

Why I am Leaving a Legacy to Regent's

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Personal Assistant to the Principal



In the summer of 1988 I applied for the position of Personal Assistant to the Principal (then Dr Barrie White) and was appointed. Barely three weeks into my new job, in November, Dr White announced that he would be standing down as Principal in the summer of 1989 and generously let me know ahead of the public announcement, in case I might decide that I'd prefer to look for another job; I said that I would stay and see what happened. Here I am, 27 years later, working with my third Principal, and still enjoying life at Regent's. *Having given 27 years of my working life to the College, why would I want to leave it a legacy?*

Regent's is much more than a job to me; it is a community of friends and family. I have made friends with staff, students, and overseas visitors, past and present, keeping in touch with them on a personal as well as work level. I have visited alumni overseas for holidays, and I have even made bridesmaids' dresses for an alumna's wedding, both bridesmaids also being alumnae of the College! In the early 1990s there were quite a few ministerial families in College, one or two of whom I met with socially, and I held the new-born twins of one such couple when they

were about ten days old. 18 years later I welcomed one of those twins to College as a student, who often came to my office just to have a chat or ask advice, or even to ask for a hug!

It is in individual members of the community that I see the real impact of the College and the importance of its work, providing an environment in which people can explore education at various levels whilst also learning more about themselves. It is easy to see how this applies to most undergraduates coming to college at 18 or 19, usually straight from the parental home, or perhaps after a gap year. They come to receive tertiary level education but they are also experiencing the transition from teenager to adult, and the College can provide the support needed in this time of change, particularly for those who find it a more complicated and challenging process. It is harder to see how it might apply to older postgraduates or visiting researchers, but it does. The College is a friendly, welcoming community in which most people feel at home very quickly and able to explore new ideas, sometimes with a freedom which their own home situation might not encourage.

I want to see this College continuing to provide a friendly and welcoming place for education and research, in an atmosphere of academic freedom, whilst also offering a supportive and sensitive community in which all are able to grow and discover new things about themselves. This has certainly been my experience and, I hope, that of others too. It is a privilege to be part of this community and I am delighted that I will be able to carry on playing my part here in the future through my legacy.