I write these notes looking out on a damp June day. Fortunately the weather was better when we welcomed alumni and their families to the annual Eights Week Lunch, following a week of great success on the river. The women of the First and Second VIIIs both got their blades, and the women of the Third Eight missed out by only one bump – quite a result I am sure you will agree. Congratulations are also due to BNC students Phil Duggleby and Stephanie Madgett who captained the University’s Athletics Teams to victories over Cambridge in this year’s Varsity match.

Oxford has been in the media spotlight in recent days. The University has just announced that Professor Andrew Hamilton, current Provost of Yale University, has been nominated to succeed Dr John Hood as Vice-Chancellor. Professor Hamilton has an outstanding track record of academic leadership and scholarly achievement. His pending appointment comes at a particularly exciting time for Oxford. We wish him well.

The University has recently launched Oxford Thinking: The Campaign for the University of Oxford. We are pleased that several BNC members are playing significant roles in the Campaign, with Michael Palin (1962) narrating the promotional film, and David Akers-Jones (1949), David Cameron (1985), and Robin Janvrin (1966) among the Campaign Patrons. Oxford competes with the other great universities of the world, especially those in North America, and we will face many challenges over the coming years as funding patterns change – and yet our missions to educate and to preserve and advance knowledge are as crucial as ever. It is with these challenges in mind that the University is launching its Campaign, and it will be no surprise that the central fundraising strategies will focus on support for academic posts, for facilities, and vitally for student bursaries and scholarships to ensure that access to Oxford is as wide as possible. These are themes dear to our heart at BNC and we join the other colleges in fully supporting the Campaign. We will be using our 500th anniversary to launch our own campaign – meaning that we have another year in which to lay solid foundations by consulting you, our students and alumni, with the aim of ensuring that we keep BNC among the leading colleges in Oxford and Oxford among the leading universities in the world. You can expect the pace to pick up further as we go into 2009.

Let me finally wish you all a fine and relaxing summer.

Roger Cashmore, Principal
Alumni activities around the globe

The Principal and the Director of Alumni Relations and Development have been busily visiting alumni all over the globe, to update them with BNC news and to expand alumni involvement in advance of 2009.

In Hong Kong, Sir David Akers-Jones (BNC 1949) organised a dinner for alumni at the Conrad Hotel, and Tony Tyler (BNC 1974) hosted a boat trip and dinner for Brasenose alumni and representatives from the Said Business School.

In New York, the University held its biannual North American Reunion Weekend, during which around 70 Brasenose members and their guests enjoyed a reception and dinner at the Arsenal in Central Park. The dinner coincided with the 2008 celebrations for the 500th Anniversary of Brasenose Members. Amanda Pullinger (BNC 1984) encouraged all Brasenose Members to get involved by volunteering to support the 2009 celebrations. These speeches were followed by coffee and cake, complete with BNC crest!

We offer congratulations to all of them.

Fellows’ News

- Professor Russell Foster, Senior Kurti Fellow, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.
- Alicia Hamtey Parga, Junior Golding Fellow, has been awarded a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship.
- Dr Rui Esteves, Fellow in Economics, has been awarded the Zvi Meitar/Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

Several Fellows have celebrated births recently: a son, Nathaniel Keire McKenna, to Dr Chris McKenna, Fellow in Management Studies; a daughter, Tabitha Laura Wills, to Dr Abigail Wills, Career Development Fellow in History; and a son, Leo Benjamin Johnston Herz, to Debra Herz, Fellow in Physics.

We offer congratulations to all of them.

Brasenose Annual Fund

We would like to thank everyone who has supported our first ever Annual Fund appeal. Your generosity has provided more than £230,000 (including Gift Aid) during this financial year, enabling BNC to:

- improve facilities by refurbishing three staircases of student accommodation (two at the main site and one at Frewin), and by implementing a much-needed programme of improvements to the library's lighting.
- alleviate money worries for many students by launching several graduate scholarships providing funds for the duration of the recipients’ courses, and by supporting any student who falls into financial hardship during their term here;
- enhance student life by providing grants to the Boat Club for new furnishings and by subscribing to an online music library.

Money pledged for future years will provide a platform for our ongoing fundraising efforts. Our next appeal will be launched in September and our priorities will be to secure unrestricted funds for the area of immediate need, to increase provision for student support and student clubs, arts, and sports, and to raise funds for a programme of improvements to the library.

Oxford University and Brasenose will be participating in the Government’s Matched Funding Scheme, which is to be launched in August and will provide matched funds for gifts received from new donors – so we hope that many more of you will want to help us make the most of this opportunity by making a donation to the Annual Fund.

Payroll Giving

Payroll Giving, or Give As You Earn, is a scheme that enables employees to give to any UK charity straight from their gross salary (before tax is deducted), and to receive immediate tax relief on donations. Christopher Harris (BNC 1984) describes his experience of Payroll Giving:

‘For alumni who work for companies who participate in Give As You Earn schemes, I think that this is a great way of giving to worthy causes like the College’s Annual Fund. It’s simple in that, once you have completed a mandate, a monthly donation is taken from your salary at source. But the real benefit is that it’s tax-efficient, meaning that, as a higher rate taxpayer, you only pay 40% of the cost of the monthly donation from your net pay for 90%, as a basic rate taxpayer, the College receive the full amount, and you as the donor are perhaps able to give more than you otherwise might if you donated via a regular standing order. In my case, my donation is also eligible for matched funding from my employer, so the scheme is doubly attractive.’

Payroll Giving provides charities like BNC with a regular, reliable income stream, allowing us to plan ahead. And it’s easy to set up – just contact your payroll department and fill in a form. If your company doesn’t already have a scheme, you can reassure them that it is simple and inexpensive to set up and run. Please visit www.payrollgivingcentre.org.uk for more information, or contact the Alumni Relations and Development Office by e-mailing development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk.

A Word with Wendy Williams

Having worked at BNC for 24 years, College Secretary Wendy Williams is looking forward to her 25th year here – coinciding with the College’s 500th year of existence. Many of you will remember Wendy as a picture of composed efficiency in her role at the heart of day-to-day college life, but not many of you will know that she has a hidden talent for watercolour painting.

Wendy began painting six years ago when she joined an evening watercolour class, and has developed considerable skill in painting flowers. Three years ago she and Doug Veramman, many of whose excellent photographs have appeared in the Brasenose Notes and Brasenose, began to put on an annual exhibition during Oxford Artweeks, displaying their work in the splendid surroundings of Brasenose Ante Chapel. This year they were joined by several members of Wendy’s class and family, including sister Pat Harris, daughter Natalie Williams, and 4-year-old grandson Taiga Kusuda-Williams.

Wendy says that she feels lucky to have the opportunity to display her work in the ante chapel. Asked what she enjoys most about painting, she says it is a relaxing hobby after a stressful day at work – although she affirms that working with the whole range of diverse people at BNC is fun and interesting, even if it does sometimes feel like ‘lurching from one crisis to another’.
Some of the finest prints now being produced in the world are coming out of the studio of Master Printer Peter Kosowicz, at the Thumbprint Press in Cambrewell, London. Jack and Dinoi Chapman, Anthony Corgley, Tracey Emin, Anish Kapoor, and Andrew Ingamells are among the artists who collaborate with Peter to realise their artistic ambitions. Current graduate students Stephen Bernard and Anna Johnson were lucky enough this term to be invited to the studios to see the realisation of one such ambition: the etching by Andrew Ingamells of Brasenose College, commissioned last year to celebrate our quincentenary in 2009. Here Stephen reports on their visit.

In the summer of 2007, I heard that a massively ambitious project had begun. Andrew Ingamells, the renowned London engraver, had decided to create a new ‘Loggan’, that is, a new collection of architectural etchings of all the colleges and halls of Oxford and Cambridge. This has not been done since the seventeenth century, and will stand as a twenty-first-century witness to the continuing autonomous character of the institutions which make up the oldest – and finest – universities in the country.

I immediately contacted Martin Village of Capital Prints – Ingamells’s publisher – and set about persuading him that BNC should definitely be the next college Ingamells should etch. I had a forcible case: not only was the 500th anniversary of the College’s foundation just two years away (and the College has a tradition of commissioning prints in such years), but the project itself would be a fantastic challenge – freed from the logo-like uniformity of the medieval foundations and the blank neoclassical splendour of some of the larger colleges, Ingamells would be able to test his artistic skills to their limits. There’s a lot you can say about Brasenose College, but you can’t say that its architecture is not incredibly charismatic – and I have to say that in this the College did not let him down.

I arranged two things to persuade Martin and Ingamells of the powerful draw of the project: an incredibly rare visit to the leads of the Radcliffe Camera, from which hundreds and hundreds of digital photographs were taken, and a lunch in the Senior Common Room, where they could meet the inhabitants of this rather unusual shell. I am not sure which sealed the deal, but was delighted when Ingamells said he would set aside the best part of four months – the minimum amount of time it would take him to produce the initial drawing on which the etching would be based (on a good day, he says, it is possible to cover perhaps a square inch an hour – a level of achievement which I, as a DPhil student, can only admire) – and the project began.

As far as anyone knows, no other artist in the world is producing etchings of a quality even remotely comparable to Ingamells’s. The etching techniques he uses to create his prints were innovative at the time the College was founded, others, such as using digital images for photographic reference, are cutting edge now – the combined effect of both is astounding. Whereas some of the more ‘conceptual’ artists who work along side him at the Thumbprint Press conceive but don’t necessarily deliver, Ingamells is involved at every stage of the creation of an etching. (A full description of the process of creating an etching can be found on the Master Printer’s website at: www.thumbprinteditions.com.)

Ingamells’s work is of a different order to that of the other artists at the Press, requiring skills which take decades to perfect and months to execute; and you would have to travel a very long way, and probably end up in the studios of Lucian Freud or Frank Auerbach, before you found an artist prepared to work and rework in a medium to quite the extent that Ingamells does. The accuracy and detail of Ingamells’s etchings is consequently phenomenal (illustrations of his work can be found at the Capital Prints website at: www.capitalprints.com).

As well as fine architectural depictions of the College by the finest artist in the field, the etching contains a description of its buildings and their history compiled by me, the student figure who can be seen greeting the Principal at the start of their daily walk around the Meadows. That embodiment of the College – the College Secretary, Mrs Wendy Williams – and the shady perpendicular figure of the artist himself are among the other figures to be found embellishing the College in this splendid celebration of BNC in its quincentenary year.

**PRINT OFFER - BRASENOSE COLLEGE**

A Gravure Etching of its Grounds and Buildings

by Andrew Ingamells

In a signed numbered edition limited to 175 etchings only.

Sheet size: 22 x 29 ins (560 x 740 mm) + Image size: 15 x 23 ins (390 x 590 mm)

On white Hannemühle etching paper

In a signed numbered edition limited to 175 etchings only.

Price: £195.00

The first fifty etchings will be sold to members of Brasenose at a price of £195.00 on a first come, first served basis. Thereafter the price will be £225.00. TO PURCHASE AN ETCHING please call 020 7770 6808, email brasenose@capitalprints.com or write to Capital Prints, PO Box 629, London W1T 4WD.

Andrew Ingamells is best known for etchings of classical architectural subjects such as The Tate Gallery, The Royal Academy, The Paris Opera and The Duomo, Florence, and is represented in collections as diverse as English Heritage, The Museum of London, The Guildhall Library and the Paul Mellon Collection of British Art. He has recently completed an etching for The Bank of England. Illustrations of his work can be found at the Capital Prints website at: www.capitalprints.com.

The price of each etching includes recorded delivery for all sales within the UK; and in the case of sales to the EU, US and Rest of World there will be an additional cost of £5 to cover the cost of international recorded delivery. The etchings are unframed and will arrive in a strong cardboard tube. Please allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of your order. Subject to return undamaged within two weeks of purchase we will refund any dissatisfied customer. All major credit cards are accepted.
BNC Arts Festival

Joe Zhang, Festival Director, reports on the success of this year’s Arts Festival:

We said at the start of the year that we were going to be ambitious. We’d have bigger and better events, in every field of the arts. Well, it really happened this year, and the unbroken sun and soaring temperatures that graced Oxford for the duration of Arts Week didn’t hurt at all!

The week was, by all accounts, a fantastic success. Aided by the weather, New Quad was packed out after day with revellers enjoying Pimms, plays and poetry. Aided by the weather, New Quad was packed out day after day with revellers enjoying Pimms, plays and poetry.

The opening night jazz concert was a big band style gig featuring some of the top jazz performers in Oxford, and was a huge treat for BNC students and staff alike. The student classical concert was, similarly, a great success, featuring some of the top jazz performers in Oxford, and was a huge treat for BNC students and staff alike. The student classical concert was, similarly, a great success. And was a huge treat for BNC students and staff alike.

The arts festival dinner and cabaret was a feast of excellent food and wine, followed by an absolute extravaganza of Brasenose talent. A huge number of student bands nearly blew the rafters off the hall with some electrifying performances.

The addition of Michael Horovitz, a Brasenose alumnus and world famous performing poet, proved popular, and his double act with John Hegley was hilarious to the extreme. They put on a unique blend of poetry, music and comedy in New Quad, with improvised ditties accompanied by Michael’s inspirational instrument, the ‘anglo-saxophone’.

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Every year, the Society’s various social events attract alumni at all life stages. The Vils Week Lunch is a rare chance for alumni and their families to eat in Hall (even under 5s are welcome)! The Summer Party - a sell-out tour and drinks at the Old Bailey this year - typically draws a more City-based crowd while the legendary Spring Drinks for “recent” alumni are, thanks to Matt Forbes, not to be missed by those under 10!

Even the Annual Dinner - a black tie affair in Hall in late September - is invariably a wonderful occasion with the bar staying open long past its advertised closing time. This year, for the first time, guests accompanying alumni during the Oxford Alumni weekend will be welcome to join us at the dinner and stay overnight in College.

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But the Society is not just a social club for old members. This year for the first time we met the HCR and JCR Officers for dinner in the Old Library. We all enjoyed the evening enormously, and discussed plans to re-launch our mentoring scheme. Through the scheme, over 100 BNC alumni have volunteered to give BNC students careers information and advice (though not necessarily job!).

The Society is also willing to grant £250 a term for suitable College activities or projects.

So, if you’re still a student and would like the Society’s help, please contact us through the alumni page on the College website or email me direct. And if you are - or soon will be! - a member of the Society, we very much look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon.

Alexandra Marks
President
alexandra.marks@linklaters.com
The programme of celebratory events for BNC’s 500th anniversary is nearly finalised, and we are looking forward to sharing the details with you in the very near future. A sneak preview of the programme reveals a celebratory Tanner Lecture series, an exhibition and reception in the Long Room at Lord’s Cricket Ground, a family event in Oxford, and of course the Brasenose Gala Weekend on 26-27 September 2009, coinciding with the University’s annual Alumni Weekend. There will also be a programme of international events.

MORE DETAILS AND INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS FOR THESE EVENTS WILL BE SENT LATER THIS YEAR.

The number of tickets available for each event is strictly limited and tickets will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis. Please make sure we have your up-to-date address to ensure that you do not miss out.

Keep checking the website www.bnc.ox.ac.uk for more details. Please note that no Gaudies or Brasenose Society events will be held in 2009. These will be resumed after the 500th celebrations.

The contact person for all enquiries relating to the 2009 celebrations is Merry Donati. Please ‘Meet Merry’ below!

Meet Merry Donati

Merry is joining the Alumni Relations and Development Office, on a temporary basis, to assist in the travel plans and co-ordination of the BNC500 celebration events. Merry will be working part time from BNC where she will have an office next to the Chapel entrance, and also from her home outside Banbury.

Merry’s interest in skiing and her sailing background led her into bespoke travel (Small World, CV Travel in London and overseas), and her more recent experience in the conference and events world for RS Live, BNC’s partners in the 2009 celebrations, will be invaluable over the next 18 months.

You can contact Merry by e-mailing merry.donati@bnc.ox.ac.uk or by telephoning 01865 277835. She is looking forward to helping everyone plan and enjoy the celebrations.

News from the Library

The Bodleian’s summer exhibition, ‘Beyond the work of one’: Oxford College Libraries and their Benefactors, celebrates the generations of benefactors whose gifts of books have enriched College holdings for more than 200 years. Rarely displayed manuscripts, books, documents and artefacts are being brought together in this exciting exhibition, including a treasure from BNC’s library: Edward Lear’s Gleanings from the Menagerie and Aviary at Knowle (1846) with lithographs of drawings by Edward Lear, which was presented by the Reverend George Hornby (1789-1872), Fellow 1815-1816 and a major benefactor of the College. The exhibition runs from 24 May to 2 November, Monday to Saturday. Admission is free of charge. Please visit www.bodley.ox.ac.uk for more information.

We are also lending a book to Compton Verney, an award-winning art gallery in Warwickshire, for their summer exhibition, The Fabric of the Myth, which runs from 21 June to 7 September. BNC’s exhibit is The Odyssey of Homer, engraved from the compositions of John Flaxman R.A., sculptor.

20 races, 13 bumps

Summer Eights, the culmination of year’s work of early starts, cold, wet outings, and countless erg sessions, was for two of BNC’s female crews a veritable triumph, with the Women’s 1st and 2nd VIIIs both achieving blades. St Hugh’s W1, Lincoln W1, Linacre W1 and Worcester W1 were bumped by BNC W1, while Pembroke W4, Hertford W3, Pembroke W3 and Jesus W2 succumbed to BNC W2. BNC W3 narrowly missed out on sharing in the glory, bumping Hertford W4 and W5 and Pembroke W4, but not bumping in Thursday’s race.

Our men’s crews fared less well but there were no spoils in sight. M1 fell just one place in Division V (having bumped Jesus M2 on day one, and conceded to that same crew on day two and to St Peter’s M2 on day three), and M1 retained seventh position in Division II (after conceding to Wolfson M1 and bumping St Anne’s M1). We offer our congratulations to all the crews, but particularly to W1 and W2!

Update on the BNC Website

We have received plenty of feedback on the newly launched BNC Website, and are looking forward to adding new features and improvements over the coming months. We are currently looking at various software options for the secure alumni area of the site. We’ll be reporting back about our progress.

Watch this space!