Welcome back to Kellogg, and all best wishes for 2015—a year which promises to be a great one for the College, and which marks 25 years from what was a great year for the University of Oxford: 1990, when the University established Kellogg College. A year in which Oxford finally joined the 20th Century, allowing students to continue with their jobs and careers whilst studying for postgraduate degrees on a part-time basis. Just 25 years later that decision has paid huge dividends—a number of part-time degrees across the whole range of disciplines has caused Kellogg to become by far the largest and probably the most international of Oxford’s graduate colleges. Indeed, of the University’s 38 colleges, Kellogg has more than twice the number of graduate students of almost any of the other colleges. So this is a time to celebrate—for the University, and for our students and all other members and friends of Kellogg. A 25th Anniversary Garden Party will be held on Saturday 27th June to mark the occasion. This will be for all members of the College community—students, alumni, fellows, Common Room Members, staff, and our friends from across the University and beyond, locally and globally.

We aim to mark the occasion not just by recalling past successes, but by building for the future. We plan to create a ‘College Hub’ where the disused Coach House and old stables currently stand, replacing the stables with a café, and incorporating the old Coach House within an adjoining common room facility. A priority for this development will be to enhance the surrounding gardens. The new building will help frame the lawn between it and the Dining Room, for use at Degree Day, matriculation and other celebrations, with refreshments served from both the Dining Room and café sides of the lawn.

We are confident that friends of the College will give generously to enable these plans to be fulfilled.

Before the Garden Party will be the College Ball on Saturday 20th June, and then the Gaudy Dinner on Saturday 19th September. Both will be celebrating 25 years since the College’s foundation. And the annual Foundation Dinner in March has this year been replaced by two Foundation Dinners—both already fully booked. We will also be producing a short booklet to mark the 25 years.

In the meantime, several of our Guest Night Dinners this term will be celebratory for other reasons. On 5th February we will be saying a special thank you to Elsa Bell as she takes up her Emeritus Fellowship. On 12th February there will be a black-tie Valentine’s Guest Night. On 25th February we celebrate Kellogg’s sporting success and participation at the Celebration of Sport Guest Night Dinner. And on 3rd March our DPhil students have a chance to thank their supervisors from other colleges by inviting them to the Guest Night Dinner.

On a personal note, I will be hosting an invitation-only round-table conference on innovation on February 17th-18th, considering in particular the role of employers and employees in creating innovative organisations, with leading experts and practitioners internationally, and in particular from Germany. Any member of the College who would like to participate—please just let me know.

I look forward to seeing you in College during Hilary term.

Jonathan Michie, January 2015
Follow Jonathan Michie on Twitter @jonathan_michie
A Writer’s Life – an Interview with with Maya Popa

Kellog alumna Maya Catherine Popa (MSt Creative Writing, 2013) is a writer and teacher based in New York. She was the Editorial Raab Fellow at Poets & Writers from 2013-2014, and literary editor of All Hollow Magazine. In 2012, she co-taught a writing workshop for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan under an NYU Veterans Fellowship. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute. In this interview, Maya shares her experiences of studying at Oxford as well as some fond memories of her time at Kellogg College.

What led you to study for the MSt in Creative Writing at Oxford?

Prior to pursuing my MSt at Oxford, I studied English Literature at Barnard College, Columbia University, in New York City. I wanted to continue studying literary criticism in my graduate studies, but I was equally eager to work on my own creative writing. Oxford’s MSt provided my desired balance of the two. The first year critical paper (on philology, cross-genre prosody, and translation among others) pushed my analysis and knowledge of English literature, while the writing assessments in fiction, among others) pushed my analysis and knowledge of English literature, while the writing assessments in fiction, screenwriting, and poetry undoubtedly challenged me to work flexibly between genres.

During the second year of the programme, I worked primarily on the writings of Hopkins and Dickinson, as well as on assembling a draft of my first collection of poems. I received a fellowship through NYU to co-teach a workshop for veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and because of the MSt’s unique structure, I was able to take this rare opportunity to work with a remarkable, underserved group of writers in New York. Studying for the MSt through the Department for Continuing Education allowed me to complete my research and writing without having to put my professional life on hold, which was tremendously helpful.

Shortly after being accepted to the MSt in Creative Writing, I was awarded the Clarendon Scholarship. Needless to say, I was thrilled—I had to read the email several times! It’s an impressive legacy and I cannot stress enough how grateful I am to Kellogg College for this honour, which allowed me to travel back and forth between Oxford and New York and make the most of my career as both a writer and a student of literature.

What have you been doing since leaving Oxford?

Since leaving Oxford I worked at Poets & Writers Magazine, I now teach English at The Nightingale-Barnford School in New York City. The school has been home to many writers, including Pulitzer nominees Christine Schutt and John Loughery, and many other accomplished literary faculty. The community I have there is tremendously encouraging. Aside from my work as a teacher, I review poetry for Publisher’s Weekly and various magazines. Of course, I am also writing steadily.

How do you balance your teaching work with writing?

My work as a teacher is vital to my work as a writer. Lecturing feels like a creative endeavour. I have the privilege of teaching fine writing, and then returning to my own work with a renewed sense of purpose. It is tremendously gratifying and exciting when a piece resonates with a student.

What are you currently working on?

I’ve finished my first collection, Severe Clear, and am putting it out remarkable issues, and they have helped refine my criticism and poetry. I also hope to return to Kellogg College in the future to complete my DPhil!

What is your favourite memory from your time at Kellogg?

Kellogg affords me is so much more than a scholarly one term of age, nationality and background. The experience Kellogg offers is not just a degree or a fellowship, but an education that will shape the way I think and write for the rest of my life.

For me, the decision to apply to Kellogg was an easy one. As a Creative Writing student, the Kellogg College Centre for Creative Writing made me realise that choosing Kellogg would be a natural fit. Aside from the academic connections, I was excited about having the opportunity to join such a large graduate community. I am a mature student, having worked as a secondary school teacher for several years before returning to university, and I was attracted by the diversity of the Kellogg community in terms of age, nationality and background. The experience Kellogg affords me is so much more than a scholarly one – almost every dinner, meeting or reception puts me in conversation with people from a vast range of cultures and I am constantly learning something about my own in contrast.

I feel honoured to serve as the MCR President during Kellogg’s 25th Anniversary Year. My role and responsibility, this year as in any other, is to represent the needs of students, both current and future, in all College activities. I am really lucky to have the support of an enthusiastic and pro-active MCR Committee, as well as the Junior Deans and college staff. The Summer Ball has become a key event in Kellogg’s social calendar over the last few years, establishing itself as one of the best value balls in Oxford. As well as the Summer Party and Foundation Dinners, we are very excited this year to be working with Fellows Tara Stubbs and Sandie Byrne to make this year’s Ball even bigger and better, bringing the whole College together to celebrate the College’s birthday!

By Oxford standards we are, of course, still very young but I believe this makes this milestone all the more exciting. Whilst we think back to Kellogg’s earliest days and celebrate the enormous progress that has been made in its short life so far, this anniversary gives us the chance to focus also on our future. The potential for development physically, socially and academically is huge and grows with every new intake. With several exciting projects underway, it’s a real privilege to be able to play an active role in these plans - and not many MCR Presidents have the chance to work directly with their Founding President and Fellows! Kellogg was established specifically to promote inclusion, and accessibility to the highest quality degrees in Higher Education. If we continue to be guided by these principles and to seek ways in which this might best be achieved, we have every reason to expect that the next twenty-five years will be even better than the first.

Emma Moran
MCR President 2014-2015

What does being a member of Kellogg College mean to you?

For many reasons, Kellogg College is a special place. Not only does it host and nurture academics, as all of Oxford's colleges invariably do, but it also supports professionals who are committed to their own specialized areas. At Kellogg, I was able to have conversations with writers who juggled fascinating careers alongside their academic work. The diverse specialization that Kellogg invites is a tremendous asset to the student body—it allows for class conversations that are prismatic, considered from a variety of professional perspectives. The closeness of the community is also a huge asset.

What is your favourite memory from your time at Kellogg College?

I always enjoyed sitting by the lavender on the terrace at night after readings and events, chatting with classmates and other members of the College. I also enjoyed working on papers on a small table on the lawn of the College grounds. Of course, I also have fond memories of the Kellogg Ball, the only time that I’ve seen a sushi spread and a bouncy castle paired!

A word from our MCR President

Emma Moran (MSt Creative Writing) is the MCR President during our 25th Anniversary year. Here she talks to us about her time at Kellogg so far and some of the plans for celebrating 25 years of Kellogg College that the MCR are working on with other members of College.
A Snapshot of College Life

October

We matriculated 260 students in October. (Photo: David Fisher)

Members of College enjoyed another Oktoberfest with an Oompah Band and Ian Berryman (MSc Res Engineering Science) sporting his lederhosen! (Photos: Christopher Hampson)

The annual Vincent Strudwick Lecture was given by Dr Richard Holloway, former Bishop of Edinburgh and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church. From left to right: Chris Davies, Vincent Strudwick, Richard Holloway, Jonathan Michie, Mark Chater. (Photo: Naomi Saffery)

November

The Bynum Tudor Lecture was given by Sir Hector Sants on ‘What is a good bank?’ (Photos: John Cairns)

Students, Fellows and staff enjoyed the festive tree decorating accompanied by Chef’s homemade mince pies and some Michael Bublé Christmas music! (Photos: John Cairns)

December

The Kellogg College Christmas Dinner was alive with festive cheer and Christmas sparkle! (Photos: John Cairns)
Development News – Kellogg turns 25!

Dear alumni, friends and supporters,

I hope you will join us this year as we celebrate 25 years of the foundation of our College. We will be holding a series of events at Kellogg to bring together former and current members of our extended global community. All these events are open to alumni, students and friends and they will start with the Foundation Dinner on Sunday 1st March. This event will be followed by a second Foundation Dinner on Saturday 14th March. Alongside these Oxford based events, we will also be holding a dinner with the other Oxford graduate colleges in Vienna at the Meeting Minds Alumni Weekend on the 24th April and the President will be joining the Vice-Chancellor on parts of his North American tour in April. We will also be holding a special event in San Francisco on the weekend of the 11th-12th April. More details about the North American events will be sent to those alumni, students and friends in those regions. We also encourage alumni to hold their own reunion parties and send us photographs for the College’s new website which will be launched later this year. The website will include a new alumni and friends section with details of the College’s on-going development projects and alumni events. For details of how you can become involved in any of these events please email: alumni@kellogg.ox.ac.uk

25th Anniversary Events in 2015:

Foundation Dinners: 1st and 14th March
North American events: 11th-19th April
Meeting Minds – Alumni Weekend in Europe, Vienna: 24th April
Kellogg College Ball: 20th June
25th Anniversary Garden Party: 27th June
Gaudy Black Tie Dinner: 19th September
Alumni Weekend: 18th-20th September

In the past year we have enjoyed meeting so many of you and we look forward to seeing many more of you in this special year for Kellogg and Oxford.

Monica Popa
Head of Development and Alumni Relations
monica.popa@kellogg.ox.ac.uk

25th Anniversary Campaign

This year will also see the launch of the 25th Anniversary Campaign which seeks to raise funds for the redevelopment and extension of the College buildings. The College Hub, planned for development on the site of the old stables, will be for the use of the extended College community. The existing library facilities will be refurbished and we are also extending on-going student and graduate scholarship support. We would not be able to achieve all of these ambitious projects without the generous support of our alumni and friends and I wish to thank all those who have made gifts and pledges this year. I hope that together with your support over the coming year the 25th Anniversary Campaign will be off to a very successful start! More information on the Campaign can be found at: www.kellogg.ox.ac.uk/supporting-kellogg or, if you wish to discuss any project in particular, please email us at: development@kellogg.ox.ac.uk

PD James: A tribute to a friend of Kellogg College

We were sorry to hear that Honorary Fellow PD James passed away in November, aged 84. Visiting Fellow and chief fiction reviewer for the Sunday Times, Peter Kemp was a friend of the late PD James. He talks to us about the crime writer’s connection with Kellogg College:

“As a long-time friend of PD James and a keen admirer of her work, I was delighted when, in 2006, she was invited to be an Honorary Fellow of Kellogg College. It was an invitation she was proud and happy to accept. As a result of it, she participated generously in academic and social occasions at the College. She particularly enjoyed Guest Night Dinners, where I have vivid memories of her shaking with laughter at speeches by Geoffrey Thomas and Vincent Strudwick, both of whom became friends whose company she much enjoyed and valued. As any member of the College who was fortunate enough to come into contact with her recognized, she was someone who combined an outstandingly acute mind with enormous warmth and zest for life.”

Seminars in College this term…

We have a variety of seminars and speakers in College this term. All College members and their guests are welcome to attend. No booking is required for seminars.

Friday 30th January, Mawby Room, 17.30
Archaeology Seminar: Russell Weston on “Separate but equal, marginal yet central: landscapes of Cistercian lay brothers and granges”

Thursday 5th February, Mawby Room, 17.30
Kellogg College Centre for Creative Writing Seminar: Alice Jolly on “Narrative and anti-narrative in short story and the novel”

Tuesday 3rd March, Mawby Room, 17.30
Local History Seminar

Thursday 5th March, Mawby Room, 17.30
Kellogg College Centre for Creative Writing Seminar: Emma Jones on ‘The Medium of Poetry”

Further information about all events can be found at www.kellogg.ox.ac.uk and via the weekly events email during term-time.
Congratulations to our Rowers!

Our congratulations go to the four Kellogg College students who rowed to victory at the Christ Church Regatta last November. The winning men’s crew consisted of five Christ Church students, including the cox, and four Kellogg students who are: Robbie Tilleard (stroke seat), Tom Ryley, Jasper Beerepoot and Andriy Tymoshenko.

Kellogg College has a close affiliation with Christ Church Boat Club enabling Kellogg students (men and women) the opportunity to row during their time at Oxford. Kellogg students row in the Christ Church boats for intercollegiate competitions but if chosen to row in the University boat, they are listed as representing Kellogg College.

Plans for the Kellogg College Boat Club (KCBC)

There will be a meeting to discuss plans for the Kellogg College Boat Club (KCBC) on Wednesday 11th February at 5.30pm, in the Mawby Room. All members of College are welcome to attend, refreshments will be provided. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to find out more, or contribute comments, please contact Tara Stubbs or Gareth Langley via sports@kellogg.ox.ac.uk

Follow Kellogg College

Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/KelloggOxford) and Twitter (@KelloggOx) to stay up-to-date with College news and information. We are also on Instagram at Kelloggcollege.

Have a browse on the Kellogg Blog (Kelloggoxford.wordpress.com) and take a look at the news page on our website. Don’t forget to make sure that we have your correct email address and check your inboxes for the weekly emails throughout each term.

We want to hear from you

We want to share your news with the rest of Kellogg College and further afield, if you have published a book or an article, want to share your research, have won an award or funding, want to tell us how studying at Kellogg has shaped your life and work, or have anything else to share then please get in touch with Naomi Saffery at communications@kellogg.ox.ac.uk

Contact

Kellogg College, 60-62 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PN
www.kellogg.ox.ac.uk

We welcome suggestions and feedback about the College newsletter, or any articles featured as well as suggestions for contributions to future newsletters. Please email Naomi Saffery at communications@kellogg.ox.ac.uk