

The magazine of Linacre College, Oxford

# LINACRE

## News

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**The Cyber Challenge**

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Cover image:

Linacre students

Frances Eames Noland (2016, MSc, Modern Japanese Studies) and Shikang Feng (2014, DPhil, Materials).

Photo by: Ros Connell



# First Thoughts



Phil Sayer

Cybercrime is rising more rapidly than any other form of fraud. In the UK there was a 55% year-on-year rise in the value of fraud to £1.1bn recorded by accountants KPMG in 2016. This depressing statistic reflects the growing proportion of business and private transactions that take place online, providing a rising number of potential victims open to exploitation. Law enforcement agencies are struggling to cope: many do not have the resources or expertise to investigate. Many cybercrimes are extremely complex international frauds that are beyond the capacity of current law enforcement systems to prosecute. Reports of attacks from terrorists and hostile states are even more alarming since the international community has few strategies to cope. In this issue of *Linacre News* you will find articles by two Linacre Old Members who work in the cyber security industry, as well as an account from one of our students working in the EPSRC-funded Centre for Doctoral Training in Cyber Security – a four-year, interdisciplinary research programme. It aims to coach a new generation of researchers capable of understanding and combating this new form of crime, and to equip the highest level of security professional to apply new research in a range of contexts.

This program is just one of a suite of new doctoral training centres that are flourishing around the University – designed to meet brand new research challenges that typically require novel skills and knowledge. It is exciting to see the University responding to new global challenges by agile development of new research capacity, but it can place a lot of stress on some of the more traditional aspects of our provision. Research student numbers are growing rapidly – up by 1,200 in less than a decade, with research staff numbers growing by more than 2,000 in the same period. Housing all of these extra people is a headache in an over-crowded and tightly constrained city. In this issue you will read how Linacre is responding. We're the proud new owners of a very large house (originally two homes) on Iffley Road – a small but important contribution to helping the University stay at the forefront of global research.

*Nick D. Brown*

## Message from the Common Room



Last term, the Common Room witnessed the natural mixing of the new arrivals and remaining faces. College spirits were welcoming and affable as new members joined various societies and clubs, and new CR Exec representatives were elected.

Linacre's charity work continues to be amongst the Common Room's proudest achievements. Michaelmas term saw two charity events – the annual Auction of Promises and an Open Mic Night. Between the two events we raised over £3000 for our charities, a total which we are hoping to add to over the coming terms! Last term we voted on seven new charities to raise money for, from Cities Without Hunger, which works on nutrition through community empowerment in São Paulo, to Survival International, which champions the rights of tribal peoples around the world. These reflect Linacre Common Room's international ethos and its members' spirit of generosity and kindness.

We are also excited about this year's biennial ball. On Sunday 30th April, the Linacre Ball – *Reverie* – will be inviting its guests to 'lose themselves in an exploration of dimensions, break through the firmament with no fear of falling into your wildest dreams.' As the Ball website proclaims, it is 'the only Oxford Ball that promises a phantasmagoria of mystery and delight, where the evening affairs will merge into the grand celebrations of May Morning' – a combination not falling on a weekend again until 2021. 'As the sun rises there will be no need to wake from this ethereal excursion of imagination.' It is going to be another exciting Hilary term!

*Qifeng Yang, Common Room President*

# Advancing Linacre

## Linacre and Africa

Fired up by the sheer number of African students at Linacre (31; more than 10% of African students at Oxford), our four scholarships for Africa, and the infectious enthusiasm of Old Member **Rose Macharia** (2015) and current student **Ndjodi Ndeunyema** (2014), a Linacre African Network was set up last summer. This is a marvellous amalgam of Linacre members: living in Africa; of African nationality living elsewhere; African students; and all with strong links to the continent.

A Reception was held in College in Michaelmas term to launch the Network. Guests of honour were **Dr Keith Lloyd** (1967) and Mr Kim Lloyd, founders and trustees of TEST for Africa, the charity set up to fund scholarships in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the board of which is entirely made up of Linacre alumni. Ndjodi, who is also Vice-President of the Oxford University Africa Society, spoke, along with the Principal (who chairs TEST for Africa), Dr Lloyd, and Dr Keene.



We now have a list of 147 members who have agreed to be in electronic contact, and 167 others who we are in touch with; there is a Facebook page and a LinkedIn presence. The Network is a force to be reckoned with! The plan is to share news by bulk e-mail four times a year, and to be a strong resource and network for all members. A key aim is to build up funds to support African students at Linacre. Please let us know if you fit into the membership category and have not yet been invited to join.

## Linacre Fellows inspire

Of the 24 Junior Research Fellowships at Linacre, one is unique; that is the **Fellows' JRF**. A Fellowship funded by Fellows; does that mean it's a gift from Fellows to themselves?! Not at all; it's a gift from Fellows to their successors, to those following on, that is, early career academics and, as such, is actually worth much more than its value in pounds. Many postdocs at Oxford University don't have any college membership. Yet a college junior research fellowship is an incredibly rich source of experience, of academic interaction, and valuable networking for young academics. So at Linacre we are immensely proud of the number of JRFs we offer, and also of this unique JRF set up in 2010, supported by 25% of our Governing Body and Emeritus Fellowship. That percentage in itself is striking; for a quarter of any body to be donors is incredibly impressive. We thank Linacre's Fellows warmly, both for funding this JRF, and for inspiring other Linacre members to give.

## A Home from Home



When you are a Linacre student, the accommodation College provides is home; we are committed to making this the best possible experience, so that students are comfortable, are literally 'at home', and have the optimum background for their academic work. To this end, knowing our tally of student rooms wasn't as high as needed, we have just signed the final paperwork on a new house (formerly two houses) on Iffley Road which offers accommodation to 21 students. Part of the reason for the purchase is uncertainty about the future of the Linacre accommodation which belongs to the University, numbers 5 and 8 Bradmore Road. Also, aware of the paucity and huge cost of private housing available in the city, we are very keen to increase overall accommodation on offer to our students.

The beauty of this new acquisition, apart from its excellent condition and its being fully furnished, is the vicinity to three other Linacre houses in the area. In particular, it is next door to The Rhodes Building, 189 Iffley Road, so our plan is to merge the gardens; Garden Parties and BBQs are definitely in the plan too! Peter Holloway House, at 201 Iffley Road, isn't far away, and Neil Fraser-Bell House is just round the corner. This builds a wonderful Linacre community in one area of Oxford, and a short bike ride from College.

If you know about Oxford house prices, you won't be surprised to learn that our latest purchase has cost an eye-watering £2.6 million. We are immensely grateful to one major donor, two significant legacies, and other kind donors, for an Accommodation fund which already surpasses £600,000. But of course we are keen to reduce the substantial mortgage as soon as possible. So if you are able to support this worthy cause for Linacre students, we welcome your donations; giving details are viewable at <http://www.linacre.ox.ac.uk/old-members-friends/giving-linacre>; and more fundgiving information related to the new house will be available in the coming months. Thank you!

*Anne Keene*

# Linacre Events

## University Challenge

Linacre's annual event in conjunction with the University's Alumni Reunion Weekend was of a more cerebral nature this year as Old Members were introduced to the complex investigations of two of College's dynamic JRFs—young research fellows who work on the cutting edge of their academic discipline. **Dr David Bauer**, a biochemist (and now a Linacre Adjunct Fellow) gave a mini-tutorial on the molecular machinery of a cell, and in particular how cells go about carrying out the instructions within a gene. Understanding this process is a first step in developing new antibiotic and antiviral drugs. **Dr Ruth Horn**, a sociologist at The Ethox Centre, Nuffield Department of Population Health, investigates the complex ethical problems that are encountered in medical care and clinical research, particularly at the beginning and

end of life. She discussed the challenges of her current work on the PAGE (Prenatal Assessment of Genomes and Exomes) Research Programme. The evening concluded with restorative drinks and canapés in the Nadel Room after a demanding, but highly enjoyable, mental work-out.



L-R: The Principal, Dr Ruth Horn, Dr David Bauer

## Cathedral Cities

As it is a good many years since any Linacre events were held in Scotland, and we can't recall one ever happening in Durham, a rail journey northwards last September made up for this inactivity; the Principal and Director of Development met with over 25 College members over: lunch and dinner in Edinburgh; dinner in Glasgow; lunch in Durham. We thank **Dr Peter & Mrs Clare Pitkin** (1969) for kindly hosting pre-dinner drinks in their lovely home in Bruntsfield, Edinburgh, and **Dr Hilary Hamnett** (2003) and **Professor Barry Gower** (1963) for their respective help with arranging the Glasgow and Durham events. It was a most enjoyable visit filled with wonderful conversations with many people, and we hope to connect with the remaining 75% of Linacre members in these three cities in the future.

*Anne Keene*



Edinburgh Lunch



Glasgow Dinner



Edinburgh Dinner



Durham Lunch

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

## Italian Linacre Lecture 2016



ILL 2016 Attendees

Our annual Italian event was held in an unusual, even romantic setting, and the theme of the Italian Linacre Lecture was innovative and stimulating. We thank **Professor Maurizio Lupoi** (1964) for kindly hosting this event in his beautiful home in the hills outside Rome, and for providing an ancient cistern as the venue for the lecture (see photos)! We are very grateful too to **Professor Sabrina Bruno** (1990), who did much of the administration for the event. Thanks are extended to **Professor Anna Curir** (1982), astrophysicist, who spoke thoughtfully about



Inside the ancient cistern

*The Third Culture: a dialogue between the Sciences and the Humanities*, the subject of her new book; this made us all revisit convergences between academic disciplines. The date, venue, and lecturer for 2017 have all been agreed in record time: **Saturday, September 23rd**; Rome; **Professor Pietro Corsi** (Emeritus Fellow). Why not book your ticket to Rome now?

*Anne Keene*

## Thomas Linacre Circle lunch

In early winter, it is a pleasure to welcome members of the Thomas Linacre Circle to the annual lunch in College. After drinks with a number of current students who chatted about their work and lives at Linacre, the guests enjoyed one of Michael's fine meals, and spent a leisurely time talking with the Principal and other members of the legacy circle.

In the last few years, there had been the loss of several much-loved members of the Circle, whose generosity will make a difference to future students in Scholarships and provision of accommodation.

## Looking ahead...

**Thursday, 23 March • Linacre dinner • Hong Kong**

**Friday, 24 March • Linacre dinner • Singapore**

**Thursday, 27 April • Linacre Lawyers' Network**  
Environmental Q&A with Richard Macrory Hon. QC  
Taylor Wessing LLP, London. 6.30 – 9.00pm

**Tuesday, 30 May • Annual London Reception**  
Oxford & Cambridge Club, 6.30 – 9.00pm

**Saturday/Sunday, 1 & 2 July • Linacre Gaudy**  
1972 – 1981 Matriculation cohort

**15-17 September • Oxford Alumni Weekend**  
Linacre event on Saturday, 16 September, 11.00am

**Saturday, 23 September • Italian Linacre Lecture**  
Rome • Speaker: Professor Pietro Corsi, Emeritus Fellow

**Keep up to date** Details on these and other events are published on the College website: <http://www.linacre.ox.ac.uk/old-members-friends/old-members-friends-events>

You may also e-mail [alumni.relations@linacre.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni.relations@linacre.ox.ac.uk) to express interest or for further details..

## Scholarship Holders' lunch



Linacre's Scholarship holders are invited to lunch each Michaelmas term. This year, to fit into the Small Dining Room, the lunch in October 2016 was for newcomers only. In total, the College has 33 Scholarship holders for the current academic year. Thanks to the generosity of many donors, this number continues to increase.

*Ros Connell*

# The Cyber Challenge

*Cyber security is a rapidly evolving 21st century concern. In this focus we hear the professional perspective of two Linacre Old Members who work in the cyber security sector, and also from one of the eleven Linacre students currently undertaking the new DPhil in cyber security now offered at Oxford University – a UK Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research.*

See [www.cybersecurity.ox.ac.uk](http://www.cybersecurity.ox.ac.uk)

## ... in a connected world



### Priyanka Pani (2007)

graduated with an MSc in Computer Science and now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area in California, with her husband and 15-month-old. She has worked for companies like Morgan Stanley and Symantec, and now works as a product manager for Zscaler,

a startup in the enterprise security domain.

Today, one of the most commonly used technological terms is 'IoT' or 'Internet of Things'. IoT is a network of interconnected devices that communicate by transferring data. These devices could be the watch on your wrist that tracks your heart rate, a biochip transponder embedded in an animal, a car with sensors to alert the driver when there's an accident ahead, your home's thermostat, the smart fridge that maintains an inventory of your grocery items and places orders when the supply of an item runs low – it could be any device that can be assigned an IP address that it uses to transfer data over a network.

IoT has evolved to take offline devices that had disparate sets of data, and help them communicate over a network with a large variety of devices, allowing correlation of previously unrelated data about individuals, organizations, and other entities. These correlations can tell the story of our lives, by merely putting 1s and 0s together. For example, if you put the data from your phone, health monitoring watch and car together, then it could tell who you are, what vehicle you own, where you were at a given point in time, what you were doing, how long you were doing it for, whether you were texting and driving, whether you habitually do that, whether you were using a map to get from point A to point B, how fast you drove, whether driving fast excites you, whether you're a rash driver – basically it could correlate your location, your phone usage, health markers, driving habits and many such chunks of data to put together a good picture of you as an individual. As you think about that, do think about what it would mean if this information fell into the hands of a hacker and what they could do with it.

As BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) becomes the norm, the use of personal devices in corporate environments gives rise to new security challenges. A compromised personal device, be it a phone or a smart watch, is just as dangerous as an enterprise device, given the increase in corporate data access from

personal devices, away from secure corporate networks. Users, devices and apps are no longer contained inside a clearly defined boundary.

On Friday October 21, a massive distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack was launched against Dyn, an internet infrastructure company. The attack made it impossible to access a range of popular websites, like AirBnB, CNN, Twitter, Amazon, Netflix, PayPal and others. The attack was launched by a piece of malware, called Mirai, which searches for IoT devices and then uses them to attack a targeted website. Five Russian banks – including the state-owned Sberbank – endured DDoS attacks for two days in November, according to the country's bank regulator. Researchers at Kaspersky Lab said that attackers used over 24000 IoT devices like DVRs and webcams, located in 30 countries.

The biggest concern with IoT devices is that their manufacturers have failed to adopt appropriate security measures in time. Many devices, like webcams, are produced inexpensively and are equipped with low-grade software which cannot be updated. IoT introduces additional complexity for security. As awareness spreads, some IoT devices are receiving security upgrades. While it's a good start, the majority of these devices cannot be monitored using conventional security software owing to the different protocols that they use to communicate and their software and hardware structure.

Individuals and organizations should closely monitor the data that their IoT devices send and receive. Enterprise security products now need to include solutions for personal devices, to protect their employees and their data from cyber-attacks. Deploying security solutions that merely scan the network of an organization's incoming and outgoing data is not enough and organizations need to assess new security ideas, both inside and outside the device. Besides employing different layers of security for the device communication protocols, manufacturers also need to start building protection into the device itself. Some of the security features, like a secure boot or device tamper detection, require specific hardware capabilities, so these must be considered as part of the device design.

Our devices are getting more and more connected and our world is shrinking. Information is shared faster, data is processed more quickly and 24x7 access is becoming the norm. We need to be smarter and more secure about who, where, when and how we communicate. Let's ensure that we evolve from the Internet of Things to the Internet of **Secure Things**.

# The Cyber Challenge

## ... in the corporate world



### Chika Eze (2014)

holds an MSc in Computer Science from Oxford, and is also a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), an ISO 27001 Lead Auditor, and a Systems Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP). Chika currently works as a Cyber Security Consultant for KPMG UK<sup>1</sup> and specialises in Identity and

Access Management, Information Security Risk Assessment, Auditing and Management. He has previously worked with the private sector in Nigeria as a digital entrepreneur, and as an IT Audit Manager at the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Education.

A lackadaisical attitude towards cyber security has plagued the professional community for years largely due to some common misconceptions of cyber threats. The term ‘*hacker*’ is often tied to an image of an anti-social guy wearing a hoodie as he hunches over a keyboard in his bedroom to take on the might of government and major corporations; as such, corporations had little regard for the provisions of effective cyber security practices. But the reality is that cyber threats have evolved beyond that ill-conceived representation into organized crime and state-sponsored consortiums. Cyber crime has become a major industry with some estimates suggesting that we spend over \$94 billion to secure our systems against cyber-attacks (*Gartner, Information Security, Worldwide Forecast, 2014-2020, 2Q16 Update*) and that the impact on our global economy exceeds \$400 billion a year (*Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Net Losses: Estimating the global cost of cyber crime, June 2014*).

This apathetic attitude has been challenged by recent cyber security incidents. Media coverage of these has raised the awareness of individuals and corporations to the threat they face in cyber space, and shareholders, investors, government, and regulators are progressively challenging board members to demonstrate appropriate due diligence, thereby securing a prominent place on the board agenda for cyber security. Senior executives are beginning to realise that taking pre-emptive and effective risk-based measures towards securing their organisations’ assets is undoubtedly a better strategy to avoid becoming the next major breach. However, the hardest part of the cyber security challenge is – taking action.

Despite the risks, senior executives still find it very difficult to invest proactively in cyber security. According to *KPMG’s 2016 Consumer Loss Barometer*, only 51% of business respondents used capital funds to invest in cyber security during the last 12 months. This probably emanates from not being able to effectively tie spending back to either a return on investment

or tangible risk mitigation; hence cyber security spending is often viewed as a misplaced investment, or a burden inflicted by the IT department. They fail to realise that cyber security is an enabler to help achieve appropriate protection and handling of assets (and data) for which they are ultimately accountable.

Another common mistake is to treat cyber security as a technical challenge rather than as a business issue. Technology is obviously an integral part of cyber security, but alone it is not sufficient to protect against cyber threats. A holistic approach to cyber security encompasses People, Processes, and Technology (often called the three pillars or trinity of cyber security). This pitfall has left the key assets of various organisations defenceless against cyber threats because cyber security was not embedded into the business strategy at the trinity level, but added on as a bandage to mend the strategy. Cyber security should not be treated solely as a technological issue, but as a business issue which sufficiently considers the people facet of leadership, education and awareness, alongside the adaptable processes that are vital to the implementation of the cyber security strategy.

Businesses exist to provide services and value to their clients while making profits in the process; clients, on the other hand, are willing to pay for services rendered but expect optimal performances as well as security. This presents a problem, given that security is considered an inhibitor of performance. The classic paradox between security and performance still creates a divide between security professionals and senior executives. The former want to promulgate security at the expense of performance, while the latter want to offer value, make profits, and gain a competitive edge, which can only be realised if performance is optimal. Certainly, clients will not be willing to adapt to security routines if they feel it is too much of a hassle to comply with these measures. We need to find new ways to bridge this gap. The narrative should change from ‘What services and values can we offer our client?’ to ‘What services and values can we offer our client **securely**?’

One major challenge which still hinders cyber security is the problem of resources. Finding the right people for the job has proven to be very difficult due to the limited budget often allocated to cyber security. The salaries and charge out rates for competent cyber security professionals are increasing exponentially compared to other professions, and thus organisations are often hiring unskilled personnel to guard their ‘crown jewels’ with the view that they will be trained on the job. Even worse are the self-proclaimed ‘competent’ cyber security professionals whom we frequently find to be unconsciously incompetent – they don’t know that they don’t know. This disconnect in the ability to acquire competent cyber security professionals has resulted in a growing sense of cyber fatigue.

*1: The views expressed in this article are strictly my own and are not the official views held by KPMG. KPMG will not accept any form of liability whatsoever for any direct or indirect consequences of the use of the information provided.*

# The Cyber Challenge

## ... in government supply chains



### Yudhistira Nugraha

(2013) is pursuing a DPhil in Cyber Security with the Oxford Computer Science Department. He received a BEng in Telecommunications Engineering from Telkom University, Indonesia and a Master's in Information and

Communication Technology Advanced from the University of Wollongong. He is also a government official at the Directorate of Information Security, Indonesian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

I joined a 4-year Doctoral Programme at Oxford in October 2013 as part of the first cohort of students from the Centre for Doctoral Training in Cyber Security. During my first year of intensive training in Cyber Security, we were required to complete modules across a range of multidisciplinary topics, including cybersecurity systems and operations, security architectures, high-integrity systems engineering, usability, security risk management, policy and governance, cyber ethics, criminology, digital forensics, and international relations. Following this intensive education, we undertook two mini projects. My first project studied state cyber defence requirements to mitigate threats and attacks in cyberspace, particularly following the initial revelations in 2013 of alleged pervasive surveillance by foreign intelligence services and the risk to the Indonesian government's confidentiality. The second one investigated the issues of lawful interception capability requirements and the protection of user security and privacy. For the next three years of substantive research, I moved to the Systems Security Group.

My research was primarily motivated by Edward Snowden's revelations, and concerns about other numerous highly publicised cases of unauthorised data disclosure (e.g. data exfiltration) across government, defence and national security organisations. It is not surprising that many high-profile organisations, such as government agencies, have become a central target for the most sophisticated attacks. Government generates, collects and stores far more sensitive data than the private sector and often keeps it with more vulnerable systems. For example, several misconfigured servers run by government agencies could allow external attackers to access internal government systems. But it is becoming apparent that the greatest threats to organisational security stem from insider threats from those who routinely work with government agencies (including employees, contractors, business partners and service providers), and who may disclose or exfiltrate sensitive data, which particularly affects government confidentiality.

Most government agencies are increasingly reliant on information system services (e.g. cloud-based services, or data centre services) provided by external service providers to

process, store or transmit sensitive government data (e.g. citizen's data) on behalf of the government. Relationships with external service providers, which provide information system services to government agencies, are usually established through service level agreements (SLAs) as trust-enhancing instruments. An SLA is a binding agreement between a service provider and a customer to establish the obligation of service providers to deliver service capabilities (e.g. security capabilities) according to service requirements (e.g. security requirements) elicited from the customer side. Security requirements include the level of confidentiality, integrity and availability one party requires, while the security capabilities specify the countermeasures, such as security controls, that will be provided. However, most service providers place a greater emphasis on availability requirements, despite the fact that they do not adequately express other security requirements, such as confidentiality and integrity, in the formulation of security-related SLAs.

Furthermore, the growing use of external information system services presents challenges because no market exists for secure products and services. So far, there is an absence of coherent approaches for preserving sensitive government data and services against most common threats, namely unauthorised access or disclosure, unauthorised modification and denial of authorised access. This situation contrasts with well-established norms for systems, such as the Common Criteria (CC), an international standard which is often used as the basis for a government-driven certification scheme and security evaluation for information technology products and services. However, the security evaluation process is known to be slow-moving, which is problematic for information system services, which are changing on a much more dynamic basis.

My research is looking at the problem of preserving the confidentiality of sensitive government data against unauthorised access or data disclosure. In particular, this research focuses on the specific issue of eliciting, specifying and evaluating confidentiality capabilities, using a Trustworthy Service Level Agreement (TSLA). This is a new concept, which would define and set rigorous standards for security requirements and security capabilities according to typical perceived threats for government data classification within an SLA, thereby ensuring that the necessary levels of security are provided and maintained to preserve the confidentiality of sensitive government data handled by service providers. Thus far, our research offers new insights for expressing security considerations (including data classifications, threats, security requirements, and security capabilities) in contracts or SLAs. It is expected that the TSLA framework will be better-suited and more responsive to the dynamic world of services provision (e.g. cloud-based services), as well as be used in the design of information system services regarding security. However, there are a few challenges to the utilisation of the framework. For example, the provider's liability is strictly limited, with the particular level of security capabilities expressed in SLAs. These challenges sketch many avenues for future work.

# College News

## News from the Linacre kitchen

**Derek Soden**, Linacre's much-loved and long-serving 2nd Chef (since 15 October 1990), quietly hung up his apron at the end of September in a long-planned retirement. Derek was adamant there was to be no fuss (so no public presentation of a Linacre bear or photo with the Principal!), so we are glad we were able to celebrate his Linacre Silver Anniversary (LN49) and include him on the cover of the last magazine with other kitchen staff. We send our warmest thanks to Derek for brightening our days with his culinary skills, and wish him a very happy retirement and new adventures.



Following what must have been nerve-wracking try-outs under the eagle eye of Head Chef Michael Bockett, **Greg Feeley** donned the Linacre 2nd Chef apron in October. After an apprenticeship at Magdalen College, Greg honed his skills during positions at St Peter's, Somerville, and Wadham Colleges. Greg is pictured (R) with **James Stephenson** (L), who has also recently joined the kitchen team as 3rd chef. James's cv includes work at 34 of Oxford's colleges, but we hope Linacre will be his favourite. We welcome them to College, and are already enjoying some new additions to Linacre's delicious and varied weekday menus.

## Domestic Bursar



Warmest congratulations to **Simon Barker**, Linacre's Operations Manager since 2011, who was promoted to Domestic Bursar in December by Governing Body. Along with his regular operational responsibilities, Simon has overseen major renovations of numerous College facilities and the recent acquisition of new accommodation on Iffley Road, with skill, tact, patience, an eye for detail, and a sense of humour.

## Visit by Linacre author

A drab November evening was enlivened by a visit from Linacre Old Member **Professor Sarah Moss** (1997), an award-winning novelist and Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Warwick. Sarah joined the Linacre Book Club to read an excerpt from one of her novels before entering into a free-flowing

discussion of books and the process of creative writing. The cosy gathering in the Nadel Room was attended by Linacre students, staff, and Old Members, before going to supper in the Dining Hall. Thanks go to Fiona Richardson, our Librarian, for arranging the event, and especially to Sarah for sharing her time and insights. We are delighted that *Signs for Lost Children* (previously shortlisted for the Wellcome Prize) has been nominated for the 2017 International Dublin Literary Award. The list comprises books judged to be of 'high literary merit' by public libraries in cities throughout the world.

## Michaelmas seminars

At the invitation of College, **Professor Michael Krausz**, Visiting Senior Member, presented a seminar on 'Relativisms and Their Opposites' as part of the College Tuesday evening seminar series. As of 1 January 2017 he is a Linacre Adjunct Fellow.

**Professor Richard Werner** (1989) convened a series of nine weekly seminars on 'Banking and Sustainability' during Michaelmas Term. Guest speakers included Sir Vince Cable, former Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. Professor Werner holds the chair in International Banking at the University of Southampton, and is a Continuing Member of Linacre.

**Professor Dan Robinson**, Linacre Adjunct Fellow and former VSM, gave a talk, 'From Locke on Toleration to the First Amendment', as part of a series on Free Speech at Oxford. An audio podcast may be found here: <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/locke-toleration-first-amendment>. Professor Robinson is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Georgetown University and a Fellow of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford.

## A magic carpet?

Our Dining Hall walls have been graced by a beautiful new rug, which fits perfectly with the previous existing four. The new item has been generously donated by **Professors Franco** (1965) & **Carolyn** (1967) **Gianturco** who, on a visit to Linacre last year, made an inspired connection between a largish gap on the Dining Hall walls, and a Persian rug in their apartment in Rome which had latterly become surplus to requirements. The Gianturcos kindly arranged for the rug to make the journey to Oxford, and in September after the kitchen refurbishment it took its place on the wall looking, almost miraculously, as if it had always been there. Many thanks are extended to Carolyn and Franco for their very kind gift.



# Fellows' Focus

## The Notion of "Proof" in Shakespeare's *Othello*<sup>1</sup>



### Dr Cezar Ionescu

*is Associate Professor of Data Science, and Director of Studies for Computing and Mathematics in Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education, and a Fellow of Linacre.*

Give the mathematician a Shakespeare glossary: chances are that the first thing he looks up will be something to do with mathematics. I was often looking up words from computing and mathematics, in order to enliven technical talks for a multi-disciplinary or general audience. In doing so, I noticed something when looking up "proof". The glossary at <http://www.shakespearewords.com> lists 74 occurrences of the word "proof" in Shakespeare's plays. Few of them (rank four in the order of frequency) are in our sense of the word ("evidence, demonstration, testimony"). Furthermore, Alexander Schmidt's Lexicon, possibly the most useful to the non-native speaker, notes that "proof" (in the sense of "evidence") is used at most three times in any play (and usually only once or not at all), with one exception: it appears eight times in *Othello*. But that's not all: seven of these eight occurrences are in the same scene: III.iii, exactly in the middle of the play. If one is interested in what Shakespeare thinks about proof, that scene is probably the place to start.

A lot of work is being done in the build-up to this scene to present Othello as possessing remarkable self-control. When Brabantio, Desdemona's father, accuses him of witchcraft and risks provoking an armed conflict between his guards and Othello's, the "noble moor" coolly de-escalates the situation. He then defends himself of the same accusations in front of the Duke of Venice and the High Council by an artful speech, which begins almost exactly like Socrates' apology: "Rude am I in my speech... and therefore little shall I grace my cause in speaking for myself. Yet, by your gracious patience, I will a round unvarnish'd tale deliver..." (and so he does, the Duke saying at the end, "I think this tale would win my daughter too").

And so, when we come to the first occurrence of the word "proof" at line 193, we can believe Othello when he claims he cannot be troubled by jealousy: "I'll see before I doubt; when I doubt, prove; / And on the proof, there is no more but this, - / Away at once with love or jealousy!" Iago retorts immediately with the second usage of "proof": "I speak not yet of proof" (199). Iago seems always aware of the obligations of proof, of what it means to offer "a convincing token or argument", as we shall see several times in what follows.

The third occurrence of "proof" belongs to Iago alone, and is more in the sense of "convincing token" rather than "argument",

since it refers to the authority of the Scripture: "Trifles light as air", he says, referring to Desdemona's handkerchief, now in his possession, "are to the jealous confirmations strong as proofs of holy writ" (325), another instance of Iago's understanding of errors in estimating the value of (supposed) evidence.

By the time we come to the fourth occurrence of "proof", less than two hundred lines after Othello assured us he cannot be troubled by jealousy, we see that he is no longer so stoical. He shakes Iago and demands "the ocular proof", proof such that "the probation bear no hinge nor loop to hang a doubt on" (363-369). Twenty lines later, these demands have turned into a plea for "some proof" (fifth occurrence, at line 389). This slipping of standards, this willingness to settle for less, echoes Othello's loss of control in an impressive representation of his descent into madness.

This is, of course, due to Iago, who explains that he can only offer "imputation and strong circumstance" that, however, "lead directly to the door of truth" (409-410). What is this circumstantial evidence? First, in a scene that would not be out of place in a comedy, he says Cassio was talking lovingly of Desdemona – in his sleep! and even kissed Iago, who was bunking beside him, "hard... upon my lips". The important thing to notice is that Iago is very careful not to claim too much. He says "this was but his dream", "yet we see nothing done", "she may be honest yet", but points out that this "may help to thicken other proofs / That do demonstrate thinly" (sixth occurrence, 432).

The second piece of evidence he presents is the famous handkerchief, which he claims having seen Cassio with: "It speaks against her with the other proofs" (seventh and last, line 444). This prompts Othello's declaration, "Now do I see 'tis true," (447) and his plan to murder Desdemona. But, of course, it is not true! What "other proofs"? All we have is hearsay supported by more hearsay, and only from the mouth of Iago. In the hands of Iago, "proof" has become just a rhetorical device. The passions win over reason.

If that were all, it would perhaps be somewhat disappointing. However, Shakespeare almost always works antithetically, so it's worth looking for a counterweight to this "message". Remember that there were *eight* occurrences of "proof" in *Othello*? The one outside III.iii is in I.iii, the scene with Brabantio's accusations and Othello's masterful speech. That scene starts with a dreary discussion of the Venetian council, about 50 lines long. The members of the High Council are analysing conflicting data about the movements of the Turkish fleet, and they do that correctly, in stark contrast to the analysis of "evidence" that we see in III.iii. The word "proof" in this scene marks the transition from a world of (intentionally!) dull order to that of passions. In response to Brabantio's "I therefore vouch again that with some mixtures powerful ... he wrought upon her", the Duke says dryly: "To vouch this is no

# Fellows' News

## Fellows' News



Congratulations to **Professor Robert Fox**, Linacre Emeritus Fellow, who was recently honoured by the International Academy of the History of Science with their highest award, the Alexandre Koyré Medal for 2016, in recognition of his contributions to the History of Science over his career. The ceremony took place in Prague on 23 September 2016 during the

biannual meeting of the European Society for the History of Science. Professor Fox was the Society's Founding President from 2003 to 2006. 2016 also saw the publication of his latest book, *Science without Frontiers: Cosmopolitanism and National Interests in the World of Learning, 1870-1940*, by Oregon State University Press.

Linacre was delighted to learn that **Dr Schuyler Jones** (1968), Emeritus Fellow, is the recipient of the Global Citizen Award for 2016, given to 'individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to global learning over a sustained period.'

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*Continued from p10*

proof" (I.iii.108). The problem is that this council scene, which I believe is very important for the balance of the play, is almost always abbreviated in performance and often eliminated. Thus, a first "moral": when making an incision in a Shakespearean text, make sure you don't hit a vein.

Why does the council's reason "work", why do they get the correct answer? I think it is because they are not alone. In all of Shakespeare's 38 plays, there is no single important decision that is taken after correct reasoning by a single, isolated character, but there are countless examples of how failure to communicate leads all astray. Othello falls because he is alone, Hamlet falls because he is alone; the winners, if any, are always shown in company, in dialogue. Man alone is weak, fallible, he only has a slim chance: in company, and it must be company based on mutual respect, tolerance, good will (not the company of Iago!). That is Shakespeare's humanism.

And this is also the humanism of mathematics. Cédric Villani (Fields Medal 2010) said in *Freedom in Mathematics* (Springer 2016): "What I am going to say may seem somewhat harsh, but mathematics is a field where it is very hard to achieve a deep understanding alone, outside of the school framework". I think that is correct. Of course, it is never ideal to work alone, and we are always prone to see what we wish or what we fear, rather than what is, but mathematics has special features that

Hats off to **Professor Angus Kirkland**, who has been honoured in recent months with three prestigious awards. The 2015 Rose Prize for 'seminal contributions to electron optics and imaging theory' was followed by the quadrennial European Microscopy Award for Materials Science, bestowed in 2016 'for outstanding achievements in theoretical and instrumental areas such as pioneering exit-wave reconstruction, EMptychography and detector design'. Most recently the Royal Microscopical Society's 2017 Alan Agar Medal was presented in recognition of his 'outstanding scientific achievements applying electron microscopy in the physical sciences'.



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Warmest congratulations to **Satsuki Eda** (1969), Linacre Honorary Fellow and former President of Japan's House of Councillors, who has been awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers. He is pictured receiving the decoration from His Majesty the Emperor in a ceremony at the Imperial Palace on 8 November 2016.

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make isolation particularly damaging. There is no feedback from nature or from a laboratory experiment, as in the case of science, or from the computer, as in the case of programming. Artists work alone, but in their case the form of their work carries the meaning, embodies their personality, and the notion of "mistake" is not clearly defined (to a certain extent, that is also true of philosophy). In mathematics, we carefully excise our personalities from the work by using an objective, impersonal, formal style. The work must really speak for itself. As a result, the same end product, the same error when written down, can be the result of a trivial computational mistake ( $-1 * -1 = -1$ ) or the result of a mistaken understanding, that must be corrected before moving on. The way forward in mathematics is to submit your ideas to the criticism of others, and to criticise theirs, in a dialogue based on mutual respect, tolerance, good will.

Because, as in Shakespeare, in mathematics we are best in company.

*I: This is an abridged version of a much more detailed lecture Cezar originally delivered to maths students at Henry Box School.*

# In Memoriam

## Stephen Moorbath (1929-2016)



When Professor Stephen Moorbath FRS died on 16 October 2016, Linacre lost one of its most distinguished as well as long-serving fellows. Stephen was elected to a fellowship of the College in 1968, and became an Emeritus Fellow in 1996 on his official retirement from the Department of Earth Sciences. Stephen is survived by Pauline,

who, alongside Stephen, has always been a devoted and much-loved member of the Linacre family.

As well as being an internationally known scientist, Stephen Moorbath was a great wit, linguist, and art collector, and had a profound love and phenomenal knowledge of music, especially that of Mozart and Bach, which can perhaps be traced back to his musically-distinguished family roots.

It is worth noting that the 10-year-old Stephen came, with his father, to the UK and to Oxford in 1939 as a refugee, having had to flee their native Germany in the face of the Nazi persecution of Jews in the 1930s. Other close members of his family, including his mother, were not as fortunate, and died during the Holocaust. On leaving Oxford Boys' School after O-levels, Stephen became a technician in the Biochemistry Department, whose senior members at the time included Howard Florey, Ernst Chain, and Edward Abraham. During this time, he studied for his A-levels in night school, following which he became an Assistant Experimental Officer at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell. This led to the award of an AERE scholarship which enabled him to take up the place he'd been offered at Lincoln College to read Chemistry. However, in his

first year, he was inspired by a visit to the Oxford Museum of Natural History to switch to Geology, and, following his First in Earth Sciences, that became Stephen's life work.

In 1956, Stephen was invited to come back to the Department of Earth Sciences from Harwell to help establish a laboratory for the determination of radiometric ages of rocks and minerals. Using an early solid-source mass spectrometer, he analysed the variations in the isotopic composition of lead in British samples of the mineral galena, lead sulphide, and his DPhil thesis and publications based on this work were very significant contributions to the emerging science of isotope geochemistry.

Stephen perhaps became best known for his work on the Earth's most ancient rocks and its implications for the origin of Life. He found these rocks in Greenland, where he did fifteen field seasons and collected a huge number of samples. Using the Rubidium 87 – Strontium 87 decay, which has a half-life of about 48 billion years, Stephen was able to establish the age of these as being 3800 million years – the oldest rocks on the planet. There is no doubt that Stephen was one of the progenitors of all the isotopic research and its applications to Earth Sciences – for which Oxford continues to be justly famous.

Stephen's only known weakness was, of course, for puns. There was scarcely any situation which didn't provoke one. On being told that a friend's daughter was training to be a dancer: *That's tu-tu much*. When a passenger in my car and asked for directions: *I was never a Roads Scholar*. On brain transplant researcher: *I hope he doesn't change his mind*.

Stephen will be much missed for his erudition, his wisdom and his wit – puns and all.

*Geoffrey Thomas*  
(Fellow, 1978-2000, Honorary Fellow, 2000-)

*I am grateful to David Bell, John Dewey and Nick Moorbath for allowing me to draw on their tributes to Stephen.*

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

**May Polsky** (1965) died 19 October 2014, aged 79, in Montréal, Canada. She was formerly the Director of AIM CROIT, a not-for-profit organisation sponsored by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) which provides employment assistance services to people in the greater Montréal area who have a physical, sensory or neurological disability. In 2013, she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, which honours individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to their fellow citizens, community and country through their generosity, commitment and accomplishments.

**Dr Justo P Rojo** (1979), DPhil Forestry, died 30 October 2013, aged 77. He was the author of the *Revised Lexicon of Philippine Trees*.

**Cecillie Swaisland** (1982, MLitt Modern History), died peacefully on Christmas Day 2016, aged 90, the widow of **Charles Swaisland** (1963). Together they worked and travelled extensively, particularly in Africa, where both served as peace monitors for the World Council of Churches in the run-up to South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994. Cecillie's publications on Commonwealth topics included a volume of the Boer War letters of her great Uncle Walter, who served with the Lincolnshire Rifles. She is survived by daughters Alison and Ruth, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

# In Memoriam



**Dr Bornali (née Halder) Shade** (1994) took an active part in both the intellectual and social life at Linacre, earning first an MPhil, and then her DPhil, in Social Anthropology. While at Linacre she served as Social Secretary of the Common Room, and also met her husband, **Dr Matthew Shade** (1993). They made their home in London with their much-loved daughter, Rekha. Bornali worked as a web editor and as an accounts manager for a digital marketing company. She developed an international website on Native American issues as part of her doctoral studies, and as a Lecturer in Native American History she created and taught a new course. Her many friends remember her as warm, generous, and very spiritual; the service of Celebration and Thanksgiving held on January 17th followed clear instructions left by Bornali, and spoke of her deep Christian faith.

## Linacre Loci: The Nadel Room



Named for Ben Nadel, a New York lawyer who in his 50s studied at Linacre in 1962, and whose kindness enabled its furnishing and decoration, this is a gracious room; you enter it, and you enter its calm atmosphere. Part of the

original 1886 *Cherwell Edge* house, the Nadel Room has had previous incarnations as the setting for James Anthony Froude's 19th century History tutorials and in the first six decades of the 20th century as a library; it's a world away, as well as just 30 seconds' walk, from the 1990s extension to the O C Tanner Building. Enjoying its recent refurbishment, the Nadel Room hosts small meetings, academic discussions over coffee, drinks before dinner, and the occasional larger reception. By day it's also a useful vantage point on the comings and goings in College. If you have ever wondered about the chair plaques in College, or engraved dedications on the Garden benches, interesting background on all can be read in documents in this room. You can also peruse our Legacy Book, and cast your eye over the Alumni Book Collection in the bookcase. Although there's not a drop of water in sight, the room is a gentle oasis amidst the to and fro of Linacre Life.

*Anne Keene*

## The Grapevine Decades

### 1960s

**Dr Eva Wagner** (1962) is the author of *A New Theory of Tragedy: Storm and Stress Drama*, published by The Edwin Mellen Press, April 2016. The book is 'an investigation of fate and guilt concepts as rationalisations of irrational tragic reality'.

*An Archaeological Study of the Bayeux Tapestry* by **Trevor Rowley** (1964) was published by Pen and Sword in October 2016. 'By comparing illustrated extracts from the tapestry to historical and contemporary illustrations, maps and reconstructions, Rowley is able to provide the reader with a unique visual setting against which they are able to place the events on the tapestry.' He is Emeritus Fellow of Kellogg College and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.



Oliver Jacquet

**Professor Marie-Madeleine Martinet** (1969) was made *Officier de la Légion d'honneur*, following on from becoming *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur* in 2004, in a ceremony at the Sorbonne on 2 November 2016 in Paris. *La Légion d'honneur* is the highest French order

for military and civil merits, established in 1802 by Napoléon Bonaparte. Professor Martinet was honoured for her outstanding 'services to University education.'

### 1970s

**Professor Toshiharu Kitamura** (1971) was presented with the Order of the Sacred Treasure in recognition of his public service and distinguished achievement in a ceremony at the Imperial Palace in May 2016.

**Professor David Simon** (1979) has recently brought out an edited book, *Rethinking Sustainable Cities: Accessible, green and fair*, for Mistra Urban Futures (Policy Press, Bristol). It comprises a critical state-of-the-art review of the origins, interpretations and applications around the world of these three key attributes of holistic approaches to urban sustainability, and how to take forward such agendas. Published in the Policy Press Shorts: Policy and Practice Series, it is aimed at researchers, students and policy makers alike, with an extensive glossary and guide to web resources. The e-book is available on Open Access at [www.open.org](http://www.open.org)

# The Grapevine

## Decades continued

### 1980s

*Picasso's Brain: the basis of creative genius* by **Professor Christine Temple** (1981) was published posthumously on 8 December 2016. Christine, an eminent neuropsychologist at the University of Essex, completed the book shortly before she died in 2014, aged only 56. The book brings together her academic research and her passion for art. The introduction was written by another Linacre Old Member, **Frederick Mulder** (1968). A copy, kindly donated by Christine's son, Alexander, who is currently a student at Linacre, is now part of the Alumni Collection in the Linacre Library.

**Dr Urjit R. Patel** (1984) was appointed Governor of the Reserve Bank of India in September 2016. Prior to his selection, he served over three years as a Deputy Governor of the RBI, and he has extensive experience in financial, energy, and infrastructure sectors. He earned an MPhil in Economics while at Linacre, before completing his doctorate at Yale.

*Missing*, a book of poems written by **Malcolm Povey** (1986), during his wife Jacqueline's illness and after her death, was published by Smokestack Books in August 2016. It is available from [www.smokestack-books.co.uk](http://www.smokestack-books.co.uk) or may be ordered from bookshops, and a copy has also been donated to the Linacre Library.

**Dr Thuy Phung** (1989) is co-author of *Pediatric Dermatopathology* (Springer, 2017), a richly illustrated reference textbook for pathologists, dermatologists, cutaneous oncologists, and dermatopathologists who diagnose and treat skin disorders that affect children. She is Assistant Professor and head of a research lab in the Department of Pathology at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas.

### 1990s

Congratulations to **Professor Philip Gale** (1992), who moved from the University of Southampton to become Head of Chemistry at the University of Sydney in January.



**Dr Francisca Mutapi** (1993) received the David Livingstone Medal from Group Captain Andy Green, Dean of the Faculty of Travel Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, on 6 October 2016, after delivering the David Livingstone lecture on her work on bilharzia in Zimbabwe. Dr Mutapi is a Reader in Global Health Infection and Immunity at the Institute of Immunology & Infection Research at the University of Edinburgh.

**Dr Alex Freeman** (1995) recently took up the post of Executive Director of the Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication. This new centre, hosted within the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics at

the University of Cambridge, seeks 'to ensure that quantitative evidence and risk is presented to people in a fair and balanced way' through research and collaboration with institutions around the world. Alex previously spent 16 years working for the BBC, primarily as an award-winning producer and director for BBC Science.

**Professor Emeritus Karen B. Helle** (Visting Senior Member, 1995) is co-author, with Ortwin Bock, of *Fridtjof Nansen and the Neuron* (Bodoni Forlag, 2016). The book tells the 'extraordinary story of Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930), the famous Norwegian arctic explorer, oceanographer, humanist, statesman and 1922 Nobel Peace Prize laureate', whose study of the nervous systems of primitive marine animals concluded in 1886 that the nervous system, contrary to the prevailing concept of a reticular network, was built of independent nerve cells. Over 70 years later his pioneer conclusions from 1886 were finally accepted and he was acknowledged as one of three forefathers of the Neuron Doctrine. Professor Helle, a professor of general physiology at the University of Bergen (1983-2004), has kindly donated a copy to the Linacre Library, honouring the memory of the Linacre Founding Fellow, Dr Hugh Blaschko, who inspired her to take up history of science and research on Nansen's work.

**Professor Daniel Gallimore** (1997) is the author of *Tsubouchi Shoyo's 'Shinkyoku Urashima' and the Wagnerian Moment in Meiji Japan*, about an early 20th century attempt to develop a Japanese style of opera. It was published by Edwin Mellen Press in 2016.

**Rusong Li** (1999) is now working for a US-based NGO called Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) as its China Coordinator for road safety programmes.

### 2000s

**Richard Rowley** (2003) has written the introduction to a new edition of William Blake's poems, *Songs of Innocence & Songs of Experience*, published by Walton Street Press, 2016.

**Dr Franziska Meinck** (2009) has been honoured by the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect with the C. Henry Kempe Award. It is bestowed on a young professional or researcher in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of child abuse prevention. Franziska has worked extensively in South Africa, most recently as part of the Parenting for Lifelong Health Network. She has also recently won an ESRC Future Research Leaders Early Career Award. Franziska wrote about her MSc work on 'Child Abuse in Families affected by AIDS' in *Linacre News* 41.



Congratulations to Linacre Old Member, **Dr Hani Choudhry** (2010), who is the winner of the British Council Professional Achievement Award, 2016. These awards recognise 'leaders in their fields who have used their experience of studying at a UK university to make a positive contribution to their communities,

# Sporting Linacre



## Old Members' Focus Dr Caroline Bowen (2003)

When you bump into an old friend it is always hard to do justice to your last year with a short sound bite. Harder still, to explain a year at sea, racing a 70ft yacht around the world with a crew of 15, as part of the Clipper Round the World Race. For a year I showered once a month and brushed my teeth with salt water. I didn't see my own reflection, have my own bunk, have access to email or know what day of the week it was. It was the best and worst of times, and much like my DPhil, there were points when I wondered if I had underestimated the challenge, the determination and resilience required, as I grappled with the possibility of failure. My motivation for completion moved between a desire to 'achieve something remarkable' and a fear of losing face with all those I'd shared my dream with. As the race continued my confidence that I'd complete it grew as the toughest weather and passages were behind us, and I took time to enjoy the wonder of being at sea and travelling thousands of miles from land and other people. Below is an extract from my blog, written as we crossed the North Atlantic on the journey back to Europe after 10 months away.



*With less than a month of sea time left it feels like every day should be savoured and enjoyed, as before long a year at sea will be over.*

*The last 24 hours have been wonderful. I started my 2am watch yesterday in the pouring rain surrounded by lightening with a full moon. It was the sort of rain that on a tarmac would bounce back up creating a grey mist on the road – that's exactly what it did on the water, creating a slightly eerie feel with layers of grey and the sun quietly rising behind pale clouds.*

*As the day progressed the wind built until we had 45 knots for my 2pm watch. An opportune cup of coffee for my watch leader gave me access to the helm, and the biggest waves we had seen since the Bass Strait. The sea was huge and allowed us to continually catch surfs over 20 knots resulting in covering 18 Nmiles in an hour. I expect this will be a personal best for our boat, Qingdao.*

*We also had white water over the boat and helm, reminiscent of the North Pacific, and twice I was knocked off the helm by huge waves that tipped the boat over and drenched all the crew. Once off the helm I got hit by a big one and got thrown into the helming station, pulling the pockets off whilst I gasped for breath, before the water disappeared as quickly as it had arrived, leaving me*

*with an inflated life jacket. I always think it's a little alarming for the new crew when they see someone staggering down the companionway with an inflated life jacket!*

*One of the highlights yesterday had to be the wildlife. A humpback whale surfaced two metres from us on our starboard side. I was amazed we didn't catch it with our keel, and later in the day we watched as 30+ dolphins jumped down a wave in perfect unison; one particularly athletic one decided to join us for a while and jump alongside, entertaining me whilst I helmed at dusk.*

*The crew are slowly settling into this race, myself included, although yesterday I spent most of my standby watch slumped on the grubby saloon floor still in my wet weather gear with a bucket next to me, through a combination of exhaustion and sea sickness. I am not alone. None of the Phoenix standby felt up to making dinner, but luckily it was our documentary filmmaker's turn to cook so we were treated to a Chinese mushroom hot pot, so we'll still be fed. Talking of food, it's time for me to start lunch for today – Greek salad with warm cheese biscuits, an improvement from the soggy pasta with tuna that we endured on the early races. As victualler (the person who buys and organises the food), it is nice to be making meals rather than just planning them, and sharing my new found entertainment with the crew.*

Following her return, Caroline continues to seek out new sailing challenges.

## Boat Club News

The women's team got off to a good start in Michaelmas term with the addition of 14 new members who went on to compete. Both the men's and women's novice teams enjoyed victories at the Christ Church Regatta on November 23. The senior women's team also participated in the Isis Winter League, which is open to not only Oxford University Rowing Clubs, but also to other rowing crews based on the Isis.

*Ashley Tsai, Linacre Women's Captain*