President’s Letter

A few years ago, in the holiday column of one of our more respectable national newspapers, there was a recommendation to visit Cambridge in August, when the students were away and the city could be appreciated properly by those taking a holiday. So, as I parked my car for the first time in the Clare Hall car park in the morning of 1 August 2013 I did not expect to be moving into a college that was anything but dead, exactly the same as the college where I had been a Fellow the day before. How wrong I was.

On my first day as President I came to realise what collegiate life at Clare Hall entailed. As well as the day-to-day administration, which is essential and which is done here with a tiny staff compared to most other colleges, there was the wonderful music, the art exhibitions, the Tuesday night colloquia, the literary groups, the Tanner and Ashby Lectures, and a host of informal gatherings, not to mention the Wednesday night dinners with their unpredictably wide-ranging conversations.

I had been fairly well prepared by Martin Harris to take over from him, but even he had not prepared me for all the really good things – the really valuable things, the really fun things – that the college was doing. What he had told me, very truly, was how
utterly dependent I would be on the college officers and the college staff, under the watchful eye of Domestic Bursar Cherie Evans, without whose help and guidance I would have been lost. I am also most grateful to Joanna Womack, who has returned to Clare Hall as Acting Bursar after Moira Gardner’s retirement on 31st March – a separate tribute to her appears elsewhere in this Review. Liz Ramsden has been another valuable guide, who we were very pleased to honour with a President’s Award on 11 June for her sterling service over 25 years. Liz recently took partial retirement, but is still busy in college, looking after accommodation. Her role as College Secretary has been taken over very capably by Amanda Barclay.

As we move towards our fiftieth anniversary in 2016, we have to look forward as well as back. Our founding fathers in 1966 had a vision for the collegiate institution they were creating, and the Governing Body is committed to the continuance of that vision. Unless we are forced by external pressures to do otherwise, and we have no reason to believe that we will be, we will retain a small and elite body of students from around the world, a fellowship cutting across all disciplines, and a programme of Visiting Fellowships which is second to none. The only point of expansion, we expect, will be in post-doctoral members, a group which hardly existed in 1966 but which now constitutes the largest group of researchers in the university without any college attachment.

As a newcomer to the college, I have been astonished just how much is done with so little capital funding behind us, and know just how much more we could do with even a small amount of extra recurrent income. If I dared dream, I would look to a major increase in our endowment which would enable us to leverage funds from elsewhere. This would allow us to offer support to first-rate graduate students who could not otherwise get funding, as well as making our collegiate future secure for the next half century. Nearly half a century after our foundation, the far-sighted vision of Lord Ashby, Richard Eden, Brian Pippard, and other members of Clare College who midwifed us into existence has come to represent the way forward for the university as it consolidates its position as one of the really great research universities in the world. It is a matter of real pride for me and for all of us that we are members of a college which should play such a central part in the university of the future.

David Ibbetson
President
When I stepped down at the end of September 2013 from the role of Interim Bursar at Murray Edwards College, I thought that three retirements was probably more than enough for anyone. It turned out that I am just not very good at retiring. When Moira Gardiner unfortunately had to take early retirement on grounds of ill-health earlier this year I allowed myself to be persuaded back into harness. So here I am again, standing in as Acting Bursar at Clare Hall, notionally on two days a week, but as you can perhaps imagine, I am not very good at ‘part-time’ either!

It is great to be back and to see so many old friends still in post, beavering away to keep things working smoothly and efficiently. Liz Ramsden has retired from the job of College Secretary, a change which was marked by receipt of the President’s Award at a Formal Dinner in June, but it is lovely to know that she is still here, on a part-time basis, helping to find the right accommodation for all our Visiting Fellows. Cherie Evans, our Domestic Bursar, has now stepped up to a full-time role as Head of Operations. It is clear to me that the college is benefitting from her oversight of the minutiae as well as her increasing involvement in strategic thinking and planning. She is supported by an excellent team of experienced Heads of Department.

Finances remain in the capable hands of Martin Aldridge, who is somehow managing to move the college on to a new financial system whilst continuing to do his day job. There have been many changes and updates in the I.T. systems and provision, for which we have to thank Adrian Powell-Owens. You may notice some changes in the catering provision, with a change of supplier following a review earlier this year. We thank Baxterstorey for their service to the college over a ten-year period and we look forward to our new relationship with Lexington.

I am writing this at the beginning of July, when the figures for the financial year ended 30 June 2014 are not yet available. On the basis of management accounts forecasts we are expecting a small operating surplus, but this will turn into a significant deficit once Depreciation has been taken into account. This is the same picture as we have seen for many years, and explains why Clare Hall has such a struggle to find money for capital projects and major repairs. We run a pretty tight ship, but with our new President and Development Director firmly in place, I sense a real determination to find ways to generate additional income. I look forward to hearing about this further after I retire yet again.

The full set of accounts for 2013-2014 will be put up on the college’s website as soon as they are complete and audited.

Joanna Womack
Acting Bursar
From the Senior Tutor

One of the oft-quoted advantages of a collegiate university is the opportunities it offers for informal intellectual exchange. This is something that Clare Hall is very well placed to provide, as discussion and debate take place regularly over lunch and at formal hall. This year the Tutors have hosted several Fellow-Student suppers in the convivial setting of the Richard Eden Suite at West Court. These dinners take place roughly twice per term, bringing together Fellows and students in a relaxed social setting, allowing us to enjoy the wealth of academic talent that all members of the college embody.

In different ways the Graduate Student Body (GSB) has continued its strong commitment to the same idea of student-Fellow interaction, building upon the good work done by Evianne Van Gijn over the previous two years. Shiru Lim and Robert Anderson have established the Clare Hall Research Exchanges in the ALB Bar, where Fellows and students present brief synopses of their work which is subsequently debated by the wider group. Elena Zezlina has led the organisation of a weekly writing group to support academic output, which the Tutorial Office has supported with appropriate refreshments. Socially, too, the GSB has continued to provide inclusive and enjoyable events, including the very successful Jazz formal halls and afternoon tea to soothe hard-working students at exam time. Rosie Luff continues to provide her excellent series of workshops on academic writing, which are truly appreciated by many of our students. All-in-all I’ve sensed a real ‘buzz’ this year which is great to see.

Students coming to Clare Hall bring an amazing wealth of experience in a wide variety of spheres. One area that has been particularly strong in recent years is sport and from this year I am very pleased to announce that the college will formally recognise with a prize all those students who gain a blue or half-blue during their time with us. Eight such awards have been made in 2014: to Pei-Shan Hsieh and Alice Krozer (volleyball); Jin Zhang (basketball); Richard Oriji and Ivo Timoteo (karate); Erin Walters (lacrosse); Su Jin Wren (ice hockey) and Jun Bo Chan (boxing). We congratulate them on their success and have every confidence that this strong contribution to the University’s premier sports teams will continue.

As ever, financial pressures upon students remain an area of real concern. As many of you will know the college is currently actively engaged in a range of major fundraising activities. Funding for Home/EU Masters students in particular has suffered as a result of cuts to the budgets of the major UK Research Councils. One response by the University has been to set up a bursary scheme based on joint university–college funding. As a result of the successful telephone campaign run by the Development Office we have been able to raise matching funding for three such bursaries for 2014-15. I would like to thank all those involved, especially those of you who very generously responded to the calls for financial support and also to those students who were heavily committed to the campaign at the end of Michaelmas Term 2013.

2013-14 has been a very lively year and we are clearly seeing the benefits of an increase in the size and diversity of our student body in the pleasing levels of social interaction occurring regularly on the college sites. We see the advanced Maths and the Education students, for example, frequently getting together for lively discussions of their work over a meal or coffee. Tom Forster, our Director of Studies in Maths, has shown great energy and commitment in this context, as has Yi Feng for the Education students. Where possible each Tutor hosted a meeting of all their students early in the
From the Senior Tutor continued

year, inviting them to talk about their areas of interest and research and to get to know one another socially. This has led to valuable work connections and some firm friendships. The Tutorial Office continues to support various family activities, organised by Trudi Tate, and is open to suggestions for events for all college families. As always, we are hugely grateful to Irene Hills for all she does to keep everyone on track – students and Tutors alike! We also thank our current Director of Studies in Law, Catherine MacKenzie. This year’s results continue the excellent performances of recent years. Thanks to the Tutors for their vital pastoral care and advice and to retiring Praelector, Murray Stewart, for his years of generous service.

Clare Hall continues to be flexible in meeting the challenges and opportunities offered by being at the centre of a world-class university at a time of great change. Although we shall always aim to remain small enough to retain the informality that is the hallmark of our unique academic community, we shall also take the opportunity to reach out to new groups of students and new parts of the world. To all members of the wider college community: you are vital to our future and we thank you for your continuing support in making the experience of our students stimulating, enjoyable and rewarding.

Iain Black
Senior Tutor
From the
Development Director

My first year at Clare Hall has been a fascinating and productive one. The President and I have had the chance to meet Life Members at a series of wonderful events and we are enormously grateful to our friends Donald West King, Howell Jackson, Betsy Foote and Michael Ngai who supported events in New York, Boston and Hong Kong. In Cambridge the regular visits by cherished Life Members have been augmented by a typically dynamic series of events. Particularly worthy of mention are our Entrepreneurs’ Networking evenings which welcomed Founder of Xaar, Steve Temple, for a superb event last winter and in June we hosted Warren East, former Chief Executive of ARM Holdings plc. The credit for these outstanding events is all due to Tony Hooley and we really cannot thank him enough.

The college’s latest telephone campaign ran last December and we managed with a small team to raise £100K, 90% of which has already been fulfilled. To those of us who have looked on with depression at how difficult it is for graduate institutions to foster regular giving, this is a stand-out achievement. All credit goes to the tireless efforts of my colleagues Alex Courage and Hugo Lomax but also to the Life Member community. It is thanks to the depth of your feeling for Clare Hall that these results are so successful.

If this year has been one of dynamism and excitement, it has also been one of facing up to reality. In Cambridge, institutions that are young and poor are vulnerable and our survival depends on our willingness to embrace new ideas and to ensure that our unique qualities can be promoted in a way that is relevant and engaging in the external world. Clare Hall is a key institution in Cambridge which is dedicated to maintaining the college experience for Visiting Fellows, Research Fellows, post-docs – and most importantly for graduate students. As the university continues to expand the numbers of MPhils and PhDs, the college experience remains a crucial part of graduate student life. Clare Hall continues to play a vital role as an international and collegiate research community – a role that means so much to us all.

In August Clare Hall launched Global Leaders, a scholarship programme we have conceived to give full Master’s scholarships to 100 students across 5-6 years from the developing and emerging world. This has involved the engagement of institutions across the world and will mean the empowerment of disadvantaged young people from Africa, the Middle East and Asia. In being part of a big leap in graduate student funding and in having a role in positive change in vital parts of the world, we hope to make the first substantial step towards raising our philanthropic profile and in contributing even more vitally to the international and research agenda for the university.

Later this year we will launch publically the campaign for our Fiftieth anniversary. The exact presentation of this campaign is still to be finalised but there is no doubt that fundraising will be predominantly focused on bringing in funds that will impact directly on the level of our general income both now and in the future. It might not sound exciting but it is what we need and we know you want to help. Campaign Chairs are now being appointed and launch events will be taking place across the international Life Member community. A core emphasis of this campaign will be on legacy gifts and if we succeed in reaching the high end of our expectations with this strategy, these new funds will be a cornerstone of the college’s future financial security. Those who have pledged generously will definitely be protecting the future of this great institution.

As we balance reality with optimism, I would like to reflect on those who have already done so much for Clare Hall. Life Members Donald West King and Ivan Janković were elected Foundation Fellows of the college in 2014 and this honour is chiefly to recognise their foresight and generosity in endowing respectively the Donald West and Mary Elizabeth King Visiting Fellowship in Pathology and the Ivan D. Janković Studentship. Those who have got to know Jon Yewdell and Miroslav Dosen, the recipients of these awards, will have no doubts that funding plays a pivotal role in making Clare Hall a magnet for talented researchers from every part of the world.

Ranj Majumdar
Development Director
We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals and organisations for their generosity during the 2013-14 academic year. We are also grateful to those donors who wish to remain anonymous, have given gifts in kind, or made a bequest to the college.

Organisations
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Kresge Foundation
Tanner Foundation
Wyss Foundation

Individuals
Andreas Acrivos and Jennie Acrivos
Stephen Adler
David Agard
Robert Alarie
Gordon Anderson
Ronald Armstrong
Dean Arnold
Walter Arnstein
Sergey Arsenyev-Obraztsov
Nahid Aslanbeigui
David Bates
Khadijah Bawazeer
Richard Bell
Marion Berghahn
Constance Berman
Thomas Berson
Sunil Bhosale
Gary Biasini
Carole Biggam
Michael Black
Philip Blythe
Lee Bollinger
Ruth Bottigheimer
Stuart Bradley
Michael Bregnsbo
Grace Brockington
Heather Brown
James Brown
James Brundage
William Bryson
John Bunting
David Burr
Ralph Buultjens
Geoffrey Caban
David Callies
Philip Campbell
James Candy
Eric Carlson
Stefano Casella
Ruth Caston and Victor Caston
Bellur Chandrasekhar
Marjorie Chibnall
Marilyn Chislaghi
Susmita Chowdhury
James Clayton
Edward Coales
Carol Coe
Daniel Cole
Conal Condren
David Cope
Edward Corrigan
Raphaelle Costa de Beauregard
Richard Cottle
Robert Crutchfield
James Culberson
Roberto De Vita
Paul Delany
Dena Dincauze
Christopher Dufault
Claudia Duffy
Colin Duly
Ross Dunn
Robert Duvall
Bruce Eastwood
Richard Eden
Robert Edwards
Kevin Edwards
Daniel Estes
Theodore Evergates
John Fain
Ian Falconer
Yale Ferguson
Farhan Feroz
David Fischer
Felix Franks
Sheila Friend-Smith
Helen Fulton
Puli Fuwongcharoen
John Fyler
Moira Gardiner
David Gardner
Semiu Gbadebo
Theodore Geballe
Jana Giles
Alfred Goldhaber
Margaret Goldstein
David Gosling
Garrett Green
DeLloyd Guth
Anthony Harding
James Hartle
Gohei Hata
Kerry Havner
David Hawdon
Richard Herr
Alexander Hewson
Jackson Hill
Almut Hintze
Tadashi Hirai
Roderick Home
Julie Horney and Wayne Osgood
Feng Huang
Bruce Hunt
Robert Hunt
Masanori Ito
Toru Iwama
Keiko Izubuchi
Roman W Jackiw
Howell Jackson and Elizabeth Foote
William Jagust
Martin Jay and Catherine Gallagher
Peter Jones
Miriam Kastner
Andrew Kennedy
Paul Kenney
Ian Kerr
John Kessler
J. Brien Key
Julius Kirshner
James Kister
Carol Klein (in memory of Sheldon Klein)
Daniel Kleinman and Susan Bernstein
Enrique Klix
Karen Klomparens
Claudio Köser
Anne Laura Kraak
Witold Krajewski
Claus Kress
Noriko Kubota
John Kuntz
Jonathan Lamb and Bridget Orr
Kenneth Langa
Luigi Lehnus
Jim Lennox
Michael Lewis
I-I Lin
Lawrence Lipking
Lida Lopes Cardozo Kindersley
David Major
Nancy Martin
John Matthias
Pamela McCallum
Eugene McCarthy
Roderick McConchie
Wayne McCready
Timothy McDermott
Christopher McDonough
William McLean
Michael McVaugh
Thomas Metcalf
Patrick Miller
Dimitrios Milonakis
Peter Minshall and Lorna Minshall
Yang Mo
Claude Morris
Stearns Morse
Sarah Mudukuti
Duncan Murchison
Sathy Naidu
Daisuke Nakai
Lawrence Neinstein
Edward Ng
Frank Nijhoff
Eva Novotny
Eric Nye and Carol Frost
Katherine O’Brien O’Keefe
Carl Olson
Lawrence Owusu
Larry Palmer
Fredos Papangelou
James Paradis
Reeve Parker
James Pawley
David Peters Corbett
Linda Peterson
Josep Pico
Anthony Podlecki
Levon Pogosian
Wilfrid Prest
Peter Quint
Gilles Quispel
Andrew Ramage and Nancy Ramage
Amos Rapoport
Keir Reeves
Barbara Reisner
Edwin Reyniers
Graham Richardson
Antje Richter
Harriet Ritvo
Steven Roecker
Antonio Romano
Daniel Roos
Jonathan Rose
Robert R Rosner
Marion Ross
Henry Ryan and Patricia Ryan
David Sacks
Satwindar Sadhal
Rebekah Scott
Elinor Shaffer
Thomas Shankland
Daniel Shea
Mark Smith
Robert Socolow
Jungyul Sohn
Roger Spanswick
Eugene Speer
Mary Speer
Katherine Spielmann
Bhama Srinivasan
Theodore St Antoine
Fred Staub
Michael Stoker
Rowan Strong
Ikki Suge
Henry Sullivan
Masashi Suzuki
Trudi Tate
Peter Teachout
John Thomas
Simon Tonkin
James Trotter
Guangjian Tu
Christoph Ulf
James Utterback
Arnulfo Valdivia Machuca
Elizabeth Van Houts
Ineke Van’t Spijker and Nick Collings
Moshe Yardi
Joseph Vining
Linda Voigts
John Walker
Joseph Walsh
Thompson Webb III
Guy Welbon
Marcel Wellner
Zena Werb
Andrew Wernick
Graham White
James White
David Williams
Joanna and Michael Womack
Johan Wrede
Gillian Wu
Carl Wunsch
Endi Zhang
Xiankuan Zhang
Evan Zimroth
Ryan MacDonald

Ryan completed his PhD in Developmental Neurobiology at the University of Ottawa in 2010. His thesis investigated the genetic regulatory mechanisms involved in neural development, specifically focusing on GABAergic neurons in the zebra-fish brain. He then spent a year as a post-doctoral fellow at Linkoping University in Sweden studying fate specification of motor neurons in the Drosophila ventral nerve cord. Since 2011, he has been a Research Associate at the Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience in Cambridge. In 2013 he was awarded the Herchel Smith Postdoctoral Fellowship to study the development and function of the zebra-fish retina. His major research question focuses on glial-neuronal interactions. More specifically, are glial cells necessary for neural circuit formation and proper function? In the laboratory of Professor Bill Harris he uses novel imaging techniques to visualise neural development and function in real time in vivo. He is also interested in the role of glial cells in the biophysical integrity of neural tissues and how this pertains to human disease.

Daniel Jon Mitchell

Daniel Mitchell joins the College on a Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellowship, hosted by the Department of History and Philosophy of Science. His research interests lie within the history of physics in the long nineteenth century and encompass its national context, institutional basis, and technical content. He completed his doctoral thesis, a biographical study of the French physicist Gabriel Lippmann, at the University of Oxford in 2010. He then took up a short-term Research Fellowship at the Science Museum, London, in order to study their collection of scientific instruments designed by the Victorian natural philosopher and inventor William Thomson (Lord Kelvin). Thomson’s inventions turned out to be far more successful than Lippmann’s: Daniel’s current research project aims to find out why by exploring their initial conception, and subsequent development, through manufacture, promotion, distribution, and use.

Daniel has also held an interdisciplinary teaching position at the University of Hong Kong, and a Visiting Fellowship at Harvard University.

Stefano Pagliara

Stefano received his PhD in Nanosciences at the Università del Salento in Lecce (Italy) in 2010 where he investigated optical and electrical properties of conjugated polymer nanofibers. He moved to Cambridge for a post-doctoral position at the Cavendish Laboratory where he is currently a Leverhulme Research Fellow.

Stefano’s expertise lies in developing bio-inspired/bio-mimetic microfluidics to advance our understanding of the physics of living systems. Furthermore it facilitates the development of future point-of-care applications where the requirements for low analyte volumes and reliable, fast screening are crucial. He is currently combining microfluidics and optical tweezers to unravel the hidden mechanisms of passive and active transport through protein membrane pores. He is also developing novel microfluidic assays for high throughput phenotyping of constrained live biological cells. This enables independent stress and measurement with single cell resolution and can be used in the study of differentiation kinetics of stem cells, cancer invasion and drug pharmacodynamics.

Christine Caputo

Christine obtained her PhD in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Western Ontario. She then worked at the University of California at Davis. In 2012, Christine joined the Christian Doppler Laboratory for Sustainable Syngas Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry in Cambridge. She is currently a Marie Curie International Incoming Fellow.

During her time at Clare Hall, she will be designing new catalysts for the photochemical reduction of carbon dioxide using Earth-abundant metals, such as nickel and iron. Many renewable energy technologies are only capable of forming electricity, which cannot be stored. Christine researches the formation of storable, renewable chemical fuels called ‘solar fuels’. Her goal is to use sunlight and a synthetic molecular catalyst to convert the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide into carbon monoxide, a component of syngas, which can be converted into a carbon-based fuel. This sustainable light-driven technology has the potential to transform our world by decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels and by reducing the negative environmental impact on our planet.

Edward Chouchani

Edward came to Cambridge as a Gates Scholar in 2008 to do his PhD. This research was dedicated to unravelling the mechanisms and targeting therapies against the bioenergetic dysfunction that drives ischaemia-reperfusion (IR) injuries. IR injuries comprise tissue damage and dysfunction caused by the removal and subsequent reintroduction of oxygenated blood supply. In his PhD he identified a novel signalling mechanism that could mediate protection from IR injury. He went on to develop a targeted therapeutic strategy for inducing this mechanism, which demonstrated profound protection in pre-clinical models of myocardial infarction and is now moving towards the clinical stage.

As a Research Fellow he is coordinating a research programme across several laboratories in Cambridge dedicated to characterisation of the role of reactive oxygen species in driving age-related pathologies. He hopes to uncover and manipulate metabolic factors that control reactive oxygen species-driven pathologies and apply these findings towards the development of targeted therapeutics.

Stefano Pagliara

Stefano received his PhD in Nanosciences at the Università del Salento in Lecce (Italy) in 2010 where he investigated optical and electrical properties of conjugated polymer nanofibers. He moved to Cambridge for a post-doctoral position at the Cavendish Laboratory where he is currently a Leverhulme Research Fellow.

Stefano’s expertise lies in developing bio-inspired/bio-mimetic microfluidics to advance our understanding of the physics of living systems. Furthermore it facilitates the development of future point-of-care applications where the requirements for low analyte volumes and reliable, fast screening are crucial. He is currently combining microfluidics and optical tweezers to unravel the hidden mechanisms of passive and active transport through protein membrane pores. He is also developing novel microfluidic assays for high throughput phenotyping of constrained live biological cells. This enables independent stress and measurement with single cell resolution and can be used in the study of differentiation kinetics of stem cells, cancer invasion and drug pharmacodynamics.

Christine Caputo

Christine obtained her PhD in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Western Ontario. She then worked at the University of California at Davis. In 2012, Christine joined the Christian Doppler Laboratory for Sustainable Syngas Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry in Cambridge. She is currently a Marie Curie International Incoming Fellow.

During her time at Clare Hall, she will be designing new catalysts for the photochemical reduction of carbon dioxide using Earth-abundant metals, such as nickel and iron. Many renewable energy technologies are only capable of forming electricity, which cannot be stored. Christine researches the formation of storable, renewable chemical fuels called ‘solar fuels’. Her goal is to use sunlight and a synthetic molecular catalyst to convert the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide into carbon monoxide, a component of syngas, which can be converted into a carbon-based fuel. This sustainable light-driven technology has the potential to transform our world by decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels and by reducing the negative environmental impact on our planet.

Edward Chouchani

Edward came to Cambridge as a Gates Scholar in 2008 to do his PhD. This research was dedicated to unravelling the mechanisms and targeting therapies against the bioenergetic dysfunction that drives ischaemia-reperfusion (IR) injuries. IR injuries comprise tissue damage and dysfunction caused by the removal and subsequent reintroduction of oxygenated blood supply. In his PhD he identified a novel signalling mechanism that could mediate protection from IR injury. He went on to develop a targeted therapeutic strategy for inducing this mechanism, which demonstrated profound protection in pre-clinical models of myocardial infarction and is now moving towards the clinical stage.

As a Research Fellow he is coordinating a research programme across several laboratories in Cambridge dedicated to characterisation of the role of reactive oxygen species in driving age-related pathologies. He hopes to uncover and manipulate metabolic factors that control reactive oxygen species-driven pathologies and apply these findings towards the development of targeted therapeutics.
Clare Hall does not have an ancient history, quirky rituals or expansive grounds. But it lives up to its motto as ‘A Place to Think’ (amongst other things). Many of us chose to come to Clare Hall for the very reasons that set it apart from other colleges – its student body comprising graduates from all around the world, its down-to-earth atmosphere, and the easy mix of Fellows and students. Each new group of students creates the unique environment in college each year: the 2013-14 Graduate Student Body (GSB) was characterised by a participatory, ‘hands-on’ spirit.

The lively enthusiasm of this year’s students made Clare Hall a particularly sociable place to be. Welcome Week saw students bonding through punting, enjoying cream tea at Grantchester, buffet breakfasts and lively parties at the college bar, and house dinners. This camaraderie extended to the many social events throughout the year, including themed parties planned by the Social Committee led by Cosmin Davidescu; sell-out GSB-hosted Jazz Formals in which solo performers, the Greenberg Trio, and the Cambridge University Jazz Orchestra entertained diners; Open Mic Nights organised by Yannik Suchert; and an Inter-house Games Evening. The Down the Rabbit Hole Garden Party in June capped off an eventful year in college. The organising committee – led by next year’s GSB President, Kay Jerath, with Michael Webster, Tess Little and Jonathan Seow – transformed the college grounds into an inviting wonderland.

Many students have keenly participated in college life and made an effort to improve the collegiate experience for everyone. Seamus Barker secured a range of new equipment for the gym, which proved to be very popular. He and Joli Price provided students with a healthy way to de-stress by running oversubscribed Pilates and yoga classes free of charge. Other relaxing events included a mindfulness workshop organised by Siobhan Flesher and Laura Brooks, as well as ‘Tea and Treats’ socials. Building Clare Hall’s profile within the university, Daniel Petersen and Rali Madsen arranged formal swaps with almost half of the other colleges in Cambridge. Jeremy Fensch and Joli’s Electricity Challenge encouraged competition amongst college houses to reduce their electricity usage for the prize of a free formal dinner for the winning house.

A sense of intellectual community was nurtured this year. The Clare Hall Research Exchange, arranged by Shiru Lim and senior members of the college, was very successful, with Fellows and students giving brief talks on their work to a jam-packed college bar. Elena Zezlina arranged weekly writing groups to help students and Fellows meet their writing deadlines.

This proactive approach to college life was also reflected in the students keen participation in the creative arts. Seline Fröling helped to run Clare Hall’s first-ever photography competition, A Place to Think. It drew over 100 entries and resulted in a summer exhibition with the winning photographs displayed throughout the college. Weekly student-run film nights in the Anthony Low Building (ALB) brought a diverse selection of world cinema to the members of Clare Hall.
In all its activities, the GSB directly reflects the interests of all students at Clare Hall. The use of surveys was particularly useful, and through these, students expressed a strong desire to transform the space within the ALB. In response, the GSB Committee is redecorating the bar area and investing in a refurbished Music Room to provide a range of beginners’ instruments for all college members.

Clare Hall is a place where students, Fellows and visiting researchers are treated as colleagues, where you feel welcomed and included, and where Cambridge feels less intimidating and more like home. We have been encouraged by the helpfulness and warmth of the college staff, particularly the Porters. We will remember this year for the many friendships, events, and fun moments we enjoyed, and will remember Clare Hall as the college that made them possible.

Jennifer Upton (GSB President) and
Jumbo Chan (GSB Vice President)
The monthly Friday Family Suppers are as popular as ever. Children enjoy art and craft activities before supper, with a film afterwards, while parents relax and talk. Thanks to John Simons and the kitchen staff for their tasty meals and many kindnesses. And thanks to Fellows Sohini Kar-Narayan and Lori Passmore for organising, and to the college cleaners and porters for their help.

We had a great 2013 Christmas party with a special visit from Father Christmas (Thanks, Trevor). On another evening, college members gathered for traditional Christmas songs and readings thoughtfully chosen by Robert Anderson.

A group of Fellows, families, and students came together for a friendly bring-and-share international lunch on Christmas Day in the Richard Eden Room. We hope to gather again for Christmas 2014, so get in touch if you’d like to join us. Everyone brings a contribution, which makes for quite a feast.

Children who came to hear the klezmer group She’koyokh in college in April found the music really exciting, and some joined in the communal dancing. Clare Hall children continue to flourish in the pool, under the expert guidance of our swimming teacher Silvia Ferdin.

We also had an afternoon of djembe drumming with Kirsty Body and a visit to the Botanical Garden with John Parker. In May, a group of children aged from 9 months to 13 years, together with their parents, learned the basics of musical improvisation, led by superb jazz musicians and Clare Hallers, David Greenberg and Dan Bergstrahl.

Grateful thanks to all.

If you have skills that might be suitable for a family workshop or event, or can help in any way, please contact Trudi Tate (tt206) or Irene Hills (ih 237).
Sports at Clare Hall in 2013-14 were all about inclusivity, health and fun. Our rowers once again punched above their weight (sorry, mixing sporting metaphors with actual sports!), with the Men’s Team gaining an excellent three bumps in the Third Division event, while the Women’s Team also did the college proud against tough competition, and had an equally great time. Our college football team did well again, as did our women’s and men’s ice hockey teams, and several Clare Hall members joined forces with our neighbours, Robinson College, to play inter-collegiate basketball and field hockey.

In Michelmas Term a College Running Group was formed, culminating in three of our runners completing the Cambridge Half Marathon in March, each raising over £500 for Cancer Research UK. In Lent Term around thirty Clare Hall members completed a six-week course in yoga and pilates, run by qualified instructors from amongst the Clare Hall student body, to help with the aches and pains and stress of serious study! After Christmas the Clare Hall gymnasium was also significantly upgraded, and a round of friendly (but competitive) inter-house board-game competitions was completed.

As exams wind down we hope to organise a day of friendly lawn-games, involving students and fellows, giving everyone a chance to showcase their croquet skills, represent their house with pride, and relax with friends at the end of the academic year. Beyond the college sporting scene there have been numerous Clare Hall members who have represented the university as Half Blues, including Alicia Krozer (Half Blue: Volleyball), Ivo Timoteo (Half Blue: Karate). We are also proud of Kostas Ziovas, winner of the final bout that determined Varsity success in kickboxing. Congratulations, all.

Seamus Barker
GSB Sports Officer
After the adventures of last year’s bumps races, both the men’s and women’s boats needed some refurbishment. We used the quieter summer months to bring them back into racing form. Half of the women’s boat was refurbished, while the men’s boat has undergone a complete overhaul. This included changing its colour from the original pale yellow to a more classic white with Clare Hall racing stripes and replacing both the worn-out gates and fractured footplates.

At the start of the year and taking advantage of the majestic Indian summer weather, our novice day gave many of the students, Fellows and Visiting Fellows their first introduction to rowing on the Cam. After learning how many layers they needed to stay warm on a cold November morning and the best route for cycling to the boathouse in the dark for a 7 am outing, both the men’s and women’s novice teams participated in a number of races over Michaelmas Term, with some success.

Lent Term was a different kettle of fish. Water training was limited – despite our location in one of the driest places in the UK, a very wet winter resulted in flooding and many red flag days where boating was not permitted. The teams also had to train around the refurbishment of the Green Dragon Bridge, restricting access to one boat per club during the prime morning rowing time. Such conditions were not ideal for our preparation for Lent Bumps, and our results were mixed. While the men’s boat moved up 3 spots, the women’s boat, sadly, dropped 4.

We have now entered Easter Term with the promise of sunnier skies and warmer days. As we close in on the end of the season, our crews are training hard and taking advantage of the longer days, battling to be the first on the river at 6 am and getting in one last piece on the reach with sunsets well after 9 pm. At the time of writing, the M1 has secured their first win in their division in the Champs Eight Head race, a success that we all hope is just the beginning. This year, we will have three crews entering May Bumps, one women’s crew and two men’s crews – a first for the club. Hopes are high for a successful finish to the year.

Olivier Messe
Clare Hall Boat Club President

Christopher Russo
Clare Hall Boat Club Secretary
The Year in Music

Clare Hall is known throughout the university, and the world, as a centre for scholarship, and for music as well. Both were in evidence at no less than seventeen musical events for the year 2013-14. Four of these were Abigail Dolan’s famous Intimate Engagements series, setting a very high bar, and two were produced by the Graduate Student Body. The others were organised by the Clare Hall Music Committee, led by our chairman Jon Pines.

In November our Artist in Residence Patrick Hemmerlé presented a fascinating concert and lecture on German Romantic piano repertoire. January brought a packed audience to hear the popular Cambridge University Chinese Orchestra. Graduate Student Henry Stoll’s own Clare Hall Quartet was warmly received at the Formal Dinner in February, and in early March the Trio Venari, an incipient classical supergroup from the Guildhall School in London, played their very first engagement here at our college, testimony to the reputation of our music series.

March also brought us a Saint Patrick’s Day visit from the ASNAC Department’s exciting traditional Irish music trio, performing ‘parlour music’ on folk instruments from the Emerald Isle. The busy month concluded with a choral concert by the inspiring Erasmus Choir from Fitzwilliam College, featuring a return visit by wonderful soprano Marie Lemaire (formerly Alumni Officer at Clare Hall).

The pace continued in April with Clare Hall virtuoso harpsichordist Dan Tidhar’s Chesterton Baroque in concert with the Syrinx reed ensemble playing Bach’s Fourth Brandenburg and a selection of Vivaldi. Late April brought the hugely popular She’Koyokh Balkan and Klezmer band, which had people dancing in the aisles.

May began with the return of Patrick Hemmerlé in musical partnership with Patrick Milne for a duet of challenging four-hand piano pieces at which both virtuosos excelled. Abigail Dolan, responsible for our marvellous Intimate Engagement series, and for the booking of the incredible Trio Venari, produced what we hope will be the first of many family concerts with the charming children’s musical event The Midsummer Hare.

June ended our programme as we began, with a lecture and concert by Patrick Hemmerlé, this time with a riveting account of the history and development of Czech music.

Other music events this year included a Jazz Formal in May with the brilliant Greenberg Trio, two of whose members (PhD student and cool saxophonist David Greenberg, and Research Fellow and guitar wizard Dan Bergstrahl) led an improvisation class with Clare Hall families the next day. A delightful Music Evening in which college members performed was organised by Visa Kurki and Hanna Wilberg, and relieved some of the exam stress.

We received in November a donation earmarked for the development of young talent. We took it to heart at the Clare Hall Music Committee: of our eleven concerts, nine involved young staff or students from this or other colleges.

A great year!
Warm thanks to all involved.

Paul Mulvaney
Fellow Commoner
Music Committee
Intimate Engagements

It is a great pleasure for me to report on this year’s Intimate Engagements concert series, in which, for the seventh year, prominent musicians combined great music-making with an informal presentation.

The series opened in October with a recital performed by the Bulgarian-Belgian pianist Boyan Vodenitcharov. In a programme entitled The Contemporary Performer: Between Multiplicity and Unity of Styles, Boyan juxtaposed works by Schumann and Debussy during the improvisations turned the listening to these well-known pieces into a unique experience. It was exciting to see the natural flow between jazz, tonal free and loosely tonal compositional styles, alongside the flexible pianistic approach influenced by Boyan’s experience with different keyboard instruments. The concert concluded with a four-hands improvisation with David Dolan, which provoked an appetite to hear more from this collaboration.

It was a great pleasure to welcome again soprano Emma Kirkby in the concert in December. Accompanied by Jacob Lindberg, the duo beautifully performed songs and instrumental works for lute by Henry Purcell and John Dowland. The emphasis in their presentation was on the strong connection between words and sounds and the wide expressive palette it presents for performers. The intimate setting was ideal for listening to this best-loved Renaissance repertoire composed by the two ‘English Orpheuses’ and performed by the two early-music masters.

In February, baritone Charbel Mattar and pianist Martin Ennis joined forces for Schubert’s monumental Winterreise. In an engaging presentation Charbel examined the text from the wanderer’s perspective and explored the ways this perspective can guide his performance. Following a brief survey of the process in which the cycle was created, Martin reflected on the relatively new notion of a song cycle versus simply a collection of songs, and demonstrated how performers can shape a sense of unity through the listening ‘journey’. Rather than providing the full translation of the full 24 songs, Martin and Charbel provided us with the synopsis of the poems, which helped focusing the listening on the dramatic performance, which covered the full range of both the intimate and the extrovert expression. In May, David and I joined cellist and conductor Thomas Carroll in a programme combining solo and duo works by C.P.E. Bach, Schubert and Schumann, and trios by Haydn and Weber. We explored the tension created in performance between the performer’s musical intention and its actual auditory embodiment, and tried to share the ways this tension can take shape in both solo and chamber music contexts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Music Angels, without whom the series wouldn’t take place, and the series’ dedicated audiences for their warm and on-going support.

Abigail Dolan
Fellow Commoner
A question might be whether tradition and innovation can co-exist in art. In October 2013, a party of thirty from Clare Hall visited Moore Rodin, an exhibition at the Henry Moore Foundation at Perry Green in Hertfordshire. It might be imagined that these two artists, the greatest French sculptor of the nineteenth century and the greatest British one of the twentieth would exemplify the dichotomy between tradition and innovation. Of course, it is not as simple as that. Auguste Rodin can be considered revolutionary (‘Walking Man’, of 1899, as a prototype of modern sculpture), and Moore remarkably orthodox on occasion (consider the 1972 sheep sketchbook). The visit was one of three the college organised during the year. In August 2013 a party visited Sutton Hoo in Suffolk, the archaeological excavation of 1939 where examples of the earliest English art were discovered. Later, the group attended a concert at Snape Maltings, it being the centenary of Benjamin Britten’s birth. In March 2014, we visited a travelling exhibition, Recording Britain at The Higgins in Bedford. This consisted of watercolours by significant, traditional artists (John Piper, Charles Knight, Michael Rothenstein…) of vulnerable people, landscapes and buildings, created at the behest of Sir Kenneth Clark and the Pilgrim Trust during the early 1940s when Britain was at war. Earlier the group had been to nearby Bletchley Park, where the country’s message-gathering intelligence services were situated. One of our Fellows, Michael Loewe, who accompanied us, had actually worked there during the war and was
A Year of Art
continued

able to relate his personal experiences. These one-day visits are eagerly sought-after by Clare Hall members, and will continue.

The college housed six art exhibitions during the course of the year. From May 2013, the Durham-based artist Barrie Ormsby displayed his Beginnings, large pastel drawings addressing the evolutionary process, with small oil paintings revisiting the biblical myth of Eden, and landscapes of his home county. The now traditional summer glass exhibition followed in July, but Charlotte Morrison’s use of glass was anything but traditional as is clear from the title: Glass, Science and our Relationship with the Body. Objects of anatomical forms were made from delicate layers of glass, while text and context played a significant role, viewers being invited to move in and out of deeply personal narratives, medical descriptions, and imagery. The artists Tony Rothon and Sarah Nutley set up a studio for two years in the grounds of the Audley End estate near Saffron Walden, teaching and painting. Examination of their sensitive landscapes of the area, together with portraits and still-lives, brought out the influence which one artist has on the other.

Gail de Cordoba’s exhibition, Enduring Visions, reflected a world of memory and dreams. She is particularly affected by place – she grew up in Cornwall and lived in Andalucia. Now in Cambridge, her work has been influenced by the wild beauty of the West Country, the light and colour of Spain and the ever-changing skies and flat watery strips of land of the Fens. The exhibition which followed consisted of etchings and engravings by Ernst Nicol, who teaches at Norwich University of the Arts. His work is that of a true craftsman, containing imaginative originality and technical excellence. There is a strong surreal component in many of his works. Ernst very kindly gave a class, explaining his techniques one Saturday in college. Surface was an exhibition of abstract prints by Patricia Grant and Susan Mealing, both of whom had trained quite recently at Anglia Ruskin University. Patricia has described her work as channelling the gravitational forces of nature into her art. The value of the flawed and disdained is fundamental to Susan’s prints. Sir Winston would undoubtedly have categorised both these young artists’ work as innovative.

Robert Anderson
Chair, Art Committee
‘A Place to Think’

The Clare Hall Art Committee together with the Graduate Student Body organised a photography competition on the theme of ‘A Place to Think’. Out of more than 100 entries, the jury selected 22 images which were exhibited in college.

Clockwise from top left:
Frances Spalding (first),
Padmini Ram (second),
José Manuel Izquierdo (third) and
Elizabeth Garnsey (runner-up).

Thanks to everyone for a superb exhibition, and to Seline Fröhling for organising.
An exciting new programme of Clare Hall Literary Talks started in 2013, in which contemporary writers gave readings and talks to enthusiastic audiences from both town and gown. The programme started in the autumn with one of our most famous local writers, Ali Smith, author of *Free Love and Other Stories* (1995), *Hotel World* (2001), *The Accidental* (2005), *Artful* (2012), and many others. Ali braved a severe storm to read to us from several of her books, including the wonderful *Artful*, and to talk about her writings.

In December we heard non-fiction writer Francis Spufford, author of *The Child that Books Built* (2002) and *Unapologetic* (2012) an unfashionable and spirited defence of Christianity. Francis discussed *Red Plenty* (2010), his fascinating exploration of why the Soviet economic model looked attractive to many people in the mid-20th century. A lively discussion followed. In the new year we enjoyed discovering the work of Suzanne Joinson (*A Lady Cyclist’s Guide to Kashgar*, 2012, set in India in the 1920s), who also works for the British Council and was a Writer in Residence in Ramallah; and Olivia Laing, who read movingly from *To the River* (2011; about the River Ouse in Sussex) and talked most interestingly about her study of American writers and alcoholism, *The Trip to Echo Spring* (2013). The series ended with a fascinating talk by literary agent Rachel Calder, whose Sayle Literary Agency was founded in 1896 by none other than J. B. Pinker, who represented Conrad and Lawrence.

In 2014-15 we hope to have readings by novelists Susan Sellers and Christina Koning, and by poets Angela Leighton, Simon Jarvis, and Ian Patterson.

Thanks to Jennifer Upton and John Regan for chairing some talks.

Some of the talks are podcast through the Clare Hall website, under Literary Talks.

*Trudi Tate*
Convenor, Literary Talks
This was formerly known as the Arts, Social Science and Humanities (ASH) Colloquium which has long been an important part of the college’s intellectual and social life. In January this year the President accepted my proposal for a new name which would be simpler and, importantly, would not seem to exclude scientists. So the Clare Hall Colloquium was born.

It has been a very successful year, with a large number of outstanding talks. Speakers give an informal talk of no more than 40 minutes and what follows is a discussion of the ideas that have been presented. The Clare Hall audience asks excellent questions and a number of speakers have commented on how the experience has suggested to them new ways of looking at their subject.


Thanks to Denis Bilodeau, Managing Editor of the Clare Hall website, we now record the talks and they are available online. They have proved popular, with more than 15,000 visitors to date. To access, visit the Clare Hall website and click on Events>Clare Hall Colloquium>Recent talks and scroll down. You can listen online or download a podcast. For talks with slides we try to make available a PDF version of them – click on ‘Accompanying slides’ just above the photograph of the speaker and drag the PDF to your desktop.

You can sign up for an email alert when a new recording becomes available. You can also access the recordings (but not the slides) at http://upload.sms.cam.ac.uk/institution/CLAREH or go to iTunes>iTunesU and then search for Cambridge.

If you would like to present a talk in 2014-15 please contact abduplessis@icloud.com.

Adrian du Plessis
Fellow Commoner
On 20 November 2013 Professor Philippe Sands of University College London delivered the 2013 Tanner Lectures in the auditorium of Robinson College. The two lectures, together entitled *The Great Crimes*, traced the emergence of the legal concepts of *crimes against humanity* and *genocide* in the work of jurists who found the conventional legal understanding of *murder* wholly inadequate to describe the unexampled horrors of World War II.

Much of the first lecture, ‘The Tale’, was a taut account of the intertwined lives of three men: Hans Frank, the Nazi governor of Occupied Poland; Hersch Lauterpacht, a Polish-born Jewish international lawyer who was the chief architect of the concept ‘crimes against humanity’; and Rafael Lemkin, another Polish-born Jewish international lawyer, who was the originator and principal advocate of the term ‘genocide’. In all of his work Lauterpacht emphasized the criminality exhibited by each individual defendant, whereas Lemkin argued that the Nazi policies were distinguished by their intention to annihilate entire groups of the civilian population who were targeted because of their religion or ethnicity. The narrative then moved to the end of the war, when the decision was taken to try the leaders of Nazi Germany at Nuremberg for the atrocities they had planned and committed. The balance of the lecture described the efforts on the part of both Lauterpacht and Lemkin to influence the drafting of the indictment.

The second lecture, ‘The Troubles’, was more discursive. It described how both ‘crimes against humanity’ and ‘genocide’ have fared in the international legal order in view of the innumerable wars and pogroms that have characterised the years from Nuremberg to the present. Professor Sands then engaged in some speculation about the possible personal sources of the differences between Lauterpacht and Lemkin. In the end Professor Sands admits a sympathy both personal and intellectual with Lauterpacht. In the Tanner format, on the day following the lectures a panel of experts is convened to discuss what has been presented. The panel consisted of writer A. L. Kennedy, legal scholar Professor James Crawford, and Judge Bruno Simma.

The summary offered above is only the barest sketch. A detailed discussion is on the Clare Hall website.

Thanks to the Tanner Trustees for their support for these lecturers.

Robert Ackerman
Fellow Commoner
Helen Pennant arrived in Cambridge in July 2013 to take up the role of Director of the Cambridge Commonwealth, European and International Trust. The Trust, formed from the merger of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and the Cambridge Overseas Trust, provides financial support for international students on degree courses at Cambridge. Its aim is to enable candidates of outstanding academic merit, who would not otherwise be able to take up a place at Cambridge, to pursue courses of study or research. The Trust offers awards to selected students at PhD, Masters and undergraduate level in all subjects, and at all 31 colleges of the university, which include both full-cost and part-cost scholarships.

As Director of the Trust, Helen sets strategy and implements Trust policy in consultation with the Board of Trustees. She is responsible for building the Trust’s value to students and to the University of Cambridge, working with a range of international and local partners.

A graduate of the University of Oxford, where she studied French and History, Helen has worked in a variety of posts in the UK civil and diplomatic services, including as a team leader in the Department for Education and Employment, and for four years as Labour and Social Affairs Attaché at the British Embassy in Paris.

She also worked for three years as a national expert at the European Commission before relocating to Canada to take up the post of Executive Director International and Special Advisor to the President at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. In this role, Helen was the focal point for the university’s international activities, developing partnerships in areas such as student exchange, research collaboration, joint degrees and international scholarships.

After seven years in Canada, she returned to the UK and was elected a Fellow of Clare Hall, where she lived with her family, husband John and son Thomas, for their first six months in Cambridge. Although now living outside the college, the family regularly eats there, and Helen particularly enjoys talking with the graduate students.
In 1987, soon after my PhD in Edinburgh, I joined the faculty at Oxford University and began to work on the most challenging research problem of my career to date, tracking the movement of objects in real time. In the early 90s, when algorithms got clever enough and computers fast enough, we started to use cameras as sensors rather than as instruments for photography. Trying to model attentional processing where you could fixate your attention on one object even when it moved around was a huge challenge. Some experts take the view that in seeing, the human brain tests hypotheses against evidence in a visual scene, and in that way can extract knowledge about the visible world, even in the presence of noise and ambiguity. This is what machine vision has to do also, and needs algorithms that have an inherent capability to deal with noise and uncertainty. Probability is the calculus of uncertainty, so it seemed clear that machine vision would need to be based on computing with probabilities.

In 1999, I returned to Cambridge, where I had been an undergraduate at Trinity in the 1970s, and was elected a Fellow of Clare Hall in 2000. Nowadays I am Laboratory Director at Microsoft Research Cambridge, where we continue pioneering work in computer vision, powered by probability. The body-tracking algorithm behind the Kinect sensor for Microsoft’s Xbox game console is one example. We are witnessing the birth of the fourth paradigm for interacting with computers, the age of ‘action at a distance’. It is exciting for me that Microsoft Research is at the centre of this revolution in natural user interface.

In addition to the natural user interface work, I’m also working with visual psychologists, looking at the way we perceive shiny surfaces, as a more general probe for the workings of stereoscopic vision. I also work with chemical engineers, using probabilistic methods to produce new and more powerful ways of interpreting signals from MRI machines.

Machines that see are all around us now, in cameras, cars, graphics software and in the user interfaces of appliances, but there is much more work to do. Computers that can name objects, textures and scenes are all reliant on big data, but it’s apparent that humans learn visual properties using ‘boutique’, rather than big, data. We can learn from a single, well-chosen example, where computers still need many. It will be interesting to see if machine vision can develop methodologies for learning by computer that are closer to the remarkably efficient way that learning happens in the human brain.

Andrew Blake
Profile:

Wai Yi Feng

Royal Society Ogden Education Research Fellow

Wai Yi Feng is the first recipient of The Royal Society Ogden Education Research Fellowship, created by The Royal Society in 2009 to celebrate its 350th Anniversary and to invigorate science and mathematics education through research that feeds into national education policy and practice.

Born in Guangzhou, China, Yi spent her early childhood in China and Hong Kong before migrating with her parents to the UK in 1991. She studied mathematics at St Hilda’s College, Oxford, followed by doctoral study in Education at Newnham College, Cambridge, supported by a studentship from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). She first joined Clare Hall as a Research Fellow in 2010.

Yi’s research in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education focuses on programmes of ‘enrichment’ operating outside the school curriculum. These programmes work under the premise of enhancing students’ learning and experience of STEM subjects, of supporting and extending the teaching and learning of STEM subjects in school, and of widening participation in STEM study and careers among under-represented groups. Yet, little is understood about their actual impact on participating students or how their outcomes (balanced against demands on resources) could be assessed by schools and enrichment providers. In this context, Yi has worked with organisations commissioning, organising and delivering extra-curricular and co-curricular programmes across STEM for young people aged 11–18, conducting research as well as commissioned evaluation into industry-, charity- and government-sponsored projects. Yi has also been an ESRC Science and Innovation Policy Fellow in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

In her Royal Society funded research, Yi is developing a conceptual framework for STEM enrichment in the UK, and thence, a common survey instrument for measuring impact of STEM enrichment that is applicable in a variety of programme contexts. In this work, Yi has studied students’ experience of different forms of enrichment extensively. Interim findings from this research were showcased in a 2-day International Scientific Meeting in September 2014, funded by the Royal Society and the Ogden Trust, for which Yi is a Co-Principal Investigator.

Alongside this work, Yi is also the Principal Internal Evaluator leading a team of researchers and evaluators for the Cambridge Mathematics Education Project (CMEP) — a five-year project to provide innovative and stimulating materials to support and inspire teachers and students of advanced post-16 mathematics, funded by the Department for Education. Yi is also a member of the Steering Group for the Chemistry for All Project – a longitudinal project of the Royal Society of Chemistry which is exploring and researching effective provisions for widening participation in chemistry.
I arrived at Clare Hall in the autumn of 2005 to begin my MPhil studies in Finance at the Judge Business School, not knowing what a life-changing decision I had made to pursue higher education at Cambridge and to choose Clare Hall as the intellectual and social hub of my academic endeavours. Almost ten years have passed since, during which time I have experienced first as an MPhil student, then as a PhD candidate and now as University Lecturer what a multi-faceted, intellectually and culturally rich college Clare Hall really is – a multi-dimensionality that has not only shaped my personality, but also my approach to academic research in Finance.

My research agenda is focused on the interface between corporate finance, financial accounting and behavioural economics. For example, I am interested in understanding how information asymmetries between corporate boards and their shareholders influence managerial decision-making and the behaviour of capital markets. This strand of my research is in particular concerned with information flows during mergers and acquisitions and the wealth effects of these investment decisions when shareholders are less than perfectly rational.

Another strand of my research is influenced by an extraordinary experience – during a short intermission from Cambridge after the completion of my doctoral studies – when I lived through the largest bankruptcy in business history working on the trading floor of Lehman Brothers in London up to that momentous event in September 2008. Having experienced the most severe financial crisis since the Great Depression first hand, I have become interested in understanding how financial institutions manage their investments and risks responding to markets affected by animal spirits while taking into consideration financial accounting and regulatory outcomes. I am particularly interested in the unintended consequences of regulation in shaping the behaviour of financial institutions and their effects on the economy.

At the Judge Business School we have recently established the Centre for Compliance and Trust engaging with global banks based in the UK to align values and behaviours of the financial services sector with practices and processes. From an academic perspective I hope to develop new insights for my research into the management and regulation of financial institutions. Recent high profile cases of misconduct on the part of individuals and institutions within the sector and the loss of trust by the general populace vindicate a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to rebuild a sector that is so vital to our economies.

Such multi-disciplinarity is at the heart of what Clare Hall stands for and I am confident as I continue to learn from discussions with other Fellows, our international visitors and students at the college about the philosophy of science, molecular biology, physics, art history and many more interesting subjects, that it will inform my own research in ways I had not imagined and enable me to contribute to the advancement of my field. I teach on the MBA and Master of Finance programme at the Judge Business School and in 2014 I was on sabbatical at Harvard Business School.

Amir Amel-Zadeh
When I began, I thought I had a holograph to work from for the edition, at Trinity College. It’s a beautiful manuscript. Sadly, however, an expert on Arabic manuscripts (Adam Gacek) came to Cambridge and looked at it for me. Even before he looked at it, he warned me that if it was beautiful, it was almost certainly a fake. It’s still beautiful, as I hope is clear from the image of one of its pages. I now think the earliest witness is a manuscript from 1280, written by a scribe working for Katibi’s famous student, al-‘Allama al-Hilli. Moins belle, plus fidèle.

Tony Street

My main research project is translating a number of medieval Arabic texts on logic. At present I am finalising a translation of a text that has been taught in the madrasas from the fourteenth century CE down to today. The Epistle on Logic for Shams al-Din by Najm al-Din al-Katibi (d. 1276) is only 12,000 words long, but it’s sensitive to the many logical discussions that were underway in Azerbaijan in the 1260s. There have been literally hundreds of commentaries written on the Shamsiyya, as it’s generally called, and commentators devote most of their efforts to recontextualising Katibi’s telegraphic comments.

I came to Cambridge fifteen years ago from the Australian National University, Canberra, where I had been teaching classical Arabic for many years. Now in the Faculty of Divinity, I teach a course on aspects of the intellectual history of pre-Mongol Muslim societies. In 2008 and 2012 I was Professeur Invité at the Centre d’Histoire des Sciences et des Philosophies Arabes et Médiévales, Paris 7 (Diderot) and CNRS.
Glaucoma is a neurodegenerative disease characterised by the selective death of retinal ganglion cells (RGCs), which are the neurons responsible for sending information from the eye to the brain. The extension (axon) of these cells forms the optic nerve. Elevation of intraocular pressure (IOP) is a critical risk factor for glaucoma progression, and its lowering has become a major focus of intervention. However, many patients develop what is known as normal tension glaucoma, which is not associated with increased IOP. In many cases, RGC death continues after medical or surgical management of elevated IOP, but not all RGCs have the same sensitivity to the disease; some cells can survive for years, even with elevated IOP, whilst others die very early on after the first symptoms of the disease manifest themselves.

My research at Cambridge studied what makes some of our RGCs more resistant to cell death, an aspect fundamental to the understanding of glaucoma. At the BRC I collaborated with the research groups led by Professors Fawcett and Martin in a project which analysed which molecules could help RGCs regenerate in vitro and the different RGC subtype(s) that have the capacity to survive in difficult situations, as is the case in glaucoma. Dissociated RGCs from rat retinas were grown on different substrates that are present in the optic nerve, such as laminin, fibronectin and various collagens, in order to analyse their regenerative capacity, process extension and branching capability on these substrates. The ability of these cells to express specific molecules associated with regeneration was also investigated. This experiment has shed more light on our understanding of the substrates on which RGCs regeneration can be improved in vitro.

A different research project developed at the BRC was carried out in collaboration with the Department of Physics and consisted of the analysis of RGC axons, which were shown to effectively regenerate at an angle, an experiment that mimicked the configuration of these cells in the optic nerve head of patients with glaucoma. For this project, microfluidic chambers were generated in which RGCs from dissociated rat retinas were introduced. We were able to make the RGC axons grow in these chambers forming 90° angles, thus proving that RGC regeneration is not affected by the curvature of their axon, which suggests that the position of the axons in the optic nerve of patients with advanced glaucoma is not detrimental to RGCs.

Since RGCs are members of the central nervous system (CNS), it is known that they do not effectively regenerate their axons in vivo, whereas neurons in the peripheral nervous system (PNS) do have this ability. Possible differences in intracellular transport were investigated in both of these systems. For this purpose, a spinning disc laser microscope was used, which has the capacity to take a picture every 3 seconds of very small fluorescent molecules. Using this technique, movies from single images were generated that were used to measure the characteristics of neurite regeneration. For the first time, the mechanisms for the regeneration of RGCs and PNS neurons could be compared using this methodology.

The results of this work were presented at an international joint conference that I organised at Clare Hall in June 2012, entitled ‘Regeneration of the Nervous System: Intrinsic and Extrinsic Factors’. This was funded by the Basque Country Government, and attracted more than 60 researchers from Cambridge, the USA and the Basque Country.

Cambridge is one of the greatest cities in the world, in which the highest scientific and cultural achievements are combined, and hence, a wonderful place to regenerate the mind and spirit during my sabbatical leave. Also, the atmosphere at Clare Hall makes anyone’s stay wonderful. One can experience the changing seasons in the gardens, attend many concerts during the academic year and enjoy the excellent art exhibitions. Luis learned new sports at St. John’s College School each term and participated as an actor in the wonderful play, The Sound of Music. Most importantly, we had the privilege of interacting with outstanding people at Clare Hall and in the rest of the university and this made our stay in Cambridge an unforgettable period in our lives.

Elena Vecino
This year marks the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War. The University of Cambridge still honours its 2,500 members who gave their lives in ‘the war to end all wars’. It has also been described as ‘the greatest tragedy in human history’. In the collective memory of the West, an image of industrialised carnage in muddy trenches prevails. Most historians perpetuate this by focusing their research on the stalemate on the Western front. However important it may be, this is only one segment of the whole picture.

In my dissertation I intend to shed light on one of the many forgotten fronts – the Serbian front – and to help it to take its rightful place in the mainstream of historical discussion. This was where the first shells of the Great War fell and where the collapse of the Central Powers began when their defences crumbled in September 1918. My research, under the supervision of Professor Christopher Clark, focuses on the events on the Serbian front in 1914. On this foundation, I will examine the three key categories of factors that contribute to success or failure of a military campaign: military (weapons and tactics, operational and strategic level, etc.), motivational with special focus on the ‘nationality problem’ in the Austro-Hungarian army and relations between civilian and military leadership with emphasis on the conflict between the Serbian government and the conspiratorial circle around Colonel Dimitrijević.

My research has been made possible by the very generous Ivan D. Janković Studentship for which I am most grateful to Dr Janković and to my college Clare Hall.

Miroslav Dosen
Elsie Eden
1916-2014

We regret to report the death of Elsie Eden in March 2014. She was a valued and much loved member of the Clare Hall community for nearly fifty years. Her contribution to the college was enhanced by her own experience of living in many different university environments in the United States and in Europe. She was the secretary and then the chairman of the Cambridge Flower Club which met in Clare Hall in the early months following the completion of the new buildings, and she arranged flowers in college for many special occasions.

Sincere condolences to Richard Eden.
Moira Gardiner, a loyal Scot with a reputation for treating Sassenachs with kindness and generosity, came to Clare Hall as Bursar four years ago. She had spent thirteen years as Bursar at St Edmunds, bringing a wealth of experience as well as a firm commitment to serving graduate student needs. Moira’s wit, warmth, generosity and interest in Clare Hall’s community have earned her great affection and we are sad that ill health has obliged her reluctantly to step down.

Moira is a farmer’s daughter, born in Freuchie, Fife, and reared on the family farm. Moira had to leave school at 16 in order to take over the running of the farm when her father’s health failed, continuing at the same time to complete her education through evening classes.

After working in the Civil Service in Dundee Moira married Gavin Gardiner, a medical consultant who was widowed with four children, and the family moved south to London. Greatly skilled at multi-tasking, Moira saw her career in banking and finance develop and expand during these years, working at the Bank of Scotland, moving from the Trading Floor to Futures, and on to Far East ship sales. By the 1990s, as her young family grew up, she came up to Corpus Christi as a 40 year old undergraduate to study Economics.

Corpus recognised Moira’s talents and when she graduated she was offered a temporary post as Domus Bursar. From there she moved to the General Board of the University. In 1995 she joined St Edmunds as Bursar. At the same time she was an affiliated lecturer in Land Economy and Director of Studies for a number of colleges.

Clare Hall has gained much from Moira’s cheerful hand on the bursarial tiller and she has always offered a sympathetic, non-judgemental but shrewd ear to colleagues. Visiting Fellows and returning Life Members have enjoyed her warmth and hospitality and students have benefited from her solid support. Moira is a stalwart member of her neighbourhood gardening club. Colleagues in Clare Hall have gained from this too as the bounteous vegetables from her large garden in Barton have regularly appeared in college as gifts.

Recent times have brought her some personal sadnesses; the death, some years ago, of her husband, the loss of her beloved Scottish companion, Sheriff Charles Smith, and her own ill health. Even so, Moira’s infinite kindness and cheerful approach to whatever vicissitudes face us as a college community have earned her our respect and affection.

We shall miss you, Moira.

Bobbie Wells
Emeritus Fellow
Elizabeth Ramsden: 25 years as College Secretary, at the heart of Clare Hall

Elizabeth Ramsden – known to most people now as ‘Liz’ – stepped down as College Secretary earlier this year after twenty five years in the post. Thank goodness, she immediately reappeared as Accommodation Officer, so is by no means lost to Clare Hall. But this is a good moment to think about the great contribution she has made to college life. When I was President, she was an absolute mainstay and I am grateful to have her friendship still, as are so many of us at Clare Hall.

Liz came to Clare Hall in 1989, after four years as Secretary to the Degree Committee of the History Faculty. Earlier in her career she had worked for thirteen years at King’s College. So she was well versed in all the demands of administration. But what she brought to Clare Hall was not only calm efficiency but also a human warmth that has permeated her relations with everyone she encounters. Her friend and colleague Rosie Luff remarks, in words we can all thoroughly endorse: ‘I think the reason Elizabeth is so well liked and so successful is she genuinely likes all sorts of people from all walks of life. She has always enjoyed dealing with the Visiting Fellows and through them has made a huge number of friends from all over the world. She recently told me that a special time for her is when all the life members return for the summer, our college swallows. She knows who everyone is past and present, and can actually remember names!’ Long may she continue!

Gillian Beer
Past President and Honorary Fellow
Before they elected Michael Stoker as their President, the Fellows of Clare Hall needed little assistance by seeking the opinions of others or inviting him to meet the Fellowship and to take stock of the college. For he had been a Visiting Fellow in 1976, and the Fellows had seen for themselves the easy way in which he had entered into the communal life of the college, contributing to its activities and enlivening its social gatherings. Those who were themselves engaged in the sciences could personally appreciate the services that he had rendered to research, centred as this was in medical studies; one or two of the Fellows knew well how he had served Clare College as tutor and director of medical studies (1949-1958). Some of them could appreciate how well his experience as an administrator would meet the needs of Clare Hall; for, as foreign secretary of the Royal Society, he had known only too well the pitfalls that attend a scholar who is initiating links with universities overseas or negotiating with civil authorities for the exchange of academics or students.

As an undergraduate at Sidney Sussex College (1936-39) and a Fellow of Clare College from 1948 Michael needed no prompting on the place that a college takes in the university. He saw for himself how the experiment of founding the newly styled institution of Clare Hall could both fit into the existing framework and develop projects that would respond to the needs of the last half of the twentieth century.

As President he recognised how differences of opinion could easily arise between those who placed an excessive trust in Cambridge’s traditional ways and those who were anxious to adopt a speedy means of adapting to change. Keeping the balance required a steady hand and it was thanks to Michael’s calm leadership that the college could set out to preserve the best elements of the old and introduce means of approaching the new. He knew well that the proper function of the head of a college is not that of a forceful director who imposes his will on a Governing Body; nor is it that of a meek official who is content to obey that body’s instructions. He recognised that his role lay between these extremes; that while receiving the declared will of the Governing Body the President should warn its members of the long term and wider conditions in which the Fellows could plan for the future of the college; by gentle
leadership he would avoid the danger of adopting radical measures with undue haste.

Unruffled by the differences or disputes that arise in any college, whether springing from misapprehensions or ambitions, Michael was never known to raise his voice. Imperceptibly Clare Hall gathered strength during his presidency, with no ostentatious show of satisfaction. His distinguished academic achievements and his intellectual leadership lent the college a lustre. For his part he took a deep pride in the successes of its members and their advance into further stages of their careers. In no way self-assertive, Michael knew where his own values lay and would make his views perfectly clear. His modesty bore the mark of that natural authority that is imparted by nature and is exercised selflessly. As an averred agnostic he was ever tolerant of the beliefs of others and anxious to comprehend their standpoint and to respect their convictions. Devoted as he was to research in the sciences he never failed to give support and encouragement to those of his colleagues whose prime interests lay in the humanities.

We valued it deeply when, together with Veronica, Michael would join us on the benches round the bar, before lunch, where we enjoyed their conversation and their wit. Clare Hall welcomed their regular attendance at its functions, whether for a serious discussion of academic issues or domestic problems, or at the entertainments that livened up the summer evenings.

We watched with amusement Michael’s devotion to the apple crumble that the kitchens contrived to provide; we admired the courage with which he faced life after Veronica’s death; we watched, perhaps with trepidation at first, the skill with which he learnt to manipulate his tricycle. After his retirement he would sift through the mail that awaited him, discarding matters such as minutes of the Governing Body as no longer any business of his. If a sense of purpose informed his activities, he had mastered the means of keeping his enthusiasms in proportion.

He became our President in the autumn of his days; he left the college with a spring in its step.

Michael Loewe
Emeritus Fellow
News of members

Shun Au (MPhil Linguistics 1985) has been appointed Visiting Professor at Ning Bo Medical School, Ning Bo University, China.

Jean-Claude Baron (Professorial Fellow 2000-10) has been awarded the Mémé Prize for Human Biology and Medical Sciences by the Académie des Sciences, France.

Catharina Blomberg (VF 1986-87) has published a translation of The Journal of Olof Eriksson Willman From His Voyage to the Dutch East Indies and Japan, 1648-1654.

Anthony Bochon (LLM 2010-11) works in EU law in Brussels and is an associate lecturer at the Université libre de Bruxelles and a Fellow of Stanford Law School.


Sue Carter (VF 2013) has published a translation of The Birth of European Political Thought.

Evelyn Chan (PhD English 2010) has published Virginia Woolf and the Professions (2014).

Hasok Chang (Professorial Fellow) has won the 2013 Fernando Gil International Prize for his book, Is Water H2O? Evidence, Realism and Pluralism.

Sean Cheng (PhD Engineering 2013) joined Philips North America as Manager, Group Strategy in Andover, MA in February 2014.

Stefan Collini (Professorial Fellow) published an edition of F. R. Leavis, Two Cultures: The Significance of C. P. Snow (2013). He gave the A. Sedas Nunes Lecture, University of Lisbon, and the John Rees Lecture at Swansea University.

Howard Colquhoun (VF 2007) has won a 2013 Royal Society Brian Mercer Award to investigate the feasibility of commercialising a new type of polyester film discovered in his laboratory at the University of Reading.

Bill Conklin (VF 2001) has published Statelessness: The Enigma of the International Community (2014), written in part at Clare Hall.


Christopher P Dufault (PhD Entomology 1992) retired in 2012 as head of the Re-evaluation and Use Analysis Section of the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency. He now has a consultancy in pesticide regulation and insect pest management. He, his wife Heather, and daughter Sophie live in Ottawa, Canada.

Patrick Echlin (Emeritus Fellow) was awarded the Presidential Science Award for 2013 for Outstanding Technical Contribution to the Theory and Practice for Microanalysis by the Microanalysis Society of America.

Amir Fakeeh (PhD student, Materials Science and Metallurgy) was named the Top Masters Student from the Republic of Moldova studying in Western Europe, 2014. The award was presented by the Moldovan Prime Minister, Iurie Leanca. (See photo.)

Michael Green (Honorary Fellow) has been jointly awarded the $3 million Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics with Professor John H. Schwarz, California Institute of Technology, for opening new perspectives on quantum gravity and the unification of forces.

Lawrence Hamilton (RF 2001-03) has published Are South Africans Free? (2014) and Freedom is Power: Liberty Through Political Representation (2014). He has been appointed Professor in the Department of Political Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand. Congratulations to Lawrence and Mairead on the birth of Cormac in 2013.

Marika Hedin (VF 2005-06) has been appointed Director of the Uppsala University Museum, Museum Gustavianum.

Clemens Hermann (PhD Pathology 2014) has a post-doctoral position at the University of Cape Town to research immunity against tuberculosis.


Stuart Kirsch (VF 2000-02) has published Mining Capitalism: The Relationship between Corporations and their Critics (2014).

Niraj Lal (PhD Physics 2012), now a Research Fellow at the Australian National University, won a Young Tall Poppy Science Award (2013) for his work in nanophotonics, photovoltaics and renewable energy. (See photo)


Glen MacDonald (VF 1989) has been elected the Inaugural John Muir Memorial Chair in the Department of Geography at UCLA.

Ahmed Mahomed (PhD Psychiatry 2013) has published a paper on neuroethics in the Journal of Creativity in Mental Health (2014). He is now a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Psychiatry, Cambridge.

Annamaria Motrescu-Mayes (RF) has edited a special issue of New Cinemas: Journal of Contemporary Film on the theme of Personal Films in Digital Space (2014) and organised a conference on Visual Anthropology and Contemporary South Asian History at CRASH. She launched the Tamil Research Network, a collaboration between Cambridge and the Fondation Maison Science de l’Homme, Paris.

David Neal (Professorial Fellow) was awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours List 2014, for services to surgery.

Eric Nye (VF 2013) has published John Kemble’s Gibraltar Journal: The Spanish Expedition of the Cambridge Apostles, 1830-31 (2014), which he worked on during his Visiting Fellowship at Clare Hall.

Congratulations to Suzana Ograjenič (RF 2004-10) and David Crawley (RF 2004-05) on the birth of Katarina in October 2013.

Congratulations to Luca Passamonti (Betty Behrens RF 2008-10) and Pina on the birth of Francesco. Luca has a research post at the Istituto di Bioimmagini e Fisiologia Molecolare, Cantanzaro, Italy.

Keir Reeves (VF 2013) has been appointed Professor of Regional Engagement at Federation University, Australia. His co-authored book, Anzac Journeys: Walking the Battlefields of World War Two, was published in 2013.

David Rooney (Resident Associate 1986-88) has published Henry Morris and the Cambridgeshire Village Colleges (2013). The publication was marked with an archive exhibition and panel discussion of the book at the Institute of Education, London, in February 2014.

Margaret Rose (Associate 1984-85) has published an illustrated edition of letters to and from the Düsseldorf artis Theodor Mintrop. Theodor Mintrops Briefe an Anna Rose, 1857-1869 (2014).

Elizabthe Rowe (OF) published an essay on Fornaldarsögur and heroic legends of the Edda (2013).

Roberto Scazzieri (VF 1992) has been elected a Corresponding Fellow of the Italian Accademia dei Lincei.

Henry Schwartz (VF 1991-92) has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Rebekah Scott (PhD English 2010) has been appointed Lecturer in Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Literature at the University of Nottingham. She has published a chapter on ‘Snarling Charles’ in Dickens’s Style, and an article on James in Essays in Criticism (all 2013).

Takashi Shogimen (RF 1997-2000) has been appointed Associate Dean (Research) at the University of Otago. His book, Yoroppa Seiji Shiso no Tanjo (The Birth of European Political Thought), won the 2013 Santory Prize for Social Sciences and Humanities.


Marcella Sutcliffe (RF) published Victorian Radicals and Italian Democrats (2014). Marcella organised a commemorative evening at the Fishmongers’
We always look forward to hearing from our members, so please continue to send us news and changes of address. If you are visiting Cambridge, we can often provide accommodation so do contact us for availability. For information about college activities, renting rooms for special occasions, weddings, parties, conferences, summer residential conferences and small lectures, please contact alumni@clarehall.cam.ac.uk telephone +44 1223 332360 or look on our website.