



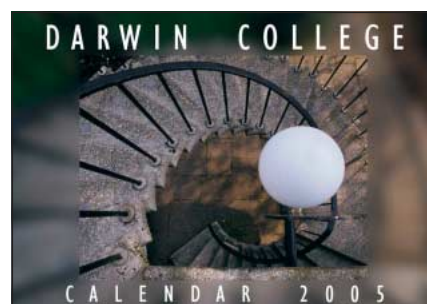
## Patrick Sissons becomes new Regius Professor of Physic



Professor Patrick Sissons, a fellow of Darwin since 1988, has been appointed as the next Regius Professor of Physic to succeed Sir Keith Peters in October 2005. The Regius Professorship is a Crown appointment announced by the Prime Minister's Office and was founded in 1540 by Henry VIII, thus becoming one of the earliest professorships ever founded. The holder is also Head of the School of Clinical Medicine and provides strategic leadership both within the Clinical School and in its relationships with the NHS and other organisations such as the MRC, Wellcome Trust and Cancer Research-UK, as well as with industrial research partners. Welcoming his appointment Vice-Chancellor Alison

Richard said; "Professor Sissons is an excellent choice to lead the Clinical School; he brings great strengths to the position from his outstanding career, combining teaching, research and clinical practice."

Professor Sissons joined the University in 1988 and established an academic division of Infectious Diseases. Since 1993 he has been Head of the Department of Medicine which has expanded to become one of the major academic departments of medicine in the UK. In the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise it gained 5\* across all three units of assessment – the highest score across all units of any UK medical school. It has an annual research grant income of £40m.



### DARWIN CALENDAR 2005

See it now at:

[www.dar.cam.ac.uk/gallery/calendar05](http://www.dar.cam.ac.uk/gallery/calendar05)

Buy it from Darwin Porters Lodge or send £7 (plus £1 P&P within UK and £3 P&P Overseas) to Martyn Dade-Robertson. Cheques should be made payable to 'DCSA' Include your name and address

Stocks are very limited so buy now to avoid disappointment.

Any queries contact Martyn at [mfr24@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mfr24@cam.ac.uk)



Image from the 2005 Darwin Calendar  
by Julia Zaccai.

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Image from the 2005 Darwin Calendar by Paul Castro.

## Darwinian appointed as new director of The Courtauld Institute of Art



Dr Deborah Swallow (1970-77) has become the new Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, one of the world's most prestigious art history colleges. The Institute is part of the University of London and is the largest centre for studying art history and architecture in Britain. It also houses an art gallery renowned for its collection of Old Master paintings, impressionist and post-impressionist works. An interview with Deborah Swallow can be found at [www.courtauld.ac.uk/newsletter/autumn\\_2004/swallow.html](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/newsletter/autumn_2004/swallow.html).

## Adam Pepelasis – National Windsurfing Champion



Adam Pepelasis races in the Northern Cup 2004.

Throughout the year, rain or shine, Adam spends his weekends windsurfing either training or racing. He competes in the raceboard discipline, in which a long board (3.72m) with a large sail (7.5m<sup>2</sup>) is used. The racing format is the same as that in other sailing disciplines, and entails sailing around a trapezoidal course marked by inflatable buoys. The National Rankings are determined by the result of racing in seven events across the UK, which means that sailors' abilities are tested over a wide range of wind and wave conditions. The highest four scoring events for each competitor then count towards the final ranking position. Adam won the Welsh Open (Wales), the British Open Racing Championships (Brighton), the Northern Cup (Yorkshire) and the Inland Championships (Rutland Water) in 2004. Therefore he became National Windsurfing Champion for the second year running irrespective of the results in the remaining events.

### ...STOP PRESS...

*The Alumni Pages of the Darwin College Website are being expanded and updated*

[www.dar.cam.ac.uk](http://www.dar.cam.ac.uk) is being updated. There soon will be a lot more up-to-date and relevant information. Find out what benefits being an alumnus of Darwin can offer – or just take a walk down 'memory lane' by going to the linked Cambridge pages.

The new website is still in development, so please bear with us and check back regularly to pick up on the news and see the improvements as they happen. More details about the site will be in the next *Darwinian*.

While on the website, you can benefit The College Library by purchasing from *Amazon* through [our website](#). Please refer to the article by the Librarian on page 6 for further details. You can also find out how to save 20% off the cover price of *Cambridge University Press* publications.

Whilst on a working visit to CSIRO Adelaide, **Harry Bhadeshia** (Fellow) met **Richard Hannink** who is based at the CSIRO Melbourne. Richard was one of Darwin's first students studying a PhD at the Cavendish starting in 1964. Richard's daughter, **Nerissa Hannink** (1999-2003) also graduated from Darwin and is now a post-doc in Plant Sciences.







## Darwin appoints its first Alumni Relations Officer

I am sitting overlooking the Old Granary on a sunny autumn day; the Virginia creeper that covers the building is a wonderful deep red colour. Students are continually flowing in and out of the area, locking and unlocking bikes. I am counting my blessings at being given the privilege to be able to work in such a magnificent location and in such a friendly atmosphere.

Previously I worked in a direct marketing agency, which specialised in charity fundraising. After a career break I have now rejoined the ranks of the paid employed.

My work at Darwin College is to look after you, the alumni. I know that we have many dedicated alumni who hold memories of their time here as the most

rewarding educational experience of their career and who continue to keep in contact with us and their many friends whom they met here. It is because Darwin is held so close to your hearts that we are currently setting up an office with the aim of fostering a permanent link between yourselves and the college.

We aim to keep you up to date with fellow alumni and college life, and will be inviting you to various events throughout the year, both at college and, we hope, at other venues where groups of Darwinians are based. The Darwin Society already runs successful alumni dinners on a termly basis – if you would be interested in coming to one or receiving information about when they happen then please e-mail me and you will get a prompt reply. Also, please look at the alumni pages on the Darwin website, these will give you up to date information about events and what's happening. In future these pages will be always evolving and it is worth looking at them regularly.

Of course, this should be a two-way relationship so I very much welcome your suggestions, questions or news you may have – please feel free to phone or e-mail me and I will do my best to help.

I expect my work here to be varied, interesting and challenging. I very much look forward to hearing from you and if you do visit the college I would love to see you and hear about your time here.

Sophia Smith  
sas65@cam.ac.uk  
www.dar.cam.ac.uk  
01223 335690



Image from the 2005 Darwin Calendar by Chris Holmes

## Jim Endersby wins the Inaugural Jerwood Award



Jim Endersby, the Adrian Research Fellow at Darwin, has been awarded first prize in the inaugural Royal Society of Literature

Jerwood Awards for Non-Fiction. His work-in-progress, *A Guinea Pig's History of Biology*, is subtitled *The Animals and Plants that Taught Us The Facts of Life* and is an exploration of the last 200 years of biology. It will be published by Heinemann in 2006.

## Darwinian succession at head of the UK Nutrition Society



Darwinian Dr Ann Prentice (1975-78, second from right) recently succeeded Professor John Mathers (1972-76, far left) as President of the Nutrition Society, a post formerly held by Emeritus Fellow and

former Vice-Master Professor Roger Whitehead (1973-present). They are pictured here next to their Darwinian pairings Jennifer Mathers (née Brownson, 1972-77) and Andrew Prentice (1974-77).

## The Seyyid Mohammed Abdulla Al-Said Scholarship Fund

Through a generous donation the College has been able to establish The Al-Said Scholarship fund to support students from least developed countries.

# Architect of Moving Images

by François Penz



*Cambridge University Moving Image Studio (CUMIS), inaugurated in 1998 and managed by the Department of Architecture, caters for the needs of all members of the University working in research, teaching, learning and/or production with synthetic imaging and moving image media. In addition to this University-wide remit, an MPhil in Architecture and the Moving Image was created in October 1999, followed by a PhD programme which started in 2000. This graduate programme, part of the Department of Architecture Digital Studios and supported by CUMIS, started to bear fruit when Michael Nitsche, a Darwin student who was our first PhD student as well as part of the first MPhil cohort, was awarded his Degree at last year's July Graduation ceremony. As I was sitting in the Darwin Dining Hall with a sense of déjà vu (I graduated in Darwin in July 1983), I had the opportunity to reminisce with Michael and his family about the last few years.*

The CUMIS story has its origin in the late 80s when I started to attempt, in the Department of Architecture, to integrate digitality into the education of undergraduates by encouraging students to develop fluency in the use of the computer as a creative medium, rather than focusing on it as a technical tool. In 1992, I began a collaboration with Maureen Thomas, then Head of

Screen Studies at the National Film & Television School (UK), now Creative Director of CUMIS, to develop the Moving Image Dissertation in the context of the research and presentation of architectural topics. In 1995 we organised a conference on the convergence of architecture and the moving image, whose proceedings were published in 1997 by the British

Film Institute. When, in the mid-nineties, the University decided to review the status of its Audio Visual Unit, it was natural that we should suggest taking the opportunity to transform a support service, by means of digital technology, into an institute where research, education and production in moving image media could be actively pursued. In November 1998 CUMIS was

## Darwinian Achievements

**David McKay** (Fellow) has been awarded a personal Professorship in Natural Philosophy and **Simon Schaffer** in the History of Science.

**Professor Christopher Bishop** (Fellow) has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

**Dr Karalyn Patterson** (Fellow) has been awarded an Honorary Chair by the University of Manchester.

**Dr Ann Prentice** (1975-78) and **Prof Andrew Prentice** (1974-77) were jointly awarded the Edna and Robert Langholz International Nutrition Award by the American Dietetic Association (picture).



**Professor Nicholas Jardine** (Fellow) has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

inaugurated by Dr Livesey under the watchful eye of Professors Broers, Carolin and Mellor. At the time we were four staff occupying the basement floor of 1 Bene't Place on Lensfield Road. In 2004 the group consists of thirty people, MPhil & PhD students, post-docs, research assistants and production staff, spread throughout the four floors of the building.

Moving image narrativity, spatial exploration and the construction of virtual and real environments are crucial areas of investigation, evaluation, experiment and creativity, as well as the related fields of interactivity and interaction design. The work of the Studio focuses on three main areas – Research, Education and Production, especially in the environment of cross-fertilisation between synthetic imaging, animation, navigable environments and narrativity. We are a practice-based research environment where the moving image is used as proof of concept and there is no doubt that we have developed a unique institution and research methodology at the convergence of several fields – it is exciting but it has its drawbacks judging by how difficult it is to position ourselves in relation to existing RAE panels!

My own research concentrates on the study of the relationship between *Cinema and Architecture* which is a relatively new academic field, as it is usually acknowledged that as a discipline it was established in the early 1990s. However, historically it is an area of interest as old as cinema itself, and which dates back from the time when the Lumière brothers captured on camera the first images of the city in 1895. In the 1920s architects

started to experiment with this new medium and it is Le Corbusier's film, *Architectures d'Aujourd'hui* (directed by Pierre Chenal, 1930), which prompted architectural theorist Sigfried Giedion's statement, 'Only film can make the new architecture intelligible' (1930). Three quarters of a century on, Giedion's quote is proving true if we only replace the word 'film' by 'digitality'. It is this cross-fertilization of the historical with the digital which has been my original contribution to this field of study, by getting the history of the relationship between *Cinema and Architecture* to inform contemporary digital moving practice in Architecture and Planning.

One of the areas that has been at the core of my teaching and research is the notion of *narrative expressive space* where the 'soul' of an architectural space can be captured and conveyed to an audience by means of a narrative device, which at its simplest can be a *promenade architecturale* in space. For ten years now I have experimented with many locations in Cambridge, mainly in Colleges; experimenting with the notion of *narrative expressive space* as it is a foundation exercise in all our courses. Not surprisingly Darwin has been the backdrop for several of those and many *mise-en-scène* have been staged around the islands, in and around the Study Centre, even last summer in the Malting House before its renovation, while our new glass bridge between 1 Newham Terrace and the dining hall figures in the opening shot of one of the movies produced during last June's course for the architecture students!

Apart from my own research and teaching, I find myself involved in many

new productions which I would not have dreamt of when I was a Darwin student back in the early eighties. Perhaps not surprisingly there are many involvements with the arts; for example I have worked with a dance company interested in the *body in space* as well as co-produced a project for the Britten Sinfonia which was a collaboration between an original music composition interacting with our creation of a new virtual world. Currently I am working with one of the Cambridge Colleges making a short movie about what a Cambridge interview is, with a view to demystifying it and encouraging a greater number of candidates to have access to Cambridge. Lastly I am also working on a research project on behalf of the NHS which aims to demonstrate the use of the digital moving image as an aid to design and communications in order to improve the design of future hospitals in this country.

So what might be the future of this type of work and research in the University? In the past, the University led in the cultivation of paper, reading and writing as the tools and media of intellectual exploration, discovery and creative expression. Today, electronic means of recording, depicting, representing and delivering experience, ideas and research outcomes are being researched, developed and actively fed back into teaching, learning and creative activities. In the future, CUMIS anticipates forming a core unit in the University's drive to explore and consolidate the optimum integration of arts, humanities and sciences in its advanced research and teaching environment in the era of digital technology – building on the traditional model of the architect's studio.

## Darwinian Pairings

**Corlita Babb and Frank Schäfer** were married on 17th July 2004 (see picture). Corlita studied a PhD in Law between 1998 and 2004 and Frank studied for his LLM in 1998/99.

**Steffen Krusch** (1995-96 Maths Part III and 1997-2001 for a PhD) married Kelly Kuan on 9th October 2004 and held their reception in No 1 Newnham Terrace.

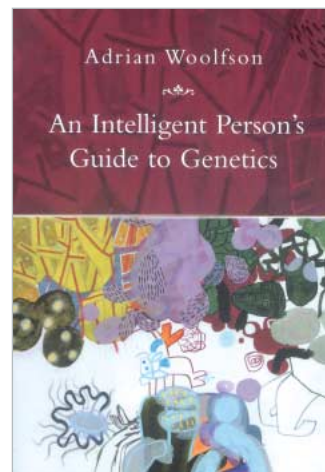


Darwinians Corlita Babb and Frank Schäfer were married on 17 July 2004





Image from the 2005 Darwin Calendar by Jamie Gundry.



## An Intelligent Person's Guide to Genetics

Adrian Woolfson, 2004  
Duckworth Overlook, London.  
ISBN 0 7156-3313 9  
£12.99 Hardback

The genetic principles unpicked in the twentieth century will transform human existence beyond all recognition. In *An Intelligent Person's Guide to Genetics* Adrian Woolfson argues that the question of whether geneticists should change human nature and redesign new forms of synthetic life is absurd; our curiosity, pragmatism and utopian desires will ensure that synthetic life becomes an inevitability.

Multiple species of humans preceded us, each lasting no more than 200,000 years. Modern humans have existed for 130,000 years, which suggests we are due for a makeover. This may occur by natural or artificial means. The DNA record can help reconstruct our past, but it will also help shape our future, as mankind will soon be able to redesign itself from first principles. But how will such work be guided? What is needed is a manifesto for life, which the acclaimed author Adrian Woolfson delivers in his examination of life and its future possibilities.

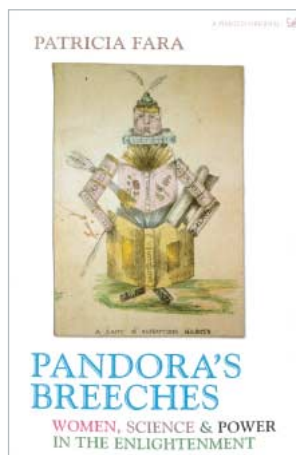
*Until recently Adrian Woolfson was the Charles and Katherine Darwin Research Fellow at Darwin.*

## Alumni can assist the College Library by using the Amazon Referral Arrangement

The Darwin College Library Committee has recently set up a referral arrangement with [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk). The scheme gives those of you who order books, CDs and DVDs through [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk) a chance to help support the Library at *no extra cost* and almost no extra effort. It's this easy: simply visit [amazon](http://amazon) by using this address: [www.dar.cam.ac.uk/amazon](http://www.dar.cam.ac.uk/amazon) (or bookmark any [amazon](http://amazon) page after you have come through to this address).

You will be redirected to [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk) with Darwin's referral details, and for every item purchased [amazon](http://amazon) will credit the Library's books account with a 5% referral credit, which can then be used to purchase more books for the Library. The referral scheme applies to 'marketplace' orders as well. Any questions about the scheme, please feel free to contact the Librarian (email: [librarian@dar.cam.ac.uk](mailto:librarian@dar.cam.ac.uk), phone: 01223 763 547). Thank you for your support!

Ariane Kossack  
Student Librarian



## PANDORA'S BREECHES

*Women, Science & Power in the Enlightenment*

Patricia Fara, 2004  
Pimlico/Random House, London.  
ISBN 1-8441-3082-7 SB  
£12.50

Science has always been a male dominated field, but Pandora's Breeches reveals how women in the Enlightenment Period made vital contributions to the work of many of the world's greatest male scientists of the period. From Lady Philosophy, through such women as Elisabeth of Bohemia, Emilie du Châtelet, Marie Paulze Lavoisier, and to Mary Shelley, each chapter sets out a new and compelling version of science's past.

*Patricia Fara is a former fellow of Darwin and now at Clare College.*

Darwin Publications  
(see also larger features)

David MacKay's acclaimed book on 'Information Theory, Inference and Learning Algorithms' was published by Cambridge University Press in Sept 2003 ISBN 0 521 64298 1.

James Howley's lavishly illustrated book on 'The Follies and Garden Buildings of Ireland' is published by Yale University Press. ISBN 0 200 10225 9.

# EVIDENCE:

## The 19th Darwin College Lecture Series

'Evidence' was the theme for this year's well-attended 19th Darwin College Lecture Series. A university is, of course, obsessed by evidence – gathering it, validating it and interpreting it – and the series had the ambitious purpose of reflecting on what constitutes evidence for different disciplines. Karen Armstrong dealt humanely with the vexed notion of evidence in religion, concluding that its basis lies in no more or less than personal faith. The historian Carlo Ginsburg looked at the origins of anti-semitic myth to emphasise how our society is damaged if it misrepresents its past. Evidence is, of course, central to legal argument, but the rights of the accused impose very particular



constraints on what is allowed as evidence. These were discussed by Cherie Booth QC to a packed house, focusing on prosecution for infanticide and war-crimes. The evidential difficulties posed by notions of probability were taken up by Philip Dawid in a lucid discussion of reasoning under uncertainty. It was particularly welcome that he was himself a Darwinian, as was Monica Grady, a leading authority on meteorites, who spoke about evidence for life in space and of efforts to detect it with the recent ill-fated Mars landing. Vincent Courtillot, a geophysicist, captivated the audience by presenting evidence to suggest that the catastrophes that have periodically wiped out most life on earth arose not from meteorites but from the shifting continents on the earth itself. No less vivid were the visual representations of concepts at the frontiers of theoretical physics used by Professor Brian Greene to explore the notion of evidence in theory. It was left to the philosopher Peter Lipton to give an elegant overview of the role of inference in explanation, thereby making sense of the diverse problems that different disciplines pose for the integrity of the evidence they use.

William Brown



Professor **Ron Laskey** and friends performing at the end of the 2004 Darwin Lecture Series. The flautist is Sally Hames and the accompanist is **Sarah Drayton**, the new Charles and Katherine Darwin Research Fellow.

## Márai and his Contemporaries

An international conference entitled „Márai and his Contemporaries” took place in Darwin College on April 19-20, 2004. Eleven speakers from five countries discussed the work of Sándor Márai (1900-1989) and two other Hungarian writers, Gyula Krudy and Dezső Kosztolányi. Participants included Professor Ivan Sanders of Columbia University, Ferenc Takács of ELTE (the University of Budapest) and Christina Viragh, Márai's translator into German; Cambridge was represented by Rod Mengham (Jesus College) and conference organiser George Gömöri of Darwin. In the evening of the first day of the conference a reading was attended by the participants with excerpts from the poetry and prose of Márai and Kosztolányi read by Ruth Rosen, Peter Wickham and Clive Wilmer.

**George Gömöri** was a guest of the Book Week in Hungary in the first week of June 2004. His new book of essays *Erdélyi meritések* (Transylvanian Pieces) was published in Hungarian by the publishers KOMP-PRESS of Cluj (Romania), home town of a large Hungarian ethnic minority.

## DARWIN COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES 2005

### CONFLICT

21 January	Sex Differences in Mind	Simon Baron-Cohen
28 January	Genomic Conflict	David Haig
4 February	Demonic Apes	Richard Wrangham
11 February	Conflict in the Middle East	Lisa Anderson
18 February	The Roots of Warfare	Barry Cunliffe
25 February	Reporting Conflict	Kate Adie
4 March	Conflict and Labour	William Brown
11 March	Life in a Violent Universe	Paul Davies

*Fridays at 5.30 pm in the Lady Mitchell Hall*

ALL WELCOME

For more information please refer to [www.dar.cam.ac.uk/lectures/current/](http://www.dar.cam.ac.uk/lectures/current/)

# Obituaries

## Gordon Robin

*Director of the Scott Polar Institute who played a vital part in measuring the land surface of the Antarctic*



**Gordon Robin**, who has died aged 83, was director of the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge for 24 years, during which he played an important part in the measurement of the land surface below the Antarctic ice cap.

One of his most inspired decisions was to advance the charting of glacier and ice cap thickness by airborne radio echo-sounding rather than explosions conducted on the surface. The institute's radio echo-sound equipment was first used successfully from the air in the Canadian Arctic. After the preliminary results were published in

*Nature*, Robin and his radar engineer took part in flights over 20,000 miles by a US Navy C-130. The result was the under-ice mapping of almost the entire Antarctic continent in a folio of maps published by the Institute in 1983.

Much of Robin's success as director stemmed from both his lucid, accessible prose style and his shrewdness in realising that the way to check public complaints about the expense of maintaining a polar presence was to draw attention to what came to be known as global warming.

In 1962, he warned that measurement of the Antarctic continent showed that a meltdown could raise the sea level all over the world by 150 ft though, four years later, he suggested that if a quarter of the Antarctic ice mass melted the level of the oceans would rise by 50 ft.

The son of an engineer and descended from a long line of Wesleyan ministers, Gordon de Quettesville Robin was born in Melbourne, Australia, on January 17 1921. He went to Wesley College, Melbourne, and after graduating in Physics from Melbourne University in 1940, he was commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy Volunteer Reserve. He had two years on anti-submarine operations, then was third hand in the submarine *Stygian* in the Far East when it towed miniature submarines to attack Japanese warships in Johore Strait.

With the return of peace, Robin came to England as a graduate student to study Physics at Birmingham University. But from 1946 to 1948 he interrupted his studies to become base leader and meteorologist at the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey. He helped to establish a small base on Laurie Island, in the South Orkneys, which was then moved to a former whaling station on the smaller Signy Island, where he carried out valuable preliminary surveys and was commemorated by Robin Peak there.

He also persuaded the place names authority to accept the name *Stygian Cove*. He knew that it would never

## Dark Matter

*(For Emily)*

In a city where gravity was held in a man's hands, where the atom was split, the double helix of life built to encompass complexity, dark matter foraged for amongst the endless chatter of the universe, a small quiet death can be lost ; one small drop from a pipette falling into the torrent of time.

In a city where knowledge and reason drive men to struggle with whys and wherefores, push boundaries to those edges from which we can glimpse answers that have eluded minds for centuries, there are still questions that are only posed in the stillness of loss.

In a city where people bustle about facts, theories, the precise meaning of how it all is we grow uneasy, restless for understanding, when we have none, simply the fact of death. In the hush of an absence we hear nothing but our own voice, the monologue of grief.

In a city where a woman cycled in sunlight, drank red wine with gusto, ate cheese, stroked a black cat into purrs of delight, laughed, devoured books and biscuits, we are left with the question of dark matter whilst she roars out her name amongst stars.



*Emily Cogill was in her third year of research at Darwin when she died on 8 July 2004. Her family and friends gathered for a moving memorial in the college gardens.*



## Dr Sylvia Fitton-Jackson

### *An Obituary*

accept such a name after a submarine which had never served in Antarctic waters so he claimed that his suggestion was based on its "very gloomy aspect".

Robin returned to England to become a lecturer at Birmingham, then was called away again to join the Norwegian-British-Swedish Expedition to Dronning Maud Land where he started carrying out controlled explosions to assess the thickness of the Antarctic ice sheet. This was done from sledges pulled by a tracked vehicle, supported by a dog team in case of accidents. A group of high rock peaks was named Robinheia (Robin Heights) after him.

Robin completed his Ph D on his seismic work at Birmingham before becoming senior fellow at the Geophysics Department of the Australian National University in Canberra.

On being appointed director of the Scott Polar Research Institute in 1958, Robin increased its scholarly output and appointed extra library staff. Since its building, designed by Sir Herbert Baker, was now too small, he persuaded the Ford Foundation to help to finance the erection of a new wing devoted to research rooms, laboratories, a cold room, and more space for the map room and museum.

Robin stepped down as Director in 1982 to become president of the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research. After retirement he continued his research, retaining a room in the Institute and continuing his studies of annual layering in ice caps.

Robin's long career brought him the Polar Medal (with Antarctic clasp, 1950-52); the Back Grant and the Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, and the Bruce Medal of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, as well as the Seligman Crystal of the International Glaciological Society. He was a fellow of Darwin College, Cambridge.

Gordon Robin, who died on September 21, is survived by his wife Jean Fortt, whom he married in 1953, and their two daughters.

*Reproduced with permission from The Daily Telegraph*



Sylvia Fitton-Jackson, who died on 30 May 2004, was the first female fellow of the college. If the language were not obsolete I would call her the first (perhaps only) lady fellow. Her accent was decidedly upper class, but that was not the sense in which she was a lady. I well recall, for example, visiting her in Addenbrooke's, when she was still in office, and finding that she had not only insisted on swapping beds with someone who wanted to be able to see the television, which she did not, but leaping, or at least lumbering, out of bed, after a major operation, to help make the beds.

It is credibly reported that her election as a fellow resulted from the concerns of the first three or four women students, as properly oriented feminists of their generation, and so deploring the failure of the college to extend the fellowship to women, persuaded the then Dean, quite mendaciously, that they had 'women's problems' and that a female fellow was absolutely de rigueur. All credit to them,

Sylvia served for many years as Associate Dean, and, being unmarried, took the college as her family. No Darwin student, male or female, became a parent without Sylvia's appearance within 24 hours bearing a suitable fluffy toy and enquiries as to whether their accommodation was adequate.

That was her importance for the college. She was also a notable scientist. It was reported that when her Ph.D. thesis came to be examined, it was judged to be of Sc.D. standard. She worked at the Strangeways Laboratory, on collagen and related materials, and a search of the literature still throws up many articles of significance in her field.

After her retirement Sylvia was seldom seen in college. On her last visit, a Guest Night to which Emeritus Fellow are especially welcomed, she took the precaution of hanging her gown, noted for its green tinge, out to air. When she went to collect it, it had totally disintegrated. Sic transit gloria academiae.

Elisabeth Leedham-Green

## Obituary Announcement

We are sorry to announce that **Professor David Wheeler** (1965-2004), Emeritus Fellow (formerly of the Computer Laboratory) died on 13th December 2004. The next issue of the *Darwinian* will feature an obituary. An appreciation of Prof. Wheeler can be found online at [www.cl.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk)

# An appreciation

## Professor John Arthur ('Jack') Jacobs M.A., Ph.D., D.Sc., D.Sc. (h.c.)

**Jack Jacobs**, an Emeritus Fellow since 1983, and Vice-Master between 1978 and 1983, died, aged 87, on 13 December 2003 at Aberystwyth, where he was an Honorary Professor at the University of Wales and his widow, Ann Wintle, has a Chair. I attended his funeral on behalf of the College, and was much moved by the affection shown towards him by colleagues and friends.

Jack was Professor of Geophysics in this University between 1974 and 1983; in the words of *The Times'* obituarist (19 February 2004), 'an inspired and happy choice' following the very distinguished Sir Edward Bullard in his leadership of the Department of Geodesy and Geophysics.

After wartime service in the Royal Navy, Jack played a leading role over more than twenty years in the development of geophysics in Canada,

where, after appointments at the University of Toronto, he held foundation professorships at the Universities of British Columbia and Alberta. In each case he established large departments of high international repute.

The author of 175 publications, including 7 books, much of Jack's research was in the origins of the Earth's magnetic field. Throughout his career he greatly encouraged the work of younger colleagues, and with energy and administrative skill ensured the well-being of the institutions he established. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, he was also awarded the Centennial Medal of Canada, the J. Tuzo Wilson Medal of the Canadian Geophysical Union, the John Adam Fleming Medal of the American Geophysical Union, and both the Price Medal and the Gold

Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, of which he was also a Fellow.

Jack became a Fellow of Darwin in 1977 – attracted here rather than to other colleges because of its explicit commitment to graduate students. Delighted by his informal manner, when I became Dean in 1983 I invited him to have a year as Deputy Dean. Now retired from his Chair, he accepted at once, and did a brilliant job. Especially good with new students, after each welcoming party (which he organised), we would drink whiskies into the night, the more fully to assess the potential of our new members. And he was good at keeping in touch with them thereafter.

No matter to whom, Jack gave much in fellowship across the whole College. A dear friend, I miss him very much.

Peter Gathercole

## Old Darwinians catch up at the 2004 Summer Party





# Rowing

The 2004 season turned out to be the best year yet for Darwin's rowers. With four girls rowing for the University, Blades for the 2nd Men's VIII, and a promotion to the first division for the 1st Women's VIII it was truly an historic year.

The 1st Men started with an excellent result in Fairbairns: 9th out of all college crews. This fine form continued into the Lent Bumps, with 4 bumps in 4 days securing a place in the 2nd division. A gutsy row on the last day saw Darwin just miss out on a triple overbump on Corpus, and on blades. A frustrating May Bumps followed, with equipment problems leading to Darwin going down one place. On the last day however the crew were able to hold off a St. Edmunds crew containing two Blues, denying them blades. The men built on the skill of their senior boat with a quick-learning 2nd boat. Nearly all novices at the start of the year (many alumni of the Summer Course), the 2nd Men went from strength to strength, culminating in a spectacular Mays where they bumped



Darwin Second Men



Darwin First Women

every day, earning Darwin its second set of blades in two years.

After fundraising by members, generous donations from Alumni and a loan from the ever-supportive Bursar we were able last spring to buy a new (second-hand) women's boat. The 'Phillip Pascal' had been Head of the River in Mays 2003 with Newnham and



Image from the 2005 Darwin Calendar by Scott Brittain.

remembered his form during this year's Mays. Darwin's 1st Women bumped twice on the first day, putting us into the First Division for the first time and earning us a headline in the Cambridge Evening News (success indeed!). The crew was particularly strengthened by four Blues returning after representing the University in the women's versions of the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race. Our 2nd boat, though unlucky in its draw during Mays, put in solid performances throughout the year and resulted in a core of experienced rowers from which to draw on this coming season.

We are now concentrating our fundraising efforts onto the Men's club which badly needs a replacement boat. We need to raise about £5000 and are keen to hear from old Darwinians who may be able to help us with a donation or through their business contacts. Darwin continues to be the only college to put out high-quality crews throughout the year, on and off the Cam. Sponsoring us helps current and future generations of Darwin rowers and also ensures your logo is seen by a large number of people, year round and nationwide.

This year a new, enthusiastic committee are set to shake up the inner workings of the club. First to go is the website, now replaced by a smarter version (<http://www.dar.cam.ac.uk/dcbc/>) to help us keep old and current members updated on DCBC news and results as they occur. The 'Friends of DCBC' society started last year and we are always keen to get in contact with old Darwinian rowers. Email Jenny ([jhb32@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jhb32@cam.ac.uk)) to be added to the list and receive notices of reunion dinners etc.

Jenny Barnett

CEO Darwin College Boat Club

## No Pennants in Lent: thrice bumped and a Row.

"Stride!!" the short-swept oar  
swirls dark Cam. Puddles strong  
lengthen out to build the cover more  
till smooth settled strokes slip the shell along.  
Then evermore all life is cheerful bliss –  
For who can meet more awful fate than this:  
To row to Railway bridge from Baitbite dam?  
Now dream the Old, whose oars once  
touched this stream  
in Lent. The Tough; the Bold; great  
Guards of State;  
or quiet Wise – look back on anguished  
wait .....

First Gun, sharp "Start!"; and fearsome  
"Row!!!" – Life's cream  
rose here in cold wet spring-green  
lenten Cam.

To you who row, be sure till life is spent  
no fate can fright the one who's lost in Lent.

Rowing over?  
– Bow not to time;  
while stroke's a chime.

Set not my feet in shoes that pong  
nor harden thou my heart. The narrow Way  
widens then thins, and Grassy's long  
green banks still waft the scents of May.  
Two hundred years the Bumps have run  
– well nearly now, as May is June –  
Eight hundred times the boats have spun  
and only wars left May undone.  
Here we suspend the perfect time,  
here now enjoy these endless days,  
here quick catch, the stride, the rhyme  
of oars in play in charmed Mays.  
Eight oars front stop, eight oars wait low:  
Eight godly starts when Cox shouts: Row!

P.A.D. Dellight (1970-74)





Image from the 2005 Darwin Calendar by Nicholas Hartman.

## ADVANCE NOTICE

Darwin College alumni are invited  
to a Darwin Society Buffet lunch

To be held during the  
15th Cambridge University Alumni weekend

on  
Saturday 24th September 2005  
at 12.30pm

The 15th University alumni weekend is a time to explore the latest developments and discoveries through a stimulating mix of lectures and tours. The full lecture series takes place on Saturday. So appreciate talks from experts in their field, and come along to your College to meet friends, old and new. Enjoy good food, drink and beautiful surroundings.

More details will be available in May. To express an interest in coming along and to receive more details when they are available, please phone Sophia on 01223 335690 or e-mail her on [sas65@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sas65@cam.ac.uk) Thank you.

## Calling Darwinians in Paris and France

Paris-based alumni Julien Goodman and Pascale Chavatte-Palmer are keen to hear from other alumni who might be interested in occasional Darwinian get togethers in France. Please email [alumni-paris-contact@dar.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-paris-contact@dar.cam.ac.uk) if you are interested.

### Editors:

George Gömöri

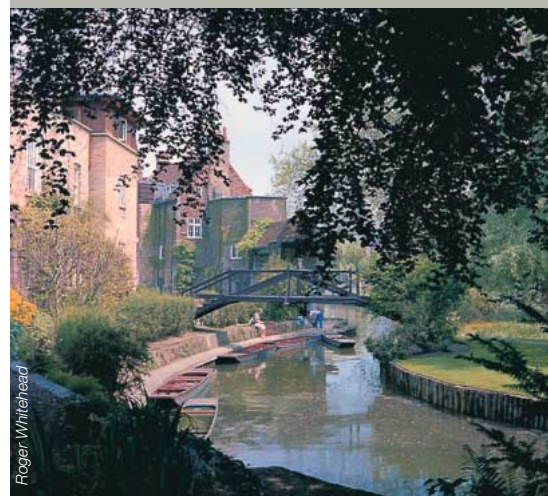
Richard Jebb

Andrew Prentice

The editors especially welcome short articles, pictures, artwork and news from our overseas alumni.

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## Calendar of Old Darwinian Events

- |            |                              |
|------------|------------------------------|
| 12th March | Former Fellows' Buffet Lunch |
| 18th March | Darwin Society Dinner        |
| 20th May   | Darwin Society Dinner        |
| 10th June  | Former Fellows' Reunion      |
| 24th June  | Darwin Event/Ball            |