career as a physicist (working on global positioning technology in the early 1960s), theologian, philosopher and humanitarian. He was formerly Director of the Science and Religion course programme at the University of Toronto.

Professor Louis Curran (1963)

Louis Curran was vivacious in the broadest sense of the word. Lively, witty, vigorous in ventures and acquaintanceships, with his eclectic interests he charmed a great coterie of friends.

Grounded in music with a Yale BMus (1956), University of Tulsa MMus (1963), study at the New England Conservatory of Music and a Fulbright Award for research at Oxford University (1963-4), Louis became the first professor of Music at the

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Massachusetts, and director of the WPI Glee Club in 1966, a position he held for 38 of his 79 years.

Described by his colleagues as ‘wickedly funny... the last great Victorian-era professor,’ Louis Curran and his Glee Club performed liturgical celebrations (often in Latin), radio and video broadcasts, national and more than a dozen international tours, including a papal audience. An accomplished organist and musician, he gave numerous recitals, held several church positions and conducted choirs and symphonies whose music dazzled audiences around the world.

His Linacre days at Oxford were heady and grandiose. His palatial chambers and ostentatious collegiate performances endeared Louis to a myriad of colleagues with whom he later kept in touch. Since his death in Florida on 30 December 2013, a great pall has descended over our class of 1962, whose founder members miss his frequent calls. (*Evan Davies, 1962*)

Linacre House Trust needs you!

As Vice-Principal, I chaired the Linacre House Trust – also known as the travel and hardship funds committee – for the past few years. The committee is able to award small grants from funds made available by generous donors for student travel to conferences, a few writing up grants to sustain students in those last six months of a research degree (do you remember that slog?), and has very limited funds to assist students who have fallen into genuine hardship as the result of truly unforeseeable events, such as the death of a parent who was contributing to degree costs. The committee’s awards and loans are of a very modest nature, seldom exceeding £1500 as a combined grant and loan. Nevertheless, such awards have enabled many students to complete their degrees who otherwise would have been forced to give up their goals.

Some of the hardship needs are met by the EPA Cephalosporin Scholarship and Bursary Fund, the Bamborough Fund and the Raymond and Vera Asquith Fund, endowed funds very generously given by alumni and friends of the College for specific purposes. Most of the travel grants and some general hardship grants, however, are met by the Linacre House Trust Fund. This was the first hardship fund for the College – again resulting from some generous donations from early alumni. Unlike the other funds named above, it has always been an unrestricted fund in that any student of any discipline or any country can benefit from its grants. Inevitably, needs are greater than the annual interest income for all funds, but demands on the LHT have been especially strong in the past few years.

The Linacre House Trust itself is unable to meet the cost of all the travel grants from its annual income let alone the extra calls for hardship funds, while named funds, having restrictions on their use cannot, in many cases, contribute towards the travel grants paid out by the Linacre House Trust. The Committee is also seeing a wider range of student financial needs – for instance, single parents taking intensively taught courses who

need financial assistance for additional babysitting in order to take classes scheduled after daycare closes, for additional quiet study time, or to help with the high cost of childcare in Oxford.

We are letting the wider Linacre community know of this situation and of our concern over the future for Linacre students in need. We would especially like to augment the unrestricted capital of the Linacre House Trust to provide a greater annual income for the committee to be able to assist more students at a higher level. Could you help, even in a small way? You may use the Annual Fund giving forms, or the links to online giving facilities, on the College website at www.linacre.ox.ac.uk/Development/Giving. Please indicate ‘Linacre House Trust’ when you make your gift. The Development Office (contact details on page 2) will also be happy to assist you by phone, e-mail, post or in person. Finally, we thank all of those who have already so kindly supported Linacre House Trust and Linacre students, and hope many more will also want to help.

Laura Peers

Sporting Linacre

A head for heights



Mel Moeinvaziri (in the red helmet) takes a break on climbing trip to Derbyshire's gritstone edges

Linacre students seem to participate in almost as many sports as there are individuals in the College. Some pursue and develop a sport they already know and enjoy, while others take advantage of the opportunity to try something new. Mel Moeinvaziri started climbing in the USA. 'I made friends with a group of experienced climbers, followed them around the mountains, asked a lot of questions and fell in love with it.' Geoff Stanley, on the other hand, got his first outdoor climbing experience with the Oxford University Mountaineering Club, with trips to the sea cliffs at Portland and Cheddar Gorge. According to Geoff, 'Rock climbing as a sport provides a terrific combination of challenges: balance, finesse, and power are key physical aspects but the mental challenges – figuring how to best move your body through a series of moves, or pushing your endurance to the limit - are equally important and rewarding. And in the end, it's a great way to get outdoors and see some amazing terrain.'

Mel advises that 'there is more than one way to do most things in climbing, so don't get caught up in one person's dogma; learn several ways. Get the basics, learn what is safe and why, and what makes sense in what situation. As for skills, all you need is the willingness to try and the humility to fall and still get back on the rock. There is a misconception, one that particularly hinders girls from getting into the sport, that you need great upper body strength. False. Climbing is more about leg strength and technique. It is one of the only sports where I have heard people seriously say, "Climb like a girl." Upper body strength comes the more you do it. Your physical abilities when you start shouldn't hinder you.'

You can find a small but enthusiastic group of Linacre climbers on the bouldering wall at Iflley - a great place to learn and get comfortable with the basics - at various times throughout the week, or see Mel or Geoff if you'd like to learn more.

2013 Blues at Linacre

Congratulations to all Linacre members who won the coveted sporting distinction of a University Blue during 2013.

Susan Altman	Basketball	Full blue
Shuning Bian	Pistol	Second Team Colours
Sarah Cannon	Athletics	Second Team Colours
David Clancy	Taekwon Do	Half Blue
Laura Droessler	Basketball	Full blue
Edward Gryspeerdt	Yacht	Half Blue
Alexandria Hall	Ice Hockey	Half Blue
Jessica Hudson	Lightweight Rowing	Discretionary Full blue
Michael Senior	Badminton	Half Blue
Kaylie Smith	Ice Hockey	First Team Colours

Best college gym in Oxford



Linacre College Gym offers something for everyone

Much thought and effort have gone into recent improvements in Linacre's gym which, largely thanks to the generosity of **Mr Ronald Olson** (1966) & his wife Jane, was already the best-equipped college gym in Oxford. Linacre's DPhil student Gym Manager, **Georgios Papageorgiou**, has energetically set out to further enhance gym facilities and bolster its finances. A top-quality treadmill, installed in January, is the most recent addition to equipment. Following user feedback, the space was reorganised into three areas: cardiovascular, weights, and resistance. New low-impact rubber mats were installed, and the mirror wall was extended. Members at a few selected colleges have been invited to become fee-paying members of the Linacre gym, thereby generating income to fund on-going maintenance and further improvements.

In addition, the gym now offers a varied programme of free classes to Linacre students, including Capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art (LN 40 & 42); Samba fitness, for a great dance-based workout; Muay Thai, a martial art from Thailand that focuses on body conditioning; and Zumba, a South American-inspired dance fitness programme. The gym is also home to the amazing Linacre Ladies that Lift (LN 43 & 44), and Linacre's own sports clubs and individual sportsmen and sportswomen who train there. You can find more information and news on the gym's blog, <http://linacregym.blogspot.co.uk/>