Welcome to Regent’s Now

If you haven’t had the opportunity to visit Regent’s during the year this is your chance to have a glimpse at what’s been happening in the Regent’s Park College community.

The last year has been one of the busiest and best years ever. In September 2008, Greyfriars Hall closed its doors and Regent’s was asked by the University to accommodate the Hall’s students. In true Regent’s fashion, we did more than just accommodate; we opened our doors and welcomed them in. With the arrival of students migrating from Greyfriars and a large intake of ministerial students, we had just over 200 students in 2008/09. This has given us a buoyant and lively feel, with extra numbers enriching College life and giving the College a real buzz.

This year we had a splendid set of results: 4 Firsts; 26 2:1s, and 4 2:2s. One person who deserves special mention is Gratian-Daniel Vandici who achieved the top first in Theology in the whole University.

Alongside terrific academic results, Regent’s students continue to be highly committed both inside and outside College. Students have been involved in University teams in netball, women’s rugby, football, fencing and real tennis. Our students have also held numerous posts at both the Cherwell and the Oxford Student newspapers.

Over the past 12 months gifts from a number of Friends and Alumni have allowed us to renovate the JCR, SCR, Helwys Hall and the Vinson Teaching Room. The latter has now been renamed the Craig Knight Room in recognition of Craig’s generosity towards the College and its students. Craig’s philanthropy has also now been recognised by the University (see page 6).

Regent’s is thriving and our desire is to continue to develop and improve. This year we are re-working and re-articulating our Vision, Mission and Values. We hope that you will be a part of this by going to www.rpc.ox.ac.uk (news and events) and completing the online survey. It will only take a minute or two and it would be really helpful to have as many peoples’ views as possible.

There has never been a better time to contribute to the Annual Fund. By giving now, you are helping to improve and expand every student’s Regent’s experience. The UK government has recognised the power and importance of Alumni giving by introducing a scheme to encourage new donors with a ‘two to one’ matching fund. When gift aid and government matching funds are included, Regent’s receives £1.66 for every £1 donated for every new donation.

When applying for funding from grant-making Foundations and Trusts many will review Alumni participation rates in making their decisions about levels of support. No matter how big or small your donation to the Annual Fund your continued participation in the Regent’s community is both valued and valuable. You can either give online at www.giving.ox.ac.uk/regents or you can use the enclosed form and prepaid envelope.

Thank you in advance for helping us to continue to offer the very best education and student experience.

With very best wishes,

Dr Robert Ellis

P.S. Please be sure to visit www.rpc.ox.ac.uk and complete the vision, mission and values questionnaire.
The Oxford Centre for Christianity and Culture

The past year has seen further significant developments in the life of the Centre. An anonymous benefaction enabled us to renovate our office and to create a guest room for centre speakers and other college guests. The weekly public lectures in term time have continued to attract strong and varied audiences. In Michaelmas term, after the annual Nicholls Lecture, given on the subject of democracy by the former Bishop of Oxford, Lord Harries of Pentregarth, the Centre held an interesting series organised by the Associate Director, Dr Isabella Bunn, on the theme of 'The Spirit of Social Enterprise'. This included an engaging mixture of academics and practitioners, exploring an increasingly significant field. In Hilary term, a well-attended series marking the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s The Origin of Species was held under the title ‘Darwin Reconsidered’. We were thrilled that so many eminent speakers participated: John Hedley Brooke, the first holder of the Chair in Science and Religion at Oxford, Dr John Lennox, an Oxford Professor of Mathematics (who is becoming increasingly well-known for his lively engagement with the arguments of Richard Dawkins) and Dr John Weaver, Principal of South Wales Baptist College and then President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. A literary series on the theme of ‘Alternative Worlds’ in both historic and contemporary literature was held during the summer.

The John Voon Memorial Fund

John Voon (Regent’s 2001 – 2004) died in May 2008, aged 26. John was born with a heart defect so severe that doctors did not expect him to live beyond six months. He confounded the medical experts and, in spite of his physical sufferings from ongoing medical treatment, multiple operations and cardiac problems, had a gentle and kind spirit with a wonderful sense of humour. John would have received his MA in 2008. His friends, family and the College thought that this offered a great opportunity to create the John Voon Memorial Prize. As John particularly enjoyed the Development of Doctrine to AD 451 paper, his family and the Fellows have decided that the prize should be awarded to the student who gets the highest mark in the collection which follows the tutorials on this subject.

If you would like to contribute to John’s Memorial Fund please donate online at www.giving.ox.ac.uk/regents where you can designate your gift to the fund.

Regent’s Park College Chapel

Chapel during the year has been a lively place where members of all three common rooms found space to give diverse expression to their faith and hopes. The arrival of students from Greyfriars Hall gave good impetus for further expressing the ecumenical ethos and character of the College. The style of the worship has followed a cycle of genres: Celtic, contemporary, contemplative and gospel. Key to the development of the worship and wider chaplaincy work has been the establishment of a chaplaincy team, which now meets to plan and co-ordinate events every week. Highlights during the year included a Taizé service in Michaelmas, led by Brother Paolo from the Taizé Community, which attracted many students from Colleges across The University. Term ended with an excellent Advent Carol service, held in St John’s College chapel. This year the chaplaincy team also introduced chaplaincy dinners, where up to 40 guests sit down to an excellent meal in the chapel followed by a speech given by a leading academic. In Hilary term, Professor Keith Ward, former Regius Professor, spoke on the relationship between science and religion and in Trinity term, Professor Marilyn McCord Adams addressed ‘The Problem of Evil’.

A View from the JCR. Ed Harding, JCR President

This has been a very exciting year for the JCR. The increased size of the student body has led to a whirlwind of activity, and there is almost too much going on to give a fair impression of it all here! Last summer we said a fond farewell to a third year that contributed a huge amount to College life, but fortunately they have been replaced by a first year just as keen to be involved both in College and beyond. Four members of our first year now have editorial positions on student newspapers and many of our other students are involved in everything from first-team rugby and football at other Colleges, to debating competitions at the Oxford Union. Elsewhere in College, we had members on the University’s Law Society Executive Committee and Investment and Finance Society Committee, as well as three students hitch-hiking to Morocco to raise money for charity! On the whole, it has been an encouraging year for extra-curricular activities at Regent’s.

The JCR remains the hub of undergraduate social life, and has played host to a range of spectacular events, including the ‘Black Tie Rave’, the ‘Bunny Hop Bop’ at Easter, and the ‘Rumble in the Jungle’. We saw the inaugural ‘Tea with the Tortoise’ last year, a garden party with our beloved Emmanuelle as the guest of honour, as well as numerous impromptu quad bbs, successful College croquet and table football tournaments. The year has been punctuated by wine-tasting and arts evenings in the JCR, with students putting forward artwork in a competition judged by a professional artist and Regent’s alumna, Amy Hemingway. The culmination of the social year came on the last Friday of Trinity term, when a bouncing castle and a giant Regent’s Park-crested cake appeared in the quad. This year’s Final Fling was themed ‘Arabesque’, and was a fantastic night, paying out in spades for the huge amount of work the Fling Committee put into making sure the event went smoothly.
**Regent’s Now**

**Rowing, Ed Harding (2nd Year Philosophy & Theology)**

Over the course of the last year, the men stretched their record to five years (ten competitions!) without having been bumped. In the Summer Eights Regatta last term they came agonisingly close to gaining blades, but had to settle for three bumps after another boat obstructed their path mid-race. There has been an overwhelming enthusiasm from the women, with so many wanting to row this Summer the Boat Club considered putting out a women’s 2nd VIII.

**Women’s Football, Charlotte Flowers (1st Year Theology)**

Regent’s Ladies F.C. have teamed up with the Balliol College team, and have had a great season! Playing with Balliol provides the team with a great opportunity to meet new people and have fun outside of Regent’s. In Hilary term the team were 4th division champions after winning their last game 11 goals to 1 against Lincoln. Having won promotion into the 3rd division the team now has the chance to play Cuppers games against other Colleges in higher leagues.

**Netball, Rebecca Williams, (1st Year Theology)**

This year has been more fruitful on the netball court for the Regent’s women (and men). Michaelmas term saw the addition of plenty of Freshers, including a new shooter; an element that had previously been lacking for the College.

**Real Tennis, Chris Stefanowicz (2nd Year English)**

Chris started playing lawn tennis when his father put a racquet in his hand at age five. When he was ten, he started to play squash and by his early teens he was in the Middlesex County Squash Team. By his own admission he is a ‘racquet sports nut.’

When Chris arrived at Regent’s to study English in October 2008, he jumped at the opportunity to take up Real Tennis and joined the Oxford Real Tennis Club. The court at Oxford, built originally in 1595, is one of only 25 in the UK. This year the team has done exceptionally well, winning the National League competition, in which Chris was unbeaten right up until the final game! He just missed out on a Half Blue but is hoping to play in the Varsity Match next year.

**Fencing, Rupert Paines (2nd Year Law)**

When Rupert Paines was a ‘fat pre-teen’ he decided he wanted to take part in a sport which did not involve getting cold or going outdoors. He took up fencing. Since then he has fenced his way to the top of the list of the sport, representing the UK twice in the Under-20s category.

This year, he competed in the Varsity Match which Oxford unfortunately lost. Rupert is hopeful for 2009 when he thinks that Oxford should regain the trophy.

**Football, Sam Tomlin (3rd Year Theology)**

This season, Sam Tomlin played for the University football second team ‘The Centaurs’. Sam writes ‘The end result on paper unfortunately does not tell the whole story. We were relegated and lost the Varsity Match, but in a league of just six teams, we were relegated by the one or two odd points, and actually finished only about five points off second place.

Many matches were very close, losing by one or two goals. The University Parks were a fortress of a home venue — we only lost once in Oxford, but we could not replicate this form away from home. Away trips to Nottingham, De Montfort and the three-and-a-half hour trip to the University of East Anglia did not bring the anticipated results, meaning that next year The Centaurs will be in a lower league.

My season was mixed, starting almost every game, but only scoring one goal from right wing. The varsity match against the Cambridge Falcons was played at Iffley Road and was a very tense affair, with both teams playing cautiously. After 120 minutes the score was still at 0-0. We then had the heartache of losing 3-1 on penalties. The season thus finished with relegation and a lost Varsity Match, but it was very enjoyable nonetheless, with a good team spirit due to regular training sessions (three to four a week) and lots of social events.’

**Other Regent’s Representations**

Apart from the sporting success you’ve already read about on this page Regent’s also had a representative playing in the Under-21s Rugby Varsity Match, a Blues pole-vaulter, the cox in the Women’s Light Boat in the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, and members of the Squash and Racquets Blues teams.
Craig Knight Installed as a Member of the Vice Chancellor’s Circle

In May 2009, the University formally recognised the contribution made by Craig Knight to both the University and Regent’s Park College by installing him as a member of the Vice Chancellor’s Circle (VCC). The inaugural meeting of the VCC was held at Rhodes House. It involved a private reception and a debate over dinner entitled Poetry is Beautiful but Science is What Matters. The debate was led by a distinguished panel of guest speakers. Regent’s was honoured to be represented on the panel by Michael Symonds-Roberts, who read English between 1983 and 1986 and is a renowned poet and broadcaster.

Professor Paul Fiddes’ Portrait Unveiled

The portrait of former Principal, Professor Paul Fiddes, was unveiled by Rex Mason in Trinity term. Many distinguished guests gathered along with the current students and staff to see the portrait for the first time.

Emmanuelle on Blue Peter, again.

Corpus Christi held its annual tortoise fair with their tortoise and our very own Emmanuelle emerging victorious in the two races. Tortoise races involve the animals being placed inside a ring of lettuce, with the first to reach the ring being the winner.

The BBC’s Blue Peter did a feature on the tortoise fair in May 2009. This is Emmanuelle’s second TV appearance, her first being in 1975. There is some debate within College about a) when Emmanuelle arrived in College and b) how old she is. If anyone can shed any light on this we would be very grateful. Please write to the Keeper of the Tortoise at: Alumni@regents.ox.ac.uk

Regent’s Team on University Challenge

Don’t miss it: Regent’s is represented for the first time ever on the BBC’s University Challenge. Ed Harding, JCR President (2nd Year Philosophy and Theology), James Aber (2nd Year History and Politics), Jonathan Lafferty (2nd Year English) and Joanna Munro (2nd Year Literae Humaniores) will feature in the team’s first televised appearance on 5th October 2009.

Dr Pamela Sue Anderson Awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Lund University

On 29 May 2009, Dr Pamela Sue Anderson was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Lund, Sweden, in recognition of her contributions to the study of the Philosophy of Religion. This was the first Honorary Doctorate in Philosophy of Religion to be given to a woman by Lund University. The ceremony, which lasted three and a half hours, included organ music, trumpet fanfares, cannon shots (from outside the Cathedral!) and nine children dressed in white with laurel wreaths in their hair representing the nine muses.
JCR Fundraising

Each term the JCR decides on a charity to support. This year the JCR has raised over £1,500 for local and international charities.

In Michaelmas term, the JCR supported the charity Africa Now (www.africanow.org). There were a number of different fundraising events, including the pantomime, Cinderella, and a charity auction. The ‘lots’ ranged from having a meal cooked for you by a fellow student, to a helicopter ride. These events were both a huge success and altogether the charity was given over £1000.

In Hilary term, the chosen charity was World Bicycle Relief (www.worldbicyclerelief.org). The JCR raised over £180 through a charity casino night, pancake night, bake sale and a raffle.

In Trinity term, the members of the JCR voted to support a local charity, the Oxford Night Shelter (www.oxfordnightshelter.org.uk). The Quad was transformed for a summer fête complete with bunting, a bouncy castle, and sports-day-like races. The JCR also had a BBQ, a football match and its very own ‘Regent’s got Talent’. To add to the monetary gifts raised by the JCR, the Executive also set up collection points in College to allow students and staff to donate items of clothing and bedding to the Night Shelter.

College Drama and Music, Jack Blackburn (1st Year Philosophy & Theology)

For a hopeful and ambitious Fresher, the challenge of breaking into the drama scene at Oxford is at once exciting, gruelling, brilliant and heart-breaking. The competition is very tough. Nevertheless, Regent’s has many students who have taken this challenge on and have succeeded, resulting in the College having a huge strength in drama. To name a few achievements on the University scene, Edward Randell (English) and Natasha Kirk (English) took large parts in Michaelmas term’s blockbuster Sweeney Todd. Christopher Stefanowicz played Puck in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and Sarah Clark played the lead in First Date.

Regent’s has its own drama scene which has been vibrant and entertaining. We held a Christmas Pantomime in Helwys Hall in Michaelmas, which was an extraordinary dramatic success thanks to the direction of Sam Evans, and also raised a large amount of money for charity. In Trinity term Jack Blackburn (JCR Drama Rep) directed Tom Stoppard’s The Real Inspector Hound. The cast was drawn from almost all areas of the College: Fresher’s, second years, visiting students and ministerials.

Women’s Rugby, Ellaine Gellman (3rd Year Law)

Ellaine Gellman received her third Women’s Rugby Blue in the annual Varsity Match against Cambridge this year. She writes:

“The Varsity experience is truly unforgettable. I will forever recall running out of the changing rooms for the first time and seeing the massive crowds on their feet whenever we approached the try-line.”

Ellaine is not only an accomplished Rugby player; she also served as President of the Oxford University Women’s Rugby Club (OUWRFC), President of Atlanta’s Society (the Oxford University Sportswomen’s Society), and Publicity and Publications Officer of the Oxford University Sports Federation.

Ellaine took advantage of the fact that Regent’s did not have its own women’s rugby team, and played for Balliol and St Peter’s in College Cuppers. She also played football for Exeter and Corpus Christi and was selected to play in the annual Corpus Christi football match against their Cambridge rivals.

Next year Ellaine will embark on a law career at the College of Law in London. She then hopes to go on to work for an international firm. Although this is a big step following a student lifestyle, she is confident that the experiences she had during her time at Regent’s, juggling her studies with sport and a social life have prepared her for whatever lies in store.

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We played football with pick-up teams on our own pitch or in matches with London’s other theological Colleges. There was tennis in summer; and rowing on the extensive lake in the Park. Though there was some competition with the young ladies of Bedford College, ‘bumps’ were to be avoided, not sought...

Memories come of the weekly ordeal of the sermon class and of the inspiration given by the Friday evening celebration of Holy Communion in the Great Library. At weekends we hoped to be out taking the services at churches graciously hospitable to students. Some of us were involved in church planting in London’s new council house estates.

For most of us it was a sadness to be leaving Holford House. For the chosen few there was the bright prospect of moving to Oxford to open up a new chapter in the College’s story. How right the move has proved to be!

There was such ample accommodation for both the Principal and his family and the students that the West Wing was let to Miss Maud Allen, the dancer, whose ‘Salomé’ had been the talk of the town in Edwardian times.

To the south, there was extensive grassland and pasture, with sheep grazing. To the east was the Zoo. Each night there was an eerie howling when the wolves caught the scent of the sheep.

My first year as a student, 1926-7, coincided with the College’s last year in Regent’s Park.

The College building, Holford House, both imposing and spacious, was set in an enclave on the north side of the Park. London’s West End was a twenty-minute walk away. To the south, there was extensive grassland and pasture, with sheep grazing. To the east was the Zoo. Each night there was an eerie howling when the wolves caught the scent of the sheep.

The Revd Anthony Clarke

Professor Paul Fiddes

Dr Larry Kreitzer
2. Oxford’s First Quaker Meeting Place: the Home of the Surgeon Richard Bettes (c. 1606-1682), Oxoniiensia, 73, pp.59-97 + 3 Plates.
5. Alvin: If you have a book published in any subject please let us know, we would like to include this kind of news here too - thanks!

Dr Lynn Robson
2. New Farewell To The Lawe, Too Long Have I Been in Thy Subjection: Early Modern Murder, Calvinism and Female Spiritual Authority. Literature and Theology, 22, pp. 295-312

Dr Cathy Ross

During the year, Dr Tim Bradshaw published his book Pannenberg, a Guide for the Perplexed to great acclaim. Professor Lewis Ayres of Durham University wrote, ‘Tim Bradshaw offers us here the best introduction to Pannenberg available in English. Whether or not the reader is convinced, there is no doubt about the strength and clarity of the argument.’

Other Publications:
Dr Pamela Sue Anderson

The Revd Anthony Clarke

Dr Robert Ellis

Awarded the title of The Last London Man, Lynn Ashley passed away on the 19th January 2009. He was the last survivor of the group of students who began their study at Regent’s Park College in London, died on 19th January 2009. Revd Ashley, who during his ministry had pastored churches in Bugbrooke, Oxford and Eastleigh, sent his reminiscences about his time in London a few months before he died.

Alumni: If you have a book published in any subject please let us know, we would like to include this kind of news here too - thanks!
The Emmanuelle Society

Would you like to make an everlasting gift which will benefit every future generation of Regent’s students?

As you will know, books are a critical part of our life at Regent’s. When you make a gift of £400 to the College Library, we will buy one book in your chosen subject area every year, forever. Each book will have a name plate inside the front cover with your chosen inscription. If you’d prefer to dedicate your books to someone else we would be pleased to do that. A commemorative name plate will also be placed in the Emmanuelle Society Book.

If you would like to spread your donation of £400 over 20 months, that’s no problem, or you can give it in one lump sum. Whichever way you choose, you can make your donation at our secure website. Just follow Emmanuelle’s links.

www.giving.ox.ac.uk/regents

Alternatively you can send a cheque to the Development Manager at Regent’s. If you have any questions please contact the Development Manager, Tim Pottle at the address below.

Regent’s Park College
Pusey Street, Oxford
OX1 2LB

Have You Made Provision for Future Regent’s Students in Your Will?

Throughout the history of Regent’s Park College, gifts in wills have played an important part in our growth and success. This year is no exception. In 2008/09 Regent’s received £40,000 in legacy income thanks to a single bequest from the estate of a former ministerial student. These gifts are important for the future of Regent’s. We are extremely grateful to all Friends, Alumni and their spouses/partners who have included Regent’s in their will.

Such gifts are often of a magnitude that are simply unaffordable during one’s lifetime.

A legacy gift creates a profound and lasting impact. Such gifts are often of a magnitude that are simply unaffordable during one’s lifetime.

Please consider making provision for future generations of Regent’s Students.

If you would like further information about including