



# St Edmund's College

## University of Cambridge

### News & Events for Alumni – Lent Term 2025

Hello !

I'm delighted to announce a slate of news, events and opportunities to connect with the St Edmund's community!

There's still time to catch the Master and Development Director in California and Chicago, for our traditional get-together; if you're further afield you can connect with alumni to know the latest happenings in the university at Hong Kong and Sydney.

Hope to see you soon!

Yours,  
Lakshmi

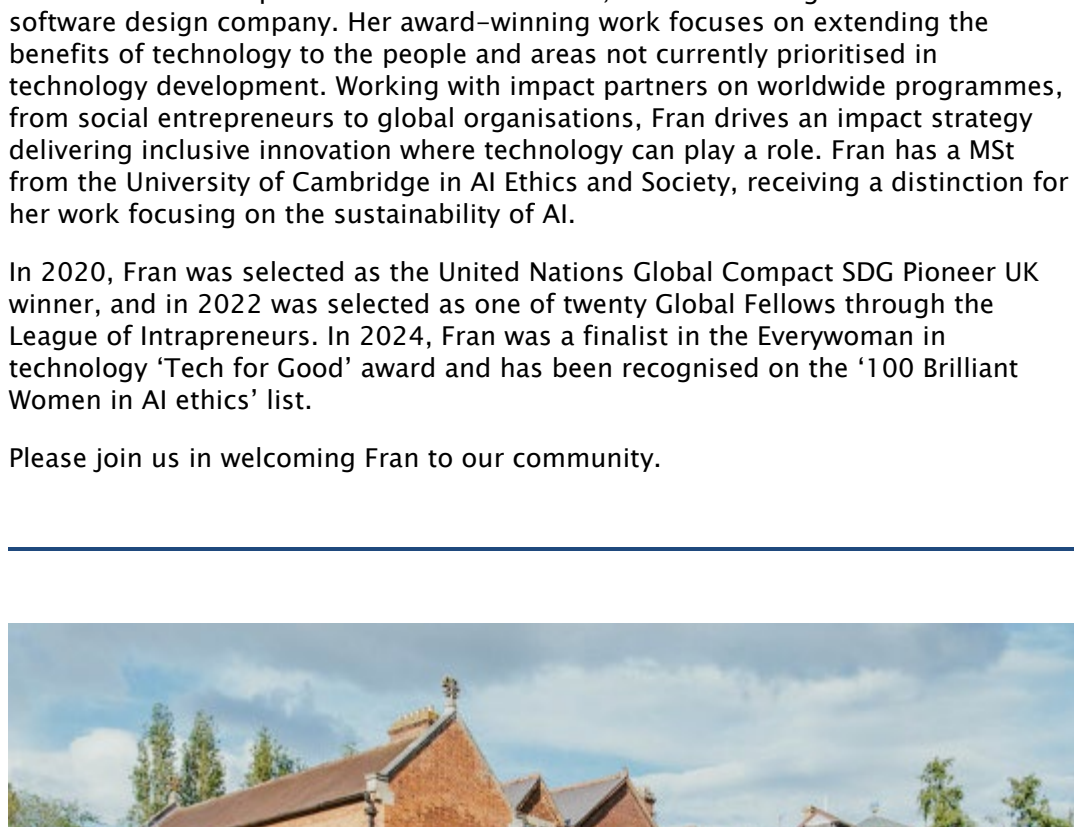
Development Office



#### Honorary Fellow recognised in New Year Honours List 2025

Congratulations to former University of Cambridge Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, an Honorary Fellow of St Edmund's College, who was made Knight Grand Cross (GBE) for services to cancer research, clinical research, medicine and to charities.

[Read the full story here!](#)



#### Alumna with interest in sustainability, impact and AI elected to College as a Bye-Fellow

Fran Baker Kurdi (m. 2021; MSt AI Ethics & Society) has recently been elected as a Bye-Fellow to St Edmund's College.

Fran leads Social Impact and Innovation at Arm, a world-leading semiconductor and software design company. Her award-winning work focuses on extending the benefits of technology to the people and areas not currently prioritised in technology development. Working with impact partners on worldwide programmes, from social entrepreneurs to global organisations, Fran drives an impact strategy delivering inclusive innovation where technology can play a role. Fran has a MSt from the University of Cambridge in AI Ethics and Society, receiving a distinction for her work focusing on the sustainability of AI.

In 2020, Fran was selected as the United Nations Global Compact SDG Pioneer UK winner, and in 2022 was selected as one of twenty Global Fellows through the League of Intrapreneurs. In 2024, Fran was a finalist in the Everywoman in technology 'Tech for Good' award and has been recognised on the '100 Brilliant Women in AI ethics' list.

Please join us in welcoming Fran to our community.



#### AI Ethics & Society Alumni Event – CFI x St Edmund's on 15 June 2025

The Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence (CFI) is delighted to welcome you to St Edmund's College for an alumni event led by experts in AI and its social and technological impact.

We're still working on the event agenda, but provisional time for the event is 11:00–16:00.

The event will be hosted in the grounds of St Edmund's College and is open to current CFI students and alumni.

This will be the first event hosted by the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence aimed at engaging with alumni of the MSt AI Ethics & Society programme, as well as their new MPHils, and we are very excited to welcome you back to Cambridge to renew your connections with one-another and with the CFI.

Further information on agenda and tickets will be circulated closer to the event.

[Register your interest here!](#)



#### St Edmund's students see success in men's rugby Varsity Match

Cambridge University experienced a day of 2 halves at The Varsity Matches on Saturday 8 March, with the men's team securing a thrilling 35–28 victory over Oxford University's Dark Blues while the women's side fell to a 27–7 defeat in a hard-fought contest at Saracens' Stonex Stadium.

The men's match saw Cambridge open the scoring with a fifth-minute penalty from George Bland (King's), but Oxford responded with 2 tries, both converted, to establish a 21–6 lead. Despite the early setback, Cambridge rallied before halftime with tries from Matt Riddington (St Edmund's) and Alex Christey (St John's), both converted by Bland, to narrow the gap to 21–18.

Oxford extended their lead early in the second half but Cambridge refused to relent. A try from Ryan Santos (Jesus), followed by a decisive score from Luke John (Emmanuel), turned the tide in Cambridge's favour. Bland's conversion and a late penalty sealed a dramatic 35–28 victory, marking the Light Blues' third consecutive Varsity Match win.

Before the match, Captain Fergus (St Edmund's) told us: "It is the honour of a lifetime for Matt and I to run out in Light Blue on the 8th March at Stonex. Having both grown up around the area we know not only how important Varsity Matches are but also how privileged we are to be taking part. Personally, as Captain, I would like to give Eddies a massive thank you for guiding me through my academic and co-curricular journey at Cambridge. While it may all come to an end on March 8th I have made memories that will last a lifetime and St Edmund's have been crucial in helping me form them."

Fergus is one of a number of St Edmund's students that has received support from the Alumni Sports Bursary, an initiative led by donors to the College to support elite-level athletes and sportspeople to compete alongside their academic studies.

You can learn more about the Alumni Sports Bursary, and how to support the future of sports at St Edmund's, by contacting the Development Office.



#### Prioritise vaccine boosters for vulnerable immunocompromised patients, say scientists

Vaccinations alone may not be enough to protect people with compromised immune systems from infection, even if the vaccine has generated the production of antibodies, new research from the University of Cambridge has shown.

[Kimia Kamelian](#), a Gates Cambridge Scholar at CITIID and member of St Edmund's College is part of a team of scientists who says we should prioritise vaccine boosters for vulnerable immunocompromised patients.

In a news story published by the [University of Cambridge](#), Kimia said:

"We know that immunocompromised individuals are particularly vulnerable to diseases such as Covid-19 because their immune systems struggle to clear infections. Vaccinations offer some protection, but our study shows that only repeated vaccinations – often four or more – offer the necessary protection."



#### Election of the Next Chancellor

The University is preparing to elect its next Chancellor.

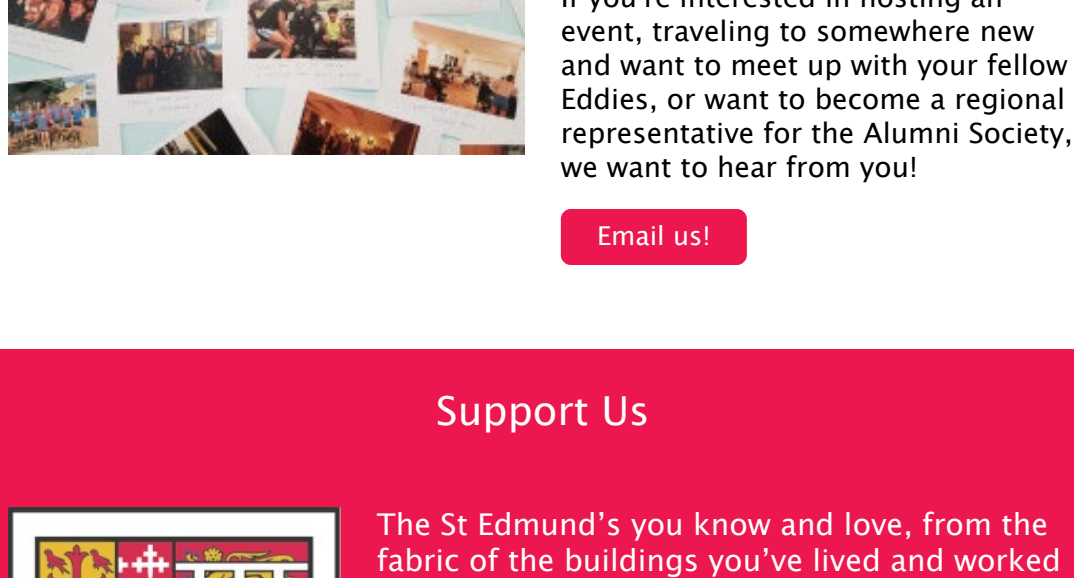
The Chancellor plays a key role in the life of the collegiate University. The person elected is the University's formal and ceremonial head, and while they have no executive responsibilities, they will play a vital part in Cambridge's public-facing activities, fundraising, and in providing advice to senior members of the University.

For the first time, voting in the election will be online as well as in person in Cambridge, so that more of our global community of eligible alumni can take part alongside senior members of the University and the Colleges.

Steps to take now

1. [Check you are eligible to vote](#)
2. [Provide us with up-to-date contact details](#)

If you have any questions about collecting your qualifying degree, contact – [graduation@st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk](mailto:graduation@st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk)



#### St Edmund's Alumni Reception in Beijing

The St Edmund's College Alumni Reception took place on 5th March at Centro Bar, Kerry Hotel Beijing, bringing together 15 attendees, including alumni, their families, and friends.

The evening was filled with warmth and joy as alumni reunited in Beijing, reminiscing about their time at Cambridge. With glasses raised, they shared cherished memories, life experiences, and future aspirations. It was a wonderful gathering that strengthened our alumni connections. Let's continue fostering this vibrant community and look forward to an even brighter future together!

With thanks to Mr Jeffrey Liu, Fellow Benefactor & Development Ambassador, for hosting this event.

To keep up to date with events in China connect with us on WeChat – just search of St Edmund's College Alumni.



#### Upcoming Travel – California & Chicago

The Master and Development Director will be travelling to the USA to meet alumni and supporters of the College, and would love to see you!

They will be in San Francisco from March 31st – April 2nd and Chicago from April 3rd – April 5th before attending events at the University of Notre Dame.

There will be chances to meet Chris and Kate at alumni events during this time so keep an eye out for further announcements. If you're in the region and would like to meet, let us know!



#### St Edmund's PhD promotes research productivity in Latin America

Mario Ramos-Hamud, a PhD in Theoretical Physics at St Edmund's, has worked with collaborators to submit a paper providing a statistical analysis of key scientific metrics in physics research in Latin America.

[The paper](#) aims to empower scientists with insights into the significance of their contributions to both regional and global research. Moreover, it provides both researchers and policymakers with critical quantitative data, strengthening their understanding of the progress in scientific productivity over the years to better support scientific endeavours in Latin America.

[Read More](#)



#### Global Cambridge Events: Hong Kong and Sydney

Global Cambridge events are an opportunity to meet alumni in your area and find out about cutting-edge research. Hear from academics and students whose work ensures that the University contributes to society through ideas, discovery and innovation.

[Global Cambridge Sydney – 26 March 2025](#)

[Global Cambridge Hong Kong – 1 April 2025](#)

If you're attending, let us know!



#### The Boat Races

Race day is Sunday, 13 April, with The 79th Women's Boat Race to be followed by The 170th Men's Boat Race.

Join in and share the excitement of this iconic sporting event as Light Blue and Dark Blue go head-to-head along the Championship Course on the River Thames.

Why not get a group of friends together and watch from home or a local venue? We can help connect you with other alumni in your area if you want to put something together. Get in touch to let us know!



### Technology, society, & the layers between

a conversation with Sara Wahedi

**Date:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
**Time:** 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm (event registration from 5.15 pm)  
**Venue:** Scholar Centre, Bill Gates Sr. House, 17 Mill Lane, CB2 1RX

Join us for an engaging conversation with Sara Wahedi, acclaimed tech entrepreneur and human rights advocate, and Usama Javed Mirza, co-founder and CEO of Saving 16, a nonprofit organization providing emergency healthcare to rural communities. Usama & Sara will explore the key aspects of her work, including the challenges of leading a tech startup in conflict zones, her vision for the future of digital crisis management, and the intersection of technology, governance, & human rights.



#### Technology, Society, & the layers between – a conversation with Sara Wahedi

Gates Cambridge invites you to attend an event on Monday 17 March 2025!



### Interested in hosting an event?

If you're interested in hosting an event, traveling to somewhere new and want to meet up with your fellow Eddies, or want to become a regional representative for the Alumni Society, we want to hear from you!

[Email us!](#)

### Support Us



The St Edmund's you know and love, from the fabric of the buildings you've lived and worked in, to the books in the Library, the food in Hall, the punts on the river, and so many other aspects of the student experience would not exist without the generosity of our supporters.

[Donate Now.](#)