

BUTLERCOLLEGE

January 2015

A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Josephine Butler
College
University of Durham
South Road
Durham
DH1 3DF

T 0191 3347260
F 0191 3347259

[www.durham.ac.uk/
butler.college](http://www.durham.ac.uk/butler.college)



Butler freshers returning from matriculation to be greeted by the ever enthusiastic freshers reps and the Mole.

NEWSLETTER



New Year, New Butler Principal's report

Our first term of the 2014-15 Academic year has certainly highlighted many new aspects of Butler College. For many, the most obvious is that, for this year at least, we have a second site: we have over forty postgraduates housed at Ushaw, a beautiful old seminary about four miles from Durham. It has bought many logistical problems which our operations team and the creativity of the students themselves have helped to deal with, but it has also given us access to wonderful new facilities including a dedicated dining room, 300 seater theatre and a cinema room.

We were pleased to meet some new people. Prof. Huang Xu was with us last term as Senior Cofund Research Fellow of the College. He joined us from Hong Kong Polytechnic University and while he was here he researched the issue of how the staff voice is heard in large businesses. We also had a visiting researcher from Charles University in Prague, Jana Zalska, researching argumentation in mathematics classrooms.

Durham University hosted the inaugural "Collegiate Way" conference last term. This was designed to bring together people interested in the college style of residential communities at universities. People often think this is a UK phenomenon restricted to Durham, Cambridge

and Oxford, but the college system is valued in universities in places as varied as the US, South Africa, Australia, China and Abu Dhabi. Indeed, at least 86 different universities around the world have been identified with a collegiate model of living.

Butler and Ustinov Colleges worked closely together to help support the conference. Delegates from the UK, Canada and Macau were housed here and they were invited to take part in the life of the two colleges during the stay. To celebrate, a one-off "Usti-But" joint formal was held between the two colleges and gave us the opportunity to showcase our communities.

There has also been a large change in staffing across Butler in the past few months. With our inaugural Senior Tutor departing, we appointed a new Vice Principal, Karen Langdon, just in time for the start of term. Not that Karen was a stranger: she'd been a mentor in College for a number of years and a lay member of the Trust Board; so we knew we were in safe hands. Karen was joined by Sandra MacDonald as Student Support Officer (undergraduate) in November to complete the student support team.

Adrian Simpson
The Principal.

Best Bar None

It was wonderful to find that, after years of coming second or third in the competition, our bar staff finally got the recognition they deserve. They were awarded the “Best Bar None” award for the best college bar in

Durham for 2014. The awards were presented by Mike Barton, the Chief Constable, at a black tie dinner held in October

The awards are the culmination of an enormous amount of hard work on the part of our bar staff, led by Mandy Herron. Older alumni may recall that, when we opened, the College had the biggest

bar in Durham, but in a large a generally unappealing space. The addition of staging, a separated games area, large screen televisions and booth seating have made it much more attractive. A few years ago we were able to add the bar kitchen, which provides pizzas, burgers, pasta and curries and also allows the bar to function as a coffee shop during the day, serving a range of



sandwiches and panini. We are also able to put on basic food for mentor nights, held in the bar every Tuesday and Thursday, encouraging students to meet up in small groups with the mentors.

The key to Best Bar None, however, was not simply in having a great bar with a good selection of drinks, food and activity. It is also about acting as a community space and demonstrating the ways in which we can promote responsibility. The awarding committee appeared to be particularly pleased by the partnership working between the bar staff and the welfare team. They worked together on ensuring key messages were put across in Freshers Week, developed the “Know your limits” week and ensured that students have access to ‘spikeys’.

Congratulations should go to Mandy, the bar staff and the welfare team.

Butler Theatre

Michaelmas term has been a particularly busy time for the Society of Theatrical Arts at Butler (STAB).

Although the STAB Murder Mystery formal is now an annual event, this year was the first time it was held in Ushaw College. The atmospheric, Gothic Revival setting helped set the tone while the actors took to the stage. The performance was set in a book club where Violet Lynam (Rosie Hodsdon), an unpopular member, died in suspicious circumstances. The audience moved into the refectory which was decorated to resemble the café it was up to them to discover which of the characters was responsible for Violet’s murder. At the end of the night, after all of the accusations were in, The Principal, in a cameo role as a policeman, revealed the murderer to be the friend of Violet’s brother in a short confession scene.

Another STAB event at Ushaw last term was the performance of ‘The Eve of St Agnes’, a piece written by Antonia Goddard, a member of St Cuthbert’s Society. The short play, directed by Phoebe

Chan and Rosie Hodsdon, was based on the poem by John Keats and was a romantic, wintery tale of star-crossed lovers. It was set in the Gothic castle of Baron Elroy (Rahul Ravi) who had arranged a marriage based on social standing and wealth for his daughter Madeline (Anisha Solanki) however she had fallen in love with a mysterious stranger. This stranger was Porphyro (James Aitken), a man unjustly exiled and determined to break into the castle in a bid to woo Madeline. As the play reached its climax, a spectacularly choreographed swordfight between Porphyro and the Baron had tragic consequences for all involved.

Epiphany term is set to be just as exciting as our Community Outreach Project really takes off. Rosie Hodsdon in her role as Community Officer has begun to forge links with local schools and has organised an Introduction to Shakespeare Workshop in St Godric’s R.C. Primary School, which will be run by a small number of STAB members. Elsewhere preparations are also being made for a promenade production of Chaucer’s ‘The Canterbury Tales’ to be performed at the end of the term and also a radio play.



Bryony Renshaw



Butler's Academic Excellence Recognised

The academic achievements of four of our students were recognised at a ceremony in November. Amy Rentell, Nico Restrepo-Ochoa, Callum Masters and Ankit Kumar (pictured) were identified as outstanding scholars in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health at a dinner in Hild Bede College. Needless to say, the College is extremely proud of them.

Trust Board

New Developments

A number of changes have occurred with our College Trust Board. After a number of years on the board, two lay members (Danny Chow and Karen Langdon) have stepped down - Karen to take up the post of Vice Principal of the College.

The appointment of new lay members is on-going and the board agreed that one of these should be a member of alumni community (see below).

Following some generous donations, the Trust has, for the first time, been able to set up some permanent hardship funds. From this year the College will have access to funds for two different hardship schemes: one for general hardship and one, following the intentions of the donors, is to support a student in hardship to take part in college sport. We are grateful for these, as for all donations.

If you are interested in giving, please go to:

<https://www.dunelm.org.uk/donations/colleges/josephinebutler>

or get in contact with the Principal at adrian.simpson@durham.ac.uk

Alumni: Butler Trust Board needs YOU

Josephine Butler College Trust is seeking to appoint an alumna or alumnus to its board. The trust board is responsible for raising money for the college and allocating donations which have been given to the trust. The board meets three times a year to decide on fund raising strategy and to decide on expenditure.

The board consists of four ex officio members (The college principal, as chair, and the presidents of the three common rooms) together with a number of lay members (of which one should be a member of the alumni community).

The board is particularly looking for people who have experience in business or charitable roles which may be relevant to the work of the board.

If you graduated from Josephine Butler College and would like to be considered for this role, please email the Principal with a short statement (no more than 250 words) explaining what you believe you could bring to the role. The commitment to the role entails attending the three meetings each year, reading the accompanying documentation and supporting the board in making informed decisions about fundraising and expenditure strategies. Applications should be received by 30th January.

While there is no payment for the role, reasonable expenditure to attend board meetings will be reimbursed.

If you would like to discuss the role, please contact the Principal at adrian.simpson@durham.ac.uk

Intercollege Visit

In early November, a group of Butler students made the trip to York to compete against Langwith College of York University in what has now become our annual College Varsity Weekend – a weekend full of different activities including sports, a University Challenge quiz and dance and musical performances. The sports consisted of men's and women's football, rugby, netball, hockey, tennis, badminton, volleyball and darts. After an overall tie on the sports fields, the day culminated in the tense University Challenge competition. It became evident that the Colleges were balanced even in this, with each team scoring 160 points, leading to a tie break challenge.

Eventually, after the full day of tight competition in sports, performances, University Challenge and the final tie-break, Butler came out on top and the night was full of celebrations. The success of the trip, however, was not in the victory, but in the great atmosphere that resonated on every pitch and court. College life may entail a sense of

competition in our sports, but transferring that to another university system allowed our students simply to have fun and try out new sports.

Langwith has been invited up to Durham later in the year to further cement the relationship that has been built over the last couple of years, and to return their hospitality. The Varsity Weekend in the spring will feature sports and performances and another round of University Challenge, and we will hopefully bring some societies into the range of activities, perhaps even running a bake-off!



Sports

Selected Current League Positions

Sport	Division	Place
Badminton (Men's - A team)	Premiership	4
Badminton (Men's - B team)	2	7
Badminton (Women's - A team)	1	1
Badminton (Women's - B team)	1	6
Badminton (Mixed)	Premiership	1
Basketball (Men's)	1	1
Basketball (Women's)	Premiership	1
Football (Men's - A team)	1	2
Football (Men's - B team)	1	9
Football (Men's - C team)	2	8
Football (Men's - D team)	4	7
Football (Women's)	Premiership	2
Hockey (Men's)	1	4
Hockey (Women's)	Premiership	8
Lacrosse (Mixed)	1	6
Netball (Women's - A team)	Premiership	3
Netball (Women's - B team)	1	9
Squash (Men's)	1	1
Squash (women's)	Premiership	9
Table Tennis (Mixed - A team)	Premiership	7
Table Tennis (Mixed - B team)	Premiership	6
Ultimate Frisbee (Mixed)	Premiership	4