One of the most satisfying aspects of being Rector of Exeter College is the chance to meet the astonishing range of people, young and old, who have passed through our doors. We think that there must have been 20,000 or so over the life of the College – about a third of whom are alive today. In September, I have had the chance to meet Old Members, parents of students and students themselves in Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Australia.

There were many memorable moments, but a particular one was a dinner in Sydney, arranged by Justice Murray Tobias (1961, Law) and Geoff Lovell (1990, PPE), at which we had two young women who were about to embark on the BCL course at Exeter – and Professor David Armstrong, one of our Honorary Fellows, a distinguished philosopher, and the grandson of Rector Marrett. He recalled visiting the Marrett household in Jersey, and hearing the Rector’s wife tell her husband sternly to ‘stop talking with his mouth full’.

This mix of generations is one of the things the College does superbly well. So is throwing a good party. At the end of August, we had a splendid day of celebrations for the opening of SKP House, one of the new buildings we have erected on the Exeter House site. It was made possible by the philanthropy of Krishna Pathak, a Dubai businessman and friend, who has also given us a portfolio of scholarships for students from India. We had a Sanskrit song and a ceremonial lamp and many admiring speeches.

The Exeter House development gives us 112 beautiful new rooms instead of the...
jumble of 58 that we had before. We will now be able to house all our first-year graduate students and quite a few others too; just as well, given the growth in graduate numbers. This year, more graduates than undergraduates applied to Oxford, and they play an increasingly important role in the academic and social life of the College.

In the year ahead, Exeter will have more presence than usual on the river. Ben Myers, a Physics student who rowed in the Oxford boat in March, has become President of the Oxford University Boat Club. We also hope to do well academically. This summer, our classicists did particularly well, with one of them, Kit Dorey, taking the best First in the University. And one of our third-year Chemists, Tim Hele, won the Gibbs Prize for Chemistry.

In a week or so, our new undergraduates and graduates will arrive. When they come to sign the Register, they occasionally ask to see which year is the first one in the current book. When they see that it is 1987, they gasp with wonder and say, ‘But that’s before I was born!’ For those of us born a few years before that date, it is always a magical moment, bringing the realisation that this new generation will make its mark on the world in the 2030s and 2040s. No wonder Exeter is such an astonishing place to be! Wear your 1314 pin, if you have one, and wish them all good luck.

Annual Fund success!

Exeter’s Annual Fund has celebrated its most successful year by far, raising a grand total of £483,781 during the 2010 financial year (over £100,000 more than last year). This superb achievement, brought about by the wonderful generosity of the Exonian community, means Exeter can continue to guarantee hardship bursaries to every undergraduate student in need, safeguard the tutorial system and provide the most modern facilities and resources to our current students and Fellows. Thank you so much to all who made this possible through their kind donations.

Farewell to Alumni Relations Officer, Ari Romney

We are sorry to be saying farewell to Ari Romney, who has been Alumni Relations Officer at Exeter for the past three years. We are sure that the many Old Members she has met and helped during her time in the Development Office will join us in wishing her all the best for the future.
Cooks challenged to create monster trifle

Exeter’s cooks were challenged recently to construct the biggest trifle they possibly could, as part of a TV challenge called *Monster Munchies*. The College took on a local pub in the trifle competition - click here to find out who won!

Graduate student wins prize for paper

Congratulations also to Exeter graduate student Alonso Patron Perez (2006, Engineering Science), who has won Best Industrial Paper at the recent British Machine Vision Conference, the main UK conference on machine vision and related areas. His paper addressed the problem of recognising interactions between two people in realistic scenarios for video retrieval purposes. He was first author, and his co-authors were Dr Marcin Marszalek, Professor Andrew Zisserman and Dr Ian Reid, Fellow in Engineering Science.

Emeritus Fellow honoured for cardiology work

One of our Emeritus Fellows too has been recognised for his work recently. Professor Peter Sleight, Emeritus Fellow in Cardiovascular Medicine, has been awarded a European Society of Cardiology Gold Medal at the ESC Congress 2010 in Stockholm. The Gold Medal recognises exceptional doctors for their contribution to medicine, holding them up as an inspiration to fellow doctors and scientists.

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Ashmolean shortlisted for prestigious prize

Acclaim for the refurbishment of the Ashmolean Museum continues. The Museum has made the final shortlist of the prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stirling Prize. The prize is presented to the architects of the building which has been the most significant for the evolution of architecture in the past year. The winner will be announced on 2 October.
Radcliffe Camera renovations get go-ahead

Plans to refurbish Oxford’s iconic Radcliffe Camera have been approved by Oxford City Council. The developments, which are expected to cost £5m, will improve access for visitors and readers by removing modern partitions and a staircase. Additional stack space will also be created by the refurbishment of an underground book store under Radcliffe Square. When the work is completed, readers will be able to move underground between the Radcliffe Camera and the Old Bodleian for the first time.

Alumni group founded in Ireland

A new alumni group has recently been created for Oxbridge Old Members in Ireland. The group had its first event in February, and recently held a drinks reception at the British ambassador’s residence at Sandyford, County Dublin. If you would like to know more, please visit the International Alumni Network section of the University’s website for contact details and upcoming events.

Ghost Forest comes to Oxford

Ghost Forest, the installation of rainforest tree stumps by Exonian Angela Palmer (2002, Fine Art), has gone on display at Oxford University’s Museum of Natural History, following its success in Trafalgar Square and at the UN climate conference in Copenhagen. The installation aims to highlight the destruction of the rainforests, and the alarming depletion of the world’s natural resources. You can read more about the inspiration behind the piece in this year’s Exon.

Landmark legal ruling for young alumnus

Congratulations to Chetan Gupta (2007, Law), a young alumnus and former Pathak Scholar, who recently secured a significant legal ruling from the Delhi High Court, overturning an immunity clause which had previously exempted central government organisations based in a particular state from the Right to Information Act. This is a significant ruling in the interests of transparency and the free availability of information.

Exonian appointed to Swedish bench

Continuing news of Exonian success in the field of law, Carin Westerlund (1998, Law) has been appointed by the Swedish government as judge in the Uppsala District Court, Sweden, and took up office there on 15 September. She has previously worked as a judge referee in the Supreme Court and as a lawyer at the office of the Chancellor of Justice, both in Stockholm, Sweden.
New book looks at religion and social work

Philip Gilligan (1971, Modern History) is co-author of a new book, *Religion, Belief and Social Work: Making A Difference*. This book examines the impact of religion and belief, arguing that social workers need to understand these phenomena so that they can become more confident in challenging discriminatory and oppressive practices.

Old Member examines near-death experiences

Chris Carter (1983, PPE) has published a new book, *Science and the Near Death Experience*, in which he challenges arguments against consciousness surviving death and, using evidence from scientific studies and consciousness research, argues that near-death experiences may provide glimpses of an afterlife.

British High Commissioner takes up new post

Jeremy Cresswell (1968 PPE), former British High Commissioner to Jamaica, has left the diplomatic service to take up the position of Director of the Oxford University Foreign Service Programme.

Will Self publishes latest work

One of Exeter’s most well-known literary alumni, Will Self (1979, PPE), has published his latest book, *Walking to Hollywood*. It is described as a dazzling triptych in which the author fearlessly digs through intersections of time, place and psyche to explore some of our deepest fears and anxieties with characteristic humour.

New thriller continues action-packed series

Look out for James Steel’s new thriller *Legacy* in your local bookshops. This is the second novel in the Alex Devereux series, following the success of *December* last year, which saw him hailed as ‘the new contender to the crown of spy thriller supremo’ by the *Manchester Evening News*. In this latest adventure, Devereux, former British Army cavalry officer turned embittered mercenary, must race against time to prevent a prophecy of disaster coming true in the heart of Africa.
Even Events

Engineering Dinner – 1 October
Emeritus Fellow Carlos Ruiz is hosting this second annual event for all Old Members who read Engineering. The drinks reception and dinner will take place in College, and Dr Ruiz is delighted that over 40 people will be attending.

Freshers’ Parents’ Tea – 3 October
In addition to welcoming this year’s Freshers to College, the Rector looks forward to meeting their parents at the tea on Sunday. It is a wonderful way to introduce students’ families to the Exeter College community.

Medical Society Dinner – 12 November
Old Members who read Medicine or Physiological Sciences, or who now practise Medicine, are welcome at this annual dinner in College. Exeter’s Medical Society is delighted to have Sir David Weatherall as the guest of honour and speaker for the evening, which will include a drinks reception and a formal dinner in Hall. Invitations will be sent shortly.

Lyell Society Dinner – 13 November
The biennial event in College for Old Members who read Geology or Earth Sciences will include a visit to the new Earth Sciences building and feature Mike Coleman (1979, Geology) as the after-dinner speaker. Professors Worthington and England will be attending, and the Lyell Society hopes that many Old Members and guests will join them. Invitations have been sent and are available from our website.

City Drinks (London) – 30 November (TBC)
We are still making plans for this year’s networking event for Old Members and Friends of the College working in Law, Finance or Business in England and Wales and those living in and around the City of London. Invitations will be sent as soon as the date and venue are confirmed.

University Events

Earth Sciences Drinks Receptions – 19 & 26 November
The Earth Science Department will be hosting drinks receptions to celebrate the move to their new building. The Department has sent invitations. If you would like an exclusive tour of the new building before the official opening, contact the Department’s Alumni Relations Officer, Hannah Jackson, who will be showing alumni around from 11 October.
Varsity Rugby at Twickenham – 9 December

Join other Oxford alumni and friends for a great day out at Twickenham. With more than 30,000 spectators, the atmosphere in the stadium is fantastic, and the Oxford Alumni Society has reserved some of the best seats, directly over the halfway line. The alumni package includes match ticket and a hearty picnic lunch from Oxford’s Covered Market, as well as beer, wine, and hot coffee for £38. Online booking will open shortly.

AND FINALLY...

Edward Burne-Jones at centre of new exhibition

Work by Exeter’s own alumnus Edward Burne-Jones will form some of the main attractions in the Ashmolean’s major autumn art exhibition - *The Pre-Raphaelites and Italy*. The exhibition will also feature paintings by John Ruskin, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and William Holman Hunt, bringing together over 140 pictures. Among the works on show will be the magnificent drawings by Burne-Jones for the American Church in Rome, which will be united in Britain for the first time.