



# Johnian News

Issue 7

Lent Term 2000

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## Johnians lead the way

The prize for Best Project for the first-ever ShellSTEP International scheme has been won by one of our students. Lee Sanders, now a fourth year engineer, was presented with his prize at a special ceremony in February.

ShellSTEP is a highly regarded student placement programme which has been running in the UK since 1986. As part of this scheme, small companies have the services of a talented penultimate year student for an eight week project during the summer vacation. The idea of the scheme is to encourage students to think about the advantages of working for a small company and to gain valuable work experience, and to encourage small companies to consider the merits of recruiting graduates. St John's Innovation Centre runs the local ShellSTEP agency and has placed more than 70 students with local companies in the Cambridge region since 1994.

The Innovation Centre was asked to take on the full International programme for 1999 and to place students with companies outside the UK. Of the eight students chosen to participate in the first set of placements, two, Lee Sanders and Ben Corlett, were Johnians.

Lee Sanders spent his time at three different locations in central Sweden, looking for technology transfer opportunities, and seeking possible trading and research collaborations with companies and organisations on the Mjardevi Science Park. One of the results of his work is that a Swedish company and a UK company have begun work on two different joint projects. Ben Corlett was placed with the Innovation Relay Centre run by the Science and Technology Park of Crete which is situated in Heraklion. He worked on identifying partnering and trading opportunities for technology-based collaborations between organisations including companies, universities from eastern England and similar bodies in Crete. He was also tasked with building a new database and portfolio of the technologies being developed by companies on the Crete Technology Park and other parts of the island.

Ruth Puddick, co-ordinator of the scheme, said: 'Lee Sanders and Ben Corlett were both charming students who contributed greatly to the success of the programme and I only hope that we attract more like them this year.' ☺



Photo by Michael Manni Photographic

Dr Ian Hutchings (Fellow and Chairman of the Innovation Centre), Lee Sanders, and Nick Tindall of Barclays Bank (sponsors of the award)

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## College news

**Professor Nick McCave**, Woodwardian Professor of Geology and Fellow of the College, has been presented with the 1999 A G Huntsman Award. This is a major award established by the Canadian marine science community in 1980 to recognise excellence of research in, and outstanding contribution to, oceanography.

Professor McCave was chosen to receive this prestigious award because of his 'many seminal contributions to the evolution of a process-based understanding of fine-sediment grain size distributions in the sea', with applications to the flux of particles in the oceans and reconstruction of the past deep sea circulation.



Professor McCave receiving the Award from Professor Geoffrey Flynn, President of the Academy of Science of the Royal Society of Canada

Professor McCave received the award on November 26 1999 at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, where he gave a lecture entitled 'Changes in the vigour of the deep ocean circulation and climate on Milankovitch to millennial time scales'.

**Professor Peter Clarke**, Professor of Modern British History and Fellow of the College since 1980, has been elected Master of Trinity Hall from 1 October 2000. Professor Clarke came up to St John's in 1960 and took his BA in 1963. He was then a research student for a PhD at the College before becoming a lecturer at University College, London. He returned to St John's in 1980 and served the College as a Tutor for Natural Sciences as well as a Supervisor in History. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1989.



Photo by Cair Fraser

**Sir Michael Scholar**, (BA 1964, Fellow 1969-70) Honorary Fellow of the College, has been elected President of St John's College, Oxford, from August 2001. Sir Michael has been Permanent Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry since 1996.

**The President of Romania**, Professor Emil Constantinescu, paid a private scientific visit to the University of Cambridge on 7 and 8 November. He was a guest of the Master of St John's, and Professor Ekhard Salje, Head of the Department of Earth Sciences.

Professor Constantinescu was formerly Professor of Mineralogy and then Chancellor of the University of Bucharest. In 1998, he was elected the first non-Communist president of Romania since the revolution of 1989.

Professor Constantinescu was shown round the College by the Master. As a reminder of his stay at St John's, he was presented with a College rugby shirt.

**Professor Richard Friend**, Fellow of the College and Cavendish Professor of Physics, is the most cited physical scientist in the UK. The US-based Institute of Scientific Information has produced a table of the country's 30 most cited researchers in the physical sciences based on papers published between 1990 and June 1999. Professor Friend's research on light-emitting polymers and other materials has attracted more than 7,000 citations.

The College has commissioned **John Doyle MBE RWS** to paint a number of views of St John's. He will paint views of the Front Gate, the Bridge of Sighs from

*Johnian News* aims to keep Johnians in touch with the College and with each other. It is published twice a year by St John's College, Cambridge.

News, articles, letters and photographs to be considered for inclusion in *Johnian News* should be sent to The Johnian Office, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP. Fax: 01223 338727



## College news

Trinity, First Court, the inside of the Hall, the inside of the Upper Library, and New Court. The first three prints of the paintings will be offered for sale to Johnians in October this year and the final three will be offered in March 2001.



John Doyle grew up in the North Downs and developed his love of the countryside which nurtured his early talent for painting.

He went to Venice and painted for over twelve hours a day, changing paintings with the changing light. On his return to London, he sent his pictures to the Royal Academy. They were accepted and sold on private view day.

In 1978 he was elected an Associate of the Royal Watercolour Society when its home was in a beautiful gallery in Conduit Street and in 1996 he was elected President. He will be giving up the Presidency this year to concentrate on fund-raising for the Royal Watercolour Society's new gallery on Bankside - but he says that it will not interrupt his painting!

The **College Choir** has released a new CD on the Nimbus label. The CD contains Duruflé's complete choral works: *Requiem*, *Quatre Motets*, *Messe 'Cum Jubilo'* and *Notre Père*. It is available from music shops and directly from the College. If you would like to order a copy, please send a cheque to the Johnian Office for £9.50 per CD, plus 50p per CD postage and packing for the UK and £1.50 per CD for overseas postage.



A second recording on the Naxos label was released on 2 May. The release of the CD follows the success of the Howells' recording. The new CD features music by

Benjamin Britten, including *Rejoice in the Lamb*, *Hymn to the Virgin* and *Missa Brevis in D*. The CD is available from music shops at a price of £4.99 and directly from the College at a price of £4.75 (postage and packing is charged at 50p per CD for the UK and £1.50 per CD for overseas).

The College is very sad to report the death of **Dr Ron Snaith** on 1 January 2000. Dr Snaith came to the College in 1989 when he became a Lecturer in Organic & Inorganic Chemistry at the University and at St John's. He was a Tutor from 1991 to 1995 and 1996 to 1997 and was Admissions Tutor from 1991 to 1994. He was then appointed Director of Studies in Chemistry, a position he held from 1995 until his death. A memorial service was held in the Chapel on Saturday 29 April and a full obituary will be published in this year's *Eagle*.

Johnians resident in the UK may be aware that in the recent Budget the Chancellor announced several changes in the tax treatment of charitable giving. Most importantly, the changes mean that a charity, such as the College, can reclaim tax at the basic rate on a donation of any size (as long as the donor pays an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the amount of tax which is reclaimed). Changes in the way gifts of shares are treated mean that a donor can offset the value of the shares against income tax.

The tax treatment of bequests remains unchanged and bequests to charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax. Further details can be obtained from the Development Officer.

To raise money for the Mozambique Relief Effort, **Graham Walker** (BA 1999) and the Ad Hoc Singers (many of whom are current Johnians) performed in the College Chapel on 29 April 2000. The programme was Duruflé's *Requiem* and *In The Beginning* by Copland.

The College is sad to report the death of **Ruth Daniel**, widow of Glyn Daniel, Fellow. Ruth was a particular supporter of the College Choir and Evensong will be held as a memorial for her on Friday 7 July at 6.30pm. Johnians are welcome to attend.



## Joining the Dot Coms

*Tony Restell read Economics and Management Studies at St John's College, graduating in 1996. Here he shares with us the tremendous difference that being a Johnian has made in the launch of his internet venture [www.Top-Consultant.com](http://www.Top-Consultant.com).*

There have been many occasions on which I've thanked my lucky stars I'm a Johnian. Two months into the launch of my web-venture, I can tell you that being a Johnian makes a big difference in the new net economy. It is something of a cliché that a year in internet time is like seven years in the old world economy. But when you start to recognise the truth in this statement, the importance of your alumni network becomes profound indeed.

It was in the latter part of last year that I came up with the idea for setting up an internet company. At the time I was working as a management consultant (a profession incidently that seems to be very popular amongst Johnians). The trend seemed to be that websites were becoming more and more focused on attracting a very specific target audience. The success of Doctors.net and Jewishnet.com lay in their ability to generate a strong following amongst their respective target audiences, whilst being a very attractive marketing media for large corporations. I thought why not transpose this idea onto the professions that most Oxbridge alumni pursue?

First to be launched was [www.Top-Consultant.com](http://www.Top-Consultant.com), which is a resources portal for management consultants. We dissected the life of a management consultant and tried to bring together onto one site numerous web-based resources for making their lives easier, from getting annual reports and company information online to getting themselves headhunted! Next on the agenda are the international roll-out of Top-Consultant and the launches of [www.Top-Banker.com](http://www.Top-Banker.com) and [www.Top-Accountant.com](http://www.Top-Accountant.com) along similar lines.

Well, enough of the concept – and onto praising Johnians! Returning to my theme that speed is paramount, I cannot overstate how critical it is when getting a venture off the ground to be able to call on the expertise of those at the top of their profession. Thus when it came to the enormous task of getting the website up and running, I was able to turn to Tom Ball – who founded the [Cloud9Design.co.uk](http://Cloud9Design.co.uk) internet design & strategy company upon leaving St John's. When approaching large corporations for advertising business, thumbing through my address book I found countless Johnians willing and able to help. And so it is that tasks that might have taken many man-weeks have been condensed into man-days. Cold-calling exercises have been transformed into pleasant introductions.

The internet has such amazing potential because it draws upon the power of data networks to make things happen more productively through the sharing and leveraging of electronic information. The interesting thing is that interpersonal networks are critical in setting up an internet venture – the more you can draw on a strong network of people and contacts, the more productive and successful you will be. Surely a positive message for all Johnians as we enter this new era. ☺



Tony Restell



## The Cape Town Connection

*Alistair Boyd and Ben Cocker both came up to St John's in 1997 to read Mathematics. Alistair has since changed to Astrophysics while Ben has continued with Mathematics. They both expect to graduate this summer. Here Alistair writes about their plans for the summer.*

Last year while 'revising' for my exams, true to character, I was indulging in some pleasant daydreaming. I had decided that a year abroad before being sucked into the city by the lure of money was essential to my own development and came up with the idea of cycling from South Africa back to the UK. Knowing that I probably would not get the idea off the ground without help, I mentioned my crazy plans to Ben and the 'Cape Town Connection' was born.

We decided to cycle the 10,000 miles between the two twinned hospitals of Cape Town and Sheffield and raise money for them because Ben's younger brother Jake, who suffers from pseudo-achondroplasia (a growth defect), has undergone many operations in the Sheffield Children's Hospital. Most of these have been corrective knee and ankle surgery, but they have also included pioneering fixator leg lengthening operations performed by the renowned surgeon Mr Sharrad. The Sheffield Children's Hospital will use the funds to help buy a digital x-ray scanner for the limb lengthening special unit, while at the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town, the only specialised children's hospital south of Cairo, funds raised will be used to build further wards.

Our route will, of course, be subject to change, but at present takes us from Cape Town round the South African coast and north into Zimbabwe. From Harare we will cut across Mozambique to Blantyre, then up the west side of Lake Malawi into Tanzania. We will continue to Dar es Salaam then north through Nairobi and Kenya to Ethiopia. Once at Addis Ababa, we will cycle to Khartoum and up the Nile Valley to Cairo. Then pedal power

will take us from Africa into the Middle East through Israel, Jordan and Syria and through Turkey, Greece, Italy and France, returning home, it is hoped, just less than one year after leaving Cape Town.

Ben and I have been carrying out some preliminary training, but we feel that we will build up a lot of our fitness on route. As well as seeing all these new countries we are looking forward to meeting all the different peoples. Of course, it won't all be fun - in particular it could be very lonely as we won't have the chance to settle down in any once place.

We have set up a website about our cycle ride, which will be updated while we are away by one of our friends, Nancy Priston, JCR President. We will be communicating with her via a small palm-top computer throughout our travels. To find out more about the project and to keep up to date with our progress, please look at our website which can be found at: <http://www.thecapetownconnection.co.uk>. ☺



Ben (left), Nancy and Alistair, preparing for the trip



## A Latin Serenade

*Graham Walker and Ivan Guevara-Bernal both came up to St John's in 1996. Graham was a Choral Scholar reading Mathematics and graduated in 1999. He has won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music. Ivan graduated in 1998 with an MPhil in Latin American Studies and is now carrying out research for a PhD in Company Law. These two culturally disparate musicians have collaborated in a shared love of Latin American music to produce unique arrangements for piano and cello. They have built up a following in Cambridge and will be taking their music overseas this summer.*

Graham Walker and Ivan Guevara-Bernal met in 1997 during their second year at St John's College. Graham who, as a former Choral Student and President of the Music Society, occupies a prominent musical role within the College, was approached by the exuberant Colombian. Ivan had in mind that his piano-playing would complement Graham's cello-playing and an introductory meeting was set up.

Initially, in the absence of a proper score, rehearsals involved Ivan playing the piano while Graham noted down the music. The improvisatory nature of the music meant that they were in part composing as they went along. At first the classic Latin American rhythms such as the bolero, tango, joropo and pasillo seemed alien to Graham, who had undergone a classical training. His confidence quickly grew, however, a process assisted by his introduction to Latin American dancing at the University Dancers' Club.

Ivan was puzzled by Graham's constant technical questions, but instead of resorting to the complex terminology of traditional music theory, Ivan explained the story behind each piece, recounting tales of love and passion.

The disparate musical approaches finally found expression with the pair's mutual mastery of one particular tango. Ivan had become used to supporting Graham technically, whilst the latter began to provide the increased emotion through his cello that Ivan demanded. Directness of expression had to become an integral part of Graham's performance; Ivan, meanwhile, had to learn to accompany rather than simply to play.

In Graham and Ivan, two very different cultural movements and backgrounds meet in a unique presentation of Latin American rhythms. Their inimitable style has been enjoyed by various audiences both within College and further afield. Recitals are planned for May and June that will take the two Johnians first to Bern in Switzerland and then to Nice.

Soon, Ivan will return to Colombia and Graham will be ensconced in the world of the Royal Academy. But the 'cultural experiment' which resulted in such evocative playing will not be forgotten by those lucky enough to have sampled it. ☺



Graham Walker (left) and Ivan Guevara-Bernal



## Impressions from Caltech

*Sean Hartnoll came up to St John's in 1997 to read for a BA in Mathematics. In the summer vacation of his second year he was chosen to be the first California Institute of Technology (Caltech) Exchange Student and travelled to Caltech to participate in the SURF programme. The exchange with Caltech was set up in 1998 and allows for one or two students from St John's to spend some time at Caltech. In return, the College welcomes a number of Caltech students who matriculate as members of the University and spend one term reading selected aspects of an undergraduate course. The first such student was Mike Westover, who spent the Lent Term 1999 at St John's reading aspects of the Natural Sciences Tripos, particularly Astro-Physics. In this article Sean talks about his impression of Caltech.*

A first, but lasting, impression of Caltech is that it is "precious" in a particular sense of the word I would have previously reserved for (some) Cambridge colleges: small, prestigious and wealthy, a large chunk of the wealth being spent on maintaining the trees, ponds, lawns and pretty beige buildings that make up the Campus. It is the sort of place you might want to have a wedding in, and indeed, on any Saturday morning an average walk would run into at least three wedding parties.



Sean Hartnoll

Inside the student residences, "houses" as they are called, the similarity with a Cambridge college ends. The house that I was staying in had been the "hippy" house in the seventies and something of the hippy tradition remained: bright paintings and poems adorned the walls of the hallways and rooms. The contents of the pictures ranged from the witty, to the touching, to the obscene, but always gave a feeling of homeliness. The students had made the house their own.

The SURF programme, although involving mostly Caltech students, brought together people from all over the States and Europe. Not many remained immune to the all-pervading work ethos of the place, but between five and eight in the evening, and frequently until two or three the next morning, there would always be people sitting around in the courtyards, talking and watching twenty metre high palm trees sway in the wind.

In between going to San Francisco for a weekend, or a walk in the desert during the day followed by stargazing at night, or the Women's World Cup football final at the Rose Bowl stadium, it was great to be working, and making progress, on a real open-ended problem in physics. Immersion in an active field reminded me why I wanted to be studying in the first place, something that is too easily forgotten in the routine of lectures, problem sheets and exams. I also got to see the famous bet between Kip Thorne and Stephen Hawking hanging on the wall outside Kip Thorne's office.



One of the first people I met, the night after I arrived, was an emeritus professor of Maths, John Todd, who had been a graduate student at John's in the 1930s. He has been at Caltech for the last forty years, so Caltech is hardly new ground for Johnians. In fact, it was only as the weeks passed that I became fully aware that very large numbers of people have travelled between Caltech and Cambridge in one direction or another. I hope the exchange program helps to maintain this situation and to provide many enjoyable summers at the same time. ☺

Part of the Campus at Caltech



## Notices

The College is launching a new credit card in the UK through MBNA International Bank Ltd, to complement the existing standard and gold cards. The Platinum card features enhanced benefits and the design includes a silhouette drawing of the Bridge of Sighs. Please contact Catherine Twilley, Development Officer, for further details. So far the credit card scheme has provided income of more than £5,000 for the Tutors' Praeter Fund for student support. ☼

Johnians are reminded that up-to-date information about the College's activities is available on the website (<http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk>). The site includes notices of news items, such as Choir broadcasts and memorial services, in addition to the general information about the College (including information about Admissions, Catering and Conference Facilities). ☼

## Dates for your diary

The **Johnian Society Annual Golf Competition** will take place on 28 July. Members of the Society who wish to find out more about this event should contact John Loosley at Stonehatch, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 7NR (or by email: [John@loosleyj.freemove.co.uk](mailto:John@loosleyj.freemove.co.uk)). ☼

The **Johnian Society Annual Dinner** takes place on Saturday 16 December in the College Hall. The President of the Society, Michael Mavor (BA 1968), will be in the Chair. All members of the Society are welcome to attend and application forms will be sent out with *The Eagle*. ☼

The **College Choir** will be singing at two concerts outside Cambridge this summer. On Thursday 15 June the Choir will be singing at Christchurch, Spitalfields, London, as part of the Spitalfields Festival. The box office can be contacted on 020 73771362.

The second concert will take place at Sherborne Abbey in Dorset on Saturday 24 June. Further information can be obtained by telephoning 01935 812898.

The Choir will also be visiting Japan again in December this year. Further information about concerts will be available in due course. ☼

The annual general meeting of the **Choir Association** will take place on Saturday 8 July 2000 in College. Members of the Association will also have the opportunity to sing with the Choir at Evensong and a dinner is planned for the evening. Please contact The Choir Association, St John's College, CB2 1TP for more details (email: [Choir-Association@joh.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Choir-Association@joh.cam.ac.uk)). ☼

Members of College are given advance notice that the second **Hinsley Memorial Lecture** will take place on 26 October 2000 in the Fisher Building. Professor Adam Roberts, Montague Burton Professor of International Relations at the University of Oxford, will be giving the lecture. ☼

Johnians who matriculated in the years up to and including 1940, or in 1988, 1989 or 1990, are reminded that they are welcome to attend a **Johnian Dinner** on Saturday 1 July 2000. Invitations have been sent out and the closing date for applications is 14 June. As well as the dinner, a teaparty is held in the Master's Lodge to which Johnians may bring a guest. Please contact the Steward's Secretary on (01223) 338686 for further details. ☼

The **May Bumps** take place from Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 June. Supporters of the LMBC are very welcome. Members of the LMBC are also reminded that a dinner to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Club will take place on Saturday 30 September in the Hall. Invitations will be sent out shortly. Further information can be obtained from Catherine Twilley, Senior Treasurer of the LMBC, by telephone (01223 338700) or by email: [C.M.Twilley@joh.cam.ac.uk](mailto:C.M.Twilley@joh.cam.ac.uk) ☼

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