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The First Gates Scholar's Orientation:
A Testimony

By Contributing Scholars

A greater feeling of cohesion and recognition among scholars pervaded the 2003-04 academic year, creating a much more cohesive and defined Gates Community. The enormous success of Orientation 2003 was largely responsible for this, as the three day programme held in the Lake District enabled incoming scholars to not only get to know one another, but to also interact with a handful of returning scholars to whom they could turn to for advice about life in Cambridge.

Hoping to build on last year's success, this year the Gates Scholars Council is once again organising a three day orientation programme for incoming scholars. Thanks to the generosity of the Gates Cambridge Trust, significant improvements have been made over last year's event, including a new location in the beautiful Kent County in South eastern England and the addition of 40 spots for current scholars to join in the fun.

As per last year, throughout the three day orientation scholars will have an opportunity to participate in a host of team activities, including wall climbing, abseiling, riflery, archery, orienteering and a timed obstacle course. More social activities will include a BBQ and bonfire, a night cruise along the Thames in London and an afternoon trip to view the historic White Cliffs of Dover on the last day.

In an effort to keep the momentum of orientation going, a host of activities will be planned during the months of October and November. Some of the exciting highlights of the first term will include a talk by the Honourable Michael Portillo at the inaugural Gates Speaker/Dinner series in late October.

As the comments from those who attended Orientation 2003 show, it was a huge success that has begun the process of building a truly unique Gates Community. Hopefully, 2004 will be even more successful!

Jennifer Gibson, scholar since 2001



I can honestly claim that among the social spheres I have developed while at Cambridge, my fellow scholars comprise perhaps the most tightly knit one, something directly attributable to those who organized the orientation. It is a very pleasant thought to consider a large number of Gates Scholars coming together for the first time for their first weekend in a new place—it evokes the warm fuzzy feelings reminiscent of puppy dogs, Cat Stevens songs, and pretty much everything '60's—but it is a decidedly more difficult to pull off. However, our peers succeeding in creating a memorable and positive experience that at least every Gates Scholar I know personally (and more than likely the rest who attended), truly enjoyed and will hopefully help contribute to in the future.

David Bard, Scholar since 2003

Bondage means so many things to so many people. But bondage to the incoming 2003 class of Gates will from here on forth be associated with the first ever Gates Orientation Extravaganza. The objective of the weekend was simple enough: when the scholars first get to England, ship them all off to a remote location where they have no choice but to familiarize themselves with each other. Spearheaded by Rob Perrons, the social engineer from the first Gates Council, and generously supported by the Trust, the orientation had the single goal of familiarizing the incoming scholars with each other before getting lost in the complexities of Cambridge life.

The new class were all loaded onto a bus and driven 6 hours north towards the Lake



Letter From the Editors

By **Andrew Robertson**
Emily Murphy

Dear Scholars and Alumni,

This year has seen many events that will hopefully become long-lasting traditions within the Gates community. The Gates Scholars Council has entered its second year of existence and, with it welcomed the first years with a hugely successful three-day orientation in the Lakes District. From there, the Council entered its second round of elections, bringing both old and new faces with a wealth of new ideas. New ideas such as the Gates Calendar, weekend trips to locations around England, our new football table, and the Gates Scholars Volleyball team have helped strengthen our community and keep us in touch with one another. Old initiatives are also still running strong, such as our Scholar's survey, our push for publicity, and our upkeep of the Scholars website www.gatesscholar.org. And in keeping with following older precedents, we present to you what we hope will become a long-lasting tradition amongst the Gates Community: the second Gates Alumni Newsletter.

As one of the new features of this newsletter, on this page you'll find a section we hope will grow greatly over

time, the Alumni Update section, listing bulletins from Scholars who have already stepped out into the world. As Alumni Co-Chairs, we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce some of our ideas for a Gates Alumni Association and invite your comments and contributions. As a first step, we are building a comprehensive database of all alums, and working to get this integrated with the website so that alumni may update their own information in an electronic format. Second, we are developing a set of long-term goals, such as regional and Cambridge reunions, international conferences, and a more active web-based community to network with each other and help shape the public and academic perception of what it means to be a Gates Scholar. All these ideas are steps towards the goal of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation set forth in creating these opportunities for us: to "build the network of future leaders from around the world who will bring new vision and commitment to improving the life circumstances of citizens in their respective countries...become leaders in helping to address global problems related to health, equity, technology, and learning." Since the Alumni Association will be made up of YOU, our alums and current scholars, we look forward to your feedback on these thoughts and your own ideas on what shape this community should take.

On behalf of the Gates Council, we hope you enjoy this issue of the Gates Scholars Newsletter. Please be sure to log on to the Gates Scholars website www.gatesscholar.org or contact any of the current alumni chairs (see back page).

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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Alumni Updates

Mohit Bhende: Following Cambridge, I relocated to Washington DC, where I have effectively been doing two jobs – investing in distressed asbestos related securities by day, and running Topic Magazine with David Haskell ('01) and other Cambridge students/alums by night. While I am really enjoying life in DC, I do miss Cambridge dearly, and hope to visit in the near future. I would love to hear from old friends and new – mohit.bhende@cantab.net

Dan Birdwhistell: After graduating with an M.Phil in 2002, Dan worked with the McKinsey & Co. Brussels Knowledge Center and then volunteered in Ethiopia. Since Summer 2003, Dan has been working in the educational toy business in Southern California as a Director of Product Development. He is in the process of launching with a few other Gates Scholars (Jeff Skopek, Wendi Adelson) a nonprofit organisation called The Dropstone Group <http://www.dropstone.org> and can be contacted at dan@dropstone.org

Dehn Gilmore is loving New York as a second year PhD student in the English department at Columbia.

Jo Guldi will be spending summer 2004 in DC on a Dumbarton Oaks Fellowship. Spring 2005 will find her in Yale and London working on her dissertation on the history of strategy.

Jennifer Jennings: I am currently a student in Columbia's Sociology PhD program, and actually am writing my masters thesis about the founding of 60 new "small schools" in New York that the Gates Foundation is funding.

Bonny Ling: After graduating from the M.Phil in Criminology last June, Bonny Ling is currently a Visiting

Scholar at the Centre of International Studies, working on a project that seeks to document the experiences of Chinese migrant workers in the King's Lynn area of England. The aim of the project is to propose ways in which statutory and other voluntary bodies can more effectively address the needs of migrant workers, who may be exploited for their labour as well as victims of hate crimes. Most recently, Bonny Ling worked as a Legal Consultant for the UN Good Offices Mission in Cyprus, which oversaw the negotiations for a comprehensive peace settlement for the island of Cyprus.

Jennifer Piscopo: Since completing my M.Phil (Latin American Studies) at Cambridge, I've spent the year working as a research assistant in the Political Science Department in Wellesley College in Boston, MA. I will begin my PhD in Political Science this fall at the University of California, San Diego.

Lane O.B. Schwartz: My wife Sarah and I are now living in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area in Minnesota, USA. I work for IBM in Rochester as a software tester. Sarah is community editor for the Brooklyn Center Sun Post newspaper.

Darragh Walsh: Since leaving Cambridge in 2002, I've been studying for PhD in General Relativity at University College Dublin.

Marissa Wagner: I just started an MD/PhD program at Harvard, and am enjoying the fact that Boston has finally thawed! I'm also trying, albeit not too successfully, to learn Spanish. Hope everyone else is doing well.

*Send us your news and login to the website!
Contact information on the back page.*

A Medical care and counselling project started in slums of Delhi

By Nandini Chatterjee

While doing fieldwork in U.P. and Delhi all of last year, I came to know about the admirable work being done by an organisation called the Delhi Brotherhood Society. This organisation grew out of the Cambridge Brotherhood Society, a mission of Anglican monks to Delhi in the late 19th century. Today the Brotherhood is all Indian and totally committed to social work. Over decades, they have developed close ties with the very poor slums in Old Delhi and Ghaziabad, and try to encourage people, especially young women, to learn income-generating skills, young men to keep off drugs and alcohol, and the street children to try out the night shelter as a safe place to have a dinner and sleep without fear of abuse. As I grew close to this group of amazing people, I thought, why not start a project under their wings? After all, it would be participant observation for me, as I am working on a history of the Christian presence in North India and came to know the Brotherhood through using their Library.

Being with the Brotherhood meant having in place the infrastructure of staff and working space, and also the vital links of trust with the people we wanted to help. These factors in place meant people were ready to accept help, which is not always the case with poor people, particularly those who have been badly treated for a long time. I proposed a medical camp, in which a doctor would dispense advice and some of the necessary medicines for free. A doctor friend of mine agreed to work for free on a weekend, and the response was overwhelming. Around 60 people came for advice in the course of 5 hours. Subsequently we (I got my poor husband to pitch in) made it a pattern: we paid a doctor (a gentle and sensitive man, experienced in treating people in slums) a small fee, for which there would be medical camps every Saturday at the school for vocational skills run by the

I might not have changed the world in any way, but I certainly changed myself.

Brotherhood. I was a sort of assistant cum chemist cum counsellor-for-shy-women all rolled into one. And on Wednesdays, we would visit the slums directly asking the people to take initiative and make arrangements for the doctor and his assistant to sit and advise and dispense the medicines. One day we invited a senior gynecologist (also a friend), to lead a 'women's special' camp, since we found that many women needed specialist attention but because of their low status in the already resource-poor families, there was no chance of their ever being able to consult a specialist in private practice. And, they simply distrusted the state hospitals, often for good reason. This camp was a great success as well, and a group of teenage girls teamed up to ask questions they hadn't had anyone to ask before. So we had a lively chat ranging from contraception to hygiene and finally, inevitably: philosophies of life.

All the money for the project has come from individuals' donations: I pestered just about anybody I could to sponsor at least one day's camp. We also got surprise donors from people who simply liked the concept. Of course, money remains the big crunch, as in all such grassroots level projects. The work is still continuing, though I have now left. The doctors, both those paid and unpaid, remain committed, and the project has taken shape and the Brotherhood is taking care of it. My husband, an overworked engineer, also keeps in constant touch with the project and tries to help whenever he can.

I might not have changed the world in any way, but I certainly changed myself. I learnt to drop my fancy theories and really get my hands dirty, and I learnt that respect for the person in front of you is an excellent principle, in social work and in everything else.

Nandini Chatterjee (India) is pursuing a PhD in History at St. Catharine's College. She can be reached for further discussion about the project at nc27@cam.ac.uk.



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District. Torturous as this was for some, it played into Rob's social-bus theory: "put strangers on a bus and drive them somewhere, and when they arrive where they're going they'll be strangers no more". And by the time we arrived in the Lake District the scholars had already begun making new friends.

This year, we're hoping for the same effect: familiarizing the scholars with each other before they get absorbed in the complexities of the Cambridge system. With continued support from the Trust, for which we are all extremely grateful, Rob's brainchild will carry on for many more years: welcoming scholars to Cambridge, and giving them all a slightly broader definition of the word 'bondage'.

Andrew Robertson, scholar since 2001

It's the perfect way to integrate with motivated people from all over the world, developing lifelong friendships, while realizing what a great opportunity you have to grow in your field and as a contributor to the Gates Scholar mission.

Nathan George, scholar since 2003

The boat trip around the lake and the visit to the pub afterwards cemented what was a great time had by all.

The chatter on the buses back to Cambridge (between well-deserved naps) was between scholars excitedly making plans and exchanging phone numbers. One thing was certain as we descended upon Cambridge for the first time as a group: the Gates Scholars of 2003 were a cohesive bunch that would be having fun, making connections, and learning from each other for their time at Cambridge.

Emily Murphy, scholar since 2003

Last year's Gates orientation in the Lake District was a great event. We had almost three days of fun activities including a really nice boat trip with live music, dancing and impromptu performances by talents from amongst ourselves followed by more dancing in a local club. Although I was not a new scholar and knew some of the people already, competing and teaming up with them for things like orienteering, etc. was a great way of getting to know them more, as well as making lots of new friends and just having a genuinely good time. You don't want to miss out on the orientation. What better excuse do you have for getting out of Cambridge and just relaxing and socializing... or doing an obstacle course, other than your PhD!

Linnet Frey, scholar since 2001

An interview with Vice-Chancellor Alison Richard

By Emily Murphy
Andrew Robertson

Recently, the Gates Council Alumni Co-chairs had the opportunity to interview Cambridge's new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alison Richard, who was inaugurated as the 344th Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge on 1 October 2003. We asked her questions about her role as Vice-Chancellor, her experiences at Cambridge and Yale, the graduate programs at Cambridge, overseas students' role in the University, and the Gates Cambridge Trust scheme in particular. As the fledgling Gates Scholars community tries to envision and shape a role for ourselves in addressing global issues over the next several decades, we were pleased to gain insight into how these issues are thought about as Cambridge continues to look ahead in its role as an international university.

Vice-Chancellor Richard received us in her office with great enthusiasm, and for most of the conversation we were completely absorbed by her confident, wise, open and friendly manner. From the outset, she strongly emphasised how she views her position in the University, officially defined as 'the principal academic and administrative officer of the University.' At a place like Cambridge, some might call that title daunting, to say the least. But, in her own words: "It is not my job as Vice-Chancellor to answer all questions, but to be sure the right questions are being posed and thought about in a serious and constructive way." Indeed, she posed as many questions to us as we did to her, all emphasising the issues facing Cambridge in the coming years and challenging everyone at the University to build strong and creative solutions. So, how does a great university stay great and get greater? "My own view of this is that great universities are responsive and light on their feet and see societal changes on the horizon and start to shape them." Furthermore, she emphasised that "despite the extraordinary history and tradition of Cambridge, it isn't backward looking – we are constantly innovating and building to the future."

Cambridge as an inclusive and international university

With growing numbers of overseas students matriculating at Cambridge, the global impact of research and teaching done here, and the increasingly international nature of similar elite institutions of higher education, how does the University view its identity in this globalised environment? Vice-Chancellor Richard emphasised a few points. First, Cambridge is one of a "handful of truly great universities in the world that share a similar focus: a monumental ambition to attract the best and brightest students and attract and keep the best scholars across the spectrum of all fields of knowledge." She emphasised Cambridge's commitment to access for outstanding students. She singled out for praise the Gates Scholarship Program as key in helping the University say, "Let the most talented young leaders come from all over the world and we will support them." Finally, given Cambridge's rich and deep history as a British university with firm roots in many old traditions, she thoughtfully questions how to meld this identity with the international face of higher education: "How does a national

university become a global university? Do we want a student body that is 90% overseas? What do we think about that? We need to be thinking about it in a thoughtful and strategic way: does one try to remain a British university with a global impact or an international university?"

Graduate students in Cambridge

It was clear that one of the Vice-Chancellor's favourite things about Cambridge is the collegiate system, as she fondly spoke of her own experiences as an undergraduate at Newnham College and praised the unique nature of the combined residential and academic communities. "What distinguishes Cambridge is the collegiate system; it embeds humanly scaled communities in a larger university," she praised, and continued about how "the college system prevents fragmentation along disciplinary boundaries and the progressive atomisation of knowledge." We asked (somewhat selfishly motivated) about the role of graduate students in the University, as graduate student education is primarily the responsibility of the student's department. Vice-Chancellor Richard emphasised the contributions that graduate students make to all fields of scholarship, research, and teaching, but acknowledged "it is harder for grad

students to have a strong identity in the University setting because student life in the colleges tends to be focused on undergraduates. Many colleges do embrace graduate students into their communities but could we be doing better?" It is a question for all of us, and refreshing to know that there is a dynamic sense to her view of the University and all of the communities embedded in it.

Gates Cambridge Scholars

The Gates Cambridge Trust brought the first group of scholars to Cambridge in October 2001. Considering the two and a half years the program has been in place compared to the nearly 800 years the University has been around, we were wondering how Vice-Chancellor Richard views the program and its potential to change the face of the University and its alumni community by bringing around 240 overseas scholars into residence at any one time. Vice-Chancellor Richard had the highest praise for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Gates Cambridge Trust that have made the program possible: "The Gates Scholars Program is an extraordinary act of philanthropy and an extraordinary visionary act – imagining what this global community would look like. It is wonderful for the University." For all of us from outside of Cambridge, it is hard to picture how the rest of the University, let alone the rest of the world may view our community. What does it mean to be a "Gates Scholar"? Vice-Chancellor Richard succinctly observed: "Gates Scholars do have an identity which is not exclusive but affirmative." As we begin to shape our community identity all over the world, her encouraging words stuck with us as we gathered our thoughts at the close of the interview: "My sense is that you are a proud community and I would hope that you will carry your identity as a Gates Scholar with you when you leave Cambridge."

Let the most talented young leaders come from all over the world and we will support them.

Emily Murphy (Connecticut, USA) is pursuing a PhD in neuropsychopharmacology at Trinity College. Andrew Robertson (California, USA) is pursuing a PhD in genetics at Magdalene College.



By Pal Hansen

Patrons Corner

In 1965, towards the end of my final year as an undergraduate at Clare College, my tutor asked me the distinctly rhetorical question, as to whether I would like to 'go west young man.' Two years later I returned from Yale with an MA in Art History and an American wife to settle down to a career in Cambridge. That ended abruptly, fourteen years later, when Yale asked me to go back, this time as the Director of its new Centre for British Art. As a result, in the summer of 1981 we left for America with our two small children to settle there permanently. Or so we thought; much to my surprise, in 1995 Cambridge beckoned for the

return of this prodigal son and we retraced our steps once again.

So what have I learned from the experience of transatlantic shuttle? First and foremost, the value of international exchange in higher education and the importance of collaborations between the leading universities in a world which is increasingly in need of both learning and understanding. After that, the benefits of serendipity, having enjoyed a career led by opportunity rather than by design; and finally, the great joy as well as the occasional frustration of having family and friends scattered around the world.

As the beneficiary of the kind of opportunity Gates Scholarships provide to large numbers of students

from a great many countries, my enthusiasm for the scheme is natural enough. But to take a less personal view, I am impressed by the success of our Gates Scholars, individually and collectively, to date. By your efforts, you have already demonstrated the tremendous value which Gates Scholarships have added to the intellectual and social life of Cambridge, to both the University and the Colleges. It is a privilege, as well as a pleasure, to be associated with the program.

*Duncan Robinson
Magdalene College*



BIOGRAPHY

New Hall's Youngest Member

By Liliya Bakiyeva

October 2001: "Congratulations, you are going to have a baby!" This phrase is not what one expects to hear from your GP three weeks into your PhD in Cambridge. A big question mark appeared suddenly on the exciting new life in the internationally renowned university; how can one combine early motherhood and a research degree, all alone in a new country?

June 2002: Thirty-six hours after submitting my first year report to the examiners, we meet our newborn son in Rosie Maternity Delivery Unit.

February 2004: When I finally have a minute to spare, I sit back and think about the last two years. Things that seemed impossible have become reality. Since I arrived in Cambridge in September 2001, I married, had a child, had a successful first year viva and passed a series of tests and hurdles to have my medical qualification recognised in the UK. I also continued full-time work on my research project, started the Gates Science Club, and have been serving as MCR President of New Hall. How could I have done all this? The answer is: I did not, we did. My family, my friends, and my College - I could not have possibly done half of what I have without their support.

I am very fortunate to have come to in Cambridge. For me, Cambridge will always be associated not only with academic excellence, but also pastoral support, which would have not been possible without the collegiate system. Coming here, I was not aware of any significance attached to the system, so I was not very picky choosing the College. Having gossiped over the colleges' profiles in the Graduate Booklet, I chose one of the largest, oldest and most wealthy Colleges. New Hall was my second choice, mostly due to my supervisor's suggestion. Being a tomboy from my early years and training in a male dominated specialty, I was less than inclined to join an exclusively young ladies' institution. Even the moving words of "friendly and supportive community" did not touch my heart; I was used to dealing with life on my own, being frequently put in "sink or swim" situations. I felt a bit resentful at my assignment but put up with the idea.

Mere tolerance changed at once. All of sudden, being a member of a women-only college turned from a drawback into an advantage. Or, perhaps my outlook changed and enabled me to see how supportive my fellow students are about becoming a mother, and how genuinely friendly the College staff is: everyone seems to be interested in 'the youngest member of New Hall' (who, shamelessly, turned out to be a boy). We received a lot of practical support from College at the time of the most need. I started seeing advantages in studying in a 'young ladies' institution'.

So, is there a place for single-sex educational establishments in contemporary Western society? Today, I would wholeheartedly say yes. And not just for women who cannot study in a mixed environment for cultural or religious reasons. Being a member of a women-only College can really be as much (and more!) fun as studying in a mixed College. The same academic standards apply to all students in Cambridge, whichever College you are in, so you do not lose anything in the way of intellectually stimulating academic environment. In fact, you can gain a lot: I cherish the memories of long relaxed hours (and days sometimes!) spent in our hostel kitchen with a cup of tea talking to my housemates about all sorts of things: from orthopaedic surgery to French/English intelligence services between WWI and WWII. These kitchen-based academic pursuits were one of the best things that I will remember Cambridge for. Another advantage is the small graduate community, where you have a chance to get to know everyone quite well, and after the first term you are

almost guaranteed to be friends with the person next to you at Formal Hall. Being a small College (and most single-sex colleges are), New Hall still boasts Fellows that are internationally renowned in their field of research. As Graduates are always welcome at the High Table, there are plenty of opportunities to have exciting academic discussions in a non-intimidating atmosphere of Formal Halls or after-dinner cup of coffee. For those who prefer a more formal setting, there are termly Graduate Seminars, at which both Grads and Fellows present their work to their peers.

Liliya Bakiyeva (Kazakhstan) already holds an MD from Kazakhstan and is pursuing a PhD in Orthopaedic Surgery at New Hall.

There is only one thing women's colleges seem to be short on in Cambridge: Gates Scholars. I wish there were more of us in here...

Fellowship at Cambridge

By Andrew Robertson

As a Californian coming to Cambridge, it was difficult at first to come to grips with the phrase "Please Keep off the Grass." Walking through the Cambridge colleges and seeing those evil signs next to the large fields of pristinely kept green was, to me, akin to showing a young child the toy of his dreams only to telling him he couldn't touch it. The right to walk on the grass was reserved exclusively for Fellows of the College, and to me, it didn't seem fair.

So two years later, when I received the invitation to apply for a Bye-Fellowship at Magdalene College, I thought I'd give it a shot. I knew the competition for these awards was fierce, since they granted the winner the privileges associated with Magdalene Fellowship. In addition, rumours were circulating about other factors that would count against me – the Fellows preferred electing women to distance themselves from their conservative reputation, or the awards were expected to go to art history majors since the new Master also headed up the Fitzwilliam Museum. However, I still applied by submitting a description of my work and a letter of recommendation, and was subsequently short listed for an interview and presentation. If this all sounds pretty standard, then I suggest you try to explain the importance of conducting a biochemical study of the Toll mediated anti-fungal immune response of *Drosophila Melanogaster* to a panel consisting primarily of lawyers and art historians within seven minutes and using only two overhead slides... I was freaking out.

I was invited into the Graduate Tutor's office in the afternoon following the interview. After what I felt was a frantic performance during my presentation, I expected a sentence along the lines of "thanks, but unfortunately..." However, with a handshake and a word of "Congratulations" from the Graduate Tutor, I emerged his office as an elated, but incredibly stunned, fellow-elect of Magdalene College.

My induction into the Bye-Fellowship was gradual. First I was asked to choose which room in college I wanted for next year... I ended up with a room overlooking the Fellows Garden with the Cam beyond that. I was invited into the President's office, where he described what was expected of me... he paid particular attention to

the how I was to pour Port after dinner (a meniscus over the top of the glass is the desired result). I began receiving invitations to drinks receptions at the Master's lodge, or concert recitals at venues around Cambridge and London, or talks given by other Cambridge Fellows or guest lecturers. However, the final touch was the Fellow's induction held in early October.

The day began with a steak lunch, which almost all of the fellows attended. Following this, we proceeded to the chapel, where the current fellows filed in according to seniority. The Fellows who were to be inducted, which included myself as well as about five others who were awarded full fellowships, waited outside until we were called up by name. We recited an oath accepting the Fellowship and lifelong membership to the college "with clear heart and mind." The last step was the signing of the Fellows book, a book containing the signatures of all the fellows of Magdalene College.

It was this last step, the book signing, that caught me. This same book was signed by all the Fellows in the room, some of them members of the college for more than half a century. Earlier in the book were the signatures of C.S. Lewis, Samuel Pepys, and Nelson Mandela. The significance of that tradition, in addition to other Fellows traditions such as High Table, the saying of grace in hall, or walking on the grass, suddenly made much more sense. It is a brotherhood of sorts... something that we all share exclusively, and although it was this exclusivity that I found grossly unfair a few years previous, it made the fellowship all the more appreciated and valuable.

Since then, I've tried to take advantage of my last year at Cambridge. The Fellows welcomed me in to high table and other functions, and I've enjoyed every minute of it. This year, Julia Forman, another Gates Scholar, has been elected to the Bye-Fellowship and will take my place. I hope she enjoys it as much as I did. And I hope that she'll walk on the grass every chance she gets.

I emerged his office as an elated, but incredibly stunned, fellow-elect of Magdalene College.



Chapattis and a Communion of Saints: A Story from Kenya

By Scott Lee

At midday in rural Kenya, the equatorial sun is scorching. I, for one, am starved.

A group of local schoolchildren and I have travelled to a health clinic as part of a community service field trip. We have spent the morning mopping floors, washing windows, laundering linens and clearing the clinic's grassy compound. In a few minutes, we will put away our tools and commence the much-anticipated second half of our day's agenda: an afternoon of learning about primary health care, courtesy of the clinic's nurses themselves. For many of the students, the day marks their first visit to a medical facility, and thus anticipation runs high.

But first, we rest. The children sit in a circle on the grass, and I lean on a nearby tree. In front of the clinic, a lady is perched on a stool, trying her best to eke out a living by selling bananas, porridge, and chapattis (an Indian flatbread) to patients and visitors. If only the children were not around, I think to myself, I could buy the whole stack of chapattis and devour them on the spot.

As I sulk in my hunger, Benson, one of the quieter children, rises and approaches the lady. He buys a chapatti from her for ten shillings (about eight pence). I expect him to eat it immediately, as I certainly would. Instead, Benson returns to the group, tears off a small piece of the bread, and, without saying a word, gives the remaining portion to another child. He in turn tears off a small piece and, also in silence, passes it on. This continues, and seven children later, one piece remains. The last child receives this piece,

but unlike the others, she does not eat it. Instead, she pauses for a moment, apparently conflicted. Then, she gets up, approaches me and offers the piece to me. Taken aback, I politely decline and insist that she eat it.

In the end, each child has consumed what is barely a bite-size piece of bread—probably more effective in whetting than satisfying their appetites. I am amazed, not so much that they share the food among themselves, but that they share it so naturally, so effortlessly. It is as if they are repeating the act of sharing the piece of bread for the hundredth time—maybe, in fact, they are.

There is no complaint that one person has gotten more than the other, no discussion, no dispute. There is no "Thank you, Benson" and no "You're welcome." As far as they are concerned, Benson has done nothing noble or generous. He has only done what is decent.

Yet, Benson has made a real sacrifice. These children are orphans, with only neighbours and relatives to look after them. Given their difficult circumstances, the children take breakfast very rarely; I am almost certain that none has taken it this morning. Benson could use his ten shillings to buy the chapatti for himself, but he doesn't. What little he has, he shares. And, what little they have among themselves, they share with me—an extravagantly wealthy person who very rarely misses breakfast and inwardly complains when he does.

Hungry children sharing their daily bread—there is a certain sanctity about the event, this mundane epiphany, this holiest of communions. At first I stare—feeling that I have caught a momentary glimpse of heaven. But in the presence of one's superiors, it is best to divert one's eyes in due reverence. So I bow my head, in shame.

Scott Lee (Texas, USA) is pursuing an M.Phil in Environment and Development. He has volunteered in the same village in Kenya on three separate occasions, his most recent trip taking place this past Christmas vacation. More information about the village can be found at www.ugunja.org.

Into the Ring

By Meredith Price

It quite possibly ranks as the most surreal six minutes of my life. There I was, standing in the centre of an arena packed with 1200 people, all in military dress uniform. It had only been a few hours drive that morning to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst in London, but it seemed like a different world. A military band was playing songs from the balcony. I had entered the arena behind a man in full Scottish regalia playing the bagpipes with a spotlight on me, passing the Colonels and Generals sitting in the first row in large red armchairs. And then I climbed into the ring.

All eyes were on me and my opponent, Officer Cadet Pitchers, in the red corner. We were the fourth bout on an evening filled up with 10 different amateur boxing matches between members of the Academy and other boxers from all over the UK. We were competing in one of 3 Welterweight bouts. Like all of the other boxers that evening, we had trained for months. We had monitored our diets, run for miles on rainy mornings before most of the world was awake, and punched punching bags until our knuckles bled. We were just like all the other boxers that night, except for one difference that I'm sure did not escape the notice of anyone in that arena. We were women.

In the end I won my bout. As only the second woman to ever box for the University of Cambridge, and one of only a handful of women to be allowed to box for a University in



the UK, I had won a huge personal victory as well. Reactions to my participation were mixed at best. I've heard everything from 'but what if you mess up that pretty face' and 'girls shouldn't box' to 'wow, that's really cool.' For me, it was a personal journey, and the deep bonds of respect I formed with my team-mates, training partners, and coaches constitute some of the best friendships and memories I have of my years at Cambridge. The truth is, although I (and most of my friends) can see that I'm equally comfortable in cocktail dresses and high heels as I am in boxing boots and gloves, it's not an easy concept for some people. I think that the common factor is my love of a challenge. This year, I was training for the British Amateur Boxing Championships, but scheduling conflicts prohibited my involvement. So right now I'm enjoying my time out of the ring. But who knows, there's always next year!

Meredith Price (Maryland, USA) is pursuing a PhD in the History and Philosophy of Science.

Life as a Cambridge Captain (and Gates Scholar, of course)

By Andrew Ashcroft

Being amongst the first group of Gates Scholars in 2001 was the greatest thrill of my academic career, allowing me to stay on as a PhD student at a world-class institution. While it was obvious upon my arrival that studying at such a well-respected University would provide me with many academic opportunities, I had no idea that something non-academic would define my time as a member of the University.

As a member and Captain of the Cambridge University Ice Hockey Club (CUIHC), I have taken part in one of the most storied rivalries in existence. Most people are shocked to hear that Cambridge and Oxford have been playing ice hockey against each other for more than 100 years. With the first encounter in 1885, the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, Canada, recognises the Cambridge-Oxford Varsity Match (VM) as the longest running ice hockey challenge match in history. The rivalry is honoured with an exhibit containing memories from the 85 matches that have been played over the years. Most recently, the HHOF was pleased to add one of the oldest trophies in the world to the exhibit after the 1910 Varsity Match was returned to the team in the summer of 2002 after being misplaced during the First World War. Thanks to a grant from Wolfson College, I travelled to Toronto last summer to take part in a wonderful ceremony that brought together more than 70 years of alumni from both Cambridge and Oxford. Having caught the interest of the Canadian National media, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation filmed the entire event and recently spent a week in the UK filming a documentary on the rivalry entitled "Hockey Night in England".

What is it about the Cambridge vs. Oxford rivalry that is so special? With the history between the two schools, it is not difficult to comprehend how even the friendliest of events can evolve into a grudge match. I must admit however, that I did not fully understand the rivalry until



I participated in my first Varsity Match in 2001. The noise in the arena was deafening, but what is expected from a sold-out crowd of screaming students? With the closest ice rink more than an hour away, something certainly entices a group of dedicated students to spend the twilight hours travelling to and from games and practices or rising at the crack of dawn to perform sprints on Parker's Piece. Perhaps it is the annual weeklong Swiss training camp when the team returns to the site of the original Varsity Matches, or all the good times along the way. One thing for certain, it is the rivalry that fuels the burning desire to succeed. Four years on, I've had the wonderful opportunity to face Oxford



4 times, the last 3 as Cambridge Captain. Following victories in 2001 and 2002, defeat in 2003 was like no other feeling I had ever experienced. Some say that it is unfortunate that the success of a season rests on the outcome of a single game; then again, it is only unfortunate when you lose. Cambridge's 5-1 victory in the 2004 VM, my final match in a Cambridge jersey, was icing on the cake. It certainly put my four years as a student athlete

into perspective – 3 Varsity Match victories, 2 Cambridge Varsity Match Man of the Match awards, 1 Game MVP, and enough friends and memories to last a lifetime.

One of the perks of being part of something so special is that it provides opportunities to give back to the game. Every fortnight, a group of Cambridge players travel to the Alexandra Palace Ice Rink in London to participate as instructors with the UK Ice Cats. The London based charity, thanks in part to a grant from the University of Cambridge and the dedication of Cambridge Ice Hockey players, is working to provide girls and boys from low-income neighbourhoods in London with the opportunity to learn how to play ice hockey in a fun and encouraging environment. In addition to providing access to the sport, the Ice Cats aim to encourage the development of character, self-esteem, and confidence. The Ice Cats recently participated in their first organised scrimmage in between periods at the 2004 Men's and Women's Varsity Matches in Oxford. In its first year, the tradition has a long way to go before it compares to the main match. However, due to the smiles on peoples' faces, there is no doubt in my mind that this partnership will continue for years to come.

If I have learned but one thing as a member of the CUIHC – where there is ice, there is a way.

Andrew Ashcroft (Ontario, Canada) is pursuing a PhD in Engineering at Wolfson College.

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