



CELEBRATING AT THE ST. CLARE'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION WEEKEND



The first occasion of the St Clare's Association Annual Weekend was held here in Oxford on a cold and grey summer's day. It began on 4th June with

tea and a talk from the Vice Principal on Global Citizenship, followed by lively discussion. The Reception and Dinner which followed brought together

alumni from five different countries as well as the UK.

It was a warm and memorable occasion. The St Clare's Governors

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Letter from the Principal



To the future...

This year has, as usual, been busy and interesting. Highlights – just a very few – include three former students (Alice Halliday, Oliver Nabarro and Xiaonan Sun) receiving awards at the House of Lords for their 2004 IB results; the introduction of the gold level for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award; Chinese New Year celebrations; a session with Cherwell School on the US Presidential election; visiting groups from Kazakhstan, Japan, Portugal, Dubai, the Netherlands and Mount St Mary College, USA; changes to the adult English language programme to reflect greater emphasis on global citizenship; and record numbers of US university acceptances and Oxbridge offers for this year's graduating IB students.

This year, will, I think, also be seen as significant in the College's development. Just a couple of weeks ago, we completed work extending over nearly seven years, to cater more appropriately for our different courses, with students with different interests and needs. We now have separate sites for pre-university students (taking IB Diploma, pre-IB and English language courses) and senior students (those people over 18 studying Liberal Arts university level courses, English language, and related courses). Course Directors have been designated or appointed for pre-university courses, English language courses, Liberal Arts and related courses, and the IB Institute (short courses for visiting teachers and students). The common interests of senior students are reflected in Dr Ines Molinaro's role as senior courses coordinator.

This year has also seen completion of an architectural masterplan for the central St. Clare's site. While our Victorian and Edwardian century old buildings have great character and charm, they are not ideally suited to all requirements for a 21st century college. Our site is restricted and within a designated conservation area, which determines the extent and nature of new buildings. We have been working for about 7 years towards a comprehensive plan for upgrading central buildings and premises. Initial work with architects confirmed that we did not, then, have sufficient space to accommodate our needs. We therefore acquired a number of buildings to remedy this. The Oxford Academy, 2 and 4 Staverton Road and 131 Banbury Road – all acquired in recent years - have provided us with enough building and garden space to move forward. Essentially it has taken us 50 years to acquire our campus for the future. Having done so, we returned to Rick Mather Architects, selected after a national competition, who have worked with us to develop the masterplan for the central Banbury Road premises.

There is good news and a challenge. The good news is that it seems likely that all our needs for central premises can be met within existing buildings, appropriately refurbished, and new buildings in the grounds. The masterplan proposes three substantial developments at the rear of 121, 131-137, and 139-143 Banbury Road. In each case, a considerable proportion of the building is underground. This is necessary to provide sufficient space without changing the residential character of the neighbourhood. Advice from English Heritage and local planning officials highlighted that developments should not be too tall or obliterate key open spaces and sight lines.

The masterplan represents a fully considered and comprehensive vision

of what a future St Clare's might look like – in terms of central buildings. It is exciting and ambitious.

The challenge is to make this happen. The project costs are very considerable because of the need to fit into the local environment, and to build underground. Governors have agreed that the masterplan should shape future thinking and planning for central premises. However, further work is being undertaken to look at ways of bringing the first phase of the masterplan closer to our reach financially. More of this in due course.

This is for the longer term. In the meantime, we have, of course, seen developments within the year, including the introduction of the wireless internet access, refurbishment of 177 Banbury Road, and further work to improve the senior students' teaching centre at 18 Bardwell Road.

As I leave St Clare's after a total of 23 years here, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed being part of the St Clare's community. Those who know St Clare's will recognise that it is unique. Many of those unique aspects relate to its size and intimacy, and to the quality of the education and experience that people enjoy while studying or working here. (And buildings are only important because they enable us to improve this quality). Certain unique aspects – such as the range of courses within the College - represent a challenge, and an opportunity to continue to address our mission in a distinctive way. I would like to think that I have contributed to the development of the College during my time here, and I would like to extend thanks and all very best wishes to all members of the extended St Clare's community, and to St Clare's for the future.

Boyd Roberts

St Clare's Association Annual Weekend 4th – 5th June 2005

(continued from front page)

were represented by Roderic Bullough, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Jesmond Blumenfeld who joined us as a Parent Governor when his daughter, Rebecca, was on the IB programme from 1998 – 2000. Also present was Catherine Lewis, one of our two US-based Governors.

Towards the end of the Reception, guests were intrigued to be invited to a short musical interlude, where Boyd Roberts, an accomplished counter-tenor, sang Bach, Mozart and Copeland to a clearly amazed and delighted audience. He was accompanied on the piano by Maureen Lake.

A candle-lit Dinner followed in the Conservatory overlooking the garden. Boyd Roberts welcomed guests and spoke before the dinner about the architectural masterplan and the future directions for St Clare's. Anne Dreydel was our Guest of Honour, and spoke after the Dinner, with Roderic Bullough and Jesmond Blumenfeld also speaking.

Although a formal occasion, the



atmosphere was relaxed and people moved around the tables to meet up with each other.

On Sunday, Anne Dreydel held a Luncheon party at her home in Moreton Road. Against all the odds, and the weather forecast, the clouds parted and the sun came out, so we were all able to eat alfresco in Miss Dreydel's lovely garden.

This was a very special occasion. Jill Ross-Thomas (1963-65) summed up the feelings of all who attended in her subsequent email:

"I just wanted to thank you for such a delightful lunch party yesterday: all that a Sunday lunch in summer should be,

except possibly for the weather? The company more than made up for that and it was, as ever, wonderful to see Miss Dreydel on such good form. The lunch itself was absolutely delicious (a winning combination of all that was light but totally wicked - and as for that Brie...). Do please pass our thanks on to all the ladies concerned: I'm sure they knew how greatly appreciative we all were."

Ann McKeown, a former Chemistry teacher at St Clare's in the 70's and 80's said:

"It was lovely to meet you and to renew all the "old" acquaintances from the late 70's. We both thoroughly enjoyed the dinner and the lunch at Anne's."

Truly a wonderful weekend at St Clare's.

Dates for 2006 St Clare's Association Annual Weekend

I am delighted to be able to announce that we have set the dates for the 2006 Weekend as the 3rd-4th June. Please make a note of these dates. Hopefully this early announcement will enable some of those who could not be with us this year to plan to be in Oxford for this summer weekend.

Kay Honner
Development Director



The Recent Leavers' Reunion

Recent Leavers' Reunion

Saturday

11th June

At the Recent Leavers Reunion we had contingents of a l u m n i representing the years 1997 (8), 1998 (7), 1999 (1), 2000 (9), 2001 (1) and 2004 (3). Forty-five alumni and staff were present together with

partners and spouses and in the case of Krzysztof and Karolina Samberger we were also delighted to meet their five month old baby, Mia.

Most alumni had travelled from London, although there were some from Scotland, Germany, Spain, Poland and the United States, while others only had to come down the road!

It was lovely to see old friends meeting and greeting each other – many of whom had not seen each other since leaving St Clare's as students. All were encouraged to try to find others who were not able to attend by visiting the St Clare's Alumni Online website and looking for them.

Staff were also really pleased to



see their former students and to hear what they have gone on to do. They were also delighted that their students remembered them with such affection.

It was quite odd not to have any representatives from the years 2002 and 2003 – where are all these alumni?

In order to try to reach more alumni

be good to have a few names from each year who would be able to advise on changes in contact information. Any suggestions on who might be good to contact would be very much appreciated.

In conclusion, everyone had a very enjoyable evening, with drinks, canapes and good conversation. We will

certainly be doing this again next year! So put the advance date into your diaries now for the 2006 Recent Leavers' Reunion – it will be on Saturday 17th June and will focus on the years 1997 – 2005.

Kay Honner
(Development Director)
Rebecca Lynch
(Development Officer)



The St. Clare's Association: future directions

GLOBAL AMBITIONS

In line with the Global Citizenship project and the college's mission to advance international education and understanding, the St. Clare's Association is looking to launch a new initiative to improve the benefits of the alumni association for all our alumni.

As an international college, St. Clare's alumni come from all over the globe and reside in over 150 different countries. This vast spread makes keeping in touch all the more difficult and it is for this reason that the St. Clare's Association would like to establish a Global Alumni Network. This network would comprise of Alumni Ambassadors who would be recruited from countries where a significant number of our alumni reside.

The role of these ambassadors would be to assist the global network that supports the college, staff, students and alumni by organizing local events and activities, creating networking opportunities in specific countries and raising St. Clare's profile around the world.

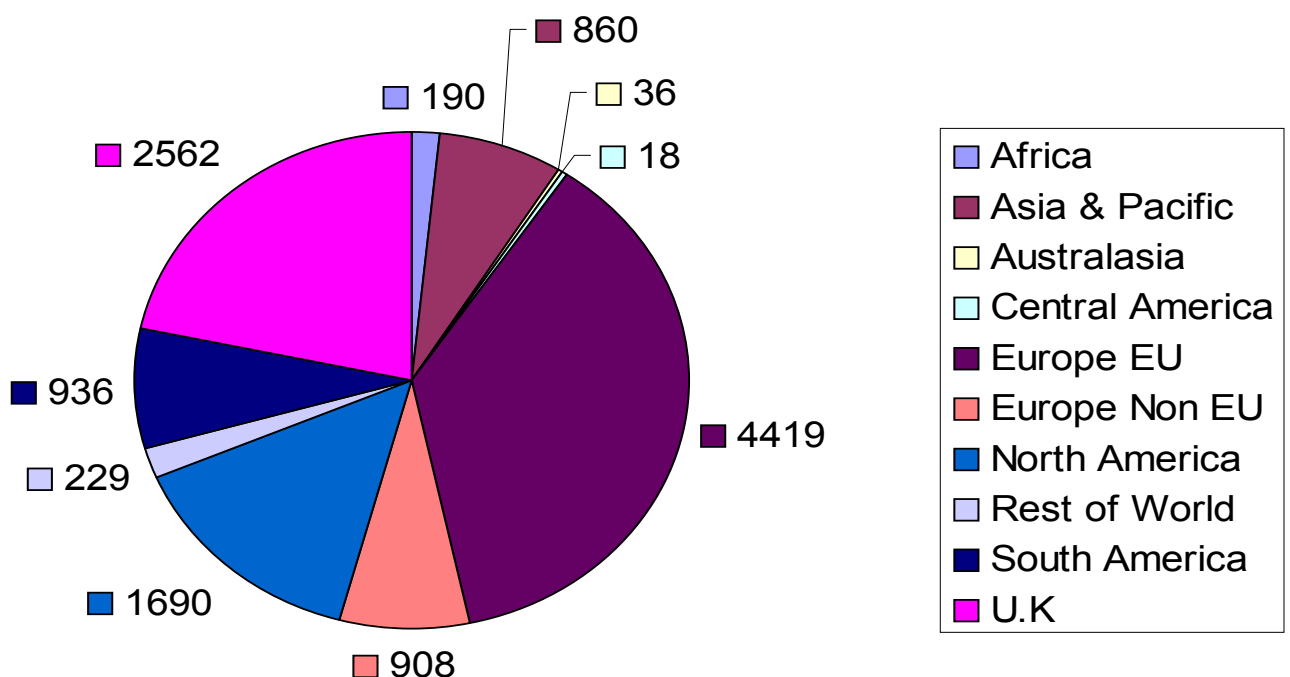
Alumni Ambassadors would have the opportunity to meet new people, rediscover friends and keep alumni in touch with each other across the globe.

This new project is still in its initial phase, but as you can see from the pie-chart below, there are many parts of the world with numerous St. Clare's alumni. Most of these alumni tend to

come from the same countries within these world regions or the same states such as in the case of North America, where the majority of our alumni are from California(334), Illinois(122), Wisconsin(83), New York(80) and Massachusetts(35).

Countries such as France, Germany, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Russia, China and Japan all also have significant amounts of alumni. If you think that there may be a lot of St. Clare's alumni in your area and you would like to know more about becoming an Alumni Ambassador please get in touch with the Development & Alumni Office: alumni@stclares.ac.uk

St. Clare's Alumni Locations



A Focus on our Adult Centre...

Round-Up of Events at Bardwell Road Centre 2004-2005



We have just completed the second full academic year where adult students (18+) enrolled on a range of programs at St. Clare's share a common site at Bardwell Road. The programs of study currently available at the Bardwell Road Centre include English Courses, the University Foundation Course, the Advanced Studies Program and the Liberal Arts Programme.

A number of new initiatives have been introduced directly affecting the quality of the senior student experience. Alongside the long-established residential policy requiring students from different nationalities to share rooms, we have focused our efforts on extra-curricular activities to nurture and promote the benefits of international education. In September we introduced a more integrated orientation program to ensure that students enrolled on different programs were made aware of all the programs of study on offer at Bardwell Road. Aside from academic and domestic briefings, students were given a guided walking tour of Oxford, a free accompanied trip to London and another to Stonehenge, Bath and Salisbury. In September 2004 we introduced a semi-formal dinner at the start of each semester. The seating

arrangements are devised so that students are seated with staff and students on different programs and from different nationalities. The senior course dinner contributes to instilling a shared sense of identity among St. Clare's senior students, teachers and administrative staff and allows us to reinforce, from the outset, the value St. Clare's places on the immersion of students and staff in a multinational community. All extra-curricular activities are intended to mitigate the natural tendency for students to cluster according to nationality. While much more needs to be done, we have made good progress. The evidence for this has been the overwhelmingly positive feedback from students across the programs. Indeed, we have been told over and over that the opportunities to make lifelong friends from all over the world is one of the major benefits of studying at St. Clare's. The integration of senior students is a central component to fulfilling our duty to broaden students' horizons and advance international understanding.

A few highlights from the many extra-curricular activities over the past year: International Day - Every semester a half day is set aside for senior students to participate in a program of presentations and activities on a specific theme. In the autumn, our theme was Culture Shock—Communications: Problems and Solutions. In the spring, we decided on something completely different, in a sense, reversing the perspective. All our students are not English and consciously decided to study in England. International Day was devoted to St. George's Day and exploring aspects of Englishness.

International Film Club – a fortnightly screening of

international films at 3 Bardwell Road. Senior Seminar Series – nine lectures over the course of each semester. Students and staff meet at The Aula, Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford on Tuesday evenings to hear invited lecturers with lively discussions, usually continuing in a local pub. In the autumn semester, the theme “*Women of Power and Influence*” included lectures on Mary Wollstonecraft, Georgia O’Keefe, Margaret Thatcher, Hildegard of Bingen, Freda Kahlo, Simone de Beauvoir and Anna O. In the spring, the theme “*Revolutions*” included lectures on the Russian Revolution, the revolution in the production and consumption of food, the birth of cubism, the nature of the American Revolution, the sexual revolution, James Joyce and the modernist revolution, the nature of the English Revolution, the Darwinian revolution and the psychoanalytic revolution. The Senior Seminar series is a an academic component of the Liberal Arts programme; however, we are pleased that it is increasingly attracting senior students from other programs.

In the autumn semester, American students prepared a Thanksgiving dinner at Logan House for all senior students. Throughout the year, students

“I remain in contact with many of the wonderful friends I made from all over the world during my time at St. Clare’s. I arrived not knowing anyone. Six months later I was invited by one of the Japanese friends I made to a wedding in Yemen—what a way to expand my social and cultural horizons!” William Adair, ASP and LA student, Guatemala

from various nationalities prepared traditional meals for all to enjoy. In the spring, Valentine's Day was celebrated at The Atlantic Bar, a venue which was used on a number of occasions throughout the year for senior student parties. Notably, senior students held a fundraising event for Tsunami Relief and contributed to the "Build a Classroom in Africa" through the OXFAM unwrapped scheme.

Weather permitting (and sometimes even if it did not) at least one (in spring, two) BBQs are held in the garden at 3 Bardwell Road.

In addition to the many accompanied trips by the Activities department, staff have organised very popular and successful trips to the opera, theatre, hill walking in Wales, surfing in Cornwall, horseback riding in Wales, excursions to Prague and Sicily.

On the academic front, one hour per week devoted to *Global Citizenship* has been incorporated into all English Course classes. The Advanced Studies Program is the area of overlap for *academically* integrating senior students. This year an audit of LA and ASP subject courses has been concluded and a new menu of courses will be launched in January 2006. The content of these new courses is explicitly international and or comparative. This will expand course choices for ASP students and we believe they will be attractive to Liberal Arts students too.

"The course is ideal for me in every aspect! It combines the study of very interesting subjects with the study of English. I not only improved my English skills through the English course, but also while studying history and psychology." Lea Baumann, ASP student, Switzerland

We have also completed work on a

new Educational Studies programme, for undergraduate education majors. This program of study, makes use of the expertise in international education among St. Clare's teaching staff and reinforces our links to the local community. Students on this

"For me, St. Clare's was a fantastic introduction into British life and culture. It was also a great addition to my CV and may have helped in my current appointment with the Financial Times newspaper in London."
Briana Dougherty, USA

programme will participate in a monitored internship in a local primary or secondary school. The program will welcome its first students in January 2006.

We are thrilled to have concluded an agreement with the University of San Diego to provide credit for St. Clare's Liberal Arts courses for any student enrolled in a US university.

University Foundation course students, as well as a few ASP and EC students have applied to British universities. All have received good offers, including two unconditional offers (one for an MA and another for an undergraduate program) from King's College London and a place on the LLM in International Trade Law at Brunel University.

"The teachers teach well and are really helpful. They have prepared us very well for our university studies. I have been able to adapt my Chinese learning style to the western learning style."

Yan Yan Tang (UFC student, China)

We welcomed Dr Peter Jackson (communication studies) and Sue Nieland (social psychology) and say good-bye and thank you to Krishan

Jalie (maths). We congratulate Dr Brian Clack on his appointment as Lecturer in Liberal Arts.

Another exciting development has been the completion of the first phase of the refurbishment of 18 Bardwell Road.

This refurbishment comprises an attractive new administrative/reception area as well as the creations of two new large classrooms on the ground floor. We look forward to the start shortly of the next phase of refurbishment at 18 Bardwell Road.

The installation of wireless networking at St. Clare's and especially wireless access in the senior student residences was warmly welcomed and appreciated. Finally, a new senior courses web site is under construction. This will consist of a senior courses homepage from which to access detailed information about all the programmes of study for adult students at St. Clare's.

"My time at St. Clare's was a learning experience, not only in the classroom, but in the Oxford community as well. I was able to interact with students from other countries and during this particularly hostile time in our world today, it gave me the opportunity to expand my own perspective and enjoy being a citizen of the world."
Dustyn Martincich, USA

Dr. Ines Molinaro, Director of Liberal Arts-
Co-ordinator of Senior Courses



Events at St. Clare's

Chinese New Year

The fifth celebration of Chinese New Year, celebrating the year of the Rooster at St. Clare's was very successful. There was a wonderful variety of delicious food prepared by Nick French and the catering team.

Our Drum Dance team, the first one we have ever had, made a successful show in front of the college, and a photographer from the local newspaper, the Oxford Mail, came especially for this. The Lion Dance group proved their popularity once again.

Both Chinese students and Korean students prepared well for the performance in the hall. The audience was entertained with Korean songs, tai-chi, fan dance, er hu, Chinese folk songs, a sketch on the origin of the Chinese Zodiac, etc. A never-to-be-forgotten finale to the evening was given by You Qui Shi, Jin Fan, Kevin Hennessy, Vicky Hahn and Suso Blanco, causing a lot of screams when they gave out the red packets.

Xiaohui Yan
Tutor for Chinese Students



IBSCA Student Conference 2005

Islam - Past, Present and Future

The Main Subject: Islam and the West. It is claimed that a significant proportion of people within each "camp" view the others with mistrust and suspicion. Writers warn that Islam and the West are on a collision course. Other voices argue that this negative prognosis is based upon misunderstanding and prejudice.

For this year's conference, we wanted to help students to understand one of the great faiths of the world – and, probably the one that is growing the fastest.

The day was divided into three sections. In the first, we looked at some of the

underlying ideas of Islam and aspects of Islamic History.

In the second, we had opportunities to discuss contemporary issues in relation to Islam with a distinguished group of academics and scholars.

After lunch and a "sharing" session on the IB Diploma, we gathered in groups to "pull together" the ideas of the day and to discuss our views for the future.

It was a fascinating and worthwhile day.
Keith Allen
Deputy Principal

Participating Schools:

Bedford School, Bedford

Broadgreen High School,
Liverpool

King Edward's Witley, Surrey

Oakham School, Rutland

Sevenoaks School, Kent

St Clare's, Oxford

Father and Daughter Alumni Meet John Paul II

By Rebecca Lynch

Marek Kaminski and his daughter Akane Okamoto Kaminski both featured in our last newsletter in an article entitled *Two Generations at St. Clare's*. Recently, with the passing of Pope John Paul II in April 2005, Marek shared with us his experiences of meeting the 264th pontiff at the Vatican shortly before he went into hospital.

Born in Poland, Marek was a student in Krakow in the late 1960's. Leaving Poland in 1972, he came to study English at St. Clare's in 1975. As an Anthropologist, he has spent most of his life around the world and now divides his time between Asia and Europe. Both his children, Akane (aged 26, who studied English at St. Clare's last year) and Ken (aged 22) have grown up in Japan and find themselves at religious and spiritual crossroads.

Marek Kaminski is a fervent Catholic. On a trip to Rome in January this year, accompanied by Akane and Ken, not only did he get the chance to meet with his old friend Stanislaw Dziwisz, who was John Paul II's personal secretary for some 40 years, but he and his two children were invited to an intimate meeting with the Pope himself.

This was the first time both Akane and Ken had met the Pope. However, their father had first met John Paul II some 37 years earlier when he was just 21. At that time John Paul II was a young Cardinal in Poland known as Karol Wojtyla. Over the years as Archbishop of Krakow Karol had proven himself an able pastor in the face of Communist persecution and had played a prominent role in the formulation of the Declaration of Religious Freedom. Even as a newly appointed Cardinal of the Roman Catholic church he had always kept his door open to any students that may be in need of advice. It was in this manner that Marek first met Karol. The young



From Left to Right: Ken, Akane, Marek, Pope John Paul II and Stanislaw Dziwisz Cardinal helped solve Marek's

problems and told him to come back whenever he needed him. It was also at this time that Marek was introduced to the Pope's secretary, Stanislaw Dziwisz.

Later Marek kept in touch with Karol through letters and then email. When Akane was born in August 1978 the family even received a congratulations card from the man that would become Pope that very October. So it was with great affection that the Pope looked at Akane when he finally got to meet her some 26 years later. Marek describes the moment: "*He looked at her with affection, as if he was a simple priest and not the leader of millions of Catholics. The weight of responsibilities has had physical consequences on him but his heart remains untouched.*"¹

During their visit they discussed their faith, the challenges of multicultural families, of cultural differences and of understanding. Marek, wanting to understand the religious traditions of his children states: "*I sometimes go with them to Buddhist temples or Shinto*

sanctuaries in Japan."²

Marek writes of his great respect for John Paul II, admiring his simplicity, courage and spiritualism. Even when in hospital the Pope had the message that: "*Neither distance, nor cultural differences can tear anyone apart... We have to show that our love goes beyond political and religious barriers.*"³

Akane and Ken had lost touch with some of their spiritual and physical roots. Meeting John Paul II was an opportunity for them to re-discover and broaden their perceptions. Marek describes his emotions: "*Surrounding this old man with my children is the most moving experience I have ever lived.*"⁴

Pope John Paul II died on 2nd April this year at the age of 84 as the third longest serving Pope in history.

Information from "*Ma Soiree avec Jean Paul II*" Copyright Ignacy-Marek Kaminsky
(Endnotes)

¹ Translated from *Ma Soiree Avec Jean Paul II*, Marek Kaminski, LA VIE pg 68

² ibbid pg 67

³ ibbid pg 69

⁴ ibbid pg 68

Staff Changes

There have been a number of staff changes over the past Academic year. John Bush joined us as Head of Maths, coming from the United World College of South East Asia, Singapore – a leading IB school. Tessa Ely (nee Richardson) took on a new role as Senior Resident, heading the strong team of residential wardens. Dr Brian Clack was appointed to a full-time post as Lecturer in Liberal Arts. Keith Allen became Deputy Principal and Tom Walsh Vice-Principal, each with revised duties. We have also welcomed Lawrie Coupland as Director of English Courses. Lawrie joined us from OISE, one of the UK's leading English Language operations, where he was Management Director.

This month we say goodbye to Dan Denno who has taught maths at St. Clare's since 1990. Elsa Morgan will also be officially retiring after 28 years teaching English as a Foreign Language. Frederic Faure (French) and Paul Lennon (Careers & Higher Education Adviser) will also be leaving this June. We wish them all well for the future and we will miss them.

Long Serving Staff

Congratulations to long serving colleagues, whose significant anniversaries we celebrated recently. The Chairman of the Governors, Peter Oppenheimer, presented letters and tokens of appreciation at a reception attended by Governors and senior management on Thursday 2 June. They were: David Gomm 20 Years. Kicki Lurcock 20 Years, Sylvia Corrie 25 Years (unfortunately unable to be there), Nick Lee 25 Years and Elsa Morgan 28 Years.

Congratulations

Congratulations also to Dr Peter Jackson (Liberal Arts Communications teacher) and Dr Mohammed Takriti (IB Arabic teacher) on the award of doctorates during the year. Tom Walsh completed the National Professional Qualification for Headship. Dr Tony Lurcock published an article in the Autumn 2004 issue of the Evelyn Waugh Newsletter and Studies and Jos Vos will have two translations from Japanese to Dutch published next Spring.

Obituaries

Jack Jones

Shortly before Christmas, we heard the sad news that Jack Jones, formerly the Head of Maths, had died.

Jack joined St Clare's as Head of Maths in September 1977, as one of a number of key staff involved with the introduction of the IB Diploma programme.

He was a sharp and able mathematician whose deep understanding of the subject made him able to explain it clearly to others. This was the basis of his strength as a teacher. However, equally, if not more important, was his interest in students. Jack enjoyed the cosmopolitan student community. He very much enjoyed taking a personal interest in his students, and valued the atmosphere at St Clare's in which teachers and students got to know one another well.

Maths was a core subject within the IB, and Jack taught hundreds of IB students, and also a number on the Liberal Arts programme.

He was a popular member of the staff room, who enjoyed sharing with colleagues his views on many topics, and reflecting on their foibles. He also had a mischievous sense of fun, enjoying practical jokes.

Jack retired from St Clare's in 1998 because of ill health. In his retirement, he rekindled his interest in academic Maths, undertaking further research. He also very much enjoyed reminiscing about his years at St Clare's, and he particularly valued the communications he received from former students, who clearly held him in great affection.

Kay Buckingham

Kay Buckingham, College Accountant, died on 28 February after five months' illness. Kay joined St. Clare's in a junior position of a small Bursary team in 1988. Through dedication she became a qualified accountant with college assistance. She advanced to being College accountant in January 2003. Her happy, friendly attitude changed and brought together all college staff. Even through her illness she continued to support and dedicate her life to the college and its staff and students.

Aged only 38, she leaves her husband Spencer and two young daughters, Lauren (7) and Charlotte (4). She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Bienvenido a Barcelona 2005

“We came, we partied, and our souls never left.” There is no better way to describe my feelings about the 2005 St. Clare’s trip to Barcelona. Some may think this is an extremely optimistic and a rather dramatic way to describe three short days, but that is only those people who have never been to Barcelona and never fallen under its entrancing spell.



Getting off the plane and walking through the airport, I could feel the difference in the air and it was more than just the change in temperature. From exploring the streets, to the meals, to speaking Spanish, there was never a dull moment. We filled our days visiting some of Gaudi’s famous sites including the Sagrada Familia and Parc Guell, exploring the Gothic Quarters, the

Picasso Museum and sampling many of the exquisite tapas. Yet, it’s not how much we did or saw that defines our trip, but how we each took in these experiences and our reactions to them. For me personally, one of the highlights of the trip was seeing the Spanish language in context. Having studied Spanish, I was excited at the chance to

practice my skills and at coming into contact with one of the cultures that goes along with such a colourful language. Even those in our group who did not study Spanish were able to experience the brilliance of another language and the fascinating culture that goes with it.

While we encountered the local people and experienced their culture

around us, this trip also gave us the chance to get to know our other classmates better, especially those who we may not have spent time with ordinarily. Spending time with these other people, in a new environment, and trying to absorb a culture at the same time made the whole trip an even more enriching experience.



Seeing so much and being so completely immersed in the Spanish language and culture, even for just a short time, facilitated the formation of many unforgettable memories. It is these memories that we will hold onto as we recall our trip and the place where we left a small part of ourselves behind. I hope to go back someday and rediscover that part of me which can only be found in the magical city of Barcelona. Emily Nelsen (American) IB05

UK UNIVERSITIES

The majority of leavers this year intend to go to university in the UK with others taking Gap Years or studying in Europe.

8 students have received Oxbridge offers this year setting a college record.

RICHARD SMART PRIZES

In February of this year three IB students from the class of 2004 received Richard Smart prizes at an awards ceremony at the House of Lords hosted by Baroness Perry.

Alice Halliday, Oliver Nabarro and

Xiaonan Sun received awards for their exceptional performance in the IB exams. The awards are made by CIFE, the Council for Independent Further Education, of which St. Clare’s is a member.

US UNIVERSITIES POPULAR

A record number of 2nd year students applied to study at US universities and colleges this year. 14 of these were successful in securing places and of these 14, 11 have decided to enroll.

Congratulations to Mato Lagator who will go on to Harvard, and to Jeffrey Waheed who is set to attend Stanford.

Also to Milo Dee who will study at Amherst, Katherine Glass at Middlebury and Zainab Hussain at Mt Holyoke - all extremely selective colleges among the 30 most prestigious of the 3,000 in the United States.

Thomas Cochran, Omonyemwen Osayande, Anna Szwaj, Jerzy Pietrucha and Isra Salim have all accepted places at highly regarded U.S universities and colleges.

A special mention goes to Zhanar Serikpayeva who will go to The Rhode Island School of Design – one of the top art colleges in the States.

The Class of 1996 begin plans for their 2006 Ten Year Reunion

Anne Fockema Andreae (class of 1996) is on a mission to get the whole class together for their 10 year reunion in July 2006. She has requested our help and now we are asking for yours...



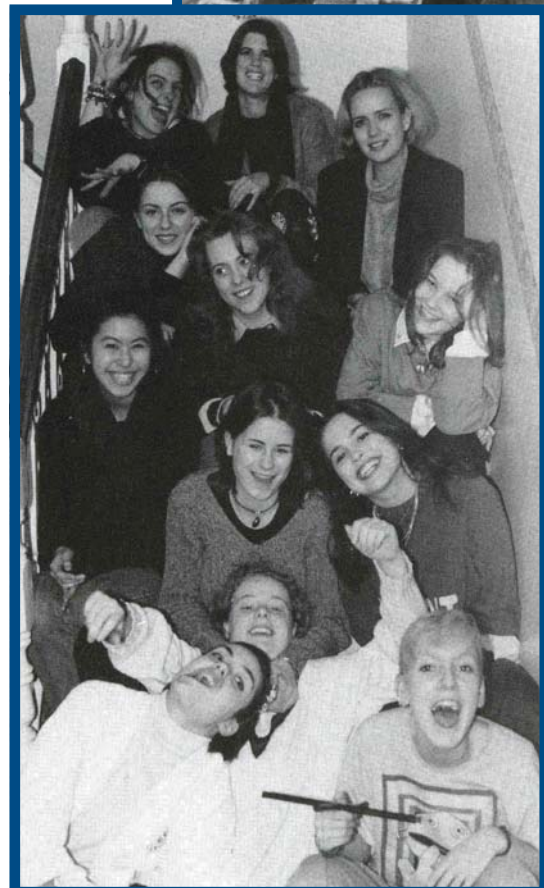
“I would like it to be an active program, like a menu that people can select from during the day and all eat together and perhaps a band and a dance in the hall during the evening. We had a great active and lively year and for most of us they are great memories. I want to re-live it with this bunch!” Anne Fockema Andreae

of the graduating class of 1996 together for their 10 year reunion in July 2006.



If you would like to help Anne, if you have any ideas for the event or if you would simply like to find out more about attending an event at St. Clare's please contact the Development and Alumni Office:

alumni@stclares.ac.uk



Do you know the contact details of anyone who left St. Clare's in 1996? If you do please pass them onto the Development and Alumni Office. We want to locate and contact everyone in the class of 1996 and if as many people help us in the search as possible then the more people we will find.

The Class of 1996 will be the first year to hold their Ten year reunion. We hope that this will become an annual event, and with each year that passes another Ten Year anniversary comes along!

Photos from the 1996 year Book - Do you recognise anyone?

1960

Varaporn Thavisin, Thai
(English 1967)

After I left St. Clare's, I stayed on in Oxford doing a secretarial course for a year at Marlborough Secretarial College and after that I did more English at Temple Tutorial College. Then, I went home to Thailand. I worked as a secretary in a medical university called Mahidol University in Bangkok. I am now retired. I am happy spending my days doing porcelain painting. I have a long time ago lost contact with most of my friends at St. Clare's. Now I miss them all and wonder where they are. I wonder if I can contact them through St. Clare's. Some - if not all. I do hope to see them before my days end! I shall be 60 in July 2005. These are the names of my long lost friends who shared the houses in Oxford with me: - Mrs. Toureau's on Polstead Rd and Mr. and Mrs. Darlington on Banbury Rd.

Birgitta Dahlen - Sweden
Gaby Efron - Switzerland
Jill Goulden - England
Kathleen Holroyd - Scotland
Liz Verity - England
Monique Marchand - France
Megan Jones - S. Wales
Penny Cartwright (Smalley) - England
Rose-Marie Oakley - England

All of them were at St. Clare's between 1964 - 1966.

I am so happy to get in touch with St. Clare's Hall again after 40 years!

Carol Ziegenhafen (nee Neuendorffer),
(Liberal Arts 1967)

Carol returned to St. Clare's for the first time since she was here as a student during 1966-67. She would love to hear

from any of her contemporaries.

1970

Maria Lucia Casas, Colombian
(English 1979)

My name is María Lucía Casas; I was an English student during the summer and the fall term in 1978. I received the last Newsletter and I was really moved and happy about the idea of getting in touch with old friends. I read a note from Amada Capellin, she and I attended St. Clare's at the same time and both lived at the Enoch's house. I have always been grateful to St. Clares. After I came back to my country I studied Education and since I have been IB Coordinator at a private school, Dean of the School of Business of the second best school of business in the country and now I am the President of the only bilingual University there is in Colombia. We are devoted to educating bilingual teachers. My experience at St. Clare's was crucial and I know that I owe many of my achievements to it. So it is really a pleasure to write after so many years and say THANK YOU!!!

1980

Regine Ehmann (nee Wurstle),
German
(English 1980)

I have finished my translator studies in 1985 in Heidelberg, Germany and I did my doctorate in translation studies in 1992 in Heidelberg. I have been working as a freelance translator for 10 years, and I have got a family with 2 children.

Stefano Righi, Italian
(1980)

At first I'd like to thank all of you since you kept on sending me regularly every

kind of information concerning the life and the activity of St Clare's. In 1980, after the great experience in St. Clare's, I went back to Italy to attend the University of "Economia & Commercio" of Modena for the following 4 years. Unfortunately I didn't graduate in spite of only 6 examinations left, because of my first job opportunity as a Sales Manager in a very important ceramic tile factory. The advantage of speaking two foreign languages like English and French in that period, in Italy, was like to be a white fly...Therefore, I was "pushed" to get employed and couldn't terminate the final year at the University. Silly!

In 1987 I moved to Switzerland for working reasons and not only...my girlfriend at that time was Barbara Coda, Swiss - she also attended St. Clare's in the same period as myself!

From 1993 until 1997 I worked as Export Manager for a famous Swiss company in Consumer Electronics. In that period, I have been travelling all around the world as an eager beaver and my personal "foreign language portfolio" has been enriched by a quite fluent Spanish and a "miserable" German (but quite sufficient to communicate instead of just moving hands and arms...). This was just a nature's gift that I only tried to activate and develop.

From 1998 to June 2004 I've been working as CEO in Switzerland and in Italy for a multinational company in the Telecommunication business. It has been a fantastic experience managing a group of more than 40 people and a unique opportunity to achieve a significant role all over Europe, but very stressing at the same time.

Today, I'm relaxing much more, and work on my own just as a consultant in which I (try to) practice like football, skiing, karting and motorbikes. I'm

married with a nice woman and a great person, Daniela, working as Chief Administrator in a Swiss company. We live in Italy close to the border with Switzerland. We have no children, but, to make someone else happy, we decided to subscribe for a distance-adoption activity in Guatemala. Today, I may say that I (try to) speak more or less 5 foreign languages, including Portuguese. Always thanks to my nature's gift!

I'd rather prefer to mention a person I was delighted to meet, Anne Dreydel, the Former Principal when I was there, then Elsa Morgan, our Scottish teacher, I cannot forget William Dimech, and glad to hear that Boyd Roberts became Principal of the College. And Paul Cannon (correct?) who was able to build up - due to our big pressure on him - and manage a fantastic football team in 1979 - half of the players were Italians!

Besides, I just remember now the famous Sugar House and the Theatre where we spent a lot of our spare time.

Few names of the foreign Alumni of that period I can still remember:

- Sergio Martinez Chavarria Galindo from Mexico
 - Rebecca Mendoza and her girlfriend from Venezuela
 - Petter Elind and Bettina Heyerdahl from Norway
 - Paolo and Barbara Coda from Switzerland
 - Cristina Odone from US
 - Thomas (last name?) from Austria
 - Bulent Var from Turkey
 - Miyuki (last name?) from Japan
- It would be good to get in touch!

Riccardo Giannelli-Viscardi, Italian (A-Level 1982)

Married 6 Months ago - October 2004: had a child - Sebastian.

1990

Lucia Lindblom (nee Cannon), British Costa Rican (IB 1990)

Mark and I celebrated the best day of our lives with many of our wonderful St. Clare's friends and their other halves. We have had some great reunions over the years, latterly at Santi, Jan, Marc and Willem's Weddings, and we look forward to Milena, Natalie and Xenia's forthcoming marriages. Mark and I are happily ensconced in country life in Hampshire; eagerly awaiting the arrival of our first baby at the beginning of July and planning to start building our future family home in the autumn. How different our lives would be had we not gone to St. Clare's!

Marielle Siraa, Dutch (IB 1991)

I had been working at the aluminum smelter in Queensland for about 2 years when I got seconded to their Melbourne research centre in September 2003. I thought it was a great opportunity to live back in a big city for a while and my partner, Mick, decided to quit his job in Perth and join me in Melbourne. In about April 2004, he found a job working at a lead/zinc mine in Queensland with a position for me as well, so we decided to take it. So in June 2004, we moved to Townsville. Since it is a fly-in, fly-out mine, Townsville is our commute point and we fly each week about 800 km inland to the mine. During that time, we also decided to marry and tied the knot on 21 November 2004 in Melbourne!! It was a great party, with lots of family and friends from everywhere.



Lindblom & Cannon Wedding 29th May 2004

Front Row From Left: Milena Smith (89 - 91), Emily Cannon (89 - 91), Joanne Patterson (88 - 90), Xenia Hohenlohe (88 - 90), Mark Lindblom (88 - 91), Lucia Cannon (88 - 90), Nathalie Vinsen (88 - 90) and Victoria Hallenius (88 - 90).

Back Row From Left: Robert-Jan Van Acker (88 - 90), Marc Schroeder (89 - 90), Jan Spadow (88 - 90), Willem Jan Unger (88 - 90) & Santiago Batchilleria Gran (88 - 90)

Marine Cade (nee Fournier), French (English 1993)

I am married and have three children. My name is now Marine Cade. We spent 3 and a half years in the Czech Republic in Prague and we have been in Sao Paulo (Brazil) since April 2004.

Yvette Blume, British (IB 1994)

Still working for a small rail freight company here in Mannheim. It's good fun but I am looking for a change of company as they really are too small.

Married life is just like unmarried life! The only big difference is that Arvid and I have actually been living at the same address together for over 8 months!

Saving my pennies at the moment to get out to India over Xmas to go to Anjali Pingle's wedding. Can wait to see the groom come in on an elephant!

Victoria Machado-Sanchez, Spanish (IB 1997)

I am and will be working for the next 6 months in a car importer and distributor for brands such as Audi, Volkswagen, Citroen, MAN, etc. here in my hometown in the Canary Islands. I am substituting someone and my roles are assisting the Director as his secretary and coordinating the marketing activities for one of the brands. After these six months, I'll see if I want to stay in this company or go abroad to the USA for more work experience as I had planned before receiving this offer. I would like to gain a different working vision in the States for a year or two, but on the other hand I absolutely love living in Gran Canaria and its quality of life, being able to practice beach sports, hiking, mountaineering, and so many activities outdoors.

Baker Kiggundu, Ugandan (IB 1997)

I am back in London doing a Masters in Development at LSE, which is different from banking, but I am enjoying the course immensely. I was looking over the St. Clare's web site and just wanted to send you a quick hello. By the way it's great to see the diversity of activity that the students are engaging in. That was always an important part of the St. Clare's experience.

Elizabeth Larson, American (Liberal Arts 1999)

I'm currently living in San Diego, CA (a bit too corporo/commercial for my tastes), but planning on moving to LA or SF this summer/fall to finish off a degree, maybe pre-law. I spent 2+ years in London working at the club Fabric (events, record label), and then was traveling in India for 6 months (also practicing yoga) before I unwillingly moved back to the US 1 1/2 yrs ago. I do a lot of work with underground electronic music (dj-ing, promoting, artist consultation, etc) and will possibly go into music/ent law. Religious yoga practice (astanga) keeps me healthy and sane.

I had a great time at St. Clare's, it was such a necessity for me (Marquette was driving me crazy... never went back :). I met wonderful people, and obviously loved the country - felt more at home in London than anywhere! Thank you so much for providing a wonderful program(me).

If you would like to contribute to the next Alumni Notes section of the Newsletter simply fill out the Update Form and send it back to us or put an update on St. Clare's Online via www.stclares.ac.uk/alumni

Have You Lost Touch With A Friend?

If so, send an email to alumni@stclares.ac.uk with a message for the person you are looking for, clearly stating their name, the year(s) they were here, plus anything else which might help to identify them. We will post your message as a news item on alumni online or contact them via email or post.

Hopefully, either the person themselves or someone who knows them will get your message and will get in touch with you.

Please note that we cannot give out contact information without the permission of the person it relates to.

LOST ALUMNI

If you know another St. Clare's Alumnus who hasn't heard from us for a while, Please encourage them to get in touch with the Development and Alumni Office with details of their name, address and years at St. Clare's.

Looking for Lost Friends

Cecile Knai is looking for a contact address for Julie Wang from Norway class of 1991.

Carl Sutton is trying to reach Wayne Henry, at St Clare's between 1991 -1994 and David Mercado who he believes to still be living in Mexico. David was at St. Clare's in the early 90's.

Maria Lucia Casas, an English student during the summer of 1978 is trying to find Amada Capellin who also studied English at the same time.

John Sargent is searching for Janet Redemann, who he met on the Queen Elizabeth in Sept 1965 as she sailed to England to study at St. Clare's.

Some Dates For Your Diary!

The St. Clare's Association Weekend 2006

The weekend of the 3rd and 4th of June 2006

The St. Clare's Recent Leavers' Reunion 2006

Saturday 17th of June 2006

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

An in depth focus on the courses St. Clare's now has on offer including:

Pre University
University Foundation
Liberal Arts
Advanced Studies Programme
English Language
Summer Courses

More articles on:

Student News
Staff News
Alumni Stories
Events at St. Clare's
Development Office News

Our regular features:

Lost Alumni
Alumni Notes

Let us know what you are up to - It's great to keep in touch!

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If you would like further information on any items in this newsletter, please contact the Development and Alumni Office. We welcome suggestions and contributions from readers. We wish to thank all those who, in any way, assisted in the production of this edition.