



The Gates Scholar

Volume 4 Issue 2 Summer 2007



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The Gates Scholar is the publication of the Gates Cambridge Scholars' Society. Articles and photographs may be submitted on any topic relevant to the Gates community. In keeping with the Society's goal of representing current Scholars and Alumni from around the world, individual issues of the Magazine usually include articles on a variety of subjects from a number of authors.

Articles that offer a window into the lives and work of current or past Gates Scholars or articles that tackle large interpretive questions relevant to the Gates mission are particularly encouraged. Highly focused contributions are welcome, but preference will be given to submissions that are of interest to a diverse cross-section of readership in more than one discipline of study. Finally, because there is limited space in any one edition of the Newsletter, contributors should understand that any article submitted for publication may be subject to editorial approval and/or truncation.

Article proposals for the autumn issue should be emailed to newsletter@gatesscholar.org by 10 August 2007.

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The Gates Scholars' Alumni Association (GSAA) was created in 2005 to represent the needs of over 400 Gates Scholars who have left Cambridge. Through regional events, newsletters and social gatherings, it strives to maintain communication between former scholars and the Trust while creating a worldwide network of former Gates Scholars.

Welcome again

Gates Scholars' Society

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The Gates Scholar is printed by Cambridge University Press.

The Gates Scholars' Society includes all current and past holders of a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Its membership is represented by two bodies: the Gates Scholars' Council and the Gates Scholars' Alumni Association.

The Gates Scholars' Council is a governing body of scholars elected by their peers. A conduit among the Cambridge community of scholars, the Gates Scholars' Alumni Association and the Gates Cambridge Trust, the Council is well placed to represent the interests and needs of all Gates Scholars studying in Cambridge.



As I was reading over the names of the new class of Gates Scholars, I began to think about what it was like for me to arrive in Cambridge for the first time. As with any place, of course, the novelty of living in Cambridge has long worn off for me, but perhaps unique to Cambridge is the sense that, every spring, the University comes back to life just as it has for the last 800 years, encouraging one to start anew in a place that is not rushed by the passing of time. Spring, it seems to me, is time to reflect upon why one is here, to remind one's self how unique Cambridge really is, and to rededicate one's self to making the very most of this opportunity.

This issue of *The Gates Scholar* is filled with wonderful articles, detailing how Gates Scholars have dedicated themselves to making a difference. You will read about current scholars who are aiming to bring peace to war-torn parts of the world, improving the diagnostics of deadly diseases and, generally, preparing themselves to get out there and make an impact. You will also read about Gates Alumni who are, now, pursuing their life's work whether that be in publishing, community development, or in environmental justice. Gates scholars are a diverse group of people, but this edition has reminded me that there is something that we all share in common: a passionate drive to make the world that we live in a better place. I hope that you will be inspired by the stories contained within—as I have been.

Finally, though I feel that I have barely gotten to know all of the wonderful people that make up the class of 2006, it is already time to begin making plans for the class of 2007. And so, let me take this opportunity to welcome all those new students who have just been selected as Gates Scholars. Congratulations. Your hard work—and your unique you—has earned you the opportunity of a lifetime. Enjoy it. Pursue it. Take hold of it, and let it take hold of you. And for those who are shortly to leave Cambridge—to go boldly to those places in the world where wicker baskets on bicycles are not the norm—I also say congratulations. Leaving a place like Cambridge is always bittersweet, but you should take solace in knowing that no matter where you are and no matter what you do for the rest of your life Cambridge will be with you opening doors, creating opportunities, and giving you the best shot at really making this world a better place to be. I hope you cherish this opportunity—and go for it!

Daniel DiCenso
Chair of Gates Scholars' Council

Sou Vivo em Moçambique

The ways I travel and what I see

In anticipation of my fast approaching environmental justice research in Mozambique this coming July and August, I have been thinking about the stark contrasts between my previous two visits to Mozambique: the first in a large undergraduate group, and the second as a solo researcher and Gates Scholar.

First impressions

Told to stop kicking our football and be quiet, we waited in the pouring rain under a leaky tin roof as the group directors brought all twenty of our passports to the border control officer. We glanced nervously at the man sitting atop a rusty tank on his side of the razor wire. He held his Kalashnikov tightly to his body and slowly scanned the South African side of the border. After two hours, we piled into our large 4x4s and followed two sand tire tracks through sea grass. At 25km per hour we rolled through undulating grassy hills towards Ponta d'Ouro.

This was Mozambique? The landscape was eerie with silence. There were no markets and no one in sight until children chased our vehicles through the hills. These hills used to be a raging war zone for seventeen years between the Apartheid-backed Renamo insurgent forces and the ruling Frelimo forces. These quiet hills still contain unexploded land mines (though recent efforts have reduced the danger significantly). As we drove on through, I thought about the recent history of this place and felt an immense sadness.

I made this first trip to Mozambique with a group of nineteen other Dartmouth undergraduates. We were studying the newly forming trans-frontier conservation parks between South Africa and Mozambique. The few people whom I saw in the area worked on small diving tourism venues and in local trade in the town of Ponta d'Ouro. Closer to the corridor that will someday link the Tembe and Maputo Elephant Reserves, most people practiced subsistence agriculture – I primarily saw women and children working in their home gardens and fending off elephants which had free reign through their land. I had minimal contact with people in the area, save a few park experts. This brief and impersonal introduction to Mozambique left me wanting a deeper perspective than my “outsider’s” gaze allowed.

Second impressions

Two and a half years later, I stepped off of the plane and into the capital city of Maputo. As I walked down the streets eating freshly roasted cashews bought from women along the roadside, I took in the sights of crumbling colonial architecture interspersed with tall and shiny office buildings. In a small museum, I stared at sculptures of children and birds, made with the springs, clips, and other parts of hand guns and Kalashnikovs from the war. Out of the terror of the war, I was amazed and inspired by the hope in these pieces.

After exploring Maputo I flew north to Beira to pursue my solo research mission. I wanted to learn more about how non-governmental organisations (NGO) and rural communities collaborate to map community land. Every day I walked from the NGO offices in the government building (an intriguing non sequitur) back to my rickety hotel on the other side of town – the primarily expatriate NGO experts drove 4x4s and lived in expensive accommodation.

One day I sandwiched myself between four other people in the back of a rickety old bus carrying eighteen adults, three babies, three large sacks of grain, and piles of suitcases – the bus had seats built for fifteen adults. We bounced across roads that turned from paved to dirt to cavernous potholes for four hours to the city of Chimoio. I felt uncomfortable amidst the sweat and the dust and the peanut shells that the woman next to me kept throwing onto my feet at the floor of the bus. This is how most people travel, if they can afford to, in Mozambique. Many others walked on the highway, carrying

bundles wrapped in colorful fabrics – one man rode a bicycle towards a local market with ten chickens hanging by their feet from a wooden bar across the bicycle handles.

Even as I met more people and built strong friendships in Maputo, Beira and Chimoio, I did not feel particularly welcome amongst strangers and some research contacts in Mozambique. This coming July and August, I have been invited to collaborate with an environmental justice organisation that is run by my Mozambican friends. My biggest hope is that they will help me understand the many factors in addition to transportation that influence my experience and reception or rejection in the places where we will work.



Third impressions – here I come!

INGRID NELSON
Class of '05, MPhil in Geographical Research

On Book Production

Can fiction writers do it themselves?

One sunny afternoon, while browsing the aisles of the Guadalajara Book Fair, I asked myself: was it time for our short story workshop to produce its first book?

From readers to writers

It was December 2005, and La Pensadera, a group of 14 people from different professional backgrounds, had been meeting in Mexico City for nearly four years. It had all started very informally, with a handful of us gathering on Monday nights to read and comment on literary works we were curious about, just for fun. We met in somebody's apartment, brought something to drink, and read out loud, sometimes until midnight. Cervantes – whose work to our shame and belated pleasure none of us had read before – Borges, Horacio Quiroga, Agustín Yáñez and Carlos Fuentes were our companions in those first nights. As we started to grow fond of the dark circles around our eyes on Tuesday mornings, we became intrigued by the experience of writing: Was it as hard as it looked? Would it be worth a try?

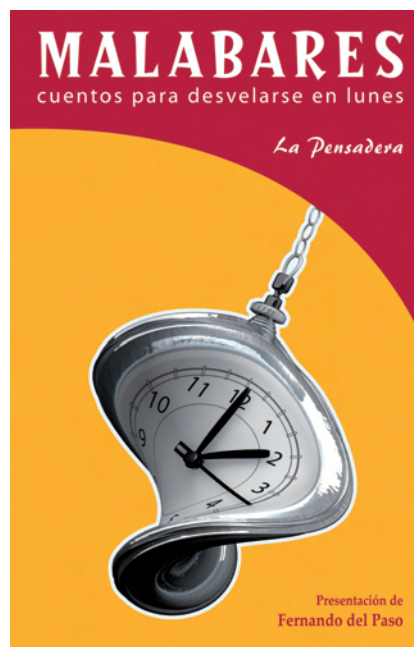
We started by writing stories beginning with a word randomly picked out of the dictionary. Then we wrote about a character we had created collectively. We wrote inspired by music, by images, by places; we wrote chronicles, dreams, one-sentence stories; we wrote our own version of the cadavre exquis created by the French surrealists, that is, we wrote a story one paragraph each, trying to respect the tone, vocabulary and pace of the person before us. We started to imitate our favourite pens. Some followed Auster, others Bradbury, Tabucchi, García Márquez, Saramago, Japanese haiku poets, Latin American chroniclers. We wrote and wrote. Within months, the first good stories started to emerge. By the fourth year, we had enough stories each to start wondering what to do with them.

That brings us back to that December afternoon in 2005. After some discussion and much self-encouragement, La Pensadera agreed we would try to produce a compilation of short stories in time for the 20th Guadalajara Book Fair the following December. We wanted to do it ourselves, to learn what making a book from scratch implied. Our time frame was twelve months, and we had lots to learn about book editing and publishing, but also about

collective decision-making, and even about ego management under new incentives.

Step by step

The first step was to select the stories we would include in the compilation. We did this using a traffic light metaphor: stories that were voted – by simple majority – as ready for publication were given a green light; stories that needed



some rewriting would get a yellow light; and stories that needed “major surgery” were given a red light. Four members of La Pensadera volunteered to work as an editorial committee to revise and correct, with the authors, each one of the stories with green and yellow lights. For six months the editorial committee met three times a week, after work, editing two or three stories per meeting. Out of a universe of 242 texts produced over four years, 56 short stories made it into the book.

Several processes had to run in parallel at this stage. Texts that had been through editorial committee went to the design phase, carried out

by another of the 14 members, web-designer and chef by day, editorial designer by night. The title and subtitle were chosen, also after many rounds of voting. The winner? *Juggles. Short stories to stay up late on Mondays* (in Spanish: *Malabares. Cuentos para desvelarse en lunes*). Two dozen options for a cover were suggested by our graphic designer/computer animator. Legal issues, like ISBN and copyright registration, were taken care of by the “lawyers” in the group, a nutritionist/academic manager, and a think tank coordinator.

By the end of the summer, we made our last decisions. Fernando del Paso, award-winning Mexican novelist and diplomat, agreed to write the foreward. The tone of the introduction was set, the appendices created. The final revision was made by the sharpest proofreaders of the group, a chemical engineer and an NGO consultant. We also picked a printing house. After seeing the final files, our printer agreed to print *Malabares* and be paid after we sold the 1,000 copies. The pieces started to come together. Around this time, I left for Cambridge.

A book is born

Malabares was finally printed and bound in November 2006. La Pensadera was accepted to present the book at the Guadalajara Book Fair, which receives half a million visitors, and around 1,600 publishers from 39 countries every year, making it the most outstanding meeting in the Spanish publishing world. *Malabares* was presented on 2 December in Guadalajara and on 7 December in Mexico City. For the 14 members of La Pensadera, those two winter nights were the end of a long and intense learning process, one that would bind us – as only offspring can – forever. We had created a book by ourselves.

The first edition of 1,000 copies is now sold. With that money we covered our printing costs and can afford a reprint. La Pensadera is back at writing on Monday nights and already preparing for its next compilation of short stories around the working title of *Tales of exile (Cuentos paisanos)*.

IRIS MONTERO

Class of '06, PhD candidate in History and Philosophy of Science

Wandering in Babel

Nearly five years ago I finished a wonderful and exciting year at Cambridge as part of the inaugural class of Gates Scholars. Now, this is an apt occasion to take stock of the past and the whirlwind of subsequent experiences.

A native of Warsaw who grew up in New Jersey since the age of ten, I came to Cambridge a bit of a wanderer and, in many ways, this quality has remained with me ever since. While pursuing a law degree at Yale and an MPA at Princeton, I have been fortunate to travel across nearly fifty countries and five continents, and work in institutions as diverse as the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and the Pentagon's Office of European & NATO Policy. These opportunities enabled me to experience in a short period what might have taken a lifetime in prior ages. As Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski recently noted, what previously took a decade is now collapsed into a year – equally at societal and personal levels. And the anxiety of choice and freedom consequently has to be confronted with greater haste and less reflection.

Global dispersion, Multiple selves

The flexibility and speed of modern life due to technology and affluence – and its darker implications – was recently encapsulated in the brilliant film *Babel*. A story seemingly about the close interconnections and interdependencies of diverse individuals and life paths sprinkled around the world, the movie revealed the lack of deeper communication and connection even amongst people in close proximity wrought by the chaotic pull of globalizing societies on individual identities

and life stories. The young couple traveling in Morocco cannot understand each other, and appear estranged from their kids who are left under the care of a nanny – herself uprooted from home and family. The mute girl in Japan is completely detached from her father and her friends, notwithstanding high-tech video cell phones and ample material comfort. Even the Berber family otherwise isolated in the Atlas mountains disintegrates due to a confluence of external events. Though the movie ends mostly on a positive note – never failing the Hollywood stereotype – it is hard to escape the implication that the individual characters are tragically lonely as they find difficult resisting the centrifugal forces of modernity.

This sombre perspective reflects the reality that many family members and friends are nowadays scattered throughout the globe, while relationships and marriages are maintained across distant cities and countries. Globalization, highly conducive to economic exchange and transient contact, has shown that shifts in identity and personal narratives occur much more slowly, even if not organically, such that many find the rapid change of modern life highly stressful and exhausting. This sense of uprootedness and internal uncertainty is particular dangerous as it is susceptible to dogmatism of all sorts – national, ethnic, or religious. Indeed, the unprecedented global growth associated with globalization might be

imperiled if there is no correspondent set of beliefs and ideals to which all can connect.

Such problems are emblematic of the challenges faced by many friends I made amongst the Gates Scholars, who are particularly susceptible to forces of modern life drawing them into diverse life paths. Due to the range of choices, it is often difficult for us to define ourselves and develop a stable and consistent identity, instead of wandering through multiple selves.

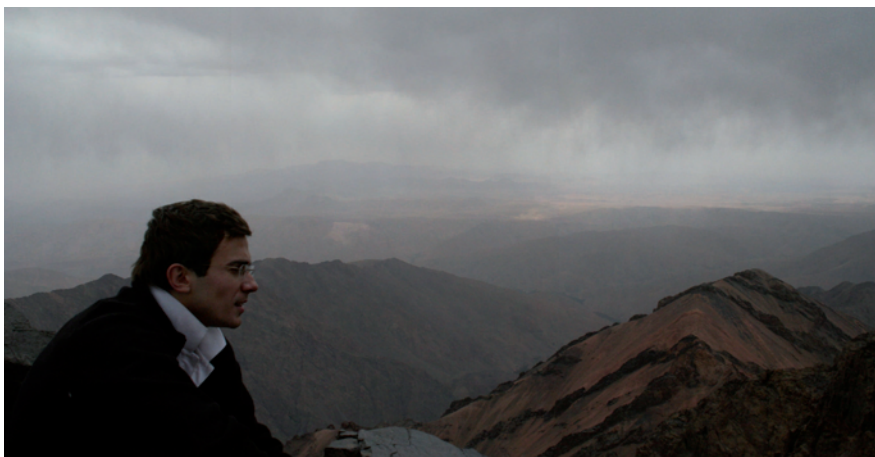
Young atlanticists

On a brighter note, these struggles have been overcome before by individuals similarly detached from home and country. Many of the founders of the European project spanned their lives across different nationalities and found their ideals on a higher level. Gates Scholars, separated from their myriad communities and likely to remain dispersed in novel surroundings, are uniquely placed to establish even greater norms of legitimacy and identity beyond the narrow-minded appeals to populism seen in abundant manifestations throughout the world. While human rights and human dignity are well enshrined in UN conventions and international treaties, it is time to give meaning to these ideals through new creative political and societal arrangements.

Currently a lawyer at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr in New York – a true modern Babel – I have tried to imagine ways in which the various pieces of my life can start to compose a meaningful story and a source of identity. In particular, I am in the process of founding a group called Young Atlanticists, an intellectual home that would bring together politically-active professionals and upcoming scholars dedicated to enhancing cooperation between America and Europe and resisting parochialism in each. Our generation of wanderers could finally awake with unifying direction, and with solidarity and fellowship, our common journeys are likely to be much less lonely.

BART SZEWCZYK

Class of '01, MPhil in International Relations



Paper Chase

A journey into publishing

I left Seattle at age 18, promising myself I would never live there again. With the exception of holiday visits, I managed to stay away...until this winter.

During the nine and a half years' away, I have done things that a first-generation immigrant to the U.S. does not imagine possible. Before setting foot in Heathrow in 2001 as a newly elected Gates Cambridge Scholar, I had never been abroad. Since then, I have called England, France, Germany, and Vietnam home. I published my research, learned two foreign languages, translated a novel, managed an academic journal, and taught a lecture course at UC Berkeley, all while working towards Masters and Doctoral qualifications in History.

Family dedication

Despite being proud of my accomplishments, my parents expected me to help them run the family business of 21 years: Nguoi Viet Tay Bac (Northwest Vietnamese Weekly News), the largest and most trusted Vietnamese-language news source in the Pacific Northwest. At the end of 2006, I decided to postpone a recently awarded Blakemore Freeman Fellowship, which would fund a year of study in Vietnam, in order to return home and help my family modernise the operation of the newspaper.

Like most of my important life choices, the decision to interrupt my preparation for a career in academia came to me in a moment of clarity: my family needed me. It wasn't just about my family though. It was imperative to start the arduous process of renovating the newspaper in order to serve the needs of a younger generation of Vietnamese Americans. Though some things in life could wait, this was not one of them.

When friends ask me what I do at the newspaper, I retort, "What do I not do?" My duties vary from selling classifieds and corporate backcover ads, to writing stories, billing, designing page layouts, and, on occasion, going to the printers to pick up and then deliver some newspapers.

The newspaper has given me the opportunity to reacquaint myself with my family. As teenagers, my brothers and I were like strangers. As adults, through working at the newspaper, we have become collaborators and friends.

Taking the torch

That collaboration was tested when my brothers and I took on the responsibility of preparing Nguoi Viet Tay Bac's annual Vietnamese Yellow Pages. Under the guidance of the regular newspaper staff, we worked in shifts around the clock to produce it. We crafted and signed the letter of introduction to this year's edition; it was the first time in the publication's 19-year history that the introduction was not written by our parents.

Then we waited to hear back from the printers....and waited. Finally, one brother flew down to San Jose to pick up the first load



of the overdue directories from our printers. Once there, he discovered grave printing errors and called me immediately.

I got on the phone with the printing manager and insisted the directories be reprinted.

"How do you know the printing is unacceptable?" he shouted into the phone.

"My brother told me it was unacceptable", I said.

"Who's in charge here? Your brother? You? Or your dad?" he asked hotly.

I turned to my father and asked, "He wants to know who's in charge!"

My father replied, "All he has to do is read the directory's introduction and he'll see who is in charge."

Uh-oh, he was referring to my brothers and me. This was what people meant by 'passing the torch'.

Serving my community

Newspaper work is a hefty departure from academia. When I originally applied for the Gates Fellowship, I told the committee I aimed to be a 'public intellectual who serves my community'. For me, 'community' and 'home' signify constantly changing concepts with unpredictable designations. The idea of Seattle as 'home' used to trigger memories of an angry adolescence.

Ten years later, though, my immediate community comprises those Vietnamese in the Pacific Northwest and my home is with my family. In a few months, it will mean teaching and studying in Hanoi. Ten years from now, I have no idea. I like not knowing.

JULIE PHAM
Class of '01, PhD in History

Building Prosperity in Rural America

Among its other nicknames, my home state of South Dakota is sometimes referred to as the “Land of Infinite Variety.” Though this traditionally refers to the diversity of South Dakota’s landscape, the nickname could well be applied to the state’s economy.

We are home, for example, to both a thriving financial services industry, as well as several of the United States’ most poverty-stricken counties. A healthy tourism industry, featuring attractions such as the faces of Mount Rushmore and the “World’s Only Corn Palace,” sits comfortably amidst the many farms and ranches that have formed the foundation of the state’s economy since pioneer days. And the nation’s growing demand for renewable fuels is being supplied by numerous ethanol and biodiesel production facilities springing up around the state, bringing new economic optimism to many towns struggling to stem the loss of young people. While these characteristics may not add up to variety that is “infinite,” per se, South Dakota’s economy does present a broad spectrum of challenges to those who care about its future.

An economy in growth

For most of the time since my year as a Gates Cambridge Scholar, I have been employed as the Economic Development Director for my home-state U.S. Senator, Tim Johnson, helping his efforts to grow South Dakota’s economy. Much of my time is spent in Washington, D.C., meeting with visiting constituents, working on legislation, and helping to mobilize federal resources in support of economic projects in South Dakota. In addition, my job allows for a substantial amount of travel back to the state, where I meet with mayors, chambers of commerce, and other local economic leaders to learn about their priorities and key challenges. During my most recent trip, for example, I toured a new building at our state’s only medical school, participated in a roundtable discussion of one town’s efforts to generate new local business opportunities, and addressed the annual banquet of another town’s local economic development committee.

I was pleased to play a part in shaping the “Hometown Prosperity Plan,” which is a four-part economic development agenda that guides my work activities. The plan was based on

responses to a written survey sent to hundreds of local leaders around South Dakota, in-person meetings with many of those leaders, and recent academic literature in the field of economic development. The plan’s four parts include proposals to encourage greater regional economic cooperation and competitiveness; placing more emphasis on cultivating the creation of new businesses, as a supplement to the traditional strategy of luring existing businesses from elsewhere; directing federal funds to projects that yield a positive return in the form of public benefits; and addressing trends that sap economic strength, such as rising health care costs, rising fuel prices, and stagnant wages.

Making progress

It is satisfying to see that my work for Senator Johnson, in cooperation with numerous South Dakota leaders, is helping to meet some of our state’s diverse economic challenges. On our Indian reservations, for example, federally funded “Community Development Financial Institutions” have grown what had been almost non-existent private-sector economies, by pairing low-interest loans with culturally appropriate business management advice and assistance. Federal energy policy has played a key role in creating a booming ethanol market. And our state is in the final stage of a multi-year competition to host a new deep underground federal science and engineering laboratory with the potential to generate new scientific knowledge and new economic activity on a grand scale.

Despite this progress, a great deal of work remains, and the deliberative character of the U.S. Senate occasionally seems out of sync with the urgency of South Dakota’s pressing economic challenges. In addition, unsuccessful projects from the past remind us of governments’ limited ability to “pick winners” in the economic realm. In spite of these limitations, though, it is clear South Dakota is making real progress. And while

we will undoubtedly face these and other limitations in the future, I am hopeful that my work with Senator Johnson will bring greater economic strength and diversity to my Land of Infinite Variety.



MATT VARILEK

Class of '01, MPhil in Environment and Development

To Boldly Go:

An Evening with Stephen Hawking

Hawking, the physicist, glimpsed the beginning of the universe. Hawking, the teacher, shared this glimpse with the world through his popular writing. In January, Hawking, the man, agreed to speak to the Gates community about his life journey.

"It's like he's a rock star," Alex remarked, as we joined the long queue snaking up the staircase from the entry to the Arthur Goodhart Lecture Theatre in the Faculty of Law Building.

It was Wednesday night on January 24, 2007 and hundreds of people had snapped up seats to hear Professor Stephen Hawking speak on "To boldly go. My life in physics." Hawking, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, was giving the first Gates Distinguished Lecture of 2007.

As I found my place in the packed theatre, I thought "holy prophet" was probably a more appropriate descriptor than "rock star." There were no screaming fans; instead the lecture theatre of people expressed their awe in absolute silence. When Hawking entered, the only sound was the whirr of his motorised wheelchair.

Over the next hour or so, Hawking described his life in that famous synthesised voice, complete with American accent, despite Hawking being entirely British. Hawking did his undergraduate physics degree at The Other Place – "A very easy course," he observed. "When they asked what I would do after I graduated, I said, "If you give me a First, I will go to Cambridge. If you give me a Second, I will stay at Oxford."

Hawking was awarded a First, and Oxford's loss was Cambridge's gain.

Twist of fate

Hawking is humble about the path he has taken to scientific and popular fame. He explained that it could have been very different had he been granted his first choice of PhD supervisor, Fred Hoyle. Hoyle worked in the then-glamorous field of elementary particle physics. "None of my work from that period would have survived," Hawking said. Instead, Hawking was diverted into the underdeveloped

fields of cosmology and gravitation. This twist of fate meant that Hawking found himself in the centre of the most fundamental of debates on the nature of the Universe. Did the Universe have a beginning? Does it have a fixed mass or is it steady state, with new mass being created to keep density constant? "It is just as well I wasn't a student of Hoyle, because then I would have had to defend the Steady State Theory," Hawking mused. That theory would be discredited by astronomical observations by 1965.

A turning point came when Hawking began to collaborate with Roger Penrose. Penrose's work allowed Hawking to realise that if stars could form singularities (points of infinite density and zero volume), then there would be singularities at the beginning of space-time.

"It was a glorious feeling, having a whole field to ourselves. It was unlike particle physics where people are falling over themselves to latch onto the latest theory. They still are."

Betting on black holes

The world that Hawking describes is familiar to all of us who are navigating our way through academic research. He told us of egos and competition, chance discoveries, serendipitous meetings, pointless seminars, absent-minded supervisors, and eureka moments ("I can't compare it to sex but it lasts longer").

The only difference between Hawking's world and ours is that he was making (and losing) bets on the nature of black holes, developing theory far ahead of experimental evidence (and being vindicated when technology finally caught up), and

bouncing off other unique minds like Penrose and Feynman. He did all this while living with motor neuron disease. Being unable to move or speak without human and computer help has not stopped Hawking from pioneering new scientific theories, writing best sellers like *A Brief History of Time*, and starring in three episodes of *The Simpsons*.

"Professor Hawking," came the final question of the night. "If you could ask God one question, what would it be?"

Hawking took his moments in time to compose an answer. His helper explained that the professor selects his words by tensing the muscles in his right cheek. The presentation had, of course, been largely pre-composed. Answering our questions that night would take longer.

We, who indulge in txt msg and msn chat language without thinking, were willing to wait. Hawking offered a perfectly composed response:

"Why did you make M-theory so difficult?"



JOAN KO
Class of '06, MPhil candidate in Engineering for
Sustainable Development

Wickedly Good

A London grand finale

*With the success of last year's trip to see *The Producers*, Gates Scholars decided that another visit to London's famous West End was in order. Many new and old scholars eagerly signed up to see the latest musical *Wicked*, and were in for a great trip.*

There are some days that seem to be enchanted - infused with an indefinable magic. One such day occurred in early March, as a bus load of Gates scholars set off to London on a crisp Saturday morning. Perhaps the feeling had to do with the promise of a lunar eclipse that evening, or the sight of a green witch soaring high above the ground, but I'd like to think it had more to do with the simple charms of good company.

As the bus descended into London's West End, scholars abuzz in conversation, we were excited by the prospect of seeing the musical *Wicked* later that evening. In the meantime, we had a whole day of exploring the sights of London to look forward to. I know I had a great time wandering around the Natural History Museum with several other scholars, immersed in delightful conversation and lost in countless exhibits. Alas, the day sped by too quickly and soon all of us gathered back together at a West End pub in anticipation of the show.

A new perspective

Wicked is a retelling of *The Wizard of Oz*, but with a twist. The story starts off before the arrival of Dorothy and ends a little after her departure,

telling the tale of how Elphaba, a headstrong, green-skinned outcast student becomes the Wicked Witch of the West.

Unlike the original version, this shows her to be a morally upright freedom-fighter in battle with an evil government. Meanwhile we follow another student, the beautiful Galinda as she develops into the government official 'Glinda the Good'. Much like the *Shrek* movies and *Happily N'ever After*, it is an anti-fairy tale that re-examines the children's stories and casts them in a new light. In this case it explores the stereotypes and societal perceptions of good and evil and we are invited to reflect on our own society.

Ups...and downs

The musical was cleverly put together to fit the events of *The Wizard of Oz*, and overall I found it to be rather fun and entertaining. I especially liked a rousing musical number where Elphaba finds her inner-strength and sweeps into the air to 'Defy Gravity'. However, I did have a couple of criticisms. While *Wicked* promised to add more depth and complexity to the classical version, and challenged the fairy-tale stereotype

of ugliness equating to evilness, ironically it did so by adopting other stereotypes. Galinda was cast as a popularity-obsessed blonde cheerleader-type, her government job being to keep morale high. Elphaba was the awkward, nerdy girl with a crush on Galinda's alpha-male boyfriend. While this placed their characters in familiar teen territory, for me it detracted from the underlying aims of the show - that all is not as two-dimensional and morally unambiguous as Dorothy believed it to be.

All together

For some Gates scholars, *Wicked* was their first musical, and for many others their first theatrical experience in London. Judging from people's reactions, most seemed to have enjoyed the day, and I would certainly like to see more trips like it. For me, seeing *Wicked* was the (final number to a full day in London) icing on the cake. Whether on the bus, or while out discovering and getting lost in London, I know I had a great time getting to know some of the other scholars better.

DANIEL GREENFIELD

Class of '06, PhD candidate in Computer Science

Night Among Friends

Dining at Trinity



For most of the people in Cambridge, 23 February 2007 was no more than a casual Friday evening, spent in colleges and local pubs. For the Gates Scholars, it was yet another opportunity to experience the unique college life at this University. The Formal Hall at Trinity, one of the oldest and most reputable Cambridge Colleges, provided a forum for socialization of Gates Scholars and Trinity students, all of whom aim towards academic excellence in a myriad of fields.

The evening started with pre-dinner drinks and nibbles in the BA room, which helped create an

amiable atmosphere and prepare for the ultimate Cambridge experience in the dining hall. We could not help the excitement of being at the place where Neils Bohr, Bertrand Russel, Amartya Sen, and many other notable Trinity scholars, once had the same opportunity to share their thoughts with their fellow peers. The rest of the evening set off the magic of the Formal - interesting conversations sparked from all over the hall, and intensified with the appreciation of delicious meals and house wine.

ZORICA JOVANIC

Class of '06, PhD candidate in Clinical Biochemistry

Fighting for Peace

Challenges facing Sudan and the International Community

On a beautiful Sunday morning in the Gates room, the audience and I travelled to Sudan, assisted by vivid pictures. My talk was not about what I have discovered during my PhD, but about what I had learnt during my “break” from Cambridge. Having finished an MPhil in international relations and about to start a PhD in international law as a Gates Scholar, I longed for the real world of international relations and law. I exchanged Cambridge’s Ivory Tower where the vision is always 20/20 for the legal and political sandstorms in the Sudan. What was supposed to be a summer break of five weeks became over a year of work as a consultant on the Sudanese peace processes.

Hopping from Khartoum to the South, West, East and centre of Africa’s largest country, the Gates scholars encountered a sequence of wars and peace agreements. Three fundamental questions arose. First, is this piecemeal approach to peace, regional peace agreement after regional peace agreement, actually not a catalyst for more war? Second,

whose peace agreements are these? Are they ‘owned’ by the Sudanese or the internationals? Finally, who are these internationals and how united are they?

The rhetorical questions I posed during the talk resulted in a lively debate on what could be a way forward to peace in Sudan. We discussed the risk of the genocide-debate entrenching rather than solving local and national root causes of the conflict in Darfur. Rather than as mere hatred of one “ethnic” group against another, the conflict should be approached with an eye for the impact of environmental degradation,

power structures between the centre and the regions and age old customary patterns between nomads and farmers. We also discussed the international community’s short attention span, following the news caravans to conclude peace agreements but often too short-winded for the actual implementation of agreements. We explored the option of longer term commitment to strengthening good governance and the rule of law as alternative to ad hoc peace agreements.

The audience probably left the Gates room like I left the Sudan: with more questions than answers. However, as one fellow scholar reassured the somewhat puzzled audience and speaker, an acknowledgement of the complexities is a beginning of a solution, even in intangible Sudan. Reinvigorated by my fellow students’ questions and comments I went back to my PhD, all the more convinced that if our idealism is rooted in reality, our commitment can make a difference.



SARAH NOUWEN

Class of '05, PhD candidate in International Law

Why I’m Glad I Serve on the Gates Council

Snipping wine with Stephan Hawking, hosting the former Ambassador to China, enjoying pub nights all over Cambridge, taking in a London musical and working with a tremendously affable, interesting, motivated, and skilled group of people – these are just some of the incredible experiences of being on the Gates Council this year. Building on, and building up, leadership experience, making new friendships, representing the interests of fellow scholars, and helping make the Gates Scholarship what I envision it to be – this is why I am glad I got involved with the Council this year.

I first thought of standing in the elections for the Gates Council in October after I met the many friendly scholars who were serving on the Council. I considered my desire to get to know my new fellow scholars better and I thought about how I could best put my skills

to use. After talking with council members at the annual retreat for new Gates Scholars in September, I learned that serving on the Gates Council is not only fun and educational, but also a great chance to get to know Gates Alumni and new Gates Scholars.

Over the six months that I’ve served on the Council, I’ve learned what a vital role the Gates Council plays in enhancing the experience of Gates Scholars every year. The Council plans and orchestrates the annual Gates Scholar retreat in September every year, they plan social events, such as pub nights, barbecues, trips outside of Cambridge, and they plan and host the Gates Distinguished Lectures as well as the Gates Scholar Colloquia. What sounds like a lot of work is actually quite an enjoyable experience, in part because the members of the council are such a great group of people to work with, and

also because hosting such enjoyable events that draw so many interesting and talented scholars is a great reward on its own.

However, in addition to planning events, the council also provides Scholars with a voice and a means to help improve the Gates Scholarship experience – an avenue to help make the incredible experience of being a Gates Scholar just a bit more incredible. I hope and trust the new class of Gates Scholars will take interest in our society’s representative body and I urge those of you who are interested to write, call, or email any of the current council members or me with any queries about the society or the Council.

TRISTAN BROWN

Class of '06, MPhil candidate in Environmental Policy

Varsity Scholar Athletes

Gates scholars are selected primarily for their academic achievements, but several members of this diverse community boast athletic ability among their many talents. Here, a few current scholars recount their experiences as Cambridge Varsity athletes.

On Frozen Lakes

It all began in 1885, with an ice hockey match on a frozen lake in Switzerland, played by two of the most esteemed universities in the world. The importance of this date is apparent to me as I scan an early photograph documenting this now historic Varsity Match, depicting the birth of hockey in England.

Well over a century later, I find myself, legs pumping, heart pounding, carrying on the tradition. Minutes away from the puck drop at the 88th Cambridge-Oxford Varsity Match, with a near sell-out crowd of close to 1000 spectators, the Canadian national anthem starts drumming



through the arena. In retrospect, this certainly wasn't the Cambridge scene I envisioned as I boarded a plane to London Heathrow three years earlier but it has become one of the defining moments of my postgraduate studies. Considering I had originally retired from the sport in my teens in Canada, ice hockey in England was the last thing on my mind.

The lead-up to this defining moment was not however, without sacrifice. With the closest ice rink more than an hour away, I seemed to spend much of my week half-asleep travelling on a bus from games and on-ice practises. The tough training schedule included rising at the crack of dawn to meet the squad for an early morning sprint session on Parker's Piece. The rivalry between Britain's two highest seats of learning, which has become sublimated into this sports competition, is what pushes your athletic abilities to the limit. In the moment of play, in a season that rides on the outcome of 3-periods of ice hockey, winning seems to mean everything.

As we stepped out onto the ice to challenge our long-time Oxford rivals, we were unwavering in our mindset to win this year's Varsity Match and the Patten cup. Three periods later we skated off the ice without the cup in hand. Sitting in the locker-room, emotionally and physically drained, I began to lose focus. Our endless pursuit to be one better than our rivals had momentarily overshadowed the reason I play for the Light Blues. The passion of the moment had fogged over the importance of the road travelled; a journey that started with strangers who have since become teammates and friends through shared struggle, sacrifice and success. Years from now, after I've hung up my skates, match scores and records will fade from view. But I am sure to remember the bonds between teammates who played alongside me and shared my passion for the game.

SHANE WOODS

Class of '04, PhD candidate in Genetics

Photograph by Paul Young

Blues with a Twist

I play a sport called Underwater Hockey (UWH). While relatively few people are aware of this sport, it is played internationally, bringing together 20 nations for a world championship every other year. Players move quickly to control the ~1kg puck with a 1ft long stick by pushing it along the pool bottom, eight feet underwater, towards a scoring area 3 meters long. Did I mention that you have to hold your breath if you want to play? There's no scuba tank.

Success ultimately depends on teamwork, since no single person can hold their breath forever. Individual strength is less of an advantage than it is in many other sports. The water nullifies pure mass advantage and emphasizes clever use of torque, allowing the sport

to be played co-ed. UWH quickly builds swimming and anaerobic capability, and is a great conversational piece at the pubs!

Two Cambridge students combined with seven Oxford students to compete in the British University Championships held in Plymouth on 10 March (okay, maybe it's not a varsity match, but putting rivalries aside to work as a team was even more enriching). The untested Oxbridge team finished sixth of ten, to the surprise of many veteran clubs. As the more experienced side, the Cambridge players demonstrated their leadership in the water and scored over half of the team's points. The Oxbridge team destroyed York (8-0) and Warwick (9-0), tied second-place finishing Portsmouth (2-2), and lost to Plymouth (1-4) and Cardiff (0-3). It was a delight to spend the day with others who shared my enthusiasm for this unique sport. Hopefully, Oxbridge will be back again next year to make an even bigger splash!

JONATHAN L. HOLLANDER

Class of '06, PhD candidate in Materials Science and Metallurgy



Varsity Blues...and Whites...and Reds...



Athletics, alas, are not my forte. A lack of hand-eye coordination and perennial stress injuries denied me the glory of a varsity letter at UCLA, where brute athletic talent often overshadows academic prowess. So I was delighted to discover a varsity team I could join at Cambridge. The only coordination needed was the ability to lift a glass to my mouth, because at Cambridge, wine tasting is a varsity sport.

The Cambridge-Oxford Varsity Blind Wine Tasting Match is the oldest of its kind, dating to 1953. Teams attempt to identify the grape, country, growing region, sub-region, and vintage of 6 white and 6 red wines. The wines range from the obvious (New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc) to the obscure (Portuguese Touriga Nacional). We practiced 6 days a week for a month, often at 10 am, which is when the varsity match is held. It may not involve endless weight training, but tasting 8-12 wines before work cultivates its own unique endurance!

This year's match, held at the Oxford-Cambridge Club in London, was extremely close and the stakes were high: vintage champagne and a trip to the Pol Roger Champagne estate in Épernay, France. Identifying whites from a classic Chablis to a challenging Albariño, the Light Blues led off by 16 points out of a possible 1200. The Oxford Dark Blues managed to take the reds by 11 points. But the 5-point spread, the slimmest in almost 20 years, meant victory for Cambridge.

Afterwards, both teams enjoyed an elaborate wine luncheon and tour of Berry Brothers, the oldest wine merchant in London. I had aching feet and a terrible hangover by the time we got home, but also a bottle of gorgeous champagne in tow and the sweet, sweet taste of victory. All thanks to Cambridge and its enlightened definition of "Varsity."

MOLLY CROCKETT
Class of '06, MSc candidate in Experimental Psychology

Gates Scholars in Blue

The following scholars represent some of the many Blues athletes present in the Gates Scholars' Society.

Su-Yin Tan
Karate
Class of 2003, PhD candidate in Geography

Thomas V. Johnson III
Karate
Class of 2006, PhD candidate in Brain Repair

Jonas Neher
Volleyball
Class of 2005, PhD candidate in Biochemistry

Martin Niederste-Ostholt
Volleyball
Class of 2006, PhD candidate in Astronomy

Tiffany L. Bogich
Rugby
Class of 2006, PhD candidate in Zoology

Shane Woods
Ice Hockey
Class of '04, PhD candidate in Genetics

Adam Miller
Basketball
Golf
Class of 2006, PhD candidate in Astronomy

Jessamyn Liu
Football
Class of 2006, MPhil in Political Thought and Intellectual History

Silvia Breu
Volleyball
Class of 2005, PhD in Computer Science

Alumni Notes

Alumni Valentines Reunion

On February 14, 2007 eighteen guests braved the snow and ice on New York City sidewalks to catch up with old friends and hear what is happening with the Gates fellowship “on the other side of the pond.”

Trust Provost Dr. Gordon Johnson and Executive Officer James Smith were on hand to find out what Alums have been up to since taking their degrees from Cambridge and update them on the continued evolution of the relationship between the Alumni Association and the Trust. The Cornell Club played host, assisted by Cambridge in America. With an open bar and an abundance of appetizers, the Club's library provided a lovely setting for mingling and conversation.

A special treat was that two new American scholars, just notified of their achievement three days before the event, were able to attend. It turned out that they are both going to be in the same course next year and one of our Alums had just completed the MPhil in that program.

Overall, a good time was had by all and we look forward to organizing more events like this one on the future!

HILARY LEVEY

Class of '02, MPhil in Modern Society and Global Transformations



Class Notes

2005

Trivikram Arun. I completed my degree at Cambridge in 2006. I am currently working as a commercial advisor for natural gas projects with Shell Gas and Power in the Middle East and am based in Dubai/Doha (but am not very far from India).

Charles Bond Chang. I'm keeping busy this semester with my qualifying papers and fieldwork on Southeastern Pomo, an endangered American Indian language of northern California. This summer I'll be in Buenos Aires, Palo Alto, Saarbruecken, Berlin, and London - let me know if you'll be in any of these places!

C. Wallace de Witt. I have returned to Harvard Law for my second year and will graduate in June 2008. This summer, I plan to return to work for Davis Polk & Wardwell, both in their New York and Asian offices.

Anna Dolganov. After a fantastic MPhil year at King's studying Roman history, I have migrated across the ocean and started a PhD program in Classics and Ancient History at Princeton. Few university towns live up to the Cambridge standard, but I am thoroughly enjoying my program and look forward to being a professional student for the next five years, before beginning the hunt for academic jobs. But I will definitely come back to Cambridge often!

Scott Barry Kaufman. I recently signed a contract with Cambridge University Press to publish the book entitled: *The Psychology of Creative Writing*. The book will be edited by Scott and James Kaufman and will include various contributions from psychologists discussing topics such as the personality of the creative writer, the link between mental illness and creative writing, and how to nurture creative writing skills. The book is due out in 2008.

2004

David Johnson. I moved to Houston shortly after Hurricane Katrina to assist with relief efforts, and now work as a business analyst with McKinsey & Company, where I serve a wide variety of clients in industries ranging from retail to high-tech, and have even worked with a major city symphony.

Robyn Scott. After Cambridge I began to experiment with a then seemingly wild suggestion that I write a memoir – about an eccentric Botswana childhood, set against the backdrop of the devastating rise of Aids. I'm still writing, but I've now sold the book, which will be published in Spring 2008.

2003

Nathan Arrington. is in the third year of a PhD program in Classical Archaeology at the University of California, Berkeley continues this summer to work on deposits of archaic Greek pottery (6th century BC) from the pan-Hellenic sanctuary of Zeus at Nemea. He also helps with the field school at the site, and in July he will be excavating at Mycenae. Nathan has received a Fulbright to study at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens in 2007-08.

Axel Gelfert. Having spent the past year as a postdoc at the National University of Singapore (NUS), I have been appointed to a Visiting Fellowship at the Department of Philosophy, also at NUS, where I will be teaching a course in the Philosophy of Science in 2007-08.

Adam Nebesar. After two years of working for The Boston Consulting Group in NY, I moved to Boston three weeks ago to start a new job with Bain Capital. Amazingly, David Bard decided to accept the same job at the same time, albeit in NY, and we just finished two weeks of training together.

2001

Rachel Bortnick. Just an update - I am still at Harvard, having finished most of my medical studies and working on a PhD in neuroscience. But more importantly, I'm getting married on May 26th in Cambridge, MA, at the Harvard Memorial Church.

Aubrey Gilbert. As far as updates go, I'm getting my PhD in May in Neuroscience from the Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute at UC

Berkeley and I'm starting medical school in the fall at Stanford or UCSF (haven't decided yet). I just resigned from an assistant professorship in the basic sciences department at Samuel Merritt College, where I was teaching 3 different courses in clinical neuroscience. I won Faculty of the Year there for 2006 but needed to quit to finish my dissertation. No kids yet. Just two cats.

Dr. David A. Green. is in the second year of a Junior Research Fellowship at Christ Church, Oxford University where he is writing a book to be published in the Oxford University Press Clarendon Studies in Criminology series. He will take up an Assistant Professor position in the Sociology Department at CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan in January 2008.

Nilima Gulranjani. I have just become a lecturer at the LSE in the Department of Government and the Development Studies Institute.

Arne Morteani. After completing my PhD in physics in 2004, I continued my research on nanotech-based photovoltaic devices for another 6 months as a Junior Research Fellow (Wolfson College) and then joined the London office of the Boston Consulting Group. Having now spent two years in management consulting, I will combine my business and technology backgrounds to start a career as a venture capitalist: In June 2007, I will join the Environmental Technologies Fund (ETF, www.etf.eu.com), a newly-founded venture capital fund investing in growth-stage cleantech companies across Europe.

Rob Perrons. I recently transferred to Shell International's New Orleans office, and am now working as part of the regional deployment team for the company's "Smart Fields" technology program throughout North and South America. My wife and I are expecting our first child sometime in Sept. 2007 and, overall, life is pretty darn good. Our web site www.perrons-woodward.com is still up and running, although it's in dire need of an update. I promise to get around to this in the next few months. Anyhow, I'd love to hear from any fellow Gates alumni via perrons@alum.mit.edu

Lane Schwartz and wife Sarah would like to announce the birth of our first child. Our son, Kai Wilhelm Bingaman Schwartz, was born on Nov 27, 2006. They live in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, where Lane is pursuing a Ph.D in Computer Science at the University of Minnesota.

Up and Coming Mark Your Calendar

Cambridge Events

Panel Discussion with Mr. William H. Gates, Sr.

Date: Tuesday, 22 May from 2.30 to 5 pm

Venue: University Centre

Annual Gates Scholars Dinner

Date: Tuesday, 22 May at 7.30pm

Venue: Wolfson College

Reception and Scholars Photograph

Date: Wednesday, 23 May at 5.30pm

Venue: Fitzwilliam Museum

United Kingdom Events

Spring Trip to Sherringham

Date: Saturday, 2 June

Venue: Sheringham YHA, Norfolk Coast

New Scholars Orientation 2007

Date: Monday to Wednesday, 24- 26 September

Venue: TBA

Worldwide Events

The British Ambassador to the U.S., Sir David Manning, has kindly offered to host a dinner for Gates Alumni at the British Embassy on Thursday, 13 September 2007 from 7p.m. until 10:30p.m. The event will include a prominent speaker (TBA) and is part of an ongoing relationship between the British Embassy and the Gates Scholars' Alumni Association. Further details will be announced in May 2007. Enquiries or RSVPs should be sent to gsaa@gatesscholar.org and should include your full address, degree studied at Cambridge and year of scholarship award.



Front cover: Grantchester in the Spring, April 2007
Photograph by Hang Le, class of '06