

You may have heard it said that Christ's Hospital provides "The Best Education That Money Can't Buy." Analysis confirms it. But that's only part of the CH story. Read on!

And ponder the question, who would you be had you not gone to CH?

Pictured at right: Gilman exchange student Jon McMaster of Baltimore (center), flanked by Leslie Guthrie, Bryn Mawr's candidate for CH next summer and Senior Grecian Oscar Jenkyn-Jones. For more about all-American Jon's encounters with the British, see "Yanks at Housey, Then...and Now" on page 2. For more about Oscar's inspiring message at the October Founder's Day Dinner, see page 4.



The Best Education that Money Can't Buy

—Lance Reynolds, PrepA/MdB 1949-58

You may have heard it said that Christ's Hospital provides "The Best Education That Money Can't Buy." Durham University's Value Added analysis confirms it.¹ The school performs well. The Autumn 2006 *housey!* also gave us some of the recent exceptional academic results.

The continuing evidence that Christ's Hospital fulfills its mission to provide life-changing opportunities for children in need of financial support made me reflect recently on the lives of US Old Blues that I have come to know as your Secretary. You show success not only in the academic, public service and business worlds, but also shine with entrepreneurial skills, artistic talents and adventurousness.

One of you helps design and build light aircraft. One of you has sung in all the Gilbert and Sullivan light operas. One of you has sailed the Atlantic single-handed in both directions.²

You also are noteworthy for your generosity and volunteerism, giving both your money and your time to a variety of causes that serve those whose circumstances require a compassionate and unwavering response. You make the world a better place.

Who would you be had you not gone to CH? Of course, none of us can answer that. It is possible, however, that Durham's value-added analysis falls short in its praise of CH—unless and until the constructs are developed to accurately measure contributions to life. Thank you for all you do.



¹ Durham University has established a baseline correlation of children's educational improvement from age 11 through the GCSE exams. This "value-added" measure allows comparison of what students achieve versus others with the same aptitude. It corrects traditional school performance measures (such as per cent of seniors achieving A* grades, or number entering Oxbridge) to allow for the different starting mixes of school intakes.

² Dear Blues: *Across The Pond News*: I noticed achievements of several Old Blues in your July issue and thought I'd mention that I am a true 'Across The Pond Old Blue' in that in the 70's I twice sailed across the Atlantic single-handed in a small boat. The account of my first trip is on the Canadian Shark Association website at www.Shark24.org/Eos/. I haven't quite got around to covering the return trip. — Randal Peart / MaB 1945-52 (Pictured above left in the 70's)

Yanks at Housey, then...

—Jim Bell, MaA 1957-1958

Between 1938 until 1974, 21 American boys spent a year at Christ's Hospital as visiting students under an exchange program run by the English-Speaking Union. From 1949 to 1969, there was an American at Housey almost every year. All were graduates of American boarding schools spending what would today be called a gap year studying in Britain. Eight were alumni of Phillips Academy (Andover).

The Americans at CH entered the school as "button" Grecians and served as house monitors, with all privileges and duties of those ranks. Many sat for A-level exams. A number excelled in sports and played on school or house teams. In nearly every respect they were full-fledged members of Housey—the most significant exception being that they were ineligible (as American citizens) to participate in any Cadet Force activities. They wore Housey dress while traveling to and from school, as

everyone did then, to the great amusement of visiting American friends and family. They received their half-crowns at Mansion House on St. Matthew's Day and their bibles at the leaving service.



and now...

—Jonathan McMaster of Gilman

On the last day of my month at Christ's Hospital, Nick came into my room. "You alright?" I was used to the accent by now. The only weird accent at the school was mine. "Yeah, I'm oolright," I struggled to try out the accent. Nick was one of many friends that I made at CH.

On the day I arrived, I was picked up at the Airport by the housemaster Dr. Stewart, a man with a head full of whitish-gray hair, and the energy and charisma of a young boy. We arrived on campus and the first thing that I saw was the uniform. It consisted of a white shirt, "breeches," bands, a huge Harry Potter style cloak, and mustard yellow socks. The next day, I was in full "Housey" uniform. More people

stared at me when I was not in uniform than when I was. I was the only one who thought the uniform was crazy.

The first week, most people had exams, so I went to the gym and played basketball with two Lithuanian students. I played football (soccer) almost every day. The World Cup was on and everyone was going crazy. Girls cried when England lost in the Semi-finals. I played in the school's band every day. I ran the 100m dash on a grass track. I even met a Member of Parliament.

But the best part of the trip was simply talking to new people. I once had a four hour conversation with a group of Grecians about the differences between the US and the UK... We talked about sports, money, hip-hop culture, racism, cars, girls, anything. Every student I met at CH took nothing for granted. They all knew what a great opportunity they have been given. I was given a great opportunity to go to Gilman and an amazing opportunity to spend my summer in England.

Special thanks to Dr. Southern, Mr. McGill, Sally O'Brien, Jim Bell, Hannah Jenkins, Mark Laichena, Christ's Hospital and Friends of Christ's Hospital.

Lessons from my American Adventure

—Tamas Lorinczy, MidA 1998-2005

Ever since my return from the US I have been trying to digest the most memorable three months of my life. Friends and family continue to ask, 'so, tell us, what is it that you learned?' I have once again been reminded of the importance of diversity. One glimpse of New York, Chicago or even Cookeville (TN) is a reminder of what peoples of all walks of life can do when they unite in a common vision. The USA has swung open its doors to a diverse range of peoples—those who have brought a vast mix of culture, creativity, and enthusiasm.

The theme of diversity could be aptly applied to so many areas of my visit. Due to the generosity of the US Old Blues, I was able to see the country from a variety of perspectives. Tourism is usually formed by over-simplified guidebooks and street maps but being welcomed into nine households allowed a much deeper experience. To learn the odd idiosyncratic anecdote or snippet of social history is, I think, a hugely

valuable addition to simply visiting the sights. That is not to say that I did not relish the sights—from the first glimpse of the Golden Gate Bridge to my travels through the labyrinths of the US Capitol. Exposure to such wide experiences is a significant step toward understanding a nation that often is so easily misperceived by an outsider's eye.

The prospect of enjoying Barenboim conducting the Chicago Symphony and, a few weeks later, sitting in a smoke-filled honky-tonk of Austin, TX is not one I thought I would ever come across! What is, if not this, an example of what diversity means? The three months also opened my eyes to areas of my personal interest: politics and law. Two weeks working at the UN highlighted the vital international issues of conflict resolution, diplomacy and the environment, whilst shadowing a Public Defender in Cookeville was a striking insight into the matters that encircle the American judiciary system. Having just embarked on History & Politics at the University of Durham it seems early days to



pinpoint an exact career path; nevertheless, it is safe to say that my US experiences have unquestionably affected my visualization of my own future.

There are moments in life that stay with you forever; my adventure will be a treasure trove of such moments. Margaret Thatcher once remarked that 'Europe was created by history. America was created by philosophy.' I could not agree more. Some suggest it was America's determination to achieve a democratic nation or her 'dream' of endless opportunity—I suggest her philosophy of hospitality led her to success. I am grateful to all those who made this journey possible.

Letter from a Presentee

When I learnt that I had been given a place in CH, I was really excited. I couldn't wait to go there in September. Then on New Entrants Day, we went to the Chapel, for a speech from the Head Master and I met a new boy, Charlie, who also lives in Northampton, and was also in Peele B. When I arrived on the 6th of September, I knew this was going to be a life-changing experience. I went up to my room, where I found all of my new uniform laid out and I changed into it. I really liked it. My first week was very good, as have been all days since. I made some new friends, in lots of different years, and also in Peele A.

History is fun, and Science is good, too. Maths is okay, and all of my teachers are great! Many things have happened since the beginning – we've had House Singing and Chapel every Sunday and Wednesday. I'm finding the activities we have every day (football and rugby) quite fun, and am sure I'm better at them now. I have a very busy timetable, but that suits me. I like to be kept busy. The daily routine is really easy to keep to, and marching in to lunch is really great.

One of my favourite things about the school is how big it is: even though I live in Peele (the House furthest from the Quad), I enjoy walking so far, even though it means we have less spare time. I'm really enjoying it here.



—Jamie M-Green / Peele B, 2nd Form
Presentee of Patricia Stockton

Adventurers Rob Gauntlett and James Hooper proudly display the Housey flag they carried to the summit of Everest last May. With Rob and James are US Old Blue Michael Allen (foreground) and CH Clerk, Michael Simpkin.

180° Pole to Pole

A trans-global expedition organized by Rob Gauntlett and James Hooper commences March 2007. The expedition begins high in the Arctic from where they will ski the length of Greenland to Disko Bay. Here they meet an Ice Breaker Yacht and embark on a voyage to New York. Next, the trip involves cycling the length of the Americas, taking in 13 countries before arriving in Punta Arenas, Chile. This epic 13,000-mile cycle tour will only be broken by sailing around the perilous Darien Gap of Panama, where roads do not exist and guerrilla warfare can be rife. Reaching the tip of South America, they sail across the Southern Ocean and onto the South Pole.

This groundbreaking, manpowered adventure will cover 22,000 miles over three continents and is projected to take 11 months. Their route from NY will take them through Washington, Charleston, Nashville, Memphis, Little Rock, Dallas and Austin. US Old Blues who wish to support the expedition in any way—from waving flags to offering accommodation—may contact them at info@180degrees.co.uk.

Rob and James aim to send a message of inspiration to young people around the world, to encourage a fundamental belief in one's abilities and talents. The expedition will be tied into the National Curriculum via an interactive website at www.180degrees.co.uk—video clips will be uploaded as podcasts—providing an educational resource accessible to all, whilst promoting a valuable and topical message of living in a sustainable manner.

FCH Governors

Jim Bell

MaA 1957-58

Jim Bell was born and raised in America but managed to spend a "gap" year at Christ's Hospital long before "gap" years were really invented! Between schooling at Andover and university studies at Yale and Harvard Law School, Jim set sail on the Queen Mary for a year that, he says, changed his life. Among his challenges at CH were, of course, the wearing of the Housey uniform, sharing bathroom facilities with 25 other boys, and representing his country in an environment where it was poorly understood.

One must surmise that the experience did him good, because Jim went on to a successful career in law in NY, where he lives with his wife. He has four children and eight grandchildren (counting all the steps) living, regrettably, he says, all over the place.

In spite of his busy life, Jim supports CH in many ways, and had a hand in re-establishing a US exchange scheme after a drought of 30 years.



Hervey Howell

PeB 1949-56

Hervey Howell did two years of National Service in the Royal Signals, British Army of the Rhine and then graduated in 1961 from the Royal School of Mines, London University.

Hervey's mining career took him to Labrador, the Adirondack Mountains of New York, Denver, Brazil, the Catskill Mountains of Rip Van Winkle fame, Pittsburgh, Maryland, and Kentucky. After 33 years he retired to work with computers for the local school district. He now lives on nine acres of rural Kentucky near the south bank of the Ohio River.

His community work includes startup of a home visiting program for vulnerable new mothers, the Latino immigrant center, and several youth programs. His daughter works as an architect near Poughkeepsie, New York.



Founder's Day Dinner 2006

—David Shears, PrepA/MaB 1935-44

Some 30 Old Blues and their wives attended an enjoyable dinner in Washington, DC, on October 28, with the Clerk of CH, Michael Simpkin, as main speaker and the Senior Grecian, Oscar Jenkyn-Jones, as guest of honor. To everyone's delight, Rob Gauntlett and James Hooper were also present, proudly displaying the Housey flag they had taken to the summit of Everest in May 2006.

Michael Allen, president of Friends of Christ's Hospital introduced the Clerk as the CEO of Housey "because he runs the place." Mike Simpkin praised FCH, led by John Doyle, Mike Allen and Lance Reynolds, as "leaders of the pack" in support of CH. Looking around the world, "you can't see a more dedicated group" for the school, he said. Simpkin told the gathering that CH had received 550 applications for places in 2007—a figure that broke all records. There was also an inexorable trend toward closer gender balance in the school.

Simpkin cited an international study showing that Britain and America were

well down the scale in fostering social mobility. The UK was "well below Mexico" in this respect. The British government contracts out to charities to run public services cost-effectively, and CH "will be among

the pathfinder schools to take children out of residential care and put them on the right path," he proclaimed. Seventy percent of CH alumni were to be found among the top four working groups in the UK.

Oskar Jenkin-Jones, resplendent in his Housey uniform, spoke eloquently of his sense of deep fulfillment within the CH community. "The school gives us the instruments and we make the music," was his theme. The wonder of CH was that it gave pupils "the strength and power of belonging to a growing community." No



past pupil was forgotten. "It's good to feel that I'm linked to previous generations of Old Blues."

Traditional toasts were drunk and graces observed, and dinner ended with a rendering of the old School Votum, vociferously led by Mike Allen. Patricia Stockton (Plaskett), Washington resident and CH Governor who organized the dinner, also arranged a breakfast with the Everest climbers. They showed slides and film clips of their intrepid feat, followed by a preview of their planned Pole to Pole expedition.

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