Welcome to the HMC alumni newsletter. We’re outside Trinity term, of course, but we thought we’d wait until we had some Finals and Prelims results to report. And how right we were! It’s been another excellent year for HMC student scholarship. Of our 17 finalists, we had 6 firsts (English [2], Economics & Management, PPE, Human Sciences, Arch. & Anth.), 10 2.1s and only one 2.2. Even better, our firsts in English (Fergus McGhee) and Economics & Management (Zhujie Chen) each won the university Gibbs prize for the best first-class result of their year. Zhujie also scooped the prizes for best overall performance in both Macro- and Microeconomics, and the Lubbock prize for best overall performance in E&M. Seth Kitson, (Law) won the university’s Norton Rose Fullbright prize for his constitutional law paper.

We don’t have the official Norrington Table figures yet, but based on previous years, we should be among the top ten colleges. Given that we are up against colleges which have been established for centuries, and with endowments and establishments massively bigger than our own (not to mention large numbers of scientists, who get a disproportionate number of firsts), that is a brilliant achievement by HMC students.

The first-years didn’t do too badly too, with Distinctions for English (2 – and another Gibbs prize), History and PPE. That bodes well for the future.

Five of our graduates were awarded Distinctions in their Master’s or 2nd BM exams. To top it off, Wei Jian Chan, who got a first in Law last year, was awarded a Distinction in the BCL – a real feather in his cap.

All round, we think, a marvellous set of results.
More success....

We're not trying to be one of those newsletters that pretends there's only good news...but at the moment there's only good news. This time it's from the HMC Mooting team, who retained their title from last year by winning the Cuppers (Intercollegiate) Mooting competition, beating Merton College in the final held on 18th February. [see https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/news/2016-02-24-grand-final-university-oxford-maitland-chambers-inter-collegiate-cuppers-mooting]

The team, who won five rounds to get to the final of the competition, consisted of Sean Butler, Julie Chan, Tatiana Kazim, Seth Kitson and Vincent Wong. Sean and Tatiana were the triumphant mooters in the final, which was judged by Lord Hoffmann and two QCs from Maitland Chambers, which sponsored the competition.

HMC mooters had a further successful run in the commercial mooting competition run by 7 Kings Bench Walk this year: [see https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/news/2016-03-22-university-oxford-7-king%E2%80%99s-bench-walk-commercial-law-moot ]

Sean and Tatiana were runners up in the best oralist competition, and Julie Chan and Wei Jian Chan reached the final of the competition (judged by Lord Mance, Mr David Edwards QC, and Ms Rebecca Sabben-Clare QC), although, sadly, they were beaten by two BCL students from St Catherine's and Magdalen.
HMC student of the future?

Michalina Szkopinska has just come back to work in the Accounts Office, having presented us with Oscar, last July.

And yes, we’re softies... Michelle Lai was surprised in the chapel by her boyfriend Michael, who had arranged a group of friends – including her former tutor, John Sloan – to be there when he proposed...

As you might guess, she said yes! Congratulations to the lovely couple!

Michael...you’ve raised the bar for all those less brave men out there!
More HMC Families

At her leaving party, housekeeper Sarah Oakley told us that she’d first been brought to HMC (Manchester College, as it was then), as a babe-in-arms by her parents. I’m sure people will remember her father, Bob Eaton, who was chapel organist, and her mother Betty – always to be seen arranging the chapel flowers.

This reminded us of other HMC families – none more so at the moment than the Brown-Knowles family: Pat Brown, her daughter Tina Knowles, and her grandson Daniel Knowles.

Pat was a scout for many years, as many of you will remember, and even after retirement continued to make curtains for college. Tina – who’ll be known to almost everyone reading this – is currently Assistant Housekeeper. And young Daniel is our IT second-in-command, and so is someone everyone wants as a friend.

And of course these three aren’t are only members of the family. We’ve also had Tina’s sisters Fiona and Tracy working for us at various times. Tracy’s daughter Shannon (Daniel’s cousin) is working in housekeeping this summer. And of course (do keep up!), long-time scout Kay Maxwell is related to Tina by marriage, and Kay’s mother, Brenda, worked here for years. We could go on....!
Buildings ... and the New Vice-Chancellor

Ground has been broken by the new vice-chancellor, Prof. Louise Richardson, for our final in-college site, next to 30 Holywell. For those of you old enough to remember, this is the legendary "swimming pool site" of old. It's a tricky narrow shape, but when finished the new building will provide us with a lecture theatre, student rooms, and extra JCR space.

Prof. Richardson, an academic specialist in terrorism, is the first woman vice-chancellor in the University's history. She's almost an old friend of college already. Her husband, Tom Jevon, is a medical researcher who has an academic attachment to HMC. She's already proved herself to be a skilled speaker, with a light touch in humour: here, she said how glad she was to be continuing the tradition of her Irish forebears in coming to England and digging holes!

Farewell to our Housekeeper of the last eleven years, Sarah Oakley, who has retired to look after her increasing family commitments. Sarah’s been in charge of fitting out all our new and refurbished study bedrooms, as well as making our renovated public rooms look so smart. We’re very sorry to see her go.

Our new housekeeper, Sarah Smith, starts work next month, joining another new Sarah (Hodges) in the bursary.