



# Bin Brook

The Magazine of Robinson College, Cambridge

Michaelmas 2007



Alumnus report  
from Cambodia

The Independent - Bosch  
**Technology  
Horizons  
Award**

Robinson  
Student wins  
National  
Competition



Alumni news  
and events

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Front cover: A picture of the College Chapel, an entry in the recent College photography competition.

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## From our own Correspondent

Hywel Davies (1987) is a field producer/reporter for Al Jazeera's Asia office in Kuala Lumpur. He sent this to us from Cambodia, where he was creating a documentary on the country's former leader Pol Pot.

The man sitting opposite me, it is clear, is a monster. He sits outside the village hall, dapper in a clean, white shirt telling me that Pol Pot is his hero. His name is Tep and I'm interviewing him for an Al Jazeera documentary on Cambodia's genocidal leader, telling the story of Pol Pot's murderous life through the words of the people who knew him. And Tep knew him very well, working as his personal aide in the last few years of his life, before Pol Pot's death and cremation on a pile of rubbish and old car tyres in 1998.

What is most disconcerting is that I actually like this man; he's been patient as my cameraman has fussed with cables and microphones. He didn't complain when rain forced us to take shelter in the dark hall in Anlong Veng the dusty town which was the final Khmer Rouge stronghold. He's also polite, quietly spoken and actually rather charming. Tep is clearly very intelligent too; he holds a PhD in civil engineering from a French university; he orders his thoughts into headings and breaks them down into numbered subheadings as we speak. All very logical, all very ordered and very impressive.



Hywel Davies (1987) with a security guard from the Papua New Guinea police



### Hywel Davies:

Matriculated in 1987

Studied for an undergraduate degree in English.

After leaving Robinson in 1990, Hywel Davies eventually ended up working in China as a teacher. On the tenuous basis of four freelance articles he wrote there, a Hong Kong TV station

foolishly offered him a job as a reporter before the colony's handover. Weary of the fame his physical beauty brought, he moved off camera, into TV news production with various stations in the UK, including CNN and the BBC. This year he switched back to reporting, making current affairs films and short documentaries for the Al Jazeera English channel, based in their Asian headquarters at Kuala Lumpur. He can be contacted at [hywel Davies@hotmail.com](mailto:hywel Davies@hotmail.com).

But when asked about his former leader's place in history he is evasive, finally coming up with that "It is too early to see". Like Galileo in the fifteenth century, condemned by the Vatican, he explains, Pol Pot is currently demonised. But perhaps history will vindicate him, just as happened with Galileo. This of a man responsible for between one to two million deaths in the forty-five months that the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia. Whose insane experiment in forced collectivization between 1975 and 1979 meant the abandonment of all the country's cities and towns, with money, schools, monasteries, libraries, family life, personal property all abolished.

What's most bizarre is that Tep knows all this. When he returned to Cambodia from France in 1977 he was sent to a concentration camp, seven out of his eleven brothers and sisters died during the Khmer Rouge years. There doesn't seem to be any way any human being could make this monstrous step into the organisation that destroyed his family.

Getting the chance to talk to people like Tep ➤

► is one of the reasons I joined Al Jazeera. After working in TV News production in London for years for the BBC and CNN, I'm now based in Kuala Lumpur, flying across Asia for feature stories and meeting extraordinary people; grandmothers struggling to bring up AIDS orphans in rickety shacks in Thailand; refugees with stories of murder and rape by Burmese soldiers; Papua New Guinea tribesmen waiting hours in the sun to cast their votes; an all-female demining team risking their lives to clear explosives in Cambodia. It sounds dramatic and that's because it is. Asia's stories seem more extreme, its politics more chaotic, its people more welcoming – or more threatening – than those of any other continent. For a reporter it's not without hassles; the endless wait for a visa for China, the Indonesian customs man who demands two thousand dollars to let your camera equipment through; the interviewee who wants to drink for hours on end before talking to you. But eventually all those problems disappear (except the visa for China; I'm still waiting) and you're back on the road, bouncing around in a 4x4 down a red dust road, going to talk to someone about their life. And once there it's not a one way process; with some you learn about the horrors that men and women can do. With others, like Im, the HIV positive 11 year old I talked to in Thailand I realised firstly, and rather shamefully, how lucky I was and more humbling how far I'd have to go before I could be capable of the depths of bravery and kindness she showed.

And my final conclusion about Tep? He said he joined the Khmer Rouge, despite the madness of 1975-79 because at least they were against the Vietnamese, the ancestral enemies of the Khmer people. And yes, he had a visceral hatred of the Vietnamese, a furious nationalism that flared up once, betraying his charming cool manner. But to me it seemed there was something else. He had a void, an emptiness at the centre of him. He would neither take responsibility for his actions or blame Pol Pot for what he had done. And that was finally what made him truly monstrous – his unwillingness to admit that he and his friend, his hero, had lacked the moral sense to see what damage they had done, to see their part in the catastrophic ruin they had made of so many people's lives.

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## Bin Brook Redesign

As you will have noticed, Bin Brook has undergone a redesign since the last edition, following a decision to bring the process inhouse. We hope that you find the new design clearer to read, as well as more modern. Some of the colours and formatting used in the new design for Bin Brook were inspired by the design for the new website that was recently launched by the College. You can read more about Robinson's website on page 12.

Bin Brook is produced for you- Members and Friends of Robinson College- and we would be delighted to have any feedback; good or bad; on the new design, or the content. You can email your comments to Clare at [cej29@cam.ac.uk](mailto:cej29@cam.ac.uk), or you can write to Clare Jarmy, Events and Alumni Relations Officer, Development Office, Robinson College, Cambridge, CB3 9AN.

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## Facebook

The Development Office has set up a group on Facebook for Robinson Alumni. The group offers members the opportunity to send messages to lots of Robinsonians simultaneously, and is another way for alumni and friends to find out about forthcoming events, look up old friends and send feedback to the Development Office.

The group is called "Robinson College Alumni" and its membership is closed, so you need to request to join via the Facebook site and one of the administrators will then approve Robinsonian applicants.

## Who's Who

More and more members are logging on to Robinson's online alumni directory "Who's Who", which makes it a great first port of call when you are trying to get in touch with Robinson friends. If you would like to receive your login details again, please just get in touch with the Development Office.

You can log on to the directory at <http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/whoswho>

## Women in Science

Professor Athene Donald, FRS,  
Professor of Experimental Physics and Fellow of Robinson writes



When I came up to Girton more than 30 years ago, an aspiring physicist, there were no mixed colleges and only 3 for women. It was, then, no surprise to find that out of a final year class of more than 100 in physics a mere 8 were female. These days, with most of the colleges mixed, it would be nice to think that the numbers have changed out of all recognition. The University is indeed roughly balanced between the sexes as a whole, but in certain SET (Science, Engineering and Technology) subjects, the situation remains that women are greatly in a minority. For subjects such as maths, physics and engineering the percentage of women remains stubbornly around the 20-25% mark. The University cannot do that much to remedy these numbers on its own (they apply across almost all universities in the UK and reflect socio-cultural and educational factors), but it can ensure that girls who opt for these minority subjects are supported and encouraged to stay in science. To attempt to meet this need, an initiative was set up in 1999 within the University known as WiSETI – the Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Initiative – largely through the inspiration and hard work of Dr Felicity Cooke, the then Equality and Diversity Officer, and Dr Nancy Lane, co-author of *The Rising Tide*, a Government sponsored report on the position of women in SET subjects and a senior researcher in the Zoology Department. Nancy went on to become the first director of WiSETI, a position I took over in January this year.

Through sponsorship, notably from Citigroup and Schlumberger, as well as from University funds, a variety of activities are organised each year, including a series of evening seminars, where 3 inspirational women come to share their experiences and participate in a question and answer session with undergraduates. Citigroup also offers some mentoring opportunities, which we hope to expand. Over a typical year we anticipate more than 100 women benefiting from these occasions. Each year we also hold an annual lecture, sponsored by Schlumberger, an event hosted by the Vice Chancellor at which a leading female scientist talks about her career path and insight, as well as her science. The final substantial activity funded under the WiSETI umbrella is Springboard for Undergraduates. Springboard is a well-established programme, run in many institutions, designed to encourage self-confidence and assertiveness by learning self-awareness. However, Cambridge seems to be unique in offering this course to undergraduates; around 150 take part each year, and the evaluations show how much this benefits the attendees.

All these activities are aimed at undergraduates. I have started to shift focus towards women in more senior positions within the University. It is a well-established fact that there is a 'leaky pipeline' in SET subjects as one moves up through the tiers. Again this is not specific to Cambridge. Plenty of research has been directed to understanding this phenomenon, but finding solutions is harder. Part of it must be to provide adequate support for those women who choose to stay on to do research and ultimately make it onto the academic staff of the University. The University has excellent family-friendly policies, but implementation could be better. Women feel uneasy about part-time working and not being taken seriously if they do opt for this, although for researchers and academics alike this is an option. Mentoring and appraisal are well set out in University policies, but again implementation can be patchy. (Many of these issues are not only a problem for women, but do seem to affect them more than men.) Isolation is another issue that can sap women's confidence; when problems arise they may feel there is no one to advise or even listen to their concerns. I am looking into ways of facilitating networking, which are starting to show results.

Now it is over 50 years since women were first admitted to full degrees in the University, it is disappointing that an organisation such as WiSETI is necessary. However, Cambridge is far from atypical; similar issues seem universally to apply for women in SET subjects and beyond. Parity is not necessarily the answer, but ensuring that all those women who have the drive and skills to succeed in SET are not lost along the way is imperative. WiSETI has important work to do, fully supported by the Vice Chancellor and the University's senior management.

## The Independent - Bosch Technology Horizons Award

### Robinsonian Alejandro Vicente-Grabovetsky wins first prize

Alejandro Vicente Grabovetsky (2004), a recent graduate in Biological Natural Sciences, won the first prize in the 19-24 age category of the Technology Horizons Awards 2007. Sponsored by Robert Bosch Limited and The Independent Newspaper, the award is run in association with the Royal Academy of Engineering. The competition was set up in 2006 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of the engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel; entrants last year were asked to, in the form of a short essay, predict the next major technological revolution. Entrants in this year's competition concentrated on how technology can be harnessed to solve the world's problems; a theme very much in the forefront of people's minds as more and more of us become concerned about ecological matters.



Alejandro Vicente-Grabovetsky (2004)

The prize was awarded at a lunch held at the London Television Studios in July. During the course of the day, discussion was invited from the finalists on "green" issues, and a panel of distinguished experts was there to field questions. The emphasis was placed very much on the solutions that the next generation might give to problems we are currently facing regarding the environment. "Winning the award", Alejandro told us, "has enabled me to contribute to the debate on the impact of human activity on the environment, particularly relating to energy. My aim was to point out how technology can help us as we embark on an energy diet, both to lower consumption and to increase our potential to produce clean energy. I want to thank my girlfriend, Lizzy, for encouraging me to give the competition a go and for helping me guide my thoughts across the paper."

Dr Brian McCabe, who was Alejandro's Director of Studies during the course of undergraduate career at Robinson College, said he was "delighted that Alejandro adds this award to his other achievements, which include a First in part II this year. His essay exemplifies the imaginative contributions that psychologists can make to engineering." Alejandro was elected to a Titular Scholarship this year, and will be doing a PhD in Neurobiology and Psychology at Cambridge from next year.



The Hypercar - a new energy-efficient vehicle

The competition is open to people between the ages of 14-24 and prizes range from £250-£1000. Details of next year's competition will be announced in the autumn of 2007 in the Independent.



## Alejandro's prize-winning essay

### The Energy Diet

We are living in a fat world. In recent years, "size" in environmental discourse has come in the form of the carbon footprint. As logic tells us, the size of the footprint corresponds to the size of the foot, and the foot to the size of the being resting its weight on the world. And we, as a collective being are expanding: we consume far beyond our necessity and give little back. With the help of emergent technologies, we must embark on an "energy diet": losing weight, eating less and exercising.

First, we must lose "weight". The weight of our means of transport – cars, buses, trains and planes – means that we spend much more energy moving the vehicle than moving ourselves. Here, the obvious solution is, in fact, a viable one: make things lighter. The most important advance in transportation within the next few years will not be the development of electricity- or hydrogen-based engines, but the production of lighter cars.

Instead of shifting the carbon footprint from the consumer to the energy industry (remember, hydrogen and electricity must come from somewhere!) we must make the actual use of energy more efficient. This way of thinking has resulted in the Hypercar: a modular car with a carbon-fibre body, a tiny engine and a fuel cell. Its modularity means it is easy to maintain; its engine makes it highly efficient (up to 200 miles per gallon); and its carbon-fibre body makes it safer, as it absorbs impact much better than steel. Taking the load off the road will go a considerable way to reducing the size of our collective mass – and the footprint it leaves.

But not all energy is used up in transport. In everyday life, we need to "eat" less energy. While it is crucial to limit energy waste by changing our lifestyle – turning off appliances and heating whenever possible – it is perhaps more important to change the objects of our consumption: making appliances themselves more energy efficient. As our use of electronic equipment continues to increase, we need more than energy-efficient bulbs to make the cut – we need efficient electronics. A benchmark for this has been set by the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) project. Designed for children in developing countries, the laptop – including processor, memory and screen – consumes just two watts. Since its components are part of an increasing number of electronic appliances, the technology could be applied to televisions, phones, media players and computers, giving consumers both peace of mind and better performance.

But where does "exercise" fit in? We cannot expect to reach environmental sustainability if we don't find ways of making energy without burning carbon fuels. Solar energy, wind power and ground-source heat pumps are becoming increasingly efficient in obtaining energy, but unless we reduce our energy requirements, there will not be enough provision to satisfy our hunger. There is, however, one resource that technology can help us regain. By redirecting the normal flow of energy in physical exercise, we can use our bodies to manually produce electricity – and actually regain energy by burning calories.

For the OLPC project, Potenco has created a pull-string dynamo to power the computer; given its low energy consumption, this is very easy indeed. By extension, rather than going to the gym and using electricity to power an exercise machine, we could use portable generators to transform the energy of our bodies, as we walk or run, into electricity to power an iPod. Additionally, via advances in converting biomass into liquid fuel capable of powering cars (think *Back to the Future*), we could even transform our homes into safe mini-power plants by decoupling the engines of our Hypercars from their wheels.

Biodegradable rubbish could be used to create electricity for sale back to the grid or storage in a battery for later use – a sustainable model for generating power from unburnt calories. With an incentive to escape our sedentary lifestyles, we could not only reduce the contours of our physical and consumptory bodies (and, of course, their footprints), but radically improve their health.

Essay printed with the kind permission of *The Independent*.



## Robinson College Greetings Cards

To order merchandise or greetings cards, please fill out the form in the centre of this edition of Bin Brook.

NEW for Christmas 2007



Cards by S Edwards-McKie

Available individually or in packs of 4.  
See order form for details.

Cards by Kathie Lewis

Available individually or in packs of 5. See  
order form for details.



Robinson College postcard by Kathie Lewis.

50p each plus p+p



Chapel window Christmas Card.

Available individually or in packs of 10.  
See order form for details.

Robinson in the snow  
Christmas cards  
Available individually or in  
packs of 10.  
See order form for details.



Paintings of Robinson College by Kathie Lewis.  
Available as prints, cards or bookmarks.



R1



R2



R3



R4



R5



# Robinson College Merchandise



Robinson College Pin-badge

£1.00 plus p+p



Robinson College Enamel Cufflinks

£15.00 plus p+p



Robinson College Enamel Key Ring

£4.00 plus p+p



Robinson College Cufflinks (gold or silver effect)

£15.00 plus p+p



Robinson College Ties:

Silk: £15.00 plus p+p

Polyester: £10.00 plus p+p



Robinson College USB Drive (2 GB)

£13.00 plus p+p



Robinson College Mug

£5.00 plus p+p



Sing for the Morning's Joy Robinson College Chapel Choir CD

£10.00 plus p+p



Nowell, Nowell Robinson College Chapel Choir CD

£10.00 plus p+p



Robinson College engraved glass Paperweight

£10.00 plus p+p



Robinson College Bookmarks by Cathie Lewis

50p each plus p+p



Robinson College Ball-point Pens

£1.00 each plus p+p

## The Management Consultancy Group plc Robinson College Internship

This year, thanks to the generous support of alumnus Kevin Parry (1980), Robinson College undergraduates were given the opportunity to win an internship with the Management Consultancy Group plc. The student in question would get the chance to work for one of the companies that operate under the MCG umbrella, and would be based in the United States for the duration of his/her time with the company.

The selection process began in Lent Term, with 16 Robinson students from a wide range of disciplines taking part in a business simulation task, which required them to work in teams to make decisions about the running of a hypothetical company. From that evening, five students were selected to go for interview at the offices of MCG in London. Alexandra Considine (2004) who will be taking part II in the English Tripos this year, won the internship.

Alexandra was based in Austin, Texas for part of her internship. From there she wrote:

Austin, Texas is a very strange place. "Keep Austin Weird" is plastered across t-shirts, billboards, books, newspapers, buses and trains throughout the city and the message is clear: Austinites are weird and proud of it. Only in Austin will you find lanes that lead off highways and directly back on the opposite way, specially there for people who've gone the wrong way and need to turn around, only in Austin can you be frying in 106F heat one minute, only to be drenched in rain water the next, only in Austin will someone still tell you pleasantly that you have a 'great rump' and only in Austin will you meet real live cowboys in Starbucks.

Working in this strange and stubborn environment is challenging and this project has taught me just how difficult consultancy can be. But simultaneously, it has also shown me just how frustrating work in a corporate environment is and therefore how and why consultants can really make a difference. As an undergraduate at a high pressured and fast paced University, I am used to a level of efficiency in my own work and that of my supervisors which appears to be unreflective of the corporate world, or at least this one. In real life decisions are delayed, programmes break, people are unmotivated, lazy or get ill, and the work of the process consultant is to find solutions for these problems and more importantly, help the workers to step back from their own circumstances so they can view their problems objectively and find their own solutions in the future. In Austin this is a difficult task. The consultancy process relies on co-operation and partnership between client and consultant and where that is absent, as it is here, the consultant's task becomes harder.

Last year, I worked on a project in rural Kenya that worked through consultant-like processes to develop sustainable resource bases in secondary schools. I was keen to work for the Management Consultancy Group plc to see if I could translate my skills and experience across from the non-profit to the business sector. I would never have guessed how similar the two environments could be. In Kenya I encountered managers who felt threatened by new ideas, a slow pace of change that was impossible to hurry, a sense of the complexities and difficulties of change and an unwillingness between the two parties to co-operate. I have experienced all of those things here, but as in Kenya also, have retained a sense that change is possible even if it is hard. Total co-operation is not always essential and even if you can only find the support and agreement of a few people a consultant can make a huge difference to a corporation; perhaps not directly in terms of its profits but to the happiness and satisfaction of its employees.

Whilst in Austin I have conducted interviews, made charts, written reports and slowly assisted the real consultants in making small changes to the working lives of the workers here and it has been perhaps even more satisfying than working on large ideas that create massive savings for the company, but little improvement for the workers. Consultancy can be frustrating and slow at times, but when it works, even only slightly, it is the most satisfying work you can do. When you can leave somewhere knowing that you have made one child's education better because they now have library with a working borrowing system, or knowing that one worker no longer has to deal with last minute requests from their supervisor or a broken system, you know that your work has made a real difference and the frustrations were worth it.



Alexandra Considine (2004)

## Prizes

Robinson is immensely grateful to those who made it possible for two new prizes to be awarded following this year's Tripos results in Geography and History. Awarded for the first time this year was the Paul Brown Prize in History, which was endowed this year by a group of Paul's friends after his untimely death in a walking accident in Scotland last year. Their fundraising was part-matched by BP as part of the company's scheme to support fundraising events organised by their employees. The prize is a wonderful mark of the esteem in which Paul was held by all his friends and a celebration of his passion for his subject. The first recipient was Rebecca Campbell for her achievements in her prelims in 2006 and Part I this year. Above is a picture taken at the Paul Brown Memorial Rugby Match, which was held at Mill Hill Rugby Club in September 2006.



Also awarded this year, the Smale-Charmes Prize in Geography was endowed by Réamonn Smale-Charmes (1990) and his wife, Danielle, with matched funding from the Thomson Corporation. It was awarded to Melissa Clarke (2004), who graduated in Geography in June 2007. Melissa was a very worthy inaugural recipient, having achieved a starred first in her finals and in each previous year of her studies at Robinson.

## Robinson College Boat Club - Old Blades Society



RCBC's Old Blades Society has been running for close to ten years now and has been keeping our alumni in contact with the current members of the Boatclub since its inception. Membership of the society is open to all ex-rowers who represented the College or University whilst studying at the College and it would be great to hear from some of you who aren't yet familiar with it.

The Old Blades contribute an enormous amount to the exploits of the current Boatclub with the main currency being the time they invest to come down and coach the crews as we prepare for the main races for each term - the Lent and May bumps. The Old Blades Society also gives ex-rowers the chance to socialize and catch up with Robinson rowers old and new with two main social events every year. The first of these is the Old Blades dinner, usually held at a location in London during March and is typically attended by close to 30 Old Blades and a number of current student members. The second is the annual Mays dinner held in Cambridge after the last day of racing in the May bumps. Typically attended by almost all the racing crews, we always welcome as many Old Blades back as possible to help us celebrate the year's racing.

This year has been one of the most successful for a couple of years with the 1st ladies' bumping three times in the second division and being unlucky not to win blades. The 1st men maintained their current position of 13th on the river notching up a bump themselves in the process - their first in the May bumps since 2003. The new captains for the next academic year hope to continue this improved trend and it would be wonderful to contact more of our ex-members to share these results with. If you would like any more information or are interested in joining please contact Mark Sydenham (2000) ([mds48@cantab.net](mailto:mds48@cantab.net)) or Helen Cornish in the Development Office.

Ed Parrott (2002)

Photo courtesy of Nick Traitler (2003)



# College's new Website is launched

Thomas Leng, Robinson's IT Manager writes

The website redesign project officially kicked off in December last year, with local Cambridge firm, Studio 24, being selected to oversee the project very soon afterwards. Their brief was to give us a fresh, modern site which would look great next to other colleges' sites. There was rigorous discussion and debate amongst the interested parties on how we could best achieve this. A series of ever-evolving concept designs allowed us to get a design which we feel reflects Robinson - its youth and modern outlook, as well as its friendliness and accessibility. Most importantly, of course, it shines above all the other College websites! The new site will be continually reviewed and updated to preserve its appeal: news, special offers, events, photographs and announcements. If you have any suggestions for content then please get in touch with me at [tptl2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tptl2@cam.ac.uk).



## Graduate Accommodation Webcam

Work has now begun on the building of new graduate accommodation on the 3 Sylvester Road site. Those of you with access to the internet can view the progress of the project via our new webcam until the buildings are completed in October 2008. Go to <http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/about/webcam.php>

## Sponsorship Opportunities at Robinson Events

One of the key functions of the Development Office is to provide opportunities for Robinsonians to meet up, whether at events held in College, or elsewhere. We are always delighted to have support from Members and Friends for these events. Currently, we are looking for support for the following events:

**City Leaders**- An invitation-only networking event (after work drinks) held once or twice a year hosted by a city firm for alumni in senior City positions and related areas of business. We would love to hear from alumni working in the City if they think they could provide a venue in November 2008 and April 2009. Last year, the event was generously hosted by MCG plc, kindly arranged by Kevin Parry (1980) and Nomura, thanks to Shay Ramalingam (1994). Previous years' hosts have included Investec.

**Law Dinner**- A dinner held annually at a London law firm and attended by alumni who graduated in law, alumni now working in the field, the Warden and law Fellows and current law undergraduates. If your firm would like to host the event for us in 2009, please do get in touch. Last year, the event was generously hosted by Baker and MacKenzie, with Lord Justice Maurice Kay, now an Honorary Fellow of the College, acting as guest speaker for the evening. Previous years' hosts have included Jones Day and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.

**The Champagne Concert** is an evening of chamber music, champagne and canapés, and is the perfect opportunity to entertain corporate clients, whilst supporting Robinson musicians. We are able to offer companies that sponsor the event complimentary tickets to the concert, as well as advertisements in our full colour programme and in printed publicity. If you would like to be involved, please contact the Development Office.

**The Annual Reception** is held in a London venue and is a key event to which all alumni and Friends are invited to come for champagne and canapés with the Warden and Fellows. We are currently looking for a venue for July 2008, and would be delighted to hear from you if you think you might be able to arrange something. Previous venues have been the Oxford and Cambridge Club, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the House of Lords.

If you would like to be involved with any of these projects, please contact Clare on 01223 339036 or at [cej29@cam.ac.uk](mailto:cej29@cam.ac.uk).

## News From the Fellowship

**Professor William R Allen** (Twink to his friends) has had an honorary doctorate conferred upon him by the University of Ghent for his outstanding contributions to research in the field of Veterinary Medicine. Professor Allen accepted the award at a ceremony held at the University of Ghent in March this year. A distinguished figure in his field, and a staunch supporter of College life, Professor Allen retired this term.

The Chaplain, the **Rev'd Dr Maggi Dawn**, has a new book published called "Beginnings and Endings." Published on 21st September by BRF, it is a series of daily reflections on the themes and bible passages associated with Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.



Director of Development **Helen Cornish** has returned from maternity leave and was delighted to meet up with alumni and friends at the 2007 Annual Reception.

**Giacomo Macola** left Robinson College's Fellowship after three years in September 2007 to take up a post at Kent University. Dr Macola's research is in African Studies and History.

**Professor Peter Kornicki** has had a very busy year. He lectured in both Venice and Rome, attended a conference in Hangzhou, China, and conducted research in Hanoi. As if this were not enough, he also became chair of Oriental and African Studies Section of British Academy. Professor Kornicki has written and contributed to various publications in the past few months, including the section on Japan, Korea and Vietnam in *A companion to the history of the book*, ed. Simon Eliot & Jonathan Rose, (Oxford: Blackwell).

**David Palfrey** is leaving Robinson to start a job teaching modern British History at Birkbeck College this September. He told us that after four years as a research fellow at Robinson, he feels very conscious of how lucky he was to be a member of the fellowship. The dedication to quality of teaching, as well as the friendly and welcoming atmosphere around the lunch table, will stay with him as aspects of a model college community.

**Nelson Nunes** is a part of the Supernova Cosmology Project team that was recently awarded the Gruber Cosmology Prize for its discovery that the expansion of the Universe is currently accelerating. The team is comprised of scientists from Australia, Chile, France, Spain, Sweden, the UK and the USA and is headed by Saul Perlmutter and Brian Schmidt. The prize was awarded at a ceremony held at the University of Cambridge on September 7th 2007.

### Staff Changes

**Arrivals:** Robert Rus (Food Service Assistant) 2.4.07; Mary Smith (Food Service Assistant) 16.4.07; Jim Hodge (Carpenter) 8.5.07; Travis Kiddy (Apprentice Gardener) 2.7.07; Brian Murfitt (Cleaner) 20.8.07; Victoria Sealy (Part-time Lodge Porter) 17.9.07

**Departures:** Richard Dring (Carpenter) 13.4.07; Whisley Del'Ovo (Apprentice Electrician) 15.6.07; Judy Winter (Linenkeeper) 29.6.07; Karen Chiswell - formerly bedmaker - took over as Linenkeeper on 02.07.07; Robin MacPherson (Apprentice Gardener) 30.9.07; Ian Bush (Part-time Lodge Porter) 6.9.07

### Congratulations:

to Jason Callaghan (Chef) and his wife Vanessa on the birth of their second daughter, Isabel Ursula, born on 19th May 2007.

## Alumni Announcements

### Births

**Sophia Marriage** (1990) and husband Jonathan Pryce are delighted to announce the birth of Rhona Amelie and Freya Beatrice on 2 December 2006, sisters for Phoebe Eloise (born 28 February 2005). Sophia and Jonathan live in Edinburgh where Sophia is a priest in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

**Alister Chapman** (1992) and **Margaret Chapman** (1994; nee McCoy) are now living in Santa Barbara, California, where Alister is lecturing in modern European history at Westmont College. They have three children: Abigail (6), Lucy (4), and James, who was born this year.



Jonathan Ayres  
with his son Harry

**Jonathan** (1989) and Charlotte Ayres would like to announce, somewhat belatedly, the birth of their son Harry on July 12th 2006. Father and son are pictured left.

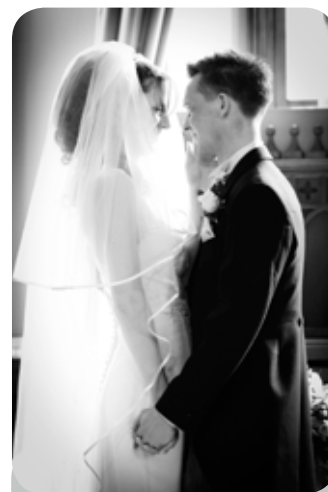
**Antonia Cunningham** (1984–88) and Nick Simpson would like to announce the birth of their son Benjamin Giles Joseph Simpson on 2 April 2007, who arrived weighing an eye-watering 10lb 12oz.

### Marriages

**Alex Corbishley** (2002) married Ailsa Walker on 1st September 2007 in Hardingstone Church, Northampton.

**Neil Dixon** (1996) married Gemma Matthew at Studley Castle, Warwickshire, 11 August 2006. Fellow Robinsonians: Iain Ballentine (1996), Helen Chiarenza (1996), Isabelle Bleaney (1996) and Ed Barker (1996) were all amongst the guests.

Both Neil and Gemma (pictured on their wedding day, right) now work as teachers in North Worcestershire.



Neil and Gemma Dixon



Jonathan and Anna Reeve

**Jonathan Reeve** (1994) married Anna Putt in the College Chapel on 07/07/07, the only good day of weather in July! Friends and family from around the world, including Anna's family from New Zealand, all commented on how beautiful they found the chapel and gardens. Another highlight was Maggi Dawn's thought-provoking sermon about love. Jonathan and Anna both appreciated Maggi's warmth and support before the wedding. They now live together in Hampstead.



## Obituaries

### Seishi Kimura (1997)

I had the privilege of meeting Seishi during his M Phil year in 1997. He came to Cambridge to take the interesting and varied M Phil in Development Studies and I taught him for an optional paper in the course – Philosophical Issues in Economics.

This led us into many discussions on topics such as freedom and equality, happiness and justice, altruism and rationality. He brought to the group a fresh perspective, an appealing sense of humour and well-judged ideas, so that often it would be I who was busy scribbling notes of points to remember. Everyone I spoke to about this said how much they liked teaching him: he had the knack of being a superb listener but going beyond material presented to him to present back – with the greatest courtesy – different and illuminating opinions of his own. He rose so cheerfully above his impaired mobility that, perhaps happily, one was at risk of forgetting it. Once he asked to come to discuss his plans for a PhD and I blithely suggested a time to come to my office – on the fourth floor of the Economics Building whose lift reaches only to the third: with a twinkle in his eye, he said he could make the meeting – as no doubt he would have done – but that it would be a little easier for him there was an alternative room. Again, he was not preoccupied with his own, highly relevant, situation when my group came to debate Amartya Sen's classic argument about the merits of distributing income so as to expand the opportunities open to each of us, given our diverse circumstances including any physical difficulty. He always showed sympathy for the plight of others, while displaying outstanding courage in facing his own. After his success in the M Phil, he decided to stay in Cambridge to work on his doctorate under the supervision of Professor Peter Nolan; and I was delighted to find on returning to Robinson after a few years' absence that he was a member of the college and so 'one of us'. Looking back now on his M Phil year, it is clear to me what I remember most vividly: there was a sparkle about Seishi that no-one who knew him is likely to forget.



Seishi Kimura  
1969-2007

Gay Meeks  
Fellow in Economics

## Alumni Updates

**Tim Luckhurst (1980)**, has been appointed Professor for Journalism and the News Industry at the University of Kent. Tim is a former Editor of the Scotsman and previously spent a decade with BBC News and Current Affairs where he covered the first Gulf War and the Romanian Revolution before working as a senior member of the team that designed and launched Radio Five Live. He is the author of "This is Today - A Biography of the Today Programme" (Aurum Press 2001) and a regular contributor to newspapers and websites including The Independent, Independent on Sunday, Guardian Unlimited (Comment is Free), Scottish Daily Mail, The Times and the Toronto Globe and Mail.

**Jonathan Fowler (1987)** is back in Poland, where he last worked in the mid-1990s for the University of Warsaw and the world service of Polish radio. He returned to Warsaw in November 2006 after being appointed correspondent for Agence France-Presse, the French news agency. He is gradually getting to grips with the huge changes Poland has undergone over the past decade, after overcoming his initial bemusement about the mushrooming of shopping centres and swanky office blocks that went on in his absence. He is also enjoying being back in a proper big city after living in Switzerland for over six years - although he still misses the lake and mountain view, and proper cheese.

**Mary Wild (1982)** was awarded her DPhil by University of Oxford March 2004. She is currently Field Chair for Early Childhood Studies at Oxford Brookes University.

**Mark (1988)**, Lucy and Katie (16 months) Kendall have moved to Worthing in West Sussex and are delighted to be even closer to the sea!

## Forthcoming Events

### November

- 4th Commemoration of Benefactors and Dedication of the Chapel service.
- 25th Advent Carol Service, 3pm

### December

- 1st Freshers' Parents' Lunch  
Parents and guardians of current first year students are invited to join with the freshers Warden and Fellows for a buffet lunch in the College Hall. By invitation only.
- 1st Christmas Concert  
A concert given by the Chapel Choir in the College Chapel. The concert starts at 11:30am, preceded by refreshments on the Hall Balcony at 11:00.
- 6th Varsity Rugby Match  
Members are invited to join us at Twickenham for the Cambridge vs Oxford match. Tickets will include lunch and tickets to the game itself. Ticket price TBC. Contact the Development Office on 01223 339036 for more details.

### January

- 12th Graduands' Parents' Lunch  
Parents and guardians of those graduating in June 2008 are invited to join with the graduands, Warden and Fellows for a buffet lunch in the College Hall.  
By invitation only.
- 23rd Law Dinner hosted by Simmons and Simmons  
Alumni who graduated or now work in law are invited to join the Warden, law Fellows and law undergraduates for a dinner hosted by Simmons and Simmons. Our guest speaker will be Sir Henry Hodge, High Court Justice.

### March

- 6th Champagne Concert  
Join us for an evening of champagne, canapés and chamber music. All proceeds go to supporting Music at Robinson.
- 29th Pegasus Society AGM and Dinner  
Open to all Pegasus Society Members, the Society's AGM will be followed by drinks and dinner in College.