



# The Gates Scholar

Volume 4 Issue 1 Winter 2006



## IN THE WINTER ISSUE



### UNDER WAY

- 4 Bienvenidos a Miami
- 5 Who Heard my Voice?
- 6 A Great Hello from Africa: Cambridge and a life beyond
- 7 Recording Reconstruction: Helping rebuild Iraq
- 8 Supporting India from Cambridge: Development in the Sunderbans



### FIVE O'CLOCK OFF

- 9 Arts in Society
- 10 The X-Factor: Welcoming the Graduate Women's Network
- 10 The Amazing Duck Race
- 11 Memorable Summer
- 12 A Peak Performance: Tales from this year's orientation retreat
- 13 Night to Remember: Dining and dancing on the Thames



### ALUMNI NOTES

- 14 World Wide Web
- 14 Class Notes
- 15 Alumni Reach Out to New Scholars
- 15 Guests of the Ambassador



*The Gates Scholar* is the publication of the Gates Cambridge Scholars' Society. Articles and photographs may be submitted on any topic relevant to the Gates community. In keeping with the Society's goal of representing current Scholars and Alumni from around the world, individual issues of the Magazine usually include articles on a variety of subjects from a number of authors.

Articles that offer a window into the lives and work of current or past Gates Scholars or articles that tackle large interpretive questions relevant to the Gates mission are particularly encouraged. Highly focused contributions are welcome, but preference will be given to submissions that are of interest to a diverse cross-section of readership in more than one discipline of study. Finally, because there is limited space in any one edition of the Newsletter, contributors should understand that any article submitted for publication may be subject to editorial approval and/or truncation.

Submissions to the next issue should be emailed to [newsletter@gatesscholar.org](mailto:newsletter@gatesscholar.org) no later than February 28, 2007.

## The Gates Scholar Contributors

Wendi Adelson '02, MPhil  
in International Relations  
Tristan Brown '06, MPhil candidate  
in Environmental Policy  
Daniel DiCenso '05, PhD candidate in Music  
K Franko '03, PhD candidate in Physiology  
Christopher Kirchhoff '01, PhD candidate in Social  
and Political Sciences  
Michael Motto '04, PhD candidate in Criminology  
Enocent Msindo '01, PhD in African History  
Mahnaz Rezaeian '03, PhD candidate in Geology  
Robert Clay Rivers '03, PhD candidate  
in Chemistry  
Sovan Sarkar '02, PhD in Medical Genetics  
Uta Staiger '05, PhD candidate  
in European Culture  
Krishnan Subrahmanian '06,  
MPhil candidate in Education

### Editors

Daniel DiCenso '05, PhD candidate in Music  
Sarah van Mastrigt '04, PhD candidate  
in Criminology  
Jennifer Gibson '01, PhD candidate  
in International Studies

### Current Scholars' Section

Rebecca Johnston '05, PhD candidate in  
Astrophysics  
Izabela Kisilowska '05, PhD candidate in Politics  
Rose Spear, '06, CPGS candidate  
in Natural Science  
Dirk-Hinrich Haar '05, PhD candidate  
in Criminology  
Arijeet Pal '05, BAaff candidate in Natural  
Sciences

### Alumni Section

Alex Bremner '01, PhD in History of  
Architecture  
Andrew Robertson '01, PhD in Molecular  
Biochemistry

*The Gates Scholar is printed  
by Cambridge Printing, the printing business  
of Cambridge University Press.*

# Welcome again

## Gates Scholars' Society

### Cambridge Council Officers 2005-2006

#### Chair

Michael Motto '04, PhD candidate in Criminology

#### Secretary

Rita Monson '04, PhD candidate in Biochemistry

#### Treasurer

Steven Kreeger '04, PhD candidate in International Studies

#### Internal Officers

Rebecca Jones '05, MPhil in Psychiatry

Izabela Kisilowska '05, PhD candidate in Politics

#### External Officers

Gian Paolo Procopio '03, PhD candidate in Theoretical Physics

Erin Snider '05, PhD candidate in Politics

#### Social Officers

Kamiar Mohaddes '05, PhD candidate in Economics

#### Technology Officer

James Park '05, MPhil candidate in Computational Biology

Towfique Raj '05, PhD candidate in Genetics

#### Alumni Officers

Daniel DiCenso '05, PhD candidate in Music

Sarah van Mastrigt '04, PhD candidate in Criminology

### Alumni Association Officers 2005-2006

Jennifer Gibson '01, PhD candidate in International Studies

Alex Bremner '01, PhD in History of Architecture

Hilary Levey '02, MPhil in Modern Society and Global Transformations

Andrew Robertson '01, PhD in Molecular Biochemistry

The Gates Scholars' Society includes all current and past holders of a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Its membership is represented by two bodies: the Gates Scholars' Council and the Gates Scholars' Alumni Association.

The Gates Scholars' Council is a governing body of scholars elected by their peers. A conduit among the Cambridge community of scholars, the Gates Scholars' Alumni Association and the Gates Cambridge Trust, the Council is well placed to represent the interests and needs of all Gates Scholars studying in Cambridge.

The Gates Scholars' Alumni Association (GSAA) was created in 2005 to represent the needs of over 400 Gates Scholars who have left Cambridge. Through regional events, newsletters and social gatherings, it strives to maintain communication between former scholars and the Trust while creating a worldwide network of former Gates Scholars.



It is always a great thrill to meet new students. At the beginning of the sixth year of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, I am particularly pleased to welcome new Scholars to Cambridge.

A distinctive feature of the Gates programme is the contribution Scholars themselves make in determining the social schedule and developing a Gates esprit de corps. This is not easy to get right in a University where the pressures of work are so necessary and so great, and where there are competing claims on social loyalties. Moreover, we have not wanted the Gates community to be perceived as an exclusive and inward-looking group within the wider graduate-population in Cambridge. It is greatly to the credit

of successive generations of Gates Scholars that we are striking the right balance and developing a healthy sense of Gates identity compatible with the broader Cambridge ethos.

We have come a long way in five years: the Gates Scholars' Society has proved an effective way of supporting the Gates community. The idea of having an orientation trip for new Scholars has steadily been refined every year since it was promoted for the 2003 intake. The Distinguished Lecture Series has proved particularly successful and drawn good audiences from across Cambridge. The more informal colloquia where Scholars present their work have been of great interest in showing the range and originality of research pursued in Cambridge, and they help develop the skill of presenting exciting specialist scholarship to a lay audience. This Newsletter is also a Scholars' initiative, and while each group of editors has had a different take on things and nearly always pressed for changes in style and design (aka 'improvement'), it is now hard to think of a time when it did not exist.

All this activity in Cambridge has laid good foundations for the creation of our alumni network. More than 400 Scholars have now left Cambridge and it is a formidable task to keep track of where everyone is and what they are doing. A crucial part of the Trust's strategy to stay in touch has been through the website. Again, individual Scholars have taken a great interest in its design and have tested its capabilities in various ways. Technology is fast moving, and what is cutting edge one day, can become outmoded the next. The original architecture of the website is very good, and on this foundation we are doing some fairly major re-building. A new, and we hope even more interactive and user-friendly, website will go live early in the new year. We hope that our alumni in particular will use it. We have the framework for an Alumni Association, and already we are holding small social gatherings for Scholars around the globe. The University is also organising larger scale alumni events, and it is always a pleasure to meet Gates Scholars on such occasions. So far, there have been gatherings of this sort in San Francisco, New York, Boston, and Hong Kong. I expect to be with the Vice Chancellor in Australia next spring, and it will be good to see Gates alumni now in the Antipodes on those occasions.

I enjoy working for the Gates Cambridge Trust and the opportunity it gives me to meet so many interesting and lively young Scholars. I am lucky in my colleagues in the University and the colleges who are so supportive of the Trust's programme. In the office, we are fortunate to have James Smith managing our affairs day to day. James and I look forward to meeting more of you, and of getting to know you while you are in Cambridge.

Dr Gordon Johnson  
Provost, Gates Cambridge Trust

# Bienvenidos a Miami

*After finishing my MPhil in International Relations, I chose to take the path well traveled: law school. For me, the path has led here to Miami, where I work at the challenging frontier between child advocacy and immigration law.*

Following a Gates year spent researching British migration policy in Uganda, my plan was to continue working in the field of human migration by becoming an advocate for immigrants and refugees. I chose to attend the University of Miami School of Law, both for its



proximity to my family in South Florida, and for its centrality in the world of immigration. Throughout law school I had opportunities to represent an Iraqi Shi'a Imam in his quest to retain asylum, to help a young non-citizen find funding for college tuition, and to navigate the public health options available to recent immigrants afflicted with HIV.

## The dream job

After graduation and the dreaded bar, I began my dream job as a Staff Attorney at the Children

and Youth Law Clinic at Miami School of Law. Returning to my alma mater has been a bizarre experience: three months after graduation I morphed from student to faculty, prompting encouragement by other faculty, my former professors, to call them by their first names. After so many years in school, I had grown accustomed to the roles of mentee, student, and learner. Now, as staff attorney and clinical fellow, students turn in my direction for help and advice. Weird!

My work at the clinic combines several types of advocacy; namely, direct service, teaching and law reform. Primarily, I represent children in dependency proceedings with immigration issues. A child is considered "dependent" if he or she has been abused, abandoned or neglected by their parent, guardian or caretaker. A child "dependent" on the court could be eligible for a number of forms of legal assistance.

I focus on the areas where child advocacy and immigration dovetail. One such instance is the special immigrant juvenile visa, or J-Visa in immigration short-hand. Basically, a child who is deemed "dependent" on the court and who cannot return to his/her country of origin because of fear of abuse can receive a J-Visa, thereby eventually becoming a U.S. citizen. Consequently, the child will one day be eligible for work authorization and funding for college tuition.

When working with J-Visas, the main sticking points are the need to: 1) bring a petition for a J-Visa before a young person turns 18, because at that point they become ineligible, and 2) ensure the case for a J-Visa is sufficiently strong so as that a failed petition does not subject the child to deportation and a return to an unsafe environment in their home country.

## Holistic lawyering firsthand

I also help students bring immigration cases relevant to working with juveniles. We teach

through a model of holistic lawyering, treating not only the whole client, but searching for both legal and non-legal solutions to the multitude of different issues which arise in the lives of our impoverished clients. Recently, I was interviewing a client who brought along her aunt and her aunt's five year old son. The law student I was supervising learned all about holistic lawyering as we tried to interview our client alongside a chatty little boy and his beeping video game. Halfway through, the little guy declared his pressing need for the bathroom and my student offered to take him. Irrespective of the boy relieving himself in his pants on the way there, the student learned an important lesson in holistic lawyering: sometimes treating the whole client involves taking care of the client's family and their immediate needs. Even when it appears they are primarily seeking legal help, other needs can be equally, if not more, urgent.

In terms of law reform, our clinic is currently supporting a movement to end the indiscriminate shackling of juvenile offenders, regardless of their age, size, gender, pending charges, history of violence or risk of escape. In our view, the blanket policy of requiring juveniles to be wrist and ankle shackled immediately before and during their respective appearances in juvenile court is anti-therapeutic for juveniles, prejudicial to their obtaining a fair trial, and inconsistent with the rehabilitative aims of the juvenile justice system.

## Inspiring others to help

My job is the perfect marriage of advocacy and education and combines both domestic policy and the international forces that compel migration. I chose to write this update to share a little about the work the Clinic endeavors to do, and hopefully to inspire some of you to help out with children's issues in your own neck of the world. There is a great deal of work that still needs doing, and I feel proud to be part of a community of Gates Scholars that sees problems and takes time to envision solutions.

WENDI ADELSON

Class of '02, MPhil in International Relations

# Who heard my voice?

*The dynamical processes of mountains are as complex as they are majestic. In my work here in Cambridge as a Gates Scholar, I am inspired to find the secret simplicity within...*

On an otherwise boring evening, some 1000 days ago, I received two marvellous emails from my future supervisors:

*Dear Mahnaz, I have just this minute heard that you have been awarded a Gates Scholarship. Many congratulations! This is a real achievement and I am very excited for you.*

*Mahnaz - Congratulations! Your talents and efforts have been recognized and rewarded.*

Thus, it was with great excitement that I arrived in Cambridge a few months later to begin my PhD in Geology. With help from a group of pioneers in my field, in the Cambridge Department of Earth Sciences, University College London and Durham, I have spent the past three years examining interactions among climate, erosion, and tectonics in the Alborz Mountains, above my home in northern Iran.

## Moving mountains

Mountain ranges have long fascinated me, and the general appeal is clear: active mountain



belts have a slow dynamic, building gigantic and spectacular landscapes that have shaped human nature and inspired remarkable art and literature. Mountain processes affect society in many ways, both positive and negative. They give us special natural resources and habitats, but also cause damage and loss. The same processes that provide clean water sources and renewal of soils and surfaces can bring floods and earthquakes. The list of contrasts goes on and on. For these reasons, a growing number of researchers are looking at mountain building, treating the orogen as an integrated system in which tectonics, erosion and climate are the major three processes. This dynamic system is inherently complex, characterised by non-linear processes and multiple feedbacks. My challenge is to find the simplicity within.

Using many observational data sets and rock samples from Iran, I have begun quantifying patterns and rates of erosion of the entire Alborz mountain belt, dating far back in geological time. By examining microscopic fission tracks in rare minerals and using hydrometric measurements from forgotten data archives, we are gradually unravelling the history of mountain building, faulting, and erosion in this region. Understanding these mountain processes is crucial for accurate hazard forecasting, optimisation of natural resource access, and insights into how climate change will affect the Earth's surface environment over human timescales.

## Following my dream

My PhD is a first step on a long road to developing this understanding, a step made possible by the Gates Scholarship. But the Scholarship has done more: it has enriched my social life, shipped my rocks around the world, and allowed me to show my work at conferences. Above all, it has taught me: Persist, follow your dreams and work to make them come true. Somebody will hear your voice and listen. For me, it was the Gates Cambridge Trust.

**MAHNAZ REZAEIAN**  
Class of '03, PhD candidate in Geology

## Hangai Prize for Gates Scholar

R. Pandia Raj, Class of '04 and member of the Engineering Department's Structures Group, has won a prestigious Hangai Prize for his research on novel Tensegrity Structures. The prize, sponsored by the International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures (IASS), aims to recognize excellence and innovation among young researchers in the field. Raj will present his winning paper, "Using Symmetry for Tensegrity Form-Finding" at the upcoming IASS international conference in Beijing, China, where he will be awarded a Hangai prize medal. Congratulations!

## Gates Distinguished Lecture Series

Dr. Glen Rangwala, a Lecturer in Politics and a Fellow of Trinity College, delivered the inaugural lecture for the 2006-07 Gates Distinguished Lecture Series in the Old Combination Room at Trinity College on October 17th. Dr. Rangwala is the author of "Iraq in Fragments: the Occupation and its Legacy" and his lecture entitled "Iraqi Futures" examined developments that have occurred in Iraq since Coalition forces entered the country in 2003. As tensions continue to escalate in Iraq, the lecture provided insightful analysis about why conditions have eroded and highlighted possible paths for Iraq's political development in the years to come. Dr. Rangwala's lecture was well attended with Gates scholars and other members of the University community filling the OCR beyond capacity. The lecture was preceded by a wine and drinks reception and followed with a lively question and answer session with questions that addressed US foreign policy in the Middle East, sectarian division in Iraq, and the role of oil in the current conflict.

For Lent Term three lectures are planned. In January, Professor Stephen Hawking, CH, CBE, FRS, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics and Fellow of Gonville and Caius College will talk about the origins of the universe. In February, we will host Professor William Burgwinkle, Reader in Medieval French and Occitan Literature and Fellow of King's College. In March, we will be visited by Sir Christopher Hum, MA KCMG Master of Gonville and Caius College, former British Ambassador to Poland and China.

# A Great Hello from Africa

## Cambridge and a life beyond

*Some months ago I had a chance encounter with Alex Bremner ('01) here in South Africa. In his guise as a member of the GSAA executive committee, Alex asked me if I would like to relay a little about my thoughts and experiences of life both in Cambridge and Africa. I said I would be delighted.*

Since completing a PhD on African history in 2004, I have been a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of History at Rhodes University, South Africa – one of the leading, multi-cultural higher education institutions in the region. My work involves studying two ethnic groups in the politically active region of Matabeleland, Zimbabwe. I am currently working on a theory that considers ethnicity and nationalism as complimentary constructs of identity in African

and ultimate identity that should be striven for by African states.

This position, I believe, has naively mistaken ethnicity for tribalism, tainting it with connotations of parochialism and potential divisiveness. Such a perception, I argue, has not only misled scholars of African history but also policy makers in government. The city of Bulawayo is an example. As Zimbabwe's second largest city, Bulawayo's recent history has demonstrated that in the struggle to reconstruct the Zimbabwean nation, ethnicity and nationalism have played complimentary rather than opposing roles. It was considered possible to remain a leader, or member, of a particular ethnic group, while at the same time playing a role in nationalist party politics, membership of which was drawn from across a wide variety of ethnic groups. I believe a better understanding of how ethnicity and nationalism co-mingle in African politics will assist in formulating more sensitive government policy, particularly on the equitable distribution of resources in post-colonial African states. Thus, a more liberal and inclusive agenda for development may be set. My work on this subject will shortly appear in the *Journal of African History*, and may be extended into a monograph in the future. My other articles have appeared in the *International Journal of African Historical Studies* and the *Journal of Southern African Studies*.

### Arriving at the right time

The Gates Scholarship came at a good time for me. When I finished my degree in History and Philosophy, I thought I would have to take the rather long and arduous route of a post-graduate degree in Africa, where one usually ends up with a 'bossy' supervisor who takes delight in proving how little you know. I was and still am the only Zimbabwean to have benefited from a Gates Scholarship. Conscious of this during my three years at Cambridge, it made me feel somewhat far from home, especially in the early days. However, my supervisor offered

great encouragement, as did the kind-hearted Provost, and President of my college, Wolfson: Dr. Gordon Johnson. They both made me feel very much at home.

Like many other young academics, I was anxious about where I would end up at the conclusion of my degree. I was concerned mainly about my location as an intellectual, and whether or not I would have a rewarding career. Most universities these days are making it tough for young academics to get appointments, partly because they are producing too many graduates. But I had faith. My mission had always been to return to Africa, and to apply what I had learnt at Cambridge. I am now in my second year at Rhodes, and, although I miss the intellectual robustness of Cambridge at times, all is well. The university is small, but I have the opportunity to publish my work in leading academic journals, and to present my ideas in public forums.

### Remembering Cambridge fondly

My time at Cambridge was very rewarding and I have fond memories of the place. The chance to study at one of the world's most distinguished and illustrious universities was a great honour indeed coming from an African country. I had come from a university, reputable in its own right, where the study of history was an altogether less daunting affair, confined as it was to a small academic department. At Cambridge, however, I was impressed by the fact that history had its very own faculty!

The climate at Cambridge was also strange. I remember at one point not seeing the sun for an entire month! This never happens in Africa. I remember saying to myself, 'what's going on? Is the universe too sad to deny me the sun?' I eventually got used to it, and like everyone else, soon found myself cycling around the cold, but beautiful, city of bicycles.

ENOCENT MSINDO

*Class of '01, PhD in African History*

*I would love to hear from former  
Scholars, wherever you are.  
Drop me a line to say a big hello at:  
wakanaka1@yahoo.com*



history. Traditionally, ethnicity and nationalism have been understood in African historiography as polar opposites, the principal contention being that ethnicity has acted as an impediment to the construction of nationhood. Most scholarship on this subject contends that those nations currently in existence have only been able to maintain their sense of 'nationhood' by suppressing ethnic diversity – the assumption being that a 'collective nationalism' is the only

# Recording Reconstruction

## Helping rebuild Iraq



*Gates Scholars Christopher Kirchoff and Hunter Keith (both Class of '01) stand atop Baghdad City Hall on either side of Lt. Col Otto Busher, deputy commander of the Baghdad Provincial Reconstruction Team*

*Post-war Iraq is likely the last place Bill and Melinda Gates envisioned their Scholars at work. Yet at least three U.S. Gates Scholars have now served there, highlighting the prominent role this country now plays in global affairs.*

After completing his MPhil in International Relations, Roman Martinez ('01) worked first as a staff member in the Defense Department during the run up to war, and then as an aide to Proconsul Paul Bremer during the Coalition Provisional Authority. Now, two years after Martinez left Baghdad, Hunter Keith ('01) and I have taken leave from Cambridge to serve on an official study of the rebuilding of Iraq. This has been undertaken by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, an independent, Congressionally-mandated office that works under the auspices of the Departments of State and Defense.

Inspector Generals are uniquely American institutions. The office's primary mission is to ensure that the schools, hospitals, police stations, and other infrastructure constructed for the Iraqi people fully meet the high standards mandated by the federal rules governing reconstruction. Teams of inspectors, auditors

and criminal investigators canvas projects to evaluate allegations of waste, fraud and abuse. Their reports, all of which are public, are published online at [www.sigir.mil](http://www.sigir.mil).

The smaller team with which we work is attempting to chronicle the story of reconstruction by examining everything from the adequacy of the government's pre-war plans to the efficacy of the institutions that have overseen \$80 billions dollars in funds in the three years since Baghdad fell.

### Human reconstruction

Rebuilding, of course, cannot be understood solely in terms of the money disbursed, megawatts of electricity produced, or number of schools built. The rehabilitation of Iraq must necessarily be conceived in human terms, as a social process that materially affects how Iraqis lead their lives and relate to the fragmented state they live within. We are striving with

great analytical care to capture this broader dimension of reconstruction, set within the larger context of political decisions taken during the U.S. invasion and its aftermath. Our study, based upon hundreds of interviews with key decision-makers and thousands of documents, is due to be published in June of next year.

### Lives at risk

The highlight of our work so far has without doubt been the time we spent in Iraq. Though civilian employees endure few of the dangers and discomforts of the troops who protect them, working in Baghdad is by no means risk-free. Each trip outside a U.S. base entails strapping on body armor and climbing into armored vehicles or Blackhawk helicopters. Soldiers and civilian aid workers die daily in convoy attacks, as do hundreds of Iraqis, most of whom fall victim to ethnic militias.

Though mistakes and misjudgments clearly pervade the U.S. occupation of Iraq, the irony of Iraqis attacking the very people working to reconstruct their country has not escaped the troops or civilians who labor in spite of the violence directed against them. Perhaps reconstruction's most remarkable feature is the enduring ethic of coalition personnel, who with clear vision realize they work on behalf of the mass of innocent Iraqis mired in ethnic strife catalyzed by the invasion. Inshallah, their efforts, and ours, will not be in vain.

**CHRISTOPHER KIRCHHOFF**

*Class of '01, PhD Candidate in Social and Political Sciences*

# Supporting India from Cambridge

## Development in the Sunderbans

*When I came to Cambridge as a Gates Scholar to pursue my graduate studies, I often wondered how I could serve my country amidst my hectic research and social life.*

Soon after beginning my PhD, I came to know of Sakhya: Cambridge Friends of India, a Cambridge University society and a registered UK charity. Sakhya was established by Indian students in Cambridge with the aim of benefiting disadvantaged social groups in India. Since then, it has successfully achieved its goal by raising funds through cultural events to support various development and education projects in rural India. We have even been active in supporting the Indian Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the devastating tsunami and earthquake disasters in South Asia.

### **Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha**

Last year, Sakhya was approached by an NGO called Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha (BTS), working on Kultali Island in the Sunderbans region of West Bengal, India. The delta region

of the Sunderbans has the world's largest mangrove forest and serves as the home for the Royal Bengal Tigers. The villages in these areas lack educational and healthcare infrastructure, and often live without electricity and running water.

BTS is working to address these issues. Its mission is to provide rural, poor and distressed people with comprehensive development in a sustainable and participatory approach, along with support for vulnerable women and their malnourished children in acute need of proper care. The BTS infrastructure is divided into a basic education program, sustainable agriculture project, community healthcare project, small savings and micro-credit program, and self-help group. Over the past few years, it has attracted increasing

funds and support for its missions. Today, BTS is providing integrated support to poor disadvantaged people from six villages on Kultali Island.

As part of this support, BTS has constructed a primary school called 'Patha Bhavan' with support from a USA-based charity called Asha for Education and the Irish Embassy at New Delhi. BTS has successfully encouraged primary education for the vast majority of poor children from the farming community, thus far attracting over 250 children. In 2006 Sakhya was able to raise £800 for BTS, used to purchase educational books and materials for the schools of sixteen Kultali villages.

### **Seeing it with my own eyes**

Through my work with Sakhya I became very involved in BTS's work, and decided to visit the Sunderbans in January 2006 to see how their primary school operates. The person behind the rise and success of BTS is its secretary, Mr. Sushanta Giri, who heartily welcomed me. Reaching my destination ☺



# Arts in Society

was not easy. Initially, I travelled by train from Sealdah to Mathurapur and then via ambulance to Baikunthapur. This had been donated by MIVA, a Dutch charity; they had also donated a mobile medical boat for treating people living in small islands. The ambulance carries the patients to the nearest medical centre, some two hours away. At this point in my journey, a lack of proper roads in remote areas meant we had to go through muddy and undulating roads for miles, the same which children often travel for an hour to go to school on a rainy day.

Once in Mathurapur I first visited the hospital site under construction, work funded by the Irish Embassy in New Delhi. I then arrived at their primary school, Patha Bhavan, where I was touched to see the children waiting by the street to greet me by clapping. I met the teachers and visited the classes, some of which were taken in rooms with the students sitting on the floor; others were taken on the balcony wherever possible. The library was under construction, with plans in place to fully equip it with computers. The building hosts a staff room, homeopathic clinic, child healthcare centre, a micro-credit centre and visitors' rooms. A light lunch is provided to the students every day.

Overall, I was extremely impressed by how BTS is working for the development of the village community. BTS dreams of turning Kultali Island into a land of joy, and we are proud to have extended our support from here in Cambridge to fulfilling their noble cause.

SOVAN SARKAR  
Class of '02, PhD in Medical Genetics

*On the left: Sovan and Sushanta Giri (in front) with village school children in front of the BTS primary school 'Patha Bhavan'.*

*If you would like to help BTS, please contact Sakhya (Sovan Sarkar at [ss457@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ss457@cam.ac.uk)) or BTS (Sushanta Giri at [missionwelfare@vsnl.net](mailto:missionwelfare@vsnl.net)).*

*What role do the arts play in the modern world? Are they reduced to providing us with aesthetic pleasures - globalised artefacts to be consumed?*

Or, do the arts have a contribution to make in addressing the pressing issues of our everyday life, such as economic development, social cohesion, and education delivery? Held in Edinburgh this August, the international conference, 'Arts in Society', made an effort to address some of these difficult questions. Set up to run in conjunction with the Edinburgh Arts Festival, its aim was to stimulate interdisciplinary dialogues on how creativity may be linked to social action in contemporary society.



## Culture, cities, citizenship?

In order to actively participate in this debate, I organised and chaired a colloquium session as part of the conference. Generously co-funded by the Gates Cambridge Trust, the panel consisted of two young academics from Cambridge and two professionals from London and Berlin. The session provided us with the opportunity to promote the interaction between academic and professional perspectives on the arts, taking up challenging questions about the role of culture in education, active citizenship and social competence. These, we aimed to argue, are not isolated fields: to invest in the importance of creativity and critical thought for the development of a participatory society is both an intellectual exercise and a significant social action.

The focus of our panel on creative engagements with contemporary urban space was equally deliberate. Therein we endeavoured to understand the global city as an increasingly strategic site, where issues of legitimacy, membership, and cultural identity are played out. The panel first dealt with artistic responses to changing urban landmarks, whether these involve a reclamation of ad-shrouded metropolitan construction sites (R. Alexandrova, Cambridge) or the production of a video piece (with an integrated dance company and a youth ensemble),

which was projected onto the Royal Festival Hall (R. Wells, Guildhall School of Music and Drama). The panel also addressed ICT and the impact of signs and sites (physical as well as virtual) on the urban experience. This discussion ranged from an analysis of online artworks on inner-city conditions (K. Veel, Cambridge) to an urban youth project on signs in European metropolises (R. Netzelmann, urban dialogues Berlin).

## Last reflections

In the framework of this conference, which will be followed up by an International Symposium at New York University in 2007, our colloquium was very positively received by an engaging audience. Our approach, which forced participants to think outside of their disciplinary frameworks, proved to be refreshing and inspiring. New connections were made and several opportunities for follow-up, cooperative projects across the various fields were suggested. Together, the audience and presenters themselves illustrated the extent to which the arts may provide successful, border-crossing forums for difficult societal issues and provide a locus for civic engagement.

UTA STAIGER  
Class of '05, PhD candidate in European Culture

# The X-Factor

## Welcoming the Graduate Women's Network

*As a product of all-female education in the United States, I am a firm believer that single-sex environments produce opportunities for candid opinion and experience-sharing that are lost in a mixed arena.*

To that end, I ran for and won the position of Graduate Women's Representative on the Women's Union Executive Council for the 2005-2006 year on the platform that I would provide networking opportunities for graduate women. The purpose was not to exchange business cards or subvert the working order, but to discuss experiences, learn from each other's successes and errors and discover role models in both academic and industrial careers.

### Secrets of success

I wanted to seek professional women who would openly discuss their successes and failures in an effort to show students that both public and private successes are valid and that even people with admirable careers and lives have fallen at times. So, in conjunction with Caren Weinberg, Women's Officer at Darwin College, I began contacting women in the University who are highly accomplished professionally and who would be dynamic, engaging speakers. We sought the same qualities in professional women that we met at other venues and invited both to speak and answer questions.

For our first event, we invited Dr. Diana Lipton, Fellow of Newnham College and Lecturer in Theology to speak alongside Mrs. Carol Borghesi, Managing Director of 21st Century Customer Contact at BT and asked both to answer the question 'Are you your own worst enemy?' Each woman openly discussed her career trajectory and personal life to a rapt audience of 65 women students and young professionals. They chatted with individuals over wine and canapés beforehand, and stayed on for coffee and more individual discussions afterward.

The reviews were overwhelmingly positive and after a few high-fives, we decided that the Graduate Women's Network had officially begun.

### The challenge of change

For our second event, we invited Dr. Liba Taub, Reader in History and Philosophy of Science and Curator of the Whipple Museum to speak alongside Ms. Caroline Theobald, managing director of Bridge Club Ltd. and Entrepreneur

in Residence, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Both discussed their careers and personal choices, again, while supporting the main topic of 'Change: creating it, avoiding it and dealing with it!'

The audience had swelled to over 100 women, and we had sought and received corporate sponsorship for this event. Again the reviews were overwhelmingly positive, with one woman describing both events as "simply wonderful, inspirational and life changing."

### A firm future

Caren and I have secured the long-term support of the Women's Union, the Graduate Union and the Gates Cambridge Trust to guarantee that the Graduate Women's Network brings role models to University Women for many years to come. The next event will be held in November 2006, and we hope to organize leadership training workshops this year to complement the Network lecture series. I hope that many of you (women) take advantage of these evenings to be inspired, and that the men in the Gates community may seek to start their own network!

K FRANKO

*Class of '03, PhD candidate in Physiology*

ROBERT CLAY RIVERS, *Class of '03, PhD candidate in Chemistry*



## The Amazing Duck Race

For 364 days a year, the river Cam is covered with punts, rowers and swans. But on July 28, 2006, it was the turn of dozens of rubber ducks to take centre stage as Robert Clay Rivers ('03), hosted the largest duck race the small river had ever seen. Drawing impressive crowds, the race saw the winning duck swim from Jesus Lock to the finish line upriver in a record 40 minutes; the duck judged best decorated won for both an inventive design and its name, "Quacks and Cheese."

The race was staged in support of Rob's work with the UK Christian Charity, Latin Link. Following the completion of his PhD, Robert plans to travel to Peru to help with service and outreach projects in local churches, working closely with the student organization AGEUP (Asociación de Grupos Evangélicos Universitarios del Perú). "This was a great opportunity for all of Cambridge and the University to come out and watch a spectacle of rubber ducks and support a real good cause! I'm really thankful for all the help and support from friends and College members!" Rob exclaimed.

Overall, the race raised a total of £900. The duck race was the first of several events Rob will be hosting here in Cambridge to help raise the £7,000 needed to support his mission work in Peru.

# Memorable Summer

*Replete with academic deadlines and end-of-year social events, summertime in Cambridge is one of the busiest periods for students. In June and July, Gates Scholars capped off the season with a panel discussion on leadership, a garden party, and the second Gates Scholars' Society Annual Dinner. For many, these were the last moments of an unforgettable Cambridge experience.*



*Elvis Beytullayev '01, Anand Jeyasekharan '04, Mr. Bill Gates, Sr., and Michael Motto '04 during the discussion panel*

During a lively and well-attended panel discussion on June 13th, Mr. Bill Gates, Sr. delivered a keynote address and posed a series of provocative questions surrounding the role and meaning of leadership in the global age. The meeting represented the final lecture of the Distinguished Speaker Series' 2005-06 termcard, and featured Mr. Gates, Sr. along with five current Gates scholars and one Gates Scholar alumnus.

## Leadership, Social Challenges and the Global Age

In their speeches, Scholars drew upon their own research findings in order to highlight global challenges facing current and future leaders. Dr. Anand Jeyasekharan, a current scholar, described medical challenges endemic to India and the role his research will play in trying to meet urgent needs. Michael Motto discussed his work on police-community and race relations and the ways in which police failure to progress represents leadership failure on the part of the police service and the government. K Franko reflected on scientific research agendas connected to prenatal malnutrition, and discussed the role leadership can play in one's professional and personal aspirations. Amy Rowe offered insights from her work investigating religious identity in an Arab-American Christian community and a perspective on how the work of a future academic can contribute to social and political progress. Finally, Jesmini Ambikapathy explored the nexus of scientific development, innovation and the law,

offering examples from both her degree research in Cambridge and her professional experience as a lawyer in Australia. Elvis Beytullayev, a Gates Scholar alumnus, discussed his research on the Ukraine, processes of political development, and challenges posed to liberal democracy. Beytullayev, a junior research fellow, also ruminated on the academic's role in affecting knowledge and socio-political change.

## A Summer Reception and the Annual Dinner

On June 14th, nearly 150 scholars attended a garden party and annual reception with the Gates Cambridge Trustees in the University Botanical Gardens. Vice-Chancellor Alison Richards and Mr. Bill Gates, Sr., addressed scholars and congratulated them on the successful completion of the academic year. Following established tradition, the event was immortalised, as Scholars and guests joined together for the annual group photo.

A month later, on July 14th, nearly 100 Scholars gathered in Wolfson College's main hall for the Gates Scholars' Society Annual Dinner. After a delicious meal, Michael Motto and Rita Monson delivered speeches on behalf of the Council, made special presentations to Council members and other Scholars who contributed significantly to the Scholar community in the past year. In addition, they offered Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Johnson and Mr. James Smith specially designed t-shirts for their hard work and support of Scholar activities over the past year. In recognition of their instrumental role in the Society's affairs, Dr. Johnson in turn thanked the Council and Scholars for making the Gates community what it is, and presented Council chair, Michael Motto, with a book on University politics, authored by Dr. Johnson himself!

**MICHAEL MOTTO**

*Class of '04, PhD candidate in Criminology*

*Scholars join Bill Gates Sr. and the Gates Cambridge Trustees at the annual garden party at the University Botanical Garden*



# A Peak Performance

## Tales from this year's orientation retreat

*“While the activities at Edale were both challenging and hilarious, what impresses me the most is the community that the orientation helps to create. It is an immense honor to walk around campus in Cambridge and be able to stop and share a conversation with a hundred of the most talented and kind people I have met.”*

KRISHNAN SUBRAHMANIAN  
Class of '06, MPhil candidate in Education



# Night to Remember

## Dining and dancing on the Thames



On a brisk October evening, the new class of Gates Scholars and a few returning Scholars made their way by land, air, and sea to the Tower Pier for a night cruise of the Thames — an annual event, co-sponsored by the Gates Trust and the Boston Consulting Group. It was a night to remember, with harrowing tales of near-death experiences at the Edale camp exchanged by new and returning Scholars alike.

The London skyline, by night, is a sight to behold. Parliament, Big Ben, London Bridge, Tower Bridge and everything in between seem to shimmer in

particular glory, illuminated by the city lights and, of course, by the camera flashes of those who travel the river by boat. It's a wonderful way to start off the year, by enjoying the magic of the capital city of the country which we all - Gates Scholars from around the world - will call home for some period of time.

Lest we forget, the boat cruise reminds us London is place of tremendous opportunity waiting, in a sense, for the new class of Gates Scholars to make its mark.

DANIEL DI CENSO  
Class of '05, PhD candidate in Music



*I learned many important things at Orientation in the Peak District this year. For example, if you want to find out which is the best bar in Cambridge, don't ask a member of the Gates Scholars' Council...*

When some of my new fellow Scholars and I arrived in Cambridge before the Gates Scholars' Orientation Retreat, it was a mess. For at least half of us, it seemed, our college rooms were just not ready, for the life of me I couldn't find a shower in my living quarters, and my friend moving in at Trinity didn't even have electricity in his room. On top of that, nobody could access the internet, and none of us had a phone. We were cut off from the world... but we were also in our new home, Cambridge – one of the most beautiful, stimulating, enchanting, well-manicured homes in which we'll ever have the privilege to live.

Before we knew it, we were beginning what would be a three day marathon of, "Hi, I'm so and so... nice to meet you... and what are you studying? Is that a PhD or MPhil...? Oh cool... And where are you from...?" By the end of the three hour bus ride to the idyllic Peak District in the heart of England, we had all met other fascinating people, made a friend or two, and wondered (at least once) if we really belonged among all of the other amazing Gates Scholars.

### **A welcome unexpected**

For some of us, the retreat was not quite what we expected. "Everyone was just so friendly," one Scholar told me. "I just thought I'd be surrounded by Type-A people." Instead, the weekend was endless socializing, fun, and a candid introduction to the Gates community.

Some of us had anticipated more formalities – after all, most of us had heard of the "tea at ten and two" Britain. When the Gates Council stood before the 2006 Gates Scholars Class to introduce themselves and offer advice to the new class, they demonstrated the cordial nature of the Gates community.

*"The best bars in Cambridge can be found on Mill Road..." said one council member.*

*"Actually the best bar in Cambridge is at Darwin College..."*

*"For your information, the best pub in town is at the Union Society..."*

The advice for incoming students was clear – there are loads of good bars in Cambridge! But the advice from the Council also established

that the relationship between Gates Scholars and the Gates Trust is an affable one.

### **Provost Gordon Brown?**

While the Gates Council spoke and joked at length about how much fun the new class would have this year and how the Gates Trust is a generous and accommodating resource for Scholars, Provost Johnson patiently awaited his turn to address the new class.

My preconceptions about "the proper British" were finally quashed when Provost Johnson followed up the slap happy Gates Council introductions with his own comedic tale of life in Cambridge – complete with impersonations of an oversized cartoon-like Tony Blair grin and a hound-dog-like Gordon Brown voice.

Through the humor of Provost Johnson and the Council, the new class gleaned the same things that a formal ceremony would have offered; that Cambridge is a special place, full of fun, exciting, and unforgettable opportunities. As Gates Scholars we are given an extraordinary opportunity to both enjoy this marvelous institution and to take from it a tremendous wealth of knowledge and experience, which will help us on our quest to change the world – for the better!

*TRISTAN BROWN*

*Class of '06, MPhil in Environmental Policy*

# Alumni Notes

## World Wide Web

On Friday, 7 July 2006 Alumni in the UK gathered in London for the launch of the London branch of the Gates Scholars' Alumni Association. Eleven former scholars were joined by Dr. Gordon Johnson, his wife Faith and James Smith. The event was a huge success as the conversation allowed Alumni to reconnect while enjoy good food and wine. Plans for another event for those in the London area is currently underway.

In September 2006 Alumni in the San Francisco area joined James Smith, Executive Officer for the Gates Cambridge Trust for drinks. James was in town to talk about the Gates Cambridge Scholarship at University of California at Berkeley. While visiting Berkeley, Rachel Giraudo '01 also met up with James.



The meeting in London was attended by (back row, from left to right): Dr. Gordon Johnson, Anna Bayona Font '02, Faye Karababa '02, Antonios Pantazis '02, Arne Morteani '01, Faith Johnson, James Smith. Front Row: Vera Makarov '04, Jennifer Gibson '01, Catherine O'Brien '01, Hilary Soderland '01, Luis Briseño-Roa '01, Julien Bourdeau '04, and Robyn Scott '04.

At left, Kateri DuBay '02, Jen Illft '02, James Smith, and Peter Manasantivongs '01.

## Class Notes 2005

*Charles Chang.* I have returned to Berkeley, where I am reconnecting with American TV while writing my qualifying papers. This semester I am teaching sections of introductory phonetics, conducting fieldwork on Southeastern Pomo (one of the many native languages of California), and preparing to submit my dissertation prospectus on cross-language speech perception.

## 2004

*David Johnson.* I moved to Houston shortly after Hurricane Katrina to assist with relief efforts, and now work as a business analyst with McKinsey & Company, where I serve a

wide variety of clients in industries ranging from retail to high-tech, and have even worked with a major city symphony.

## 2003

*Chiraag Bains.* I've just finished my first year at Harvard Law School, where I've developed a particular interest in criminal law and civil rights litigation. This summer, I am working for the Southern Center for Human Rights, a capital defense organization in Atlanta, GA.

## 2001

*Peter Manasantivongs.* I'm still at Lexicon Branding in the San Francisco area, doing the cross-linguistic evaluations and qualitative consumer research on brand names. Recent assignments that I've worked on include

Microsoft's MP3 player Zune, the BlackBerry Pearl smartphone, and AOL's new OpenRide platform.

*Robert Dudas.* After finishing my PhD in the Department of Psychiatry, I have carried on with my specialist training and passed the MRCPsych examination by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, London. Recently, I participated in the Open Debate on Alzheimer's Disease in the House of Commons. At present, I work as a Specialist Registrar in General and Old Age Psychiatry in the Eastern Deanery, and continue to work on various research projects with my supervisor at Cambridge. I also coordinate other projects with the Department of Psychiatry at Szeged University and the Department of Neurology at the University of Pecs in Hungary.

## Alumni Reach Out to New Scholars

In Summer 2006, the GSAA implemented a new initiative that helps bridge the gap between generations of Scholars. Alumni across the world offered to meet with newly elected Scholars in their home countries before they arrived in Cambridge to congratulate them and answer any questions they had about the amazing experience they were about to embark upon. Almost 100 new Scholars and Alumni participated, meeting in cities across the world to enjoy coffee, drinks or lunch.

Joan Ko, a new Scholar from Australia, is just one of the many Scholars who benefited from meeting Alex Bremner '01, a member of the GSAA Exec and Lecturer in Architectural History at the University of Edinburgh. Alex, originally from Australia, was travelling through home as part of several months of research for an upcoming book.

Of her part in the program, Joan wrote, "I was going to Cambridge; there was a letter to prove it. But it didn't quite seem real yet. What are the colleges like? Who will I spend time with? Will I get time to join a club or society? Do people often stay on in the UK after their course? Is it really, really that cold? I was surprised and very pleased to get an email from Alex Bremner of the Gates Alumni Association. Alex was doing a lightning tour of Australia and generously offered to take the time out to meet up with me. Firstly, it made me feel like I was being welcomed into a community (of Gates Scholars). Secondly, I got to ask him questions, lots of questions. And finally, the fact I was going to move overseas to study at Cambridge started feeling real to me. Thanks for the tips, Alex. It sounds like I really will need to bring the big coat."

Overall, both new Scholars and Alumni judged the program an enormous success, and the GSAA hopes to expand the scheme even further in subsequent years.

## Guests of the Ambassador

In its short existence, the Gates Scholars' Alumni Association has recognized the importance of building strong relationships with similar organizations, and has taken active steps to forge these partnerships whenever possible. As a result of these efforts, the Honorable Sir Richard Manning, Her Majesty's Ambassador to the US, invited newly elected Gates Scholars and Alumni to attend an afternoon reception at the British Embassy in Washington, DC, as part of the Marshall Scholar orientation program. Fifteen Gates Scholars accepted this invitation, and took the opportunity to formally meet their Marshall counterparts.

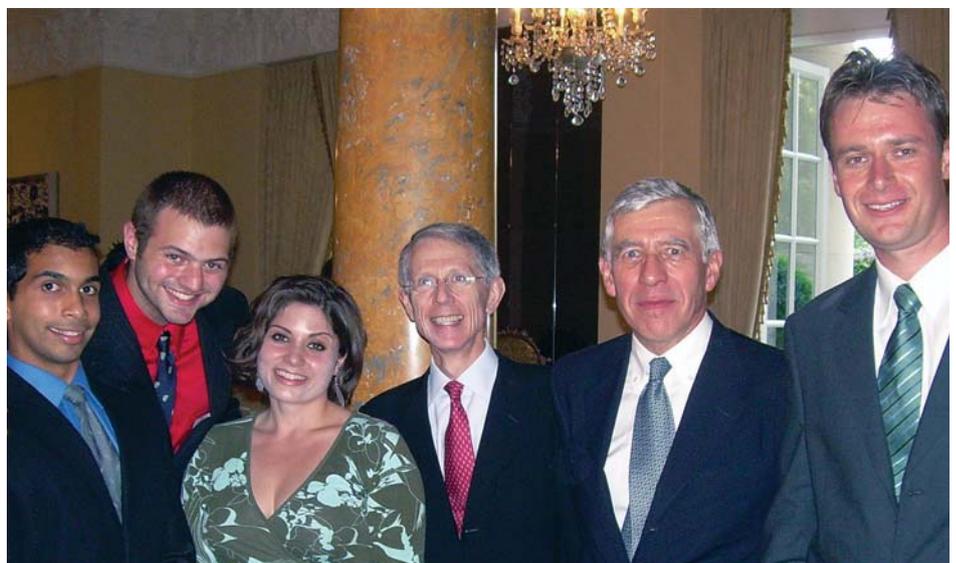
*The Gates Scholars' Alumni Association recognizes the importance of building strong relationships with similar organizations.*

During the event, the Ambassador greeted both the Gates and Marshall Scholars and, citing the similarities between the two programs, stressed the importance of a collaborative future.

Minister Jack Straw was also in attendance, and offered his congratulations to the new classes of Scholars. Finally, Pulitzer Prize winner Thomas Friedman spoke on his latest research into the current energy crisis, and the importance of the international experience offered by programs such as the Marshall and Gates. All three speakers remained through the afternoon.

Following the reception, the Gates Scholars' Alumni Association invited the newly elected Gates Scholars in attendance and six of the Cambridge-bound Marshall Scholars to a dinner sponsored by the Gates Cambridge Trust. Through conversation, food and wine, this evening strengthened the Gates Alumni network, and initiated new friendships between the new Gates and Marshall Scholars that will hopefully continue to develop during their time at Cambridge and beyond.

*From left to right: Suneel Bhat '06, David Deitz '06, Andrea Pizzacconi '03, Sir David Manning, UK Ambassador to the U.S., Jack Straw, Leader of the UK House of Commons, and Andrew Robertson, '01*



# Up and Coming

## Mark Your Calendar

### *Cambridge Events*

#### **Commemoration of Benefactors**

Dr Gordon Johnson, Provost of the Gates Cambridge Trust will preach the sermon on the theme 'So great a cloud of witnesses' and Dr Timothy Mead, University Registrar and Fellow of Wolfson, has been appointed by the Vice Chancellor to read the lesson. The Wolfson Choir will sing Stanford's Te Deum in B Flat and Mudd's 'Let Thy Merciful Ears O Lord' and James Bendall will play the University Organ. A glass of wine will be served after the service in St Michael's Hall, Trinity Street. All welcome.

Venue: Great St Mary's Church

Date: November 5th, 11.15am

#### **Holiday Party**

As every year at the beginning of the winter break, we gather together to celebrate the end of term with a family atmosphere. Seasonal favourites guaranteed: mulled wine, hot chocolate with (or without) peppermint Schnapps, and mince pies! As this is the season of giving, canned goods will be collected to donate to Jimmy's Nightshelter, a safe haven for the homeless population in Cambridge. All welcome.

Venue: Trinity College, BA Room

Date: December 14th, 8.00pm

### *Worldwide Events*

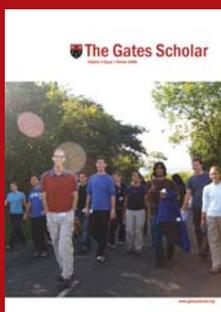
#### **Alumni Gathering in New York**

The GSAA Executive Committee is currently organising a meeting in New York to be attended by Dr. Johnson.

Details to be announced.

Date: February 14th, 2007

Contact: Hilary Levey at [hlevey@princeton.edu](mailto:hlevey@princeton.edu)



Front cover: Edale orientation trip, September 2006  
Photograph by Joan Ko, class of '06