Sebastian Smee wins Pulitzer Prize 2011

This prestigious prize was awarded to Sebastian Smee (1990-92) of The Boston Globe for ‘his vivid and exuberant writing about art, often bringing great works to life with love and appreciation.’

Sebastian is the Globe’s art critic. He joined the paper’s staff from Sydney, where he worked as national art critic for The Australian.


Miles Armitage appointed Ambassador to East Timor

Miles Armitage (1982-85), a senior career officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and most recently Assistant Secretary, Parliamentary and Media Branch was appointed Ambassador to East Timor in November 2010 and took up the appointment in February. Prior to that, he was seconded to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

St Paul’s College Graduate House

At the end of 2010, Council endorsed in principle the expansion of the College through the development of a new facility (provisionally called “St Paul’s College Graduate House”) for up to 200 male and female graduate and postgraduate students and academics of the University of Sydney, with its preferred location being on College land to the north of Denison. The concept will be developed to produce a discrete facility within one larger College community, preserving the present College for men who are either undergraduate, graduate or postgraduate students of the University of Sydney, or tutors appointed by the Warden, and in approximately the same proportions as at present.

It is envisaged that the Graduate House will be of the highest quality, sufficient to attract high calibre residents both from within Australia and overseas, and will have its own distinct ethos and facilities, both private and communal. In this context, Council is continuing to negotiate the sale of a portion of College land adjacent to the Physics School to the University, without compromising the capacity of the College to undertake the Graduate House development or the ambience of the College generally.

Council is particularly concerned to consider all matters of ethos that would exemplify an outstanding facility within the University. To this end, its discussions with academics and administrators within the University are continuing and it plans to seek input from members of the Pauline community, particularly those with either Australian or global postgraduate experience during the recent past. Council is also planning to schedule information sessions for the Pauline community in due course (notice will be provided by email and via the College website).

The Warden would be very pleased to hear from Paulines on the matter.

College roof replacement project

Since last December, the roofs of East Blacket and Radford have seen both the ‘light of day’ and new slates at a cost of $119,000. We are deeply appreciative of all the donations that have come in and those that will be received as the year progresses. We hope that we will have enough in the kitty to fund the next section in January 2012. All donations are tax deductible, and will help to complete the work.
Council News: A New Chairman and a Thank You

Mr Geoff Lovell (1985-89) has been elected Chairman of Council to succeed The Hon Lloyd Waddy (1958-61) who was Chairman from 2006 until the end of 2010. Geoff was a Foundation Scholar and graduated BE (Hons I). His love of cricket and all round qualities saw him awarded the inaugural Bradman Scholarship to Oxford where he completed the PPE degree (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) with First Class Honours in 1993. Geoff has been a Fellow of College since 1995, including a term as Bursar (2002-2009).

Council expressed its sincere thanks to Lloyd Waddy for his ‘service with distinction’, and ‘longevity of service to Council and College’ in every aspect and noted the depth of his public service. Council acknowledged the manner in which he overcame the adversity of serious illness and surgery in the very recent past. The outgoing Chairman was thanked for his presidential style and for the respect shown to all view points. Lloyd continues as a Fellow of College, a position held with distinction since 1971. Lloyd continues to lead in the domain of the Foundation which has been the sine qua non for so many successes of the College since its inauguration more than 30 years ago. IFH

Rawson Cup 2011

CRICKET A, J, P, W
ROWING 4 May
SWIMMING A, J, P, W
RUGBY 9,17,25,30, May, (1 June)
SOCCER 1,9,(15),17,(23), (25) August
TENNIS 29,30,31 Aug, (1 Sept)
BASKETBALL 8,9,12,13,14 Sept
ATHLETICS 22 Sept at Olympic Park

These dates might be changed at short notice. It is advisable to check the College website from which results are obtainable

www.stpauls.edu.au

Riding the coat tails of sold-out shows in 2010, Her Majesty decrees that there be a 48th season of Victoriana!

It's the wedding present of 2011

July 15, 16, 22, 23
Bookings open Wednesday June 1

IMPORTANT DATES 2011

7 May Fathers’ & Sons’ Dinner
20 May Jazz Dinner Dance
26 May Choir Concert, Chapel 8pm
3 June Lectures cease
4 June Study Vacation (until 12 June)
13 June University Exams (until 24 June)
25 June Vacation (until 24 July)

July 15, 16, 22, 23, Victoriana!

25 July Semester 2 lectures begin
3 Sept Mothers’ & Sons’ Dinner
24 Sept Mid-semester break (until 3 Oct)
20 Oct Choir Concert, Chapel 8 pm
25 Oct Valedictory Evensong & Dinner
29 Oct Study Vacation (until 7 Nov)
7 Nov University Exams (until 19 Nov)
19 Nov End of Semester 2
20 Nov College Carol Service
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
HONOUR ROLL

The following past and present members of the College have been listed in the University of Sydney’s Honour Roll for 2010. Those without dates were in College that year.

Academic Merit Prize
Luke Craven
Harry Hill-Smith
Heydon Letcher
Joshua Levin
Daniel Ward

FACULTY OF ARTS
First Class Honours and University Medal:
Michael Falk

First Class Honours:
William Atkinson (and Ernest Bramsted Prize for Medieval or Modern History)
Roland Brennan
Harrison Grace (in College 2007-08)
Alexander Horne (in College 2007-08)

James Coutts Scholarship No 1 for English Literature: Joshua Payten
Josiah Symon Scholarship No 1 for First Year English and MacCallum Prize for First Year Literature: Samuel Pickover

Ronald Horan Prize for French: Corey Karaka

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
First Class Honours: David Timms (in College 2006-09)

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
First Class Honours and University Medal:
Oliver Rourke (Advanced Mathematics) (and Barker Prize for Mathematics Honours [shared])
First Class Honours and University Medal:
Martin Seneviratne (Advanced Science)

SCHOOL OF LAW
First Class Honours:
Christopher Angelos (in College 2009)
Alexander Blackie (in College 2007-09)
Thomas Cooper (in College 2006-09)
Christopher Croke (in College 2005-06)
Timothy Mooney (in College 2005-08)
David Robertson
Fergus Rourke (in College 2004-09)

Second Class Honours:
Samuel Thampapillai (in College 2007)

Mitchell Prize for Contracts (shared), Freehills Prize for Contracts (shared), Aaron Levin Prize for Criminal Law and Lexisnexis Book Prize No 4, Most Proficient in Graduate Law 1:
Daniel Ward

BUSINESS SCHOOL
First Class Honours and University Medal:
Nathaniel Ware (Economics) (and Randolph G. Rouse Prize in Economics and Joye Prize in Economics)

First Class Honours:
William Hay (Commerce) (in College 2005-07)

Choir Concert

COLLEGE CHAPEL

26 May 2011
8 pm

Music by Purcell, Tchaikovsky, Mozart & Sam Pender-Bayne (St Paul’s College composer).

All welcome – bring your family and friends!
Free supper for all
OLD PAULINE NOTES

ENGAGEMENTS
Pete Sanders (2001-04) was engaged to Sarah Best (Women’s College 2001-04) in March.

MARRIAGES
Joe Dusseldorp (2001-04) married Alison Evill on Sunday, 7 November 2010 on Hamilton Island.

BIRTHS
Stephen Loughnan (1995-96) – a son to Stephen and Kate, Rupert, was born in June 2010.

DEATHS
Peter Hector John Fraser (1974-76) 8 Nov 2010
Dr Kenneth Hugh Atkinson (1957-62) 25 November 2010
Mark Alastair Robertson (1971-73) 12 February 2011
Philip Sydney Hunt (“Ferdie”) (1956-60) 3 March 2011

Please advise College of all births, deaths and marriages as soon as you hear of them. We hope to publish obituaries in the above men who have died and we would appreciate any written contributions, no matter how small; by email to selwyn@usyd.edu.au or by mail to Selwyn Owen at College.

April 2011  BOOMALAKKA

Barry Spurr (1970-74; Senior Tutor 1978-87) has been appointed by the University to a Personal Chair in English Literature with the title 'Professor of Poetry and Poetics'. It is believed that this is the first and only such professorial chair in Australia. Barry is one of the longest-serving members of the academic staff, in the 35th year of his appointment.

Stuart Westgarth (1969-72) has been elected President of the NSW Law Society. He follows in the footsteps of another Pauline, Jon North (1972-73) who held this office a few years ago and became President of the Law Society of Australia.

Will Clegg (2007-08) is currently the Commonwealth Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford, where he is reading Global and Imperial History. His research is focused on Britain’s adaptation to the post-colonial world order, and is centred on the Persian Gulf. Will recently coauthored Changing Pace: ASPIs Strategic Assessment 2011 with Dr Rod Lyon, and is working on a project about American technology policy led by Linda Weiss. When all that is out of the way, he plans to walk the road to Santiago de Compostela - as suggested long ago by former Senior Tutor, Dr Dugald McLellan.

Kishan Jasani (2007-09) and Sebastian Kinne (2006-08) both work for PricewaterhouseCoopers, but have never run into other Paulines at work. Kishan is in the Singapore office and Sebastian in Sydney. To join their network of 2, drop Kishan an email kishan@myjasani.com.

We congratulate former senior student, Tim Low (2002-05) who has just graduated in Medicine in WA after getting his Bachelor of Resource Economics degree at Sydney. He now lives at Orange.

Please write little and often telling of your exploits, achievements, travels, social life or anything that might interest Paulines when they read this page in future editions. It would be good to see three or four pages of notes each time.  Ed.
St Paul’s College Union Study Grant
Report from Stephen Walker (2010– ),
Grad Med 2, Senior Common Room

This summer I travelled to Tanzania on a St Paul’s College Union Travel Grant. The trip was part of my medical studies in which students are encouraged to investigate an area of interest in the medical field.

For the first eight weeks of the trip I stayed at St John’s University in Dodoma, an Anglican university established in 2002. While there I shared a house with some teaching assistants. This was fantastic for my Swahili as it forced me to practice daily.

After I had settled in, I spent time visiting different hospitals and clinics nearby. It was an enlightening few weeks. Dodoma General Hospital was particularly confronting, especially considering that it is one of Tanzania’s best hospitals. The wards were simple, with mosquito netted beds sitting on concrete floors in otherwise empty halls. The staff had minimal training (the basic medical qualification is a 1-year degree), and the equipment and medicine were antiquated. The thing that I found most jarring, however, was the attitudes of staff towards their patients.

While the hospital overflowed with patients, staff were often taking unscheduled breaks or just lazing about, ignoring those who were waiting. At first I gave them the benefit of the doubt: I just assumed that it was to do with staff being overworked. This seemed plausible: there is definitely a shortage of doctors in Tanzania, with only one doctor for every 30,000 people in the country. However, as I visited health clinics and other hospitals, a pattern of malpractice began to emerge, and I began to realize that the issue was bigger than understaffing.

In one hospital in Dar es Salaam I spent a day shadowing a Chinese neurosurgeon named Dr Kong. In the morning I visited wards, and in the afternoon I scrubbed in to assist with surgery. When we went down to the operating rooms, there was not one patient, but three, all waiting just outside the operating room. They were young boys all 10 to 15 years of age. The porters were too disorganized to know who was to be operated on, so these three boys had simply been left there, waiting for hours, with all the horrors of third-world surgery surrounding them. Two of them had been waiting unnecessarily.

Things went more smoothly once we actually began the surgery. The patient was a 13-year old boy who was suffering from a pituitary tumour. It lay in the centre of his skull, around 5 cm back from his lower forehead. Pituitary tumours are hard to access, and the operation in Australia is a technical one. Specialized equipment is used to go through the back of the nose to gain access. In Tanzania, this equipment is simply not available, and the alternative involves going through the temple. This makes for a far longer and trickier operation. Nonetheless Dr Kong’s experience was evident, as he worked at the layers of flesh that surround the skull. His petite hands were highly dexterous and I watched partly in awe as he laboured. However, the resident training underneath him wasn’t as interested. He even chose to take a phone call, mid-surgery: one hand on the forceps, the other holding his mobile phone to his ear, while he chatted happily to a friend. The anaesthetist was similarly bored, and shockingly, having decided the operation was too uninteresting, fell asleep, leaving the machine to monitor the boy’s condition.

This was all shocking, but not outright dangerous. As the surgery proceeded, however, a more risky issue emerged – one that could really threaten the young patient’s life. By now the surgeon had finished reflecting the skin that covers the bone, and so he applied the electric drill to bore through the boy’s skull. It wasn’t getting any traction so he tried again, but without success. The drill was slipping and sliding against the hard bone, and it was becoming rapidly evident that it wasn’t sharp enough to make it through the boy’s skull! The surgeon began to curse the scrub nurse who was in charge of preparing the equipment. The nurse simply laughed. She didn’t have another drill bit on hand, and so the surgery had to pause while a new drill-bit was fetched. Drilling resumed, but it soon became clear that the new drill-bit was equally blunt. The hand drill was fetched instead, and so the boy’s skull was opened slowly by this antiquated, but more reliable, method. This interruption nearly prevented the urgent operation from occurring. It distressed me that this boy’s life had been treated with such frivolity.

I witnessed similar experiences across Tanzania. Many that were equally as troubling. And while I tried to give staff the benefit of the doubt – maybe they were overworked? maybe it was a bad day? - I began to see a pattern of behaviour emerge. I saw epileptics who were left having seizures on concrete floors while staff watched. I met people who had been refused drugs in pharmacies instead. I discovered a tendency to call every illness malaria or typhoid because patients demanded a diagnosis and doctors were under-equipped to give an accurate assessment.

This pattern of behavior wasn’t just to do with poor training – although that made things worse – but instead reflected the staffs’ tendency to see themselves as better than their patients. They were the doctors, and their patients simple farmers or labourers. They believed they were entitled to treat others however they wanted. It was almost irrelevant how things turned out. One case where this attitude backfired was when a relative of the President was mistaken for a ‘commoner’ in a regional hospital. The patient was
sent away from the hospital to a clinic to purchase drugs that she was legally entitled to receive free.

I had met a social worker, Dali-Dali Rashid, at a hospital in Mvumi, who recommended we set up a study around a few villages nearby. Services were technically available, however the communities that surround it were still disadvantaged, and as poor and uneducated as anywhere else in the country. Research in this area was easier to set up because Dali-Dali had contacts in these villages. The study we devised ended up being a questionnaire with three parts: the first part on levels of access to services; the second on community experiences with these services; and the third part on general beliefs about health.

We ran the study in focus groups of around 20 community members. The most frustrating moment of my trip was with one group that had such an abysmal understanding of their rights that we barely had any discussion. A majority of the 100 people we interviewed had had experiences of being verbally abused or neglected by staff. More serious allegations were fewer, but still occurred, and included things such as: nurses who had beaten patients, doctors who had requested sexual favours for treatment, or had ignored patient's requests for treatment (in one case leading to a patient being permanently blind). Complaints were something that people would perhaps share with parents or family members, but rarely to any sort of ombudsman or hospital staff member. In one unusual case where a complaint had been taken to the Bishop all that had happened was that their medical file had been lost upon their next visit to the hospital. Despite all these things that undermined trust, there was, however, still a general confidence in the hospital.

Mistreatment wasn't the only concern. Alongside it were difficulties accessing services. Cost was a major issue. One man we interviewed had forgone cataract surgery because of the $30 it cost. He was now blind because of this. Transport was another barrier. The communities we spoke to were about 5-10 km away from the hospital, which is long distance to walk when sick. Poor roads made driving somewhere from difficult to impossible depending on the season. For some communities these clinics were further away than the hospital itself.

I hope that I might be able to feed some of my work back to the hospital in some useful way. I also plan to return at the end of the year and do a more formal study around similar questions. Paulines who are interested in more detail about my research (or Tanzania more generally!) should contact me.

My email is stevewalker@gmail.com

Union Travel & Study Grant Report from Andrew Thomas (2008-10) and Jesse Buckingham (2009-10)

Through January and February 2010, Andrew Thomas and Jesse Buckingham were engaged in planning and completing the construction of a classroom block for the Manjeri School in Lugazi, Uganda. The project was run completely independently of any large organization. The foundation that runs the school, the African Foundation for People in Need, is locally run with only one director outside the school staff. The project was largely made possible by St Paul's Union Travel and Study Grants to each of us.

Our motivation for the project was a strong belief for the need of equality of opportunity and social justice. Rural Uganda is an area of particular need given the high prevalence of poverty and HIV/AIDS, both of which have largely contributed to the existence of the country’s 1.8 million orphans. The Manjeri School focuses specifically upon children who cannot afford to attend school elsewhere, with school fees less than $15 a year. Prior to the construction, the school had over 250 children enrolled, yet only three classrooms. Some classes were being taught under the shade of trees.

We orchestrated all fundraising and made all of the payments for materials and labour ourselves. We then also worked as labourers. The director of the school, who was a builder by trade, designed and supervised all technical aspects of the building. The school now has a classroom block with five classrooms and an office, which will ensure the children at Manjeri continue to have access to greater education.
FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY – GIVING TO THE COLLEGE

A total of £27,000 was raised in the 1850s to build the College, half of it contributed by the NSW government. It was the middle of the gold-rush and money flowed freely. But by 1859, with Blacket’s plan half done, the boom ended and so did building.

From that point it was a long struggle to get enough money to make the College work more or less as it was supposed to do. Original modelling of income and expenditure had been badly skewed, with fees set too high, expenses too low and predicted applications too optimistic. Always the first priority was buildings. The Warden’s Lodge was the product of a second campaign, in the 1880s. Then the main priorities were more student rooms (the solution now was lower fees and larger numbers), a chapel, library and tutorial rooms. Appeals were launched with all possible fanfare in 1908, 1915, 1929, 1920, 1947, 1938, and 1952 (restarted 1954).

Appeals during the nineteenth century targeted wealthy Anglicans, and the notion that future leaders should be good churchmen. More recently there have been enough Old Paulines to justify shifting the focus. This started, though hesitantly, with the 1908 campaign. Applications were multiplying, so the campaign leaflet went, and without more rooms many students would go to other colleges, “to the present and future detriment of St Paul’s”. St Andrew’s, already 50 percent bigger, was the main threat. The Rawson Cup had been awarded for the first time in 1907, to Paul’s but (unsurprisingly in view of their numbers) Andrew’s was to hold it for most of the next 40 years.

The 1908 appeal set a target of £10,000. Six years later, when war broke out, only £800 had come in, and some of that had to be used to cover costs during the war, when prices were high and the College half empty. All the same, in the short term eighteen new rooms were built (Radford), plus servants’ quarters (Garnsey). The problem remained. A generation later, in 1938-39, campaigners felt they could appeal to nostalgia pure and simple.

Form letters referred to “the extension of our dear old buildings where we had such a happy and hectic time goodness knows how many years ago”. What a pity “that anyone should have to be turned away and so miss the good times we had at College”.

This time the response was more immediate. Frank Albert gave £500 and promised the same again if ten others did the same. But most donations were small and everything was cut short by war. A new start in 1947 was understated and fairly inexpert. It appealed simply to conscience - to “the debt owed to the College by Old Paulines and the Anglican Church in New South Wales”, and also to the need to house returned servicemen. This latter purpose was largely met by a single donation from the newspaper proprietor Sir Hugh Denison, who had had three sons in College. Hence the Denison Wing.

The 1952 appeal faltered until W.J. Southey Wilson, an accountant and Old Pauline, took charge. Following past practice, he managed donations by instalments, but he had a flair for the business and in the end donors did not want to stop. “[They] strongly urged me”, he said, “to organise another appeal for some other College project”. At last, with government help, the result met expectations, with the building of the Chapel and Arnott Wing.

Another result, in 1977, was the St Paul’s College Foundation, bringing with it a new kind of fundraising, no longer ad hoc, but as a permanent network. The Foundation has also funded scholarships. Properly funded scholarships go back to 1864 and a donation from Mrs Sophia Aspinall. Several College scholarships have been started by women, Mrs Stella Kemp, Mrs Kate Moffatt, Mrs Mary Ellen Murray-Prior, apparently moved by ideas about the sort of men the College should turn out. Women have also been numerous among smaller donors. Miss Amy Hart, housekeeper, donated stained glass for the Hall and money for a pew in the Chapel.

Often, then, aspirations have gone beyond building, even to large concerns about intellectual life. The 1850s campaign sketched an independent teaching program, with a small observatory and a geological museum. Until the 1930s Wardens struggled for money for Divinity teaching and there were always hopes, always dashed, of full-time tutors. In 1938 Arthur Garnsey even talked of the College becoming an educational institution in its own right, with tutorials as an authorised substitute for University lectures. Such possibilities are still with us.

Building needs, like the poor, are always with us. Intangibilities have been more elusive, but one by one, it seems, the dots are joined.

Alan Atkinson, Senior Tutor
Katharine Coorey

Katharine Coorey, who retired as Housekeeper in June last year after 25 years service to the College, managed the cleaning staff, but also supervised innumerable details connected with the furnishing, decoration and upkeep of the College. Only with her gone is it possible to see how much she was alert to all the details of the College calendar and to the susceptibilities of our guests, and how much work she did, frequently beyond the call of duty. The College owes Mrs Coorey a great debt for her loyalty to its best interests, her conscientious commitment to the men, and her forbearance over so many years.

INTER COLLEGE UK REUNION

Date: Sunday 17th July 2011
Time: 12.30 for 1.00pm
Venue: Susie Flook is very kindly hosting a lunch at her home at Fern Lodge, London Road, Bracknell RG12 9FR
Cost: £25 for alumni, alumnae, friends and partners
RSVP: susieflook@msn.com or 01344 421 926

Each person to bring a bottle of Wolf Chardonnay or Cabinet Sauvignon. Cheques are to be in her favour and sent to Fern Lodge.

Dear All,

Women’s College UK Alumnae have in the past 4 years had very successful reunions to which we have been informally extending invitations to other colleges. This year we are having another reunion at the beautiful home of Susie Flook and would like to extend it to all the University colleges. We have had the Women’s College reunion as close as possible to the USUKAA Summer Reception (14th July at the National Gallery) so any people who come from the University to attend that can also attend the college reunion.

Kindest regards

Pauline Lyle-Smith
Chairman, USUKAA

Justin Hancock (2005-08) and Oscar Peppitt (2006-07) have, for the last year and a half, been working on an exciting eco-adventure documentary series and business called Green Way Up. A project jointly conceived with friends Bob Miles (USYD 2005-2009) and Chuck Anderson, it involves driving from Hobart to Norway without filling up at a petrol station (the boys will be utilising a biodiesel processor they have designed and built themselves to power the vehicle) and running commentary on the best of the world’s sustainability initiatives.

During their expedition, the team will travel 50,000kms, and also spend 20 days at sea crossing between Darwin and Singapore in a boat they have built themselves (Chuck is a Marine Welder and ex-sponsored yacht racer). At the end of the journey, they’re hoping to claim the Guinness world record for longest journey on alternative fuels.

The team acquired renowned documentary producer Jo Melling, who has worked on such documentaries as Ewan McGregor’s Long Way Round and Charlie Boorman’s By Any Means. She will make a two-part documentary series on the expedition: one focusing on their initial eight weeks in Australia (due to commence April 10), and another about their travels from Darwin to Norway. The series is intended to air on National Geographic or BBC World News in the next 18 months.

The expedition has also inspired a business model that delivers apolitically focused sustainability content across web, social media and TV, in an attempt to make the green movement more palatable to mainstream society. Justin and Oscar say the idea stemmed from an inability to relate to guilt focused or politically charged messages on the environment. They want to showcase the best of the sustainability movement, presenting it in a light and humorous manner that makes it interesting for interest sake. You can follow their commentary on such initiatives as well as the progress of their expedition through their website, www.thegreenwayup.com.

The Green Way Up is growing daily and is constantly looking for support. For further inquiries/potential sponsorship opportunities, or investment opportunities for sophisticated investors, email info@thegreenwayup.com

Katharine Coorey, who retired as Housekeeper in June last year after 25 years service to the College, managed the cleaning staff, but also supervised innumerable details connected with the furnishing, decoration and upkeep of the College. Only with her gone is it possible to see how much she was alert to all the details of the College calendar and to the susceptibilities of our guests, and how much work she did, frequently beyond the call of duty. The College owes Mrs Coorey a great debt for her loyalty to its best interests, her conscientious commitment to the men, and her forbearance over so many years.