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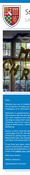
St Edmund's College
University of Cambridge



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter, which includes a wide range of news from our students, fellows and staff. We hope you will find it an interesting read and we look forward to hearing from you if you have any news to share.

Spring is a busy time of year for us, with our Easter Term underway and our students preparing for their exams. We are also preparing for our Alumni Weekend, which will be taking place on Friday 17 June. We hope that many of you will be able to join us for a wide range of events, including our annual Reunion Dinner, Alumni Lecture and Alumni Cricket Match. We look forward to welcoming you back to the College.

Finally, we would like to wish all our students who are sitting their exams in May and June the very best of luck with their preparations and we look forward to seeing them back in Cambridge for the start of their next academic year in October.

Yours sincerely,
Professor Ian Leslie
Master
Dr Sarah Thomson
Development Director

Alumni News

Professor Stephen Hawking

Stephen Hawking, Research Fellow of St Edmund's College, and Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, has been awarded the Copley Medal, the oldest and most prestigious honour given by the Royal Society for outstanding contributions to science. Professor Hawking's research interests include black holes, the origin and ultimate fate of the universe, and the unification of physics. He is the author of many books, including the best-selling A Brief History of Time, which has sold over 9 million copies worldwide.

Read more

Alumna returns to College to deliver a talk to current students - "Mrs Thatcher: Her Life and Times" - Dr Charlotte Bingham (1964)

Charlotte Bingham returned to her alma mater on Wednesday 25 November to deliver a talk to students, fellows and guests on her life and times as the first female Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Dr Bingham read Medicine at Girton College and was a member of the Cambridge University Women's Boat Club. She is the author of over 40 books, including her most recent, Margaret Thatcher: The Authorised Biography, which was published in 2002. Dr Bingham's talk was followed by a question and answer session and a reception in the Master's Lodge.

Read more about Dr Bingham's talk

Cross Fertilisation of Combined Universities, Harvard, UK Graduates' Conference

On 3rd November 2007, Harvard University hosted the first annual Combined Universities, Harvard, UK Graduates' Conference. Over 100 students from Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford and Stanford Universities met for the first time and shared research ideas and discussed the future of academia. Among the speakers was Dr Sarah Thomson, Development Director of St Edmund's College, who spoke on the topic of "Alumni Relations in the Academy".

Dr Bernard Mulvihill publishes a new book with Springer-Verlag

Dr Bernard Mulvihill, Research Fellow in Mathematics, has published a new book, Ergodic Theory: Identifying Arithmetic and Measure Isomorphisms, with Springer-Verlag. This book, which is aimed at graduate students and researchers, presents a selection of results in ergodic theory, with a focus on the interplay between the theory and other areas of mathematics. The book also contains an appendix on measure theory and a brief introduction to the theory of Lebesgue spaces.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Please mark your diaries for the following events. Invitations will be sent out nearer the time. If you would like more information about any of these events, please contact the Development Office at development@stedmund.cam.ac.uk. We look forward to welcoming you back to Cambridge.

- Friday 16 May 2008 - Alumni Cricket Match
- Friday 16 May 2008 - Alumni Lecture
- Friday 16 May 2008 - Reunion Dinner
- Saturday 17 May 2008 - Alumni Weekend
- Friday 19 September 2008 - Alumni Cricket Match

St Edmund's Lady Society Winter Reception in London

On Tuesday 27 November, the Lady Society held a reception at Fortnum & Mason. Guests were invited to hear a talk by Professor Stephen Hawking, Research Fellow of St Edmund's College.

Lady Members and an attendee list will be sent out after the Lady Society AGM in May 2008.

Lady Society Committee: Chairman - Lady Sainsbury; Vice Chairman - Lady Rothschild; Secretary - Lady Hoare; Treasurer - Lady Fraser; Committee Members - Lady Cazalet, Lady Gilbey, Lady Hoare, Lady Lloyd-Webber, Lady Rothschild, Lady Sainsbury, Lady Thomson.

Contact Sarah Thomson (development@stedmund.cam.ac.uk) or Lady Hoare (ladyhoare@stedmund.cam.ac.uk) for more information.

Dr Bernard Mulvihill's Lady Society Winter Reception in Cambridge

On Wednesday 28 November, Dr Bernard Mulvihill, Research Fellow in Mathematics, hosted a Lady Society Winter Reception in Cambridge. Guests were invited to hear a talk by Dr Mulvihill on his research.

Lady Members and an attendee list will be sent out after the Lady Society AGM in May 2008.

Lady Society Committee: Chairman - Lady Sainsbury; Vice Chairman - Lady Rothschild; Secretary - Lady Hoare; Treasurer - Lady Fraser; Committee Members - Lady Cazalet, Lady Gilbey, Lady Hoare, Lady Lloyd-Webber, Lady Rothschild, Lady Sainsbury, Lady Thomson.

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College News

Inaugural Tolling Bell Seminar Success

The inaugural Tolling Bell Seminar, which took place on 3 November, was a great success. Over 100 people attended the seminar, which was held in the Lecture Theatre at the Cambridge Judge Business School. The speakers included Professor Ian Leslie, Master of St Edmund's College, who spoke on the topic of "Why Do Some Societies Thrive?".

The Tolling Bell Seminar was set up in memory of Tolling Bell, who was a Fellow of St Edmund's College and Lucasian Professor of Mathematics. The seminar is a forum for the presentation of ideas on the nature of society and the ways in which it may be improved. Tolling Bell was a great supporter of the College and was a member of the Governing Body for many years. He was also a member of the Cambridge University Council and was Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Finance and Planning for three years. Tolling Bell died in 1997 at the age of 52 after a long illness.

The Tolling Bell Seminar was founded by his family and friends and Professor Alan Hatcher, Fellow of St Edmund's College and Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, has been the driving force behind the seminar since its inception. The seminar is now in its third year and has been very successful in attracting speakers of the highest calibre and in bringing together people from a variety of backgrounds to discuss issues of mutual interest.

The seminar's success has become well established, which means that it is now possible to plan ahead for future years. The next seminar will be held on Friday 7 November 2008 and will be on the topic of "Is Democracy Sustainable?". The speakers will be Professor Ian Leslie, Master of St Edmund's College, and Professor Ian Shapiro, Sterling Professor of Political Science at Yale University.

Master Accepts Invitation to Become Honorary Fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford

The Master has accepted an invitation to become an honorary Wolfson College Fellow. The Master will be expected to attend Wolfson College events and to be a point of contact between the College and Wolfson College.

In the year ahead, Wolfson College plans to celebrate its Golden Jubilee. Wolfson College was founded in 1958 and has been a very successful College, with a strong emphasis on science and medicine. The College has 1,000 students and 1,000 Fellows.

Wolfson College's Development Director, Dr Jonathan Cooper, said: "We are very pleased that the Master of St Edmund's College has accepted our invitation to become an honorary Fellow of Wolfson College. We look forward to working closely with the Master and his colleagues at St Edmund's College."

Dr Sarah Thomson, Development Director of St Edmund's College, said: "We are very pleased that our Master has accepted this invitation. We look forward to working closely with our colleagues at Wolfson College."

Read more about Wolfson College's Golden Jubilee

Recordings

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Alumni Accepted Invitation to Become Honorary Fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford

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Sports & Societies

Research Success for the Department of Physics and Cavendish Laboratory

Professor Richard Friend, Head of the Cavendish Laboratory and Professor Sir Richard Sykes, Provost of Imperial College London, have been awarded the Royal Society's Royal Medal for their work on the development of polymer light emitting diodes (LEDs) and their application to display technology.

This is a prestigious award for which only two people can be awarded each year. The Royal Society's Royal Medals are awarded for outstanding contributions to the natural sciences and have been awarded since the reign of Queen Anne. The Royal Society is the world's oldest scientific society and is the UK's national academy of science.

Professor Richard Friend, who is a Fellow of St Edmund's College, said: "I am very pleased that our work has been recognised in this way. It is a great honour to be awarded the Royal Society's Royal Medal and I am very pleased that Professor Sykes and I have been jointly awarded the medal for our work on polymer LEDs."

Professor Sykes said: "I am very pleased that Professor Friend and I have been jointly awarded the Royal Society's Royal Medal for our work on polymer LEDs. This is a prestigious award and I am very pleased that our work has been recognised in this way."

Tiger and Dale Hobbs, organ scholar, qualify for the Youth Bach competition, Leipzig, Germany

Tiger and Dale, organ scholar at St Edmund's College, have qualified for the Youth Bach competition, Leipzig, Germany. Tiger and Dale will be performing a piece by Bach in the competition, which is being held in Leipzig on 15 and 16 March 2008.

Dale is the organ scholar at St Edmund's. He has played extensively abroad, including in Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Spain and Portugal. He has also played in the Cathedrals of Ely, Lincoln, Norwich, Bristol, Chichester, Exeter, Gloucester, Hereford, Lichfield, Liverpool, Manchester, Southwark, Wakefield and Worcester.

Tiger is a Bachelor of Music student at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. He has played in the Cathedrals of Ely, Lincoln, Norwich, Bristol, Chichester, Exeter, Gloucester, Hereford, Lichfield, Liverpool, Manchester, Southwark, Wakefield and Worcester.

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St Edmund's College Boat Club

Dr Hilary Browbridge appointed Alumni Relations Officer for Development

Dr Hilary Browbridge has been appointed Alumni Relations Officer for Development. Dr Browbridge read Medicine at Girton College and was President of Girton College and a member of the Cambridge University Women's Boat Club.

Dr Hilary Browbridge said: "I am very pleased to be joining the Development Office at St Edmund's College. I look forward to working closely with the Development Director and the Development Office team to develop the alumni relations programme and to ensure that the College's alumni community is a vibrant community."

Dr Sarah Thomson, Development Director of St Edmund's College, said: "We are very pleased that Dr Hilary Browbridge has joined the Development Office. Her experience will be invaluable in developing our alumni relations programme and we look forward to working closely with her."

Read more about Dr Hilary Browbridge

Fellowship News

Life Fellow Honorary Degree

Congratulations to Professor Sir Peter Sykes, Life Fellow of St Edmund's College, who has been awarded an honorary degree by the University of Bristol.

Professor Sykes, who is a Life Fellow of St Edmund's College, is a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. He is Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at the University of Cambridge and was Head of the Department of Chemistry from 1980 to 1990. He was Vice-President of the Royal Society of Chemistry from 1990 to 1992 and President of the Royal Society of Chemistry from 1992 to 1994.

Professor Sykes's research interests have been in the fields of organic chemistry and chemical education. He has published over 100 papers in the scientific literature and has written over 20 books, including his most recent, Mechanism in Organic Chemistry, which was published in 2006.

Congratulations, Emeritus Professor Sykes!

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Congratulations, Emeritus Professor Sykes!

Obituaries

Professor Sir Peter Sykes

Sir Peter Sykes, Life Fellow of St Edmund's College, died on 19 November 2007 at the age of 77.