

BUTLER COLLEGE

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Butler students learn about the latest research into stereoscopic displays being undertaken by one of our postgraduates.

NEWSLETTER

Principal' Report

We come to the end of another academic year and we have the opportunity to reflect on the successes across the College as we see the undergraduate class of 2015 pass through their graduation ceremonies to join the Butler Alumni. As ever, there has been more happening across the year than can possibly be reflected in a short newsletter, so we aim only to give a short selection.

You'll find reports on the outstanding performance of our charities committee this year, the expansion of our fellows programme and other scholarly activity, our outstanding sports performance (culminating in cup wins for both women's and men's football teams) and the valuable work of our Trust Board.

In addition this year we were delighted that the close partnership between our students and our operations staff was rewarded with the Best Bar None award for outstanding college bar with our particular emphasis on the welfare provision and the development of an environment for responsible drinking.

Our operations team also made an outstanding contribution to ensuring that our venture at Ushaw College was a success. We housed just under 50 postgraduate students in the beautiful location provided by Ushaw, which had previously been a seminary. The students themselves formed a tightly knit community and the extra numbers meant that our postgraduate

community had the critical mass to have much more independent activity during the year.

Our undergraduate community can also look back on the year with pride. In addition to our sporting and charities successes, the JCR also developed yet more ways for students to get involved: for example, the new music group, Pitch Please, has engaged more male students in singing than we've had in previous groups and they justifiably won our Best New Society award.

We are also beginning to develop our plans for our 10th Anniversary, with celebrations across the 2016-17 academic year and which we hope will be marked by a major new project to enhance the student experience in college: watch this space.

Inevitably the last few weeks of the year, after the end of the examination period, gets crammed full of activity. These range from the 12 hour music and activity fest which is Butler Day, through our now famous 24 hour basketball challenge for charity and primary school visit day to the summer ball and the College Colours awards which are detailed inside. This is all followed by the grandeur of the graduation ceremonies where we get the opportunity to see degrees conferred on our final year students, in front of parents and friends, in the magnificent setting of the cathedral.

Adrian Simpson
The Principal.



Charity Fundraising

2014/15 has been another successful year for Butler's Charity Committee, raising both money and awareness for Grace House North East, Butler's nominated charity.

Membership has been high all year and plenty of freshers have been involved, though whether this is due to a passion for charity or the sweets provided at each meeting is unknown! With the introduction of positions such as DUCK Officer, Rag Raids Officers and Communications & Publicity Officers, more members have been able to get involved with the organisation of Charity Committee and the running of fundraising activities.

The year started off with Dare Night, which raised over £400 for charity and introduced the freshers to Grace House. Alongside ever-popular Charity Comm. events like the Winter Warmer and Charity Formal, this year we've also had a Christmas Fayre and organised our

own Rag Raid in Sunderland. Epiphany Term was particularly busy for Charity Comm. with Butler's Got Talent, the Grace House Auction and the Fashion Show, which brought our total raised for Grace House up to £5,000, thanks to the generosity of our students, staff and members of the community.

The highlight of the year, however, was being given the opportunity to pay a visit to Grace House in Sunderland and see the direct impact of our fundraising efforts on this wonderful facility for children and young people with life-limiting illnesses. As Grace House is soon to open its doors to its service-users, we are hoping that our contributions to Grace House can develop from raising money and awareness for this incredible facility, and that we can begin to help with gardening, story-telling or other volunteering opportunities.

Sam Stradling & Karolina Fidrych

Butler's Scholarly Community

Our lecture and seminar series opened in October with historian, Helen Mathers delivering a biographical lecture on Butler's life. This continued our programme exploring current themes we believe may have drawn Butler's attention if she was still alive today, which has included talks on topics such as sex work, rape and slavery.

The scholarly programme continues to be as lively as it is diverse. We were delighted to host the 'Green Debate' at which our student-led Green Committee grilled local parliamentary representatives on environmental issues. The College's values of equality and inclusivity were further explored during Joe Elliott's provocative lecture on Debating Dyslexia. In May, NASA Senior Medical Advisor, Saralyn Mark delivered an inspiring talk on her work as the 'Space Doctor.' Dr Mark spoke articulately about her work on women's health both on Earth and in space.

The College has continued to establish close links with the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) in innovative ways. In January, the College formed the first pilot Student Scholars group to

discuss the IAS's annual theme of Emergence. The Butler Scholarly Journal (BSJ) continues to offer a platform for students to think beyond their degrees on topics that inspire curiosity. Appropriately then, the group's work will feature in the annual printed edition of the BSJ.

Alongside this, the College was delighted to host IAS Fellow, Kalyan Perumalla who delivered an interdisciplinary lecture, 'Desktops to Supercomputers.' We continue to develop our relationship with the Durham Energy Institute, hosting students from the Centre for Doctoral Training in Energy giving short talks about energy research aimed at inspiring undergraduate and future recruits.

Our own Postgraduates have contributed their research at College events with the MCR continuing to support a series of Scholars' Suppers for the postgraduate community on a wide range of topics. Many of these events have been held at Ushaw College and have supported the College's delivery of a good student experience in a fantastic scholarly setting. Several Butler postgrads also successfully participated in the multidisciplinary annual Hill Colleges East Research Forum in March.

Sarah Townley

College Colours

Each year the college recognises significant contributions to our development with the award of 'College Colours' - both half and full.

Full Colours

Matthew Armitage for his tireless (and often sleepless) work in College across the whole year from the pre-session arrivals in July to graduation week and his support for students and staff alike.

William Macauley for his work over the last four years across a number of roles, but particularly supporting events - often at the last minute and in difficult circumstances - as technical director.

Alice Whitehouse for her contribution to transforming the student-led component of welfare support which has positively impacted on the well-being of large numbers of College students.

Half Colours

Thomas Atherton for his work in encouraging potential new Butlerites through running successful open days

Peter Carson for his work in supporting the operations team, particularly this year in getting a new college site set up at very short notice

Timothy Charlton for his development of the Middle Common Room in a year of significant expansion and with the problems and opportunities created by a split site

Sabrina Chong for her pioneering work in developing support for international students and supporting inclusion

Lydia Clough for her involvement in and leadership of the volunteering scheme with St Joseph's Primary School

Heather Coubrough in addition to her involvement in college sports, for raising awareness within College of the importance of the Anthony Nolan Trust

Sally Crawford for her contribution to organizing events which engage large numbers of college members and particularly for welcoming new students by helping develop and lead Freshers Week

Nicolle Finch for her work behind the scenes, which makes the work in front of the scenes possible

College Colours

Half Colours

Vivian Flowerday for her tireless work in running our operations team, particularly this year in getting a new college site set up at very short notice

Rebecca Graham for her support for rowers and rowing, for growing the squad and leading women's rowing to success.

Mandy Herron for her work in developing the bar and catering activity in College, and achieving recognition for the College in winning Best Bar None.

Benjamin Hogarth for his work behind the scenes, which makes the work in front of the scenes possible.

Ruth Houghton for her dedicated work, often very late at night, in supporting students in distress or with acute needs.

Ankit Kumar for his dedicated work, often very late at night, in supporting students in distress or with acute needs.

Lewis Li for his contribution to an astounding range of sports and his support for others in all sporting endeavours.

Emma Maslin for her work across many roles in college, but particularly in developing support for livers out by ensuring their sense of inclusion in the wider life of the College.

Edward Newman for his work in encouraging potential new Butlerites through running successful open days.

Alexander Naylor for his wide contribution across a large number of societies, supporting events and setting up a successful new society, Pitch Please.

Hatherleigh Pridmore for her contributions across college societies and sports, as freshers rep and, particularly in the role of services officer.

Claire Scott for her diligent work in developing the essential transparent understanding of student organisation finances which has ensured events, clubs and societies have been able to function properly.

Michael Stewart for his contributions throughout his time at College which has crossed societies, sports, committees and proctoring.

Louise Swanwick for her contribution to organizing events which engage large numbers of college members, including Butler Day and the Winter Ball.

Academic Excellence

Among all the excellent achievements of our students in sports and societies, we have also seen excellent academic achievements. In particular, first class degrees have been achieved by: Aidan Goodall, Thomas Pennington, Meg Rutherford, Anna Argenio, Emma Davie, Vincent Lim, Rebecca McEwen, Michael Grant, Helen Osbourne, Sam Spring, Benjamin Cohen, Michael Hoy, Daniel Leach, Eva Ball, Rachel Mowbray, Samuel Bithell, Lydia Hill, Rosanne Murray, Christopher Reilly, Luke Belton, Dominic Corder, Elliot Humphrey, Emma Kettley, Michael Yaxley, Anna Whiter, James Hill, Jack Barker, Thomas Breare, Alexander Colquhoun, Mara Waters, Sophie Caseby, Lydia Costello, Lok Wan Liu, Bethany Boradbent, Nicolas Restrepo Ochoa, Francesca White, Lucy Watson, Rebecca Shepherd, Nneka Cummins, Ellen Jepson, Hannah Davis, Sophie Willott, James West, Adam Whybrow, Grace Leake, Ruth Townshend, Harold Lomas, Caroline Butler, Jodie Keith, Caitlin Pritchard, Oliver Quarry, Brogan Cozens-McNeelance, Ailis Kelly, Olivia Mathewson and George Avil.

In addition, Dharnesha Inbah-Rajah and Rebecca Shepherd were awarded The Durham Award recognising achievement beyond academic success. David Evans was awarded the prize for best academic poster at the Hill Colleges East Forum. Rachel Mowbray and Rosanne Murray were invited to participate in the Rising Stars Research Symposium. Adam Parnaby was part of team who won the Andy Brinkmann prize for their work in the Physics team working module. Aidan Goodall won the Lyndon Woodall prize and Jonathan Owen the 2H prize, both in mathematics. Jonathan is also the recipient of the Adam Cumber prize from College.

Trust Board

Raising funds to help our students

The College Trust raises money every year to build up capital to support the purchase of assets which enhance the experience of members of the College. The Trust received £2640 generously donated by parents and friends of the college, £5530 from other donations and sales of merchandise, and received a generous £17000 worth of donations towards a 10th Anniversary project.

We are pleased to announce that we have developed the membership of the Board to include more external members to enhance the skills available to us. In particular, this year we welcomed David Cliff (Gedenken consultancy) and Sanjee Ratnatunga (Ideas for Change) as lay members and Stuart Blacklock (Ashurst solicitors) was appointed as alumni representative.

In addition to developing longer term projects, each year we fund bids from current members to support aspects of the college. This year we have funded the music societies, sports (including badminton, cricket, netball and basketball), the Unicycling society, the welfare committee and purchased equipment for the JCR Executive for general use. In total £2870 was spent on these bids.

The Board have also set up longer term hardship funds to provide an annual £250 general award and another £250 award specifically aimed at increasing access to sport and the annual Jill Tidmarsh prize of £50 for promoting equality and inclusion

If you wish to give to the Trust Fund, you can do so online at:

<https://www.dunelm.org.uk/sslpage.aspx?pid=356>

SPORTS Promotions and Trophies

It was an excellent year for Butler basketball, as the women's side went undefeated and won the Premiership. Men's Basketball secured promotion and the Division One title in dramatic fashion by winning on the last day of the season, showing how much the club has improved in the last year. The club once again successfully organised a 24 hour Basketball tournament, raising money in aid of Grace House.

Men's football A team won the Floodlit Cup for the first time in college history by beating Aidan's A 1-0 in the final, being cheered on by over one hundred Butlerites on a bitterly cold Wednesday evening. They narrowly missed out on promotion to the Premiership due to goal difference, while all of the other men's teams cemented their positions in their new league after the B's and C's gained promotion last year.

Not to be outdone, Women's football had a fantastic season, winning the Premiership after being promoted last year. The girls also won the Football Trophy, dispatching St. Cuthbert's A 2-0 in the final, attracting a large crowd to roar the women home.



Men's Cricket went undefeated in their indoor season were called up to represent the University in BUCS Northern Indoor Cricket and did so fantastically, recording a string of impressive wins against university level sides.

Netball won Butler Club of the Year at our Sports Formal. The A team finished 2nd in the Premiership, narrowly missing out on the championship on goal difference, while the B's climbed to 4th in Division One.

Men's squash won the Division One title and gained promotion to the Premiership, winning nine games from ten in the process. Men's rugby union gained promotion to the Premiership after finishing as runners up in Division One and made it to the quarter final of the Floodlit Cup. Our women's combined side, Milbut, won the Premiership, only losing one game on the way to the championship.

The boat club have been working hard all year in preparation for the regattas that are coming up this summer, with other summer sports such as cricket and tennis also kicking off.

Dan McElhone, Sports Officer

Sports (Selected Final League Table Positions)

Sport	Division	Place
Badminton (Men's - A team)	Premiership	5
Badminton (Men's - B team)	II	5
Badminton (Women's - A team)	I	1
Badminton (Women's - B team)	I	7
Badminton (Mixed)	Premiership	3
Basketball (Men's)	I	1
Basketball (Women's)	Premiership	1
Cricket (indoor)	Premiership	1
Football (Men's - A team)	I	3
Football (Men's - B team)	I	11
Football (Men's - C team)	II	11
Football (Men's - D team)	IV	8
Football (Women's)	Premiership	1
Hockey (Men's)	I	7
Hockey (Women's)	Premiership	9
Lacrosse (Mixed - A team)	I	8
Netball (Women's - A team)	Premiership	2
Netball (Women's - B team)	I	4
Rugby (Men's)	I	2
Rugby (Women's combined Milbut)	Premiership	1
Squash (Men's)	I	1
Table Tennis (Mixed - A team)	Premiership	8
Table Tennis (Mixed - B team)	Premiership	7
Ultimate Frisbee (Mixed)	Premiership	6