

## **THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE OF 2005-2006**

It is my pleasure to once again present the President's report on behalf of the Committee of 2005-2006 on our various pursuits and undertakings, in our attempt to cater to the diverse preferences and enjoyment of the members of The Oxford & Cambridge Society of Malaysia. At the outset, I must say it has been an eventful year, laced with both sadness and also much fun and cause for celebration.

The Oxford and Cambridge community in Malaysia was deeply grieved to learn of the sudden passing of Dr. Liew Boon-Horng in a tragic mishap on 30th December 2005. The late Dr Liew rowed in the Cambridge team in the 2005 Malaysian Boat Race and we honoured his memory by observing a minute of silence at the start of this year's Boat Race.

Chook Yuh Yng repeated her sterling organization of this year's Malaysian Boat Race. With the kind sponsorship by Deloitte, our Dark & Light Blues battled in style at the scenic Sunway Lagoon on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006. It is with great regret that Cambridge lost once again to Oxford, especially when it did seem at the last leg of the relay race that Cambridge was leading.

In celebration of the annual Boat Race, the Committee organized 'The Oxford and Cambridge Gala Boat Race Ball 2006' at the Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel, attended by some 150 members and guests. This year's ball was distinctive as we had the patronage of a number of other alumni groups, including the Harvard Club of Malaysia and the Malaysian Australian Alumni Council, officially in attendance.

We engaged the younger members-to-be and attempted a junior level Debate with the current Oxbridge students when they returned to Malaysia for the summer holidays of 2005. In appreciation of the young scholars' valiant attempts at the Impromptu Parliamentary-style Debate, the President hosted a garden party in their honour in Sierramas, to which members of the Society were also invited.

We welcomed a number of visitors over the span of the year. The Hon. Michael Beloff, Q.C., President of Trinity College (Oxford), invited members of the Society to a reception in January 2006 at the Bankers Club and spoke on the latest developments at both Oxford and Cambridge. H.E. Bruce Cleghorn hosted a Dinner and Talk on "Humour and the Law" by Lord Justice, Sir David Neuberger, in the British High Commissioner's residence

in February. In March, the Society organized a reception to welcome and listen to the tales of the 5 surviving members of the Oxford & Cambridge First Overland Expedition, who were here to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their epic adventure across sixteen countries in three continents, where at times it seemed there were "just too many rivers and too few roads" (Nigel Blundell of The Sunday Express).

Our members were invited to numerous Talks, in conjunction with Sunway University College, by prominent speakers, including illustrious Oxbridge alumni, Professors Wang Gung Wu and Michael Furmston, three distinguished Professors from the Harvard Business School and the Sterling Group of Lecturers from the UK.

Informal social events dotted the calendar throughout the year. Sharon Saw continued organizing the popular series of Monthly Informal Get-togethers, which provided new and older members the opportunity to meet over drinks, lunches or dinners every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. John Zinkin also organized a Networking Dinner & Talk on "The Security outlook in Asia Pacific" by Dato' Jawhar Hassan, with the British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (BMCC) and hosted the VP (Oxford) Dinner just Tuesday past.

For the younger members and fresh graduates, there was the opportunity to attend a recruitment drive by Bain & Co.

Following the successes of the previous 3 English Language Events as a public service to encourage, promote and enhance the use of the English Language in schools, we will be having our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual English Language Event, chaired by Margaret Hall, tomorrow. As in previous years, our member Speakers will be reaching out to as many as one thousand 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> formers from the Malaysian secondary schools, who will come to listen to our alumni talk on how to improve their Speaking and Writing Skills and encourage them to aim for Oxford and Cambridge entry. We will hold our 5<sup>th</sup> Oxford and Cambridge Essay Competition at the same event and our members who have volunteered will form the panel of Oxbridge judges deciding on the best English Language essay/s written tomorrow.

On a sad note, we are bidding farewell to H.E. Bruce Cleghorn, the British High Commissioner, who is retiring from the British Foreign Service and will be returning to the UK with his wife tomorrow. We wish to formally record our gratitude to H.E. Bruce Cleghorn and his lovely wife, Mrs Sally Cleghorn, who have opened not just their home but also their hearts to the members. Their contribution, support and friendship to the Society during the High Commissioner's 4.5 years in Malaysia have been simply stupendous and the Committee has undertaken a purchase of two books of their choice, as a farewell cum 'thank you' gift to the Cleghorns from the

members of The Oxford & Cambridge Society of Malaysia. Bruce and Sally will settle in Cambridge upon their return home.

I wish to take this opportunity to also render my earnest gratitude to each and every member of our Committee for 2005-2006, who have voluntarily given much of their personal time, talents and resources of all kinds to serve the Society. They are Vice-Presidents Dr John Zinkin for Oxford and Tan Sri Abdullah Ahmad for Cambridge, Hon. Secretary Wong Pooi Lam, Hon. Treasurer Dr Gue See Sew, Committee members H.E. Bruce Cleghorn, Datin Shalini Ganendra, Sharon Saw & Chook Yuh Yng, representing Cambridge, and Rizal Kahar, Margaret Hall, Azlan Aziz and Mark Disney representing Oxford, and not forgetting our Hon. Auditor Rahman Ahmad.

I know that my Committee will want me to also thank the members of the Oxford & Cambridge Society of Malaysia, for your support and attendance at our events organized. It remains a pleasure serving the Society and we look forward to working with our members to enhance the standing of this our Society in the society at large. As such, we have a plan and proposal to this general meeting to establish an Education Fund or Trust.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Lee  
President

## THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2005-2006

- July 27, '05 4th Wednesday Lunch, Coconut House, KL
- Aug 24, '05 4th Wednesday Lunch, Moussandra, KL
- Sept 10, '05 President's Garden Party at the President's Residence, Sierramas
- Sept 14, '05 Cornell Club Dinner Talk: East Asian Financial Market, KLGCC
- Sept 28, '05 4th Wednesday Dinner, Entre Parenthese, KL
- Oct 26, '05 4th Wednesday Buka Puasa at Tamarind Springs, Ampang
- Nov 23, '05 4th Wednesday Lunch at Ozeki, KL
- Dec 28, '05 4th Wednesday Drinks/Snacks at Oasis, Bangsar
- Jan 9, '06 President of Trinity College (Oxford) Reception, Bankers Club, KL
- Jan 20, '06 Cornell Club Invitation to Annual Reunion Dinner, Shah Alam
- Jan 25, '06 4th Wednesday Lunch: Sentidos Tapas, Starhill Feast Village, KL
- Feb 15, '06 Talk by Prof Wang Gung Wu: "Understanding China's Present Economic Transformation", Sunway University College invitation
- Feb 17, '06 Dinner Talk: Sir David Neuberger on "Humor in the Law", British High Commissioner's Residence, KL
- Feb 22, '06 4th Weds Lunch: Maredo's Steakhouse, KL
- Feb 22, '06 Bain Southeast Asia Recruitment Reception, Bankers Club, KL
- Mar 2, '06 50th Anniversary of the Oxford & Cambridge First Overland Expedition – Kuala Lumpur Reception, Bankers Club, KL
- Mar 10, '06 50th Anniversary of the Oxford & Cambridge First Overland Expedition Talk and Video, Sunway UC
- Mar 22-24 Annual Sterling Lectures 2006, Sunway University College Invitation

- Mar 22, '06 4th Wednesday Dinner, Domain Cafe, PJ
- Mar 25-26 Boat Race Practice, Taman Tasik Titiwangsa Boat House
- April 2, '06 The Oxbridge Malaysia Boat Race 2006, Sunway Lagoon Theme Park
- April 7, '06 The Oxbridge Malaysia Gala Boat Race Ball, Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel, KL
- April 25, '06 Oxbridge & BMCC Networking Dinner and Talk, Crowne Plaza Mutiara Hotel, KL
- April 26, '06 4th Wednesday Lunch at San Francisco Steakhouse, KLCC, KL
- May 9, '06 Talk by Prof Nabil El-Hage: "What we teach you at the Harvard Business School", Sunway University College invitation
- May 10, '06 Talk by Prof Michael Furmston: "Contract Planning and Remedies for Breach of Contract", Sunway University College invitation
- May 11, '06 Talk by Prof Michael J Roberts: "What is Required of an Entrepreneur", Sunway University College invitation
- May 24, '06 Talk by Prof James K. Sebenius: "Why Skill to Negotiate is so Important", Sunway University College invitation
- May 24, '06 4th Wednesday Lunch at Cava, Bangsar, KL
- June 13 '06 Cornell Club invitation to Dinner Talk by YB Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar on Malaysia-Singapore relations, KLGCC, 8pm
- June 20, '06 Vice-President (Oxon)'s Reception, Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant (Level 10), Crown Princess Hotel, KL
- June 23, '06 AGM and President's Cocktail, Bankers Club, KL,
- June 24, '06 Oxford & Cambridge English Language Event 2006, Sunway University College
- June 28, '06 4th Wednesday Dinner at Cafe Cafe, KL