

## OBITUARIES

**Mark Alleyne** (14 December 1961 – 20 May 2009) *Doctoral Student*

Mark Alleyne was Associate Professor of Communications at Georgia State University who, as a Rhodes Scholar, undertook and completed both a Masters and a Doctorate at St Antony's. He was a Barbadian by birth and was spoken of as one of the most accomplished communications scholars to emerge from the developing world. Despite spending his time after College in the US, at Columbia, UCLA and later at Georgia State, he was a regular visitor to St Antony's with his wife and son and served as a Liaison Officer for the US Midwest. He died tragically after a brief illness in Guatemala City, where he had been co-ordinating a study programme for the university there, accompanied by students of Georgia State. Mark died young – and in such situations fond tributes are common. Yet the universally appreciative and warm words that many Antonians have conveyed suggest that we have lost a truly distinctive member of the College community as well as a considerable scholar.

**R Majumdar****Michael Bhatia** (28 August 1976 - 7<sup>th</sup> May 2008) *Doctoral Student*

Michael Bhatia died on 7 May 2008 in Khost, Afghanistan. He was only 31 years old. His death is a tragic loss for friends and family, the College, and the field of international relations and conflict studies.

Michael arrived at St. Antony's College in 2001 as a Marshall Scholar. After completing his MSc in International Relations Research, Michael started his DPhil in International Relations. His thesis, "The Mujahideen: A study of combatant motives in Afghanistan, 1978-2004", examined what Michael called the 'vocabulary of motive' through some 350 interview with combatants in many regions of Afghanistan - interviews conducted during months of arduous fieldwork in some of the most hostile regions of the country.

His many absences were hard on him, on his friends and on his family, but Michael believed that these times of contact were the only means by which he could understand a problem that troubled him deeply.

He believed that the Afghans were too often misrepresented and misunderstood. He believed that was wrong. He believed that there was a different side to Afghanistan and to Afghans, and that this other side needed to be seen and understood. He believed that someone had to convey these perspectives, and he was willing to keep pushing until someone listened.

Michael had a deep sense of honour and a deeper sense of duty. He had a strong moral barometer, and the courage to live by it.

But Michael was much more than a scholar. He was a friend to many in many corners of the world. He was a fixture of the College for many years and in many ways. He was probably the only College member to have won blades in Men's rowing whilst ensuring that the Late Bar turned a profit through a steady sale of Guinness and whiskey. He was a bon vivant of the highest order. He never did things in half-measure, be it making guacamole, mixing a jug of Pimm's, punting, or living life.

He had a profound generosity of spirit, and was a giving and faithful friend who always had time to talk, listen and debate. He was a playful rogue, who enjoyed a good laugh or a quick-witted comment. He was never too busy for a friend in need, and always quick to top-up your glass.

One of my favourite photographs of Michael was taken at his birthday dinner in a College flat. The candles of his cake are blazing before him, but he is taking the time to ensure that everyone's glass was charged with champagne.

He also had such a contagious excitement and enthusiasm for his work and for life. His eyes would glow when he was in the full flow of conversation.

I fondly remember visiting Michael in Providence, where he was a Visiting Fellow at the Watson Institute for International Studies. He loved what he was doing there. He loved his research, and he loved his teaching. We stayed-up late into the night, deep in conversation about how research and knowledge could make the world a better place. He never seemed to tire.

He loved to share this passion with others, through any means possible. He was as excited about an honest debate in the Rose and Crown pub as he was presenting his work to governments or NGOs. When asked, Michael gave generously of his time, and went above and beyond his terms of reference when consulting for the Small Arms Survey in Geneva, DfID's review of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams, Oxford Analytica, ODI and many others. He was most excited and passionate when he felt that people were starting to listen.

But Michael never compromised, and never settled for second-best. Some of his students at Carleton University in Ottawa, where Michael was a lecturer in political science for a term, felt that Michael was pushing them too hard. Michael just thought that the ones who complained were lazy. He was overjoyed that a handful of students really connected with his ideas and his enthusiasm. One student wrote in the end of term evaluation that "if anyone becomes Emperor of the World, I hope it's Michael Bhatia." He loved that!

Michael admitted that his enthusiasm would sometimes get him off track, and that his research findings more often went into articles, books and reports, and not his thesis. He was also frustrated by the need to contain his analysis within the parameters of a DPhil. The first draft of one of his chapters for Confirmation of Status was over 70,000 words, and Michael found it hard to accept that it needed to be cut. As he wrote in November 2007, many of his understandings of Afghanistan could not "be placed into analytical paradigms" and did not "speak to theories of war or peace, to destruction or to reconstruction, but instead to daily interactions that occurred in the course of research.

But Michael had a plan. In one of his last e-mails to me, he wrote: "As for me, I'm working incredibly hard, working off a bit of salmonella poisoning right now, making a big impact on the brigade strategy, program is being protested by the American anthropological community for no reason, about to head off for a winter field mission, plan to return in the fall, then head to Norway for a four month visiting fellowship, finish the dissertation as soon as humanly possible, and resume life outside of a forward operating base."

All that in one breath.

My last telephone conversation with Michael was shortly before he left for Afghanistan. He was excited and enthusiastic for the work ahead, and fully aware of the dangers associated with the mission. He had been to Afghanistan many times before - as part of the OSCE Electoral Support Team during the 2004 Presidential Elections, as a Researcher for the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit in 2004, and during his work for ODI in 2001.

Knowing Afghanistan as he did, he believed that his work with the US Department of Defence could help make Afghanistan a safer and more peaceful place, especially for Afghans.

Michael believed that we must not only study, but act. This belief took him not only to Afghanistan, but to Kosovo, East Timor, and to the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria. He believed that scholars of conflict needed to experience the realities of which they wrote if they were to be credible. He decried researchers who only went as far as the capitol city yet claimed that they have been to "the field".

He lived by this belief. In the end, it took him away from us years before his time. We will all miss him - his gregariousness, his curiosity, his enthusiasm, his passion - but in living his life according to his beliefs, no matter the cost, Michael has left us with a very challenging lesson.

James Milner

**Georges Bonnin** (January 14 1920 – September 25 2008) Research Fellow

A French lawyer and historian of Germany, George Bonnin died in September 2008 at the age of eighty- eight. Born in the Vendée, the son of a solicitor, he took a doctorate in Law from the Sorbonne. Having served in the French Army in the early years of the Second World War, he was arrested during the occupation while trying to evade forced labour in Germany. Imprisoned near Toulouse by the Nazis in 1944, he was threatened with death as the Allies advanced, but was liberated the following day. He was an official French observing lawyer at the Nuremberg Trials, and from 1947 to 1959 was a member of the international team at Whaddon Hall in Buckinghamshire editing the archives of the German Foreign Office. He also engaged in his own historical research, and in 1957 published a study of the Hohenzollern Candidature for the Spanish Throne, the controversy over which was exploited by Bismarck to provoke war with France in 1870. He became a Research Fellow of St. Antony's in 1960 and spent two years in the College working on the career of Count Brockdorff-Rantzau and other aspects of German history after the end of the First World War. In 1966 he published *Le Putsch de Hitler*, a pioneering work which made good use of hitherto neglected transcripts of Hitler's trail after his attempted coup in November 1923. Bonnin later combined his academic career with running a fruit farm in the Dordogne. He taught at the University of Leeds and then at Thames Polytechnic. In the mid-1980s he retired to Wales.

Georges Bonnin was a good scholar and an affable colleague, with a dry sense of humour. Our condolences and sympathy go to his family.

**AJ Nicholls**

**Lord Dahrendorf** (May 1 1929 – 17 June 2009) Warden of St Antony's

It was with shock and sorrow that we learned on 18 June, 2009 that Ralf Dahrendorf had died the previous day. Less than two months earlier we had been delighted to celebrate Lord Dahrendorf's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with a colloquium in the College Lecture Theatre organised by Professor Timothy Garton Ash. A capacity audience heard tributes to Ralf, and reflections on his contribution to scholarship and politics, from Professor Jürgen Habermas, Professor Fritz Stern and Professor Garton Ash, who chaired the meeting. There were many spontaneous tributes paid to Lord Dahrendorf from the floor, as well as a lively discussion ranging from the democratic legitimation of European institutions to the role of universities in defending a free society. Ralf responded to the debate with typically acute and thought-provoking comments, as well as paying a moving tribute to the speakers and to the College. The occasion was followed by a very large celebratory High Table which culminated in a rousing chorus of 'Happy Birthday to You'. We were all moved by the fact that, although evidently not in the best of health, Lord Dahrendorf, accompanied by his wife, had come to Oxford to celebrate such an important birthday. With hindsight it is evident that we had been vouchsafed an opportunity to say goodbye to him, and for that we are all grateful.

Ralf Dahrendorf's first documented contact with St. Antony's was in 1975, when he was elected to a Supernumerary Fellowship, which he held until 1978, having delivered the Cyril Foster Lecture in 1976. When, nearly ten years later, the College came to elect the successor to Raymond Carr as Warden, it was fortunate to be able to choose from a very strong field of candidates, and Ralf Dahrendorf was among them. In his case it was evident that, if the College had drawn up an identikit profile of its optimal Warden, it could hardly have hoped to find anybody which fitted it more exactly. He was a distinguished Professor of Sociology with an awesome publication record, who entered politics and obtained a ministerial post in the German Foreign Office and was then appointed a European Commissioner.

Despite having distinguished himself in that position, he left Germany to become an outstandingly successful Director of the London School of Economics, where he had been a graduate student. When he retired from the LSE, the Chairman of the Governors, Huw Weldon, described him as the most popular German in Britain since Prince Albert. He was in demand throughout the Western World as a visiting professor and could easily have obtained a permanent chair in the USA. He was duly elected Warden of St. Antony's and took up his post in October 1987.

It might have been supposed that, with such a range of academic and political interests, Ralf would be a rather distant figure as Warden. The contrary was the case. In the words of the College History: '...he threw himself into the Wardenship with verve. Although prominent in politics – he was made a member of the House of Lords in 1993, a role he took seriously – he never neglected the college, sitting on most of its committees and leading from the front. His prominence in the world outside raised the college's profile. As statesman and scholar, he was a fitting symbol of what makes St. Antony's such a stimulating and exciting place... His skill and ease as a host, combined with the warmth of his wife Ellen, was commented on by many visitors. He acted as a magnet for scholars from all over the world.' In Lord Dahrendorf's own report on the ten years he spent in the College, he wrote: 'I have never had the slightest doubt that my priority was to increase the range of activities at St. Antony's, to draw in more academics as well as members who would not emerge from the 'normal' faculty process, to increase the number of countries studied and represented, to establish relations with private and public bodies both nationally and internationally.'

Dahrendorf was always keen to involve the College in international activity, and in particular in European debates. One of his most successful ventures in this respect was the Pontignano Conference he established in 1993 in partnership with the University of Siena. Held annually in the beautiful surroundings of a former monastery a few miles from Siena, the conference was a meeting between politicians, academics, business people and journalists. It established itself within six years as a major Anglo-Italian political forum focussing on the future of Europe from an Anglo-Italian perspective.

When Dahrendorf took up office as Warden in October 1987 the University of Oxford had recently undergone severe retrenchment in staffing. Universities throughout the country were cutting recruitment. It was expected that in this climate the St. Antony's Fellowship would also shrink. But well before he retired, Dahrendorf could point to an expanded and rejuvenated Governing Body; more than half its members had been appointed since his own election. The fact that Dahrendorf took care to play a role in the University's administration also redounded to the College's benefit; he was a respected member of the Hebdomadal Council from 1988 until his retirement. Although financial restraints made it difficult to increase the number of buildings within the College grounds, in 1991 the erection of the Nissan Institute for Japanese Studies not only created an admirable physical base for the study of modern Japan, it also provided the College with a much-needed modern lecture room. Dahrendorf also planned to build another large building to house more students within the College grounds and to provide more seminar rooms. Although it was not possible to implement these plans at that time owing to financial constraints, the Founder's Building, was subsequently constructed under Dahrendorf's successor and has proved a great success.

All this intensive College activity did not prevent Ralf Dahrendorf from pursuing his academic interests. He demonstrated his skills as an historian with *LSE: a history of the London School of Economics and Political Science*, published by Oxford University Press in 1995. He also continued to publish important books and articles defending individual freedom and civil society against populist egalitarianism. In 1988 he was awarded the Toynbee Prize, and in 1992 the Agnelli prize.

After the collapse of Soviet domination east of the Elbe, he was determined to support the establishment of a genuinely liberal political culture in an area he regarded as belonging to Western Europe. It was symptomatic that he firmly renamed the College's West European Studies Centre as the 'European Studies Centre', thus signalling the end of the Cold War division of Europe.

His concern for the freedom of Europeans under Soviet control had already been made manifest in his commitment to the Central and East European Publishing Project (CEEPP), designed to further independent central and east European publishing and translations from books and journals written in the languages of that region. Dahrendorf was himself a trustee of the Ford Foundation – one of several Foundations willing to support the project - and he chaired the international committee which set CEEPP up in March 1986. For the next eight years the project encouraged what Dahrendorf referred to as a 'common market of the mind' in Europe. This meant 'a marketplace in the old liberal sense, the place where ideas were exchanged, and where by their exchange they generate new ideas'. Initially this was an enterprise fraught with hazards. Subsidies to culturally worthy publications – whether underground or tolerated by the communist regimes – often had to be smuggled to their recipients in CEEPP members' luggage. Once the Iron Curtain had collapsed in 1989/90, CEEPP was instrumental in providing funds and expertise for the new generation of liberated intellectuals, who found themselves faced with unfamiliar problems in a commercial world of which they had little experience.

Last but not least, Dahrendorf began to play a much more prominent role in British politics. He had already been an honorary KBE in 1982, and in 1988 he took British nationality, thus enabling him to become Sir Ralf Dahrendorf. In 1993 he was appointed to the House of Lords and showed his commitment to the liberal cause by taking the Liberal Democrat Whip. During his period at St. Antony's he was an important figure in Liberal Democrat circles, even if he later decided to become a cross-bencher. He became Chairman of the Select Committee of the European Communities in the House of Lords.

Ralf Dahrendorf was born in Hamburg on 1 May 1929, the son of a prominent Social Democrat, Gustav Dahrendorf. Shortly thereafter, Gustav and his family moved to Berlin. In July 1943 all four of Ralf's grandparents perished in British air raids on Hamburg. His father was arrested in 1944 on suspicion of involvement in the plot to kill Hitler, and Ralf himself was sent to a concentration camp near Berlin for participating in a discussion group organised by an anti-Nazi teacher. The advance of the Red Army enabled him to regain his freedom. His father at first was inclined to work with the Soviet administration but soon changed his mind and was able, with British help, to get himself and his family flown to safety in Hamburg. Once there, Ralf got to know leading officials in the British Control Commission, including Noel Annan and Robert Birley. In 1947 he began to study philosophy and classics at Hamburg University and completed his doctoral dissertation at the age of twenty-two. In 1952 he arrived in the Sociology Department at the London School of Economics, where he completed a Ph.D. on the nature of the unskilled labour force, marking a shift in his interests from philosophy to sociology.

He made rapid progress in German academic life and, after professorships in Hamburg and Tübingen, he was involved in the foundation of the new University of Konstanz. This was an attempt to re-import the principles of Wilhelm von Humboldt into German universities from the USA, where it was thought that they informed American Graduate Schools. Ralf Dahrendorf was himself an admirer of American graduate schools and remained so throughout his career. Early in 1966 he was commissioned by the government of Baden-Württemberg to draw up a comprehensive plan for Universities in that state. In March 1966 he was elected one of the first seven professors of the new University of Konstanz, and retained the right to return to this post, despite the fact that had become an active politician in the Free Democratic Party. He was elected to the State legislature of Baden-Württemberg and then to the Federal Parliament, the Bundestag. With the victory of the Social/Liberal coalition in the autumn of 1969 he began a career that would lead him to Bonn, Brussels, London and eventually to Oxford.

By the time Lord Dahrendorf retired from St. Antony's it was recorded that he had twenty-three honorary doctorates, awarded by universities in Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium, Italy, Malta, Israel, Canada, the USA and Argentina. Seven countries, including Britain and Germany, had bestowed high honours upon him. His obituary in *The Times* noted that he would be remembered, on the one hand, as an internationally renowned thinker whose achievements were recognised by decorations and honorary degrees from a great number of countries, and on the other as a 'German-turned-Briton' whose contributions to British thinking on social affairs, as a BBC Reith Lecturer, television commentator and parliamentarian, were 'arguably greater than those of any German since Bismarck's ideas shaped the social policy of Lloyd George.' The comparison with Bismarck is perhaps unfortunate, since Ralf Dahrendorf's view of society was quite different from that of the Iron Chancellor, but the claims made for his benevolent impact on his adopted country are unquestionably justified. In St. Antony's we remember him as a splendid Warden and a kindly, decent man with whom it was a privilege to work.

Ralf Dahrendorf died on 17 June 2009. Our condolences go to his third wife, Christiane, and his family.

**A.J Nicholls**

**Nigel Greenwood** (5 April 1945 – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2009) Research Student

Nigel Greenwood, who died on June 13<sup>th</sup>, studied for a BPhil in Agricultural Economics at St Antony's College Oxford, having taken a first in Oriental Languages at New College, studying Persian and Turkish. After a spell at the British Museum as assistant keeper in the Oriental Books department he worked for CRU, a firm forecasting and analysing trends in the world's metal markets, before being recruited by Huntings. He worked on a national cropping plan for Iran and during this time he married Eve in 1974. They lived in Tehran, leaving just before the revolution. He was to continue in Agricultural Economics with Huntings, interpreting satellite images in London where their daughter Barbara Chloe was born. There followed a degree in Statistics at Birkbeck College and Nigel began another career as a statistician.

Nigel Desmond Spencer Greenwood was born in London to Erik, a distinguished veteran of the SOE in wartime Yugoslavia, and Catherine, his Canadian mother. He first went to school in Canada but when the family moved to India in 1955 he was sent to Beaudesert Park School from where he went on to Winchester College. Before taking a Trevelyan Scholarship at New College, Oxford, he spent a term studying Sanskrit at university in Geneva, where his parents then lived; then worked in a bookshop in Copenhagen, and finally took a job as a waiter on Skyros in Greece. Whilst studying at New College he spent six months in Tehran teaching English and a further six months on a farm in Turkey.

True to his lifelong fascination for and fluency in languages and phonetics, Nigel mastered very many during his life, and latterly was studying Japanese. He enjoyed a worldwide fellowship of like-minded enthusiasts on the internet and contributed to Wikipedia, as well as becoming an expert on such erudite subjects as the cross conversion of the Pinyin system of writing Mandarin Chinese to its elegant romantization 'Gwoyeu Romatzyh', even providing a software tool for the task. His humour and modesty, combined with a profound knowledge of language and phonetics is reflected in his countless language logs on the internet where he was highly regarded as a remarkable polyglot, a term he would consider risible.

Nigel took up gliding aged 53 and was immediately exhilarated by the whole experience, making many friends at his Cotswold Gliding Club. He combined this love of gliding with spending time with his father in Cirencester.

He was killed in a freak gliding accident close to Edgehill on June 13<sup>th</sup>. He is survived by his wife Eve, daughter Barbara Chloe and his sister Daphne Biggs.

**Robert Graham**

The College regrets to report the deaths of the following members notified during the period covered by this *Record*.

**Dr John Campbell** Emeritus Fellow 1990-2009; **Sir Edwin Bolland** Visiting Fellow 1971-1972; **Dr Noah Lucas** SAM at various dates between 1976 & 1995; **Dr Hiroshi Shimizu** student 1979-1984.