Congratulations to all concerned for a tremendous start to the 2013-14 academic year. Michaelmas Term 2013 witnessed impressive new developments across all areas of the College’s activities – student life, staffing, the Fellowship, and the College site.

The MCR ran and supported a fantastic range of activities last term – from assisting with the ‘welcome weeks’ at the start of the academic year, to organising musical and social events during term, and encouraging students to participate in a growing range of sports at Oxford.

Last term we also welcomed Naomi Saffery as the College’s first ever Communications Officer, tasked with communicating with you – our students, alumni, staff, Fellows, and other friends of Kellogg. Please do what you can to make this a two-way communication! If you’ve got news that might be of interest to the rest of the College community, let Naomi know.

We also welcomed several new Fellows during Michaelmas Term – from software engineering and systems security, and sustainable urban development. Our Fellows and staff are working to ensure that for those students who are at College for short intensive periods of study, there are College seminars, dinners and other events for them to enjoy.

This academic year has seen a record number of students at Kellogg, 200 studying full-time and 648 on part-time degree courses. And despite the increased number, we are able to accommodate a higher proportion than ever before, with additional bedrooms for our full-time students at the Castle Mill graduate accommodation block, as well as in the newly refurbished 38 Norham Road. And we are now able to provide accommodation to those visiting for short intensive modules, with fourteen bedrooms in 12 Bradmore Road reserved for short-stay bookings.

These developments provide an impressive basis on which to plan and achieve further success. We are working hard to provide additional scholarship and other financial support to our students. The generosity of the late Diana Woods has enabled us to create new scholarships that will be fully endowed in perpetuity: these funds have been added to the College’s endowment, with the annual income sufficient to fully-fund the scholarships.

This work will be enhanced with the arrival of a new Director of Development & Alumni Relations, Monica Popa, in January. Currently working out her notice at Oriel, and before that at St Hilda’s, Monica has an impressive track record of success at Oxford colleges.

So, welcome back to College and I look forward to another successful term for Kellogg!

Jonathan Michie
Research about Partition of India inspires Playwright

Our Fellow Yasmin Khan’s published research about the partition of India has informed the work of playwright Howard Brenton. Brenton’s play, Drawing the Line, was staged in December 2013 at the Hampstead Theatre in London. Yasmin told us:

“The partition of India occurred at the end of the British empire in India in 1947, when the British Raj was carved into the two new states of India and Pakistan. Twelve million refugees were displaced on both sides of the border between the new countries. Riots, arson, murders and pockets of targeted ethnic cleansing took place – again on both sides of the border – resulting in the deaths of up to one million people.

"A while ago I wrote a book about the history of these events (The Great Partition: the Making of India and Pakistan) which was published by Yale University Press in 2007 and reissued in 2013 by Penguin. So it was with anticipation that I went to see Drawing the Line on the opening night. The play depicted some of the main characters and events in the story – primarily through the eyes of Cyril Radcliffe, the British judge sent by the Prime Minister of the day, Clement Attlee, to decide where the controversial boundary line between the two new states should lie. The play sweeps across a broad historical canvas over two hours, and tells a tale of British duplicity, confusion and a country spiralling out of control as Radcliffe tries to carry out his task.

"Howard Brenton corresponded with me about aspects of the historical events in the play – he used my book as part of his research and I wrote an essay about the lead-up to the events in the play for inclusion in the programme. “

Stats Corner

IN MICHAELMAS TERM 2013, THE COLLEGE HAD:

• 848 students - 200 full-time students and 648 part-time
• 150 research students (mostly DPhil students) - 76 full-time and 74 part-time.
• 698 students on taught courses (mostly MSc or MSt students) - 124 full-time and 574 part-time.
• Our students are following 110 different programmes of study and come from 87 countries.

Student wins A.M. Heath Prize

Our student Mariah Whelan, has won the A.M. Heath prize for her work City of Rivers. This prize, offered by one of London’s most prestigious and long-established literary agencies, is awarded annually for the best piece of fiction written by a graduating student of the MSt in Creative Writing. Victoria Hobbs, director of A.M. Heath, says; “I opened City of Rivers with some trepidation as poetry is not generally something to make an agent’s heart sing, and was so delighted by what I found here. Mariah is a writer with a tremendous ability to conjure a powerful sense of place, and she did so within the considerable constraints of the poetic form. I found this odd love story unexpectedly compelling and moving.”

Mariah says, “I feel gob-smacked that I’ve won the prize. My cohort was so strong - there really are some incredibly talented people - I never imagined I was in with a chance. Plus, my novel is written in sonnets! I thought it was a bit tentative even submitting it to the fiction prize! Really though, I owe my success to my tutors and fellow students on the MSt. People have been so generous with their time and I felt a wonderful mix of support but also an unwillingness to settle for anything less than people knew I was capable of writing. That’s a rare mix I think and the Oxford MSt is unique in creating a supportive but demanding community.”

Born and brought up in Oxford, Mariah attended Queen’s University, Belfast prior to travelling and living abroad in Japan, France and Spain. She says of her time studying for the MSt, “So much of it will be down to you - there’s no one making you write every day, it’s up to you to go to the library, forge a good relationship with your supervisors, attend all the community and extra-curricular aspects of the Oxford experience but I think that’s part of the educational process - learning to make things happen for yourself, whilst being surrounded by the very best practitioners. I love Kellogg College. The responsibilities and opportunities College gave me, like planning the Inaugural Ball last year, running MCR meetings, event planning, learning how to network and socialize with world-class academics... I’ve learned so much.”

Books


Elizabeth Gemmill, Dean of Degrees and University Lecturer in Local History, has published The Nobility and Ecclesiastical Patronage in Thirteenth-Century England (Studies in the History of Medieval Religion), Boydell Press.

Fellow Tara Stubbs has published American Literature and Irish Culture, 1910-55: The politics of enchantment, Manchester University Press.

A celebration of Kellogg College

On Saturday 1st March we will celebrate the founding of Kellogg College at the annual Foundation Dinner. Join us for what will be an evening of celebration and fine dining. To find out more visit the website or to book, email Sophie at bookings@kellogg.ox.ac.uk
Here’s a roundup up some of last term’s events

September

New students were introduced to Kellogg via Welcome Weeks. These were induction and orientation events, organised by Kellogg alumna Whitney Dickson, that included meet and greet sessions, wine and cheese receptions with introductions, and social events such as pizza nights and excursions for ten-pin bowling and punting. This year the Welcome Weeks saw the introduction of A Cultural Carnival, a day of events to explain (and debate) table manners, dress code and other traditions that those new to Oxford may need to know about to make the most of their time here.

We welcomed Alumni to Kellogg during the University’s Alumni weekend and enjoyed a Gaudy Dinner on 21st September with special guests from the University of Oxford Museum of Natural History in the form of stuffed animals, which were used as table decorations for the evening. This Dining Hall décor was arranged by the museum’s Director, and Kellogg Fellow, Paul Smith as part of the Natural History Museum’s ‘Goes to Town’ initiative in which exhibits are on display throughout Oxford whilst the Museum is closed for restoration. It will re-open on Saturday 15 February with a special event ‘Into the Light’, about which you can find out more on the museum’s website.

October

At the beginning of October the College enjoyed an Oktoberfest themed Guest Night Dinner; diners enjoyed local draft beers and were entertained by an Oompah band.

We matriculated over 250 students in a ceremony at the Sheldonian Theatre followed by lunch in College. It was a busy and successful day with over 400 students and guests in College.

Two spooky lectures were delivered by Kellogg Fellows Tara Stubbs and Jonathan Healey for Halloween. Jonathan spoke about witches and Tara focused on The Ghost Club, an esoteric group whose members included Charles Dickens and Arthur Conan Doyle. A Halloween themed lunch was served, with some interesting pumpkin carvings made by the catering team!

November

There were a range of seminars across different research areas.

• Kellogg Senior Research Fellow and Co-Director of the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, George Leeson, gave a seminar entitled ‘Who wants to live forever? The future prospects for longevity’.

• We hosted an Archaeology and Local History seminar during which local historian, Maggie Kilbey, delivered a paper entitled ‘Musical Reform in the English Parish Church, 1740-1840’ and William Wintle gave a talk called ‘Becoming Romano-British: The Landscape of the Late Prehistoric and Romano-British Periods in the Vale of the White Horse’.

• The Centre for the Study of Corruption and Transparency hosted Alexandra Wrage from TRACE International, development economist Laurence Cockcroft, and Andrew Wigmore, Group Compliance Officer at Oxford University Press, at a seminar on the hidden costs of corruption, and innovations in anti-bribery compliance.

• The Centre for Creative Writing hosted the author Rebecca Abrams who talked about writing historical fiction.

The College Catch-Up

We welcomed Guardian Associate Editor, Seumas Milne, to College. Seumas delivered a seminar on the decade of global transformation since the World Trade Center attack on 11th September 2001 with a particular focus on the recent economic crash and his thoughts on what the next ten years has in store for the British economy and political landscape. Discussion continued over the Guest Night Dinner.

The Kellogg College Centre for Creative Writing hosted a seminar delivered by the author Eleanor Dymott who spoke about place and time in writing fiction.
November saw two cohorts of students graduate from Kellogg College. We also welcomed our Scholars to a drinks reception and dinner.

Scholars and Fellows at the Scholars drinks reception in November. Back row, left to right: Fellows Tara Stubb, Andrew Simpson and Ralf Henze, Scholars Maggie Kitty, Ben Kroll, Martin Strohmeyer and Yongchao Huang, and our Bursar Donna Lipsky. Front row, left to right: Scholar Martine Achterm, Scholar and Junior Dean Maximilian Buston, our President Jonathan Michie and Scholars Jim Williams and Daulet Serikbay. For a full list of Kellogg’s Scholars please visit www.kellogg.ox.ac.uk/scholars

Almost 300 people attended a panel discussion at the University of Oxford Museum of Natural History examining international migration and migrant rights. The panel discussion included Kellogg Fellow Martin Ruhs, Senior Research Fellow Robin Cohen as the Chair, and Paul Collier, Cathryn Costello and Ian Goldin. The panel discussion was followed by a drinks reception and dinner at College. You can watch a video of the event via http://www.kellogg.ox.ac.uk/podcasts

We celebrated Thanksgiving in College on 28th November at a buzzing Guest Night Dinner.

December

Another cohort of students were officially welcomed to Kellogg College in the last matriculation ceremony of 2013.

Fellows, staff, students and alumni gathered around the tree for mince pies and tree decorating and we also enjoyed a Christmas Guest Night Dinner accompanied by carol singing and crackers.

Kellogg’s first woman Honorary Fellow, Dr Joan Thirsk CBE, has died aged 91. She was a pioneering agricultural, economic and social historian, an influential teacher and mentor to other scholars, and a significant supporter of local history and of adult education. After wartime service at Bletchley Park she completed a PhD with R.H. Tawney, following which her academic career took her first to the University of Leicester, and then to Oxford as Reader in Economic History from 1965 to 1983. She was a Fellow of the British Academy, President of the British Agricultural History Society, Vice-President of the British Association for Local History, a Commissioner for the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, editor of the Agricultural History Review and a board member of the journals Past & Present and the Economic History Review. As general editor of the monumental Agrarian History of England and Wales she saw that great project to completion in 2001, herself editing volumes on the 16th and 17th centuries. Her many publications included, and often combined, local, national and international perspectives.

Joan was frequently, in her own academic work and in her encouragement and guidance of others, an innovator. She opened up new topics, thinking in fresh ways, employing familiar and unfamiliar sources to the full and with system and focus, and paying attention to people, processes and experiences of which little account had previously been taken. Here was someone who knew how to bake different kinds of bread, who did just that, and who thought about agriculture not just as an economic sector but also in terms of how it could be done in time and place and by whom. It is not surprising that the history of food was just one of the major themes she brought to the historical fore and which are now an accepted part of the historian’s agenda.

In the course of her career and a lengthy and productive retirement Joan offered influential insights into the characteristics of history and historians. She believed strongly that the study of history could, and should, be both rigorous and inclusive, drawing in topics and people from all backgrounds. Reflecting on accounts of the development of the historical profession which barely mentioned women, she researched and recovered an impressive array of female contributors to historical knowledge, coined the term ‘history women’ and formulated Thirsk’s Law. She observed that ‘whenever new openings have appeared on the English scene … new academic endeavours, or the setting up of a new organisation … women have usually been prominent alongside the men, sometimes even outnumbering them.… But the situation has lasted only until the venture has been satisfactorily established … when it has become institutionalised, formalised and organised. Then the formal structure hardens, the direction and the style as well, always falls under the control of men.’ In economic and social history major themes such as family, household, children, fashion, food and consumerism began as new and peripheral concerns in the work particularly of women historians, first to be criticised and then incorporated into the historical mainstream. For Joan ‘history women’ frequently demonstrate particular strengths and perceptions, reflected in the production of a ‘graphic, well-authenticated, fully-rounded, and convincing history of people.

Joan Thirsk was gentle, unassuming, but determined. She was always willing to help other historians, professional or amateur. When the first courses for University qualifications in local history were mooted by the Department for Continuing Education in 1980 she was a stalwart supporter of the work that eventually led to certificates, diplomas, and finally master’s and doctorates in the subject. She served as course examiner and championed the particular insights brought to historical studies by ‘non-standard’ and adult students. In 1998 her contributions to the establishment of a new era and the founding of Kellogg College were recognised by her election to an Honorary Fellowship. She maintained her interest in the progress of both the College and the Department for Continuing Education, an admiration expressed in the gift in recent years of a significant collection of books on English local history to Kellogg’s library. She also leaves a rich and continuing legacy to the College through her published work and her breadth of ideas and commitment to history and higher education in its broadest sense.

A tribute to Honorary Fellow Joan Thirsk

by Fellows Adrienne Rosen and Kate Tiller
Sport at Kellogg...

Sport at Kellogg is an important part of College life with more and more opportunities for involvement.

We currently have the following sports teams:
- Basketball
- Croquet (in Trinity Term)
- Football
- Rowing (with the Christ Church Boat Club)

In addition, we are in the formation phase of teams for the following sports:
- Cricket (with Linacre College)
- Netball

We also have a Kellogg Jogging Club, yoga classes, and gym access at Linacre College. Our students are on University Blues teams for Hockey, Squash, Dance, Rowing, and Basketball. Look out for a profile on our Blues sportswomen in the next newsletter.

If you are interested in taking part in a sports team or club at Kellogg, or if you’d like to get involved in forming new college sports teams, please contact the MCR Sports Officer, Kate Hulshof – kathelijn.hulshof@kellogg.ox.ac.uk.

How do I find out what is happening in College?

Each term there are many events planned – from formal dinners to seminars and MCR events. All College events are listed on the College website and Term Card. You can also keep up-to-date with College events and news via the weekly email. All MCR events are listed on the MCR Term Card, some of which will also appear in the weekly email. If you are not already receiving the weekly email and wish to, please email Naomi at communications@kellogg.ox.ac.uk who will add you to the mailing list.

News from the field

Kellogg student John Carter lifts the trophy for the University of Oxford

For the fourth year in a row Kellogg student and University of Oxford Rugby captain John Carter led Oxford to victory in the 132nd annual Varsity Rugby match against Cambridge. Carter, who was also named as man-of-the-match, is studying for an MSt in Psychodynamic Practice. After having retired from professional rugby through injury, John decided to apply to study Psychodynamic Practice at Oxford, and then got drawn back into rugby at Oxford. He says ‘I’m using various... aspects of my career, particularly the difficult transition after professional sport, as material for my research.’ Our congratulations go to John and the rest of the team, four of whom are also Kellogg students: James Harris, Ian Williams, Edward Doe and Gavin Turner.

The next Kellogg newsletter...

If you have any article ideas, comments or suggestions for the next newsletter, please contact Naomi Saffery: Naomi.saffery@kellogg.ox.ac.uk

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