For many of our students – most notably those on one-year full-time Master’s programmes – this may be their last Newsletter as students, before they join the global community of Oxford alumni – and more importantly, Kellogg alumni. By next term’s Newsletter, we’ll have welcomed around 150 new full-time Master’s and DPhil students, and a similar number of part-time Master’s and DPhil students. This is dramatic proof that for a graduate college like Kellogg, things rarely stand still – our membership turnover alone requires us to continually work hard to ensure we keep up with newly arriving students.

At the end of the academic year, a Fellows ‘away day’ will reflect on progress. Looking back at the last Fellows away-day in the summer of 2012, we were certainly right not to reconvene just 12 months later – that would have been a frustrating experience, since many of the wish-lists discussed would not have been yet converted into reality. But two years on, remarkable progress has been achieved.

We had discussed and agreed upon three priorities for Kellogg: developing our site, fundraising, and improving communications. Two years later we have completed the renovations of 38 Norham Road and 12 Bradmore Road, adding 25 bedrooms to our campus – an increase of more than 50 per cent over the previous 40 bedrooms in 7, 9, 10 and 11 Bradmore Road. Almost all the 25 bedrooms are double or twin, and en-suite. Significantly, more than half are reserved for short-stay accommodation, aimed at our part-time students, who previously weren’t able to stay on site.

We’ve appointed a new Head of Development and Alumni Relations, Monica Popa, and for the first time in Kellogg’s history, a Communications Officer, Naomi Saffery. All this lays a tremendous foundation on which to build over the coming years – the first of which will see us mark our first quarter-century, March 1st 2015 being 25 years since the College was founded.

A top priority is to move on from 38 Norham Road and 12 Bradmore Road, to continue to develop the rest of the site. Central to this – in every sense – will be to develop the area in the middle of the gardens, where currently stands the old disused Coach House and stables. We have two pressing needs, and our hope is that a new building project might deliver on both.

Firstly, we are desperately short of library space to house the books that many of our supporters have been generously donating. Secondly, we do not yet have a sufficient number of residential students to justify the dining hall serving breakfast, lunch and supper every day of the week, throughout the year – there is thus a need for a café that could be open on a regular basis. One idea being considered is for the Old Coach House to be developed as the College library, with a café created where the old stables currently stand, able to cater for degree day and matriculation day celebrations on the lawn, as well as providing meals when the dining hall isn’t serving, with the space between these two developments providing a combination of meeting space and reading rooms for the library. Much consultation and discussion is of course needed, followed by a consideration of alternative architectural plans, securing planning permission, and fundraising. But certainly an exciting challenge, promising significant progress.

Jonathan Michie
Thirty of our students are currently studying for the MSc in Sustainable Urban Development (MSUD), a two-year part-time degree for those wishing to think ahead and act now, particularly where urban futures are concerned.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns of the displacement of millions of people as the global economy, in tandem with the environment, adjusts to the Anthropocene. Dr James Lovelock, who promoted the Gaia theory of the Earth as a living organism, moves several steps beyond. He sees humans adapting only through the creation of super-cities, concentrated zones of stabilised climate and habitation, similar to the towers of termites that provide vertical living quarters and safe shelter. Ideas mooted by MSUD classes have been no less visionary, ranging from dissertations that address advanced concepts for floating cities, the reclamation of polluted land for sustainable housing, and the potential global role of bamboo as a building material, to smaller scale but nonetheless important street safety issues in Beirut and Nairobi, and links between housing density and public transport provision in London’s suburbs.

Much of the future thinking of the programme concerns the here and now. I was invited in March to a workshop of the Government Office for Science’s Foresight project on the Future of Cities. The Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Mark Walport, met with Oxford-based academics and urban development practitioners as part of a national urban overview in order to consider how cities in the UK will evolve and cope with local concerns over employment, housing and environmental change. With the MSc programme in its fourth year, the number of academic staff has expanded and exciting new plans are on the horizon. Kellogg Fellows, Drs Idalina Baptista and Johanna Waters, also now co-ordinate the eight-week-long MSUD residential classes and are busily engaged in developing short-courses on sustainable urbanism and a part-time D.Phil. programme, while also pushing new research agendas. Idalina is exploring the adoption of innovative energy practices in the rapid urbanizing of Mozambique; Johanna continues her research on transnational migration, parenting and education, while developing new interests in the internationalisation of private schooling in the UK, and I am completing a study of housing tenure and urban infrastructure in low-income neighbourhoods in Jamaica.

Ben Bolgar, Dr Nigel Mehdi, and Dr Matthew Hardy, all Visiting Fellows at Kellogg, are closely involved with MSUD teaching. Nigel, previously a research fellow at the London School of Economics, co-ordinates the strong thread of sustainable economic theory and practice that interlaces the eight core modules. Links with the Prince’s Foundation for Building Community remain close as a co-founding partner of the MSUD programme. Matthew,
Dr Paul Barnwell, University Lecturer in the Historic Environment, Director of Studies for the Department for Continuing Education’s historic environment and architectural history programmes and Fellow Librarian at Kellogg, provides an update from our evolving library.

It is now five years since Kellogg College decided to create a library, and an opportune moment to consider what has been achieved.

The decision was taken following the offer of a significant collection of books relating to English archaeology and architectural history. Since then, further substantial donations have created the basis of collections in aspects of art history, historic gardens, historic interiors, local history, English and French literature, and business studies. In 2012 funding was secured through the College Contributions Scheme to enable some purchases to be made to support courses in other subjects (such as software engineering) which regularly attract significant numbers of Kellogg students. The collection now consists of something over 12,000 volumes, housed in five rooms. More donations are in prospect, and we are hoping that in 2014-15 we can establish a modest budget for further strategic acquisitions – to expand the range of the collection and to keep existing areas of strength up to date.

Effort was initially focussed on acquiring and rough-sorting books, but for the last 18 months our Cataloguer, Sam Truman, has been cataloguing them on SOLO – which makes them part of the Bodleian Library - and re-shelving catalogued items in classification order. Items appear on the SOLO as soon as they are catalogued, though it may take a few days longer for them to reach their correct home on the shelves. We are now about a third of the way through what is a major project for the College. So far, books in the workroom on the ground floor of no. 60 are fully catalogued and ordered, and we hope to complete the Herbert Lane Room (mostly architectural history and planning) by the end of Trinity. During this term we shall also be opening up the Herbert Lane Annex (mostly archaeology and various kinds of history, but also business studies), which will be the next room to be catalogued. In advance of cataloguing, the rest of the collection is physically accessible (though students will need to borrow a key to the Fellows Room from the Facilities Office), though items can only be found by browsing the shelves – much as in the best second-hand bookshops, you never know what you may find.

Now that a fair proportion of the collection is properly accessible, we encourage students and Fellows to use the Library, which is for reference only.

Enquiries concerning the Library and its future development should be sent to Paul Barnwell at paul.barnwell@kellogg.ox.ac.uk.
The College Catch-Up

Last term in College was busy, but hugely enjoyable, with a wide variety of events and fully booked dinners. Here we show a snapshot of what went on...

January

On Saturday 25th January we celebrated Burns’ Night with Haggis, neeps and tatties and some rather energetic Scottish dancing! We also saw the first public outing of the official Kellogg tartan, commissioned by Visiting Fellow Robert Collins.

Jonathan Michie and Robert Collins sporting the Kellogg tartan on their bow tie and waistcoat respectively.


The College came together on Thursday 30th January to celebrate our sporting achievements at a special Guest Night Dinner. Kellogg student and last year’s Oxford University Rugby Football Club’s (OURFC) Captain, who led Oxford to victory in the annual Varsity Match, John Carter (MSt Psychodynamic Practice), gave an after dinner speech highlighting the connection between his experiences on the field with his research.

Alistair Ross addresses the Haggis with his ceremonial sword, whilst reciting poetry in Scots.

John Carter delivering his after dinner speech at ‘A Celebration of Sport’ Guest Night Dinner.
February

Love was in the air at the Valentine’s Day Guest Night Dinner and the MCR Committee hosted a popular themed party afterwards.

March

Photo taken by our MCR Communications Representative, Rachel Dlugatch (MSc Social Anthropology)

Members of Kellogg College enjoying the drinks reception before the Foundation Dinner.

On Saturday 1st March we celebrated 24 years of Kellogg College at the Foundation Dinner. Our President, Jonathan Michie, gave an after dinner speech reflecting on the College’s history stating that, “one lesson we can learn from Kellogg’s brief history is that however spectacular the past year has been, the next will almost certainly be even more spectacularly successful”.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 19th May
Celebration of Arts & Culture
Guest Night Dinner

Wednesday 28th May
Kellogg Concert

Saturday 21st June
MCR Summer Ball

Monday 23rd June
Short Book Book Club

Saturday 28th June
Kellogg Summer Fayre

Friday 18th July
College lunches finish

Further information about all events can be found at www.kellogg.ox.ac.uk and via the weekly events email during term-time.
Since I joined Kellogg College in January, I’ve been swept away by its tumultuous and active academic and social calendar. My time here began with a celebration of the College’s sporting prowess on the various fields at the ‘Celebration of Sport’ Guest Night Dinner. I’ve seen everyone dancing at the Ceilidh on Burns’ Night, and celebrated the College’s 24th birthday at the Foundation Dinner on Saturday 1st March. During my short time here, I have also been fortunate enough to celebrate the success of two of our students, Alice Carrington-Windo and Elizabeth Fenje, who rowed Oxford to victory in the Women’s Boat Race. It’s been a wonderful first term for me here at Kellogg College.

In terms of academic and research activity, weekly seminars and lectures, followed by guest night dinners bring Kellogg students, fellows, guests, alumni and friends together to share their expertise.

With regards to the College’s development and alumni relations activity, I would say that we are faced with a task that is both thrilling and challenging. Thrilling because the College is an exciting institution for anyone who wishes to engage with and support an international community of forward looking students and academics, and challenging because the scope of our ambition is great as we continue to sustain this growing community.

The 25th anniversary in 2015 presents us with a great opportunity to share our ambitious plans with friends and supporters as well as with the wider world. As a College, as we aim to increase the number of our existing scholarships to attract deserving students but we also wish to help students with on-going financial support available during studies, as unforeseen circumstances arise. We also aim to extend and improve our existing study and learning facilities and offer more accommodation.

Our goal over the coming year is to engage with our alumni, supporters and friends and we have activities planned in Oxford as well as overseas. We kick-started the celebration this year with a visit by the President, Professor Jonathan Michie to New York on the occasion of the Oxford North American Reunion and we plan to return next year to other parts of the US, and the world, where we have concentrations of alumni and friends. The hub of the celebration will be within Oxford as we plan next year’s Foundation Dinner in March.

We hope that you will be able to join us at these special events and we trust that you will also consider supporting us as we celebrate the College and through it, the achievements of every alumni who have passed through the College’s ground-breaking ‘doors’ since its inception!

Monica Popa, Head of Development and Alumni Relations

To get involved with development and find out about upcoming initiatives, please contact Monica Popa, Head of Development and Alumni Relations at monica.popa@kellogg.ox.ac.uk

Members of Kellogg College at the Foundation Dinner in March 2014
Dr Liz David-Barrett, Research Member of Common Room, and Director of the Kellogg College Centre for the Study of Corruption and Transparency writes about the centre’s research into Open Data and its role in tackling corruption in the UK.

The Centre for the Study of Corruption and Transparency has been awarded an EU grant to conduct research into the role of Open Data as a tool for tackling corruption in the United Kingdom. The Centre is part of a consortium, with partners on the UK research at the University of Nottingham and Transparency International UK, while partners in Austria, Italy and Spain will consider the situation there.

‘Open data’ is data that is made freely available – either proactively or in response to Freedom of Information requests - and may be re-published. It includes scientific data, such as the results of experiments, corporate data about the activities of companies, and data published by government. But it is data about the activities of government itself which can be used to improve public accountability and potentially reduce corruption. For example, data about public spending on goods and services - who wins contracts and on what terms - can help to reveal corruption in public procurement. Data about the salaries or career paths of public officials might prompt questions about value for money or conflicts of interest.

Open data might reduce corruption in two main ways. First, it should increase the rate of detection of corruption, i.e., by increasing the proportion of total corruption cases that are detected. Second, it should deter corruption, since the higher chances of being caught will mean that fewer individuals take the risk of engaging in corruption. One problem for research into the relationship is that it is difficult to disentangle the two effects when seeking to measure their impact, particularly when using data about corruption prosecutions as the dependent variable. If the rate of detection increases, the number of prosecutions of corruption should increase too; it might thus appear that corruption has increased. If more cases of corruption are prevented, however, this would mean fewer prosecutions of corruption. Thus, the introduction of Open Data might be successful in both detecting and preventing corruption, but this would not be discernible from data about corruption prosecutions. Using corruption perceptions as the dependent variable does not alleviate the problem - if more cases are detected, this might well feed through into increased perceptions of corruption.

Our approach will therefore be to analyse how the data is being used and by whom. Existing research suggests that open data is most useful in reducing corruption when it improves accountability, and that depends very much on how data is accessed and used by intermediaries. We will interview parliamentarians and journalists about how they use open data to perform their oversight roles. And we will research the numerous websites that offer help to individuals seeking data about the activities of their local council or central government agencies. We will conduct surveys of the users, to assess who they are, whether they have the expertise to utilise the information to detect corruption, and what happens when they find something suspicious. We will also survey the general public, to assess their awareness of open data and propensity to use it for anti-corruption purposes. The results should help civil society to better utilise open data as an anti-corruption tool, and will identify where best to focus the extensive resources that are sometimes required to make data open. More broadly, the research will help to answer a major question that strikes at the heart of the anti-corruption movement: in what conditions does transparency help to reduce corruption? Or, to put it in plainer language, is sunlight really the best disinfectant?

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
Boat Race Victory

On Sunday 30th March, the University of Oxford women’s crew beat Cambridge by four lengths in the Newton Women’s Boat Race 2014 at Henley-on-Thames. Two Kellogg students were in the boat, Elisabeth Fenje (MSt US History) and Alice Carrington-Windo (MPhil Medical Anthropology). Next year, the women’s race will be held on the same day as the men’s race, on the same four-and-a-half mile course between Putney and Mortlake on the River Thames.

Seminars in College this term...

As ever, we have a variety of seminars and speakers in College this term. All College members are welcome to attend. No booking is required for seminars.

Wednesday 7th May, 19.00-20.00
The first of this term’s Colloquium seminars, convened by Fellow Orlaith Burke, focuses on E-Research. On Wednesday 21st May and Wednesday 18th June, the topics will be Genetics and Anthropology respectively. All Colloquium seminars are held in the Stopforth Metcalfe room in College.

Tuesday 13th May, Mawby Room, 17.30
Centre for Creative Writing Seminar; the speaker, Professor Kirsty Gunn, will give a talk entitled ‘Writing Music’.

Friday 30th May, Stopforth Metcalfe Room, 17.30
Archaeology and Local History Seminar.

Tuesday 3rd June, Mawby Room, 19.30
Historic Built Environment Seminar; Steven Bee will talk on ‘Urban extensions and Poundbury-Lite’.

Thursday 19th June, Mawby Room, 17.30
Astor Lecture; Professor Peggy Levitt will give a talk, ‘Sites of Encounter: Making sense of people and culture on the move’.

Further information about all events and seminars in College can be found at www.kellogg.ox.ac.uk and via the weekly events email during term-time.

Books

Gary Lock, Fellow and Professor of Archaeology, Department for Continuing Education, has published Histories in the making. Excavations at Alfred’s Castle 1998-2000 co-authored with Chris Gosden and published by the School of Archaeology, University of Oxford and Excavations at King’s Low and Queen’s Low, two early Bronze Age barrows in Tixall, North Staffordshire, co-authored with Dick Spicer, Winston Hollins and members of the Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society, published by Archaeopress.

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.

Contact

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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