

Harvard-Cambridge

Spring 2020
hcscholarships@gmail.com

Scholarships

2019-2020 H-C Scholars Report from Cambridge

Black Holes and Evensong

by **Elba Alonso-Monsalve**,
Lt. Charles H. Fiske III Scholar (Trinity)

From studying Chinese for the first time to using Stephen Hawking's toilet, this year has been full of unexpected adventures. It is a pity that it has been cut short by Covid-19, although I can't really complain, since I'm lucky to be safe at home in Madrid now, with my family. Overall, I'm just thankful that I got to experience five months of life in Cambridge!

Physics and music have filled my days with joy for many years now. Luckily, they continued to do so in the UK. As a MAST student in theoretical physics ("Part III Maths" at DAMTP), I've finally been able to study topics that have always fascinated me – the ones you read about in Brian

Greene or Stephen Hawking's books. Challenging courses like "string theory," "supersymmetry," "black holes," or "holography" have helped me figure out what topics I would like to research during my PhD, especially through fun afternoons struggling on homeworks with friends from all over the world at the Center for Mathematical Sciences (the CMS), and exciting conversations over lunch (if we managed to escape the event horizon of the extremely fast-paced black holes class by 1 pm!).

Throughout Michaelmas term I also sang soprano in the Trinity College Choir. I spent ten hours per week in the beautiful chapel, singing Evensong on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday – a delightful way to unwind and reflect, regardless of faith, while making music with friends. It has been an unparalleled musical opportunity (I was even assigned a solo on Remembrance Sunday!) and it gave me the chance to make friends with British undergraduates... and visit pubs (especially the Mitre and the Maypole). They say Brits are reserved, but I couldn't disagree more: a couple of pints – and possibly a penny or two – is all it takes for someone to tell you all their life story.

But perhaps the most exciting experiences I've lived in Cambridge are the ones that I could not have foreseen. My massive room was so big and cozy (and

did I say big?) that it became the default meeting place for many friends at Trinity. I kept the cupboard in my living room well stocked with various types of dark chocolate, which I had to replenish often, and anyone in need of a chat could come over for a sweet snack and hours of conversation. A handful of my closest friends also visited weekly for our "Poetry Night" (which then morphed into a more general "Art Night"), where we shared poems/art that have had an impact on us, big or small. We gave new voice to Allen Ginsberg and Kahlil Gibran, to Tracy K. Smith and Dante; prose we liked, things we've written... We translated poems from our mother tongues and had a hilarious dramatic reading of the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, admired Yves Klein's bluest blue, watched new wave musical performances, even played improv games... And, of course, we ate absurd amounts of chocolate.

I could go on forever: I took seven trips to London to visit museums and art galleries, photograph the streets, or meet up with college friends. I took a weekly Mandarin class at the University Language Centre (on Trinity's dime!) and even practiced my new skills in a couple of restaurants. I received visits from my mom and brother, who luckily were able to get a glimpse of my life at Cambridge before I had to leave. It is unfortunate that I won't get to enjoy the spring and summer weather and take the famous walk to Grantchester, study on the grass at the CMS, travel more around the UK... but I still can't believe I got to live in a beautiful castle whose hallways Newton roamed and where Lord Byron actually did keep a bear. I hope to be able to visit one more time, before I move back to the US next fall for my PhD, to collect a few remaining belongings from my room and say proper goodbyes and see-you-laters to dear friends.

What's Inside

- 4** A Letter from the Chair
- 5** Distinguished H-C Alum Mark Hoffman
- 6** Distinguished H-C Alum Lewis B. Kade
- 7** Summer Scholars Summary
- 8** News & Events

continued on page 2



Jared Perlo,
Madeleine Woods,
Mahnoor Ali and
Elba Alonso-Monsalve

2019-2020 H-C Scholars Report from Cambridge

continued from front cover

Wonderful and Bizarre

by **Jared Perlo**, John Eliot Scholar (Jesus)

Wonderful and bizarre – that’s how I’d describe this year. I remember landing in Heathrow and being immediately overwhelmed. This was a new country, a new life, and the first time I’d be significantly away from home, since I grew up near Boston. In many ways, I think I felt as most people do when they first go away for college. I was scared to walk around Cambridge, and very aware of the fact that I sounded different. It was unsettling. But it’s refreshing to be unsettled. I’ve tried to continue being unsettled throughout the course of the year – succeeding in some respects and not in others. I wasn’t sure whether to bring my trombone, but now music has formed the backbone of my Cantabrigian experience. I play in two jazz bands, one funk band, my college orchestra, theatrical pit bands, and whatever else needs a stray trombonist. I’ve always wanted to get involved in stand-up comedy, so I made my debut in February. I joined my college’s volleyball team, and even convinced one of my friends to let me row (once...and I only almost got jettisoned out of the boat by a stray oar). My course is fantastic, but it’s been so difficult to try to balance a thriving social life, replete with Cambridge’s near-unlimited number of pubs, with academic work. Until recently, social life won. For example, I vividly don’t remember my college’s big Christmas dinner.



Throughout college, my tendency to live in the moment was a tricky balance to strike. In Cambridge, I haven’t really knocked the habit. But it’s hard to largely disregard academic pressure when you’re at one of the world’s best universities. So as best I could I decided to spend time making friends and enjoying the English autumn rather than being cooped up in

a library for first term. This resulted in lots of walks along the Cam up to Fen Ditton and down to Grantchester, being elected to the Jesus College Council as the Graduate Representative, and perhaps most excitingly, joining the Cambridgeshire Caledonian Pipe Band. My most successful rebellion consisted of turning in one essay five days late. Other highlights: visiting a Harvard friend at her home in St. Andrews in Scotland, many day trips to London to see West End shows, a spontaneous 12-hour history-themed pub crawl across London, running the Cambridge Half Marathon (my first race ever), visiting another friend in Lisbon for Christmas, celebrating Hanukkah by cooking dinner for 30 non-Jewish friends, and playing tennis in Jesus.

Due to the pandemic, Cambridge is now empty. It’s a ghost town, and in more ways than one. Walking around at 2 am, ruminating about the meaning of life next to Newton’s apple tree, it was hard for me not to feel and imagine the presence of students from 500 years ago. Nowadays, I’m one of the few things still drawing breath in town. Of course, Sainsbury’s is as welcoming as ever, but otherwise Cambridge is probably the quietest it’s been in the last few centuries – an eerie thought.

Bizarrely, the pandemic has given me the time and space to both dive into my academic work and to consider what comes next. At Harvard, I got so wrapped up in fun, friends, and learning that the end snuck up on me, and I had more than a few moments of existential panic when I realized I didn’t know what I wanted to do with my life. I’ve largely fallen back into old habits this year. The constant knowledge that this amazing fellowship year is so short undoubtedly pushed me toward my baseline ‘live in the moment’ attitude. Looking back, I’m glad I socialized as much as I did. In the end, though, I think this year has allowed me to come closer to knowing what excites me and which people are ‘my people.’

All of which is to say: I’m still looking, but at least I think I have a better idea of what I’m looking for. Love, laughter, hiking outside, and a job. If anyone is hiring, please let me know (given the current job crunch, that’s less ironic than it should be). Thank you for this incredible experience, and much love to the Harvard-Cambridge family!

A Book and a Promise

by **Madeleine Woods**, Lionel de Jersey Harvard Scholar (Emmanuel)

In the second trimester at Cambridge, I found a book in the Harvard-de-Jersey room. It was peculiar I hadn’t found it until then, as I’d scoured the room with friends for secret notes and other oddities the first week of Michaelmas. We’d come away with poetry left in final club beer steins, a wooden stake hidden in the paneling, and a love letter tucked into a fraying copy of *Jane Eyre* – but not the book I’d found on a gloomy January morning.

I’d been laying on the pine floors, humming out Latin verb declensions with a desperation that only a person studying in a dead and archaic languages department could understand.

– bam, bas, bat, bamus, batis... book?

My head lolled to the side, pillowed by my hair – a color of gold which had been the closest thing I’d gotten to sunlight in months. Lit in the light bouncing from storm clouds to my splayed strands to the corner of one of the bookshelves, was an oblong book. The dimensions were just so that it looked almost part of the bookshelf’s panel. I could just make out the marbled blue fabric cover and leather binding.

Rolling onto my knees, I crept forward and eased the book out. It flipped open to a page with a dinner menu and program from a Harvard-UK dinner that took place over 50 years ago. That was one of the more recent entries. The first entry was the minutes from the “informal formal Harvard Club of Cambridge” – dated to just after the war, written in impeccable



penmanship, detailing a meeting with the College Master over much brandy. As usual, not much in Cambridge had changed.

The rest of the entries covered the annual Harvard-UK dinner the scholars presided over, with one detailing of a pancake brunch that included signatures of participants varying from fingerprints to nose prints. I realized that this must be “the book” scholars were meant to write in after the annual dinner.

I’d assumed “the book” referenced in notes from alumni had been the guest book, as the current copy was filled with entries and short descriptions of the Harvard-UK dinner. However, I now realized that the guest books were not “the” book at all – this was. Tucked away, dust-covered, and largely forgotten. The last entry had been in 1984.

I beamed at the charter book with historian-satisfaction. It felt like a reclaiming, a discovery of the one-true-book, the one-book-to-rule-them-all. Over the next few months, I filled the book with mock entries of meetings with friends, artwork, and (an actual!) meeting of one of Emmanuel College’s secret societies. I was the first woman to attend in years. By the end of it, I was being called Maid Marion, had adjusted their society jargon to reflect actual Old and Middle English (which became

increasingly easier the more cider we had), and capped the charter book entry with the drawing of a bow and arrow.

The last entry I made was a promise.

Sitting in the room, March 15th, bags packed.

I drew a macabre image, echoing the plague art of the 1500s, and wrote two lines:

– *evacuated, CORONAVIRUS 2020*

The first line felt like a heartbreak, and in a flash moment, I followed it up with an oath, an intention, maybe even a prayer:

– *I’ll be back by summer*

With that, I slipped the book back into the nook where I’d found it and headed out the door to an abandoned and empty Old Court to gather the last of my things.

A few days following my flight from Emmanuel, the University made its final call. Easter Term had been canceled and with it the Harvard UK dinner, May Balls, and all other final rites.

But I hold onto that promise, as I feel my time at Cambridge isn’t over just yet. Come hell or high water, I’ll be back. I’ll be back.

Communing with Ghosts and Writers

by **Mahnoor Ali**, Governor William Shirley Scholar (Pembroke)

After coming to Cambridge, I didn’t buy (or check out) a book that I didn’t read. Given there are almost as many bookstores and libraries in Cambridge as there are pubs, this means I amassed quite a number of books. But actually reading each one was a simple and extraordinary experience – one that helped deconstruct my understanding of the academic and literary canon while simultaneously enabling me to imagine myself within it.

At Cambridge, I paused more often when I read, fixated on a sentence, rolled it over in my mind, allowed myself a few moments to let the words linger, break down, and realign. I spent more time scribbling in the margins, sometimes squeezing whole paragraphs in the space of the one-inch-verticals. Perhaps the greatest gift Cambridge gave me was time – to read and to remember why I love reading. In fact, while many ancient Cambridge traditions felt new to me and while my conversations with lively Pembroke grads were unlike any others, my time at Cambridge functioned less as an introduction and more as a series of rediscoveries.

Interests and passions that had fallen to the wayside during the tumult of my undergraduate experience reemerged. Not only did I read more, and more deeply, I spent much of my free time writing creatively. I remember hearing that writing is a communion with the ghosts of other writers, probably ghosts in general. And, Cambridge is full of ghosts and writers. I also conversed more about writing. While eating in Pembroke hall, studying in the Grad Café (my favorite campus spot), chatting in the ever-reliable Fitzbillies, and walking along the Backs, I had long, meandering talks with people who have the same fears and questions:

What does it mean to tell stories that aren’t yours? Is it eavesdropping or research? Is fiction always also autobiography?

Cambridge also provided me with more formal opportunities to grow as a writer. One of my short stories was recently selected for a live-edit during a National Academy of Writing Masterclass hosted by Pembroke. It was a thrilling experience. Every day at Cambridge, I felt a little more courageous, bolstered by the energy of the place.

Outside the English Faculty, my friends and I treasured Thursday nights, alternating between Pembroke’s weekly all-grads formal dinner in the delightful Old Library and the Alma’s quiz night, where my limited knowledge of all things British and my (embarrassingly) expansive knowledge of American popular culture made me both a liability and an asset. Other evenings were spent watching films in the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse. I tried mince pie and sang Christmas carols, both of which were

Community: *A Letter from the Chair*



Governance Committee 2019-2020

John Gilmore
Trinity '71

Scott Mead
Emmanuel '77

Marc Granetz
Emmanuel '79

Vincent Li
Trinity '88

Elisabeth Reynolds
Trinity '90

Sarah Russell
Trinity '00

Joshua Goodman
Jesus '01

Ryan Ripple
Pembroke '06

Moir Weigel
Emmanuel '08

Jonathan Weigel
Pembroke '10

James Pelletier
Pembroke '12

Abigail Modaff
Emmanuel '13

The February morning on which 18 of us interviewed this year's scholarship finalists seems like a distant memory now. That day, we mingled in large groups, talked in small rooms, shook hands with each other, and hugged when we recognized a friend we hadn't seen in years. None of that is possible now and none of us knows when it will next be possible. I write this letter from my bedroom, which has been transformed into a poor excuse for a home office and an occasional home-schooling location for my three children. My family has been lucky in health and employment. Many others have not been so lucky. What does this mean for our scholarship?

Let me start with upbeat news. First, our selection process yielded a good number of applications, from which indefatigable Selection Committee Chair Abbie Modaff (Emmanuel, 2012-13) and others identified a compelling pool of finalists. The four scholars we ultimately chose are extraordinarily diverse in their academic skills, personal interests, career plans and personalities, but uniformly impressive along all those dimensions. It was, as it is every year, a delight to meet them and a thrill to think about continuing to talk with them in future years.

Second, the state of the scholarship is strong. Our finances, ably overseen by Treasurer Ryan Rippel (Pembroke, 2005-06), have been prudently managed to help us weather the economic shocks brought on by recent events. Our newsletter, meticulously compiled by now London resident Jonathan Weigel (Pembroke, 2009-10), continues to keep our far-flung community connected. Our February dinner at Benedetto in Cambridge, superbly organized by Vince Li (Trinity, 1987-88), was extremely well-attended by locals and those helping with final selection interviews.

Third, our Governance Committee continues to be refreshed with new members, including Charles Gertler (Jesus, 2013-14) and Chenzi Xu (Pembroke, 2012-13), whose energy and skills we're excited to have. I've stepped into the role of Chair, taking over from Marc Granetz (Emmanuel, 1978-79), who deserves huge accolades for his thoughtful stewardship of the scholarships over the past years (and for negotiating free iced tea from the Charles Hotel every year!). Marc is stepping down from the Governance Committee, as is John Gilmore (Trinity, 1970-71), one of our longest-serving members. John too deserves our deepest gratitude for supporting the scholarships in numerous ways, including but not limited to coordination of our summer scholars program and the hosting of an annual dinner for new and old scholars at his Cambridge home. Sarah Russell (Trinity, 1999-2000) has also decided to step down after years of helping read applications as part of the selection process. Thank you to Marc, John and Sarah!

Now the tough news. Our four recently selected scholars do not know when they will be allowed to travel to Cambridge. We have vowed to support them in whatever way they can, including doing some of their studies remotely at first. We hope to give them a year of magic at Cambridge. What portion of that they will experience is still quite unclear. Our summer scholars program has been cancelled for this year. Our 100th anniversary dinner, originally planned for spring/summer 2021, will almost certainly be postponed until 2022.

All of that said, these are not the worst challenges anyone in the world is facing right now. We all do best when supported by our community of family and friends. I'm grateful for the community this scholarship has given me. I hope it has done the same for you. If you've kept in touch with each other or our Governance Committee, that's wonderful. If you'd like to be more connected or involved in any capacity, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via e-mail (jgoodman100@gmail.com). It's hard to keep a far-flung group like ours connected but, now more than ever, we want to try.

Joshua Goodman
May 2020

Distinguished H-C Alums

One adventure after another...

Mark Hoffman ('59, MBA '63)

Ask Mark Hoffman why he did any one of the things that have filled his unusually vivid and peripatetic life and he has a simple answer: "It was an adventure!" Certainly "adventure" describes Hoffman's early experiences at Harvard, where he was something of a rarity from the outset: not yet 17 years old when he arrived, on full scholarship, in 1955 and one of only a very few students to hail from the Deep South. Not that Hoffman's hometown



of Oxford, Mississippi lacked distinction, it boasted the state's public university, "Ole Miss," and a famous resident, William Faulkner, who was known to read ghost stories to Hoffman and other neighborhood children at Halloween.

Winning the Fiske scholarship to study at Trinity College opened the door to new adventures. Though Hoffman knew that the Fiske (in contrast to the Lionel de Jersey, the only other scholarship offered at that time) provided merely a small stipend, he went anyway – on borrowed funds. But he later made it his personal mission to remedy this shortcoming, spearheading a committee of H-C alums to raise funds that laid the foundation for eventually expanding the H-C program to four fully supported scholarships.

Hoffman spent two "life changing" years at Trinity, from 1959 to 1961, pursuing a newfound interest in international finance and economics, learning to love travel, and forging many lasting friendships. After backpacking around the world with good friend and fellow H-C scholar Mike Christian, he returned to Harvard, earning an MBA from the Business School in 1963. Hoffman's next foray, as an MIT fellow, was to East Africa. There, despite being only in his mid-20s, he served as acting chief financial officer for the East African Common Services Organization, which administered key functions and services (including revenue management as well as postal, telecommunications, and rail and port systems) for the fledgling post-colonial governments of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

After Africa, Hoffman's path took another unexpected turn: Instead of heading to Wall Street, he went to Washington DC, where he met his wife M.J. and worked for the private equity arm of the World Bank – one of a staff of about 20 charged with overseeing investments worldwide (Hoffman was personally assigned Europe, the Caribbean, and Mexico). The next time he moved it was with his young family, to take a position in London with Hambros, a merchant bank that played a large

role in setting up the new Euromarket. In later years, Hoffman crossed and re-crossed the Pond, spending eight years in Toronto running Canada's largest retail food company before returning to England to open a new chapter in his career as a banking expert and international investor, and (just as important!) to access better educational opportunities for his three sons.

Extra activities and affiliations have always kept Hoffman busy too. As the chairman of United World Colleges for four years in the 1990s, Hoffman persuaded Nelson Mandela to serve as UWC president in 1995 and opened Mahindra College in Pune, India in 1997. He also served on numerous boards of directors, and is still on the board of Advent International, a major private equity firm with global investments that he helped found in 1984.

No profile of Mark Hoffman would be complete without noting his accomplishments in the sport of rowing. What began as a casual visit to the boat house with his freshman roommate led to a place in the Harvard Athletics Hall of Fame for captaining the lightweight crew team – one of the Crimson's "best ever" – to two Thames Cup victories in the Henley Royal Regatta. Hoffman's crew stardom continued at Cambridge, where, with friend Mike Christian, he helped score a major upset over Oxford in the Boat Race of 1961 (newspaper headlines at the time made note of "the boat with the two Americans").

Still rowing well

after his college years, Hoffman led a successful effort to rescue the Leander Club, England's oldest and most storied rowing organization, from the brink of financial insolvency; he also served, from 1989 to 1993, as the club's chairman, a rare honor for an American. In 1991, as the Berlin Wall came down, Hoffman saw an opportunity and recruited the famed East German rowing coach Jürgen Gröbler to join Leander. This audacious move paid off spectacularly, as Leander Club went on to amass more Olympic medals than any other private athletic organization, in any sport, from any country.

Now back in the U.S., Hoffman can say he's lived his motto: *Do things. Take risks. Make it better.* Coach Gröbler once told him, "Without you, Mark, ziss would not have happened!" For Mark Hoffman, words like those remain the best reward.



Mark Hoffman, second from right (facing cox); fellow H-C scholar Mike Christian is #7 behind him.

A life of service and distinction

Lewis B. Kaden ('63, LLB '67)



Arriving at Emmanuel College in the fall of 1963, Lew Kaden wasn't sure if he wanted to pursue a PhD in history or a career in law. Born to a middle-class family (his father ran a small trucking company) and raised in a small town in New Jersey, he had already taken a big leap to reach the first Cambridge, having applied to Harvard only at the suggestion of a family friend. But Kaden plunged in, just as he had as an undergraduate, taking advantage of the freedom the H-C scholarship afforded to attend interesting lectures, travel widely in Europe, make new connections, hone valuable debate and speaking skills, and play golf (briefly) for the Cambridge blue team in weather so bad sometimes you couldn't even see where the ball was supposed to go.

When the year was up, Kaden opted for law, graduating *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 1967. Nine years of service in government followed – working first for Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, from 1967 to 1968,

and later for the governor of New Jersey – before Kaden joined the faculty of Columbia Law School in 1976, where he taught and directed the university's Center for Law and Economics. In 1984, Kaden left Columbia to become a partner at the firm of Davis Polk & Wardwell, advising multiple boards of directors of large corporations and representing clients as diverse as Nelson Mandela and a caucus of Major League Baseball teams that included the New York Yankees, New York Mets, and Boston Red Sox.

The year 2005 saw yet another big transition, as Kaden accepted a position as vice chairman at Citigroup – a move that, among other challenges, entailed quickly learning how to manage 175,000 employees after being responsible for a much smaller staff for most of his career. Kaden stayed at Citigroup until April 2013, through a period that spanned the financial crisis and Great Recession and major shakeups in the company's organization and leadership.

Kaden's additional professional activities and affiliations, meanwhile, are truly too numerous to list. He served as director of Bethlehem Steel Corp for 10 years and as lead director for Arcelor Mittal for 12 years (Kaden is currently chairman of Arcelor Mittal USA). In addition, Kaden is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission, and has been a moderator of the Business-Labor Dialogue; he is a trustee of the Century Foundation and Human Rights First, and a member of the board of directors of the Center for a New American Security. Kaden currently chairs the board of directors of the Markle Foundation and the Advisory Council of the New York University Center on Human Rights and Business. Somehow Kaden has also found time to keep up with the H-C Scholarships program and has chaired both its selection and governance committees.

For all the accolades that have come with his impossibly varied and distinguished

career, Lew Kaden's proudest achievement, at age 77, remains his 38-year marriage to Ellen Oran. They met as young professors at Columbia Law School in 1978 – she was only the second woman to join the faculty there, after Ruth Bader Ginsberg – and went on to form a true power couple in every sense of the term. Ellen Kaden left academia to become only the second woman to serve as general counsel to a large corporation: CBS. She later held the same position at Campbell Soup for 17 years.

Today Kaden remains active and busy, not only with his many continuing board and trustee responsibilities, but with four children and six grandchildren. He and Ellen live in New York City, where they still delight in occasionally running into former Columbia Law students – some of whom, having taken a class from both of them, don't mind confiding that while Lew was fine, they still remember Ellen as the best law professor they ever had.

Bookshelf Item:

News from Moira Weigel (Emmanuel '07)



Weigel is publishing a new book – an edited collection of anonymous interviews with workers at all levels of the tech industry – as part of a series that the magazine she cofounded, *Logic*, is launching with Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux. The book, co-edited by Weigel and Ben Tarnoff, is titled *Voices from the Valley: Tech Workers Talk About What They Do – and How They Do It*. ([www.fsgoriginals.com/news/](http://www.fsgoriginals.com/news/logic-series-covers)
[logic-series-covers](http://www.fsgoriginals.com/news/logic-series-covers))

2019-2020 H-C Scholars Report from Cambridge

continued from page 3

unpleasant, the former for me, the latter for those who had to hear me. On a very cold night in December, my mates from Pembroke and I attended the carol service of Trinity's exceptional choir. The whole of the grand chapel was darkened, and a lone voice read from Genesis. Let there be light. Candle by candle, the chapel filled with light. It was beautiful. And poetic. *And so very Cambridge.*

Excursions into London were dreamy and exhilarating. I stayed a few memorable days at an Airbnb right on the periphery of Battersea Park, traversing the park every morning. I loved London at Christmastime – lights strung elegantly about the streets in Chelsea, Christmas markets on the river, the flurry of shoppers and tourists at Harrods, and the Lucian Freud self-portraits at the Royal Academy of Art.

After a trip to Edinburgh at the end of Lent term, the rhythm of the world moved quickly towards the frightening circumstances we all now face. I am currently safe at home, with family, finishing up an essay on affect and temporality in the works of Ocean Vuong. And while I'm grateful to be here, I've found that my dreams take me back to Cambridge almost every night. I didn't say goodbye properly when I left, but now I'm almost glad I didn't. I have too many friends to visit, May Balls to crash, and Chelsea Buns to eat. I know that I'll see Cambridge again, and in the meantime, I send it my love from California. ■

Summer Scholars Summary

Samuel Detmer '20 spent his summer working on Alzheimer's research at the Center for Misfolding Diseases, and learning critical skills – from microscale thermophoresis and plasmid transduction, to analyzing data and developing research proposals. But new and formative experiences didn't end at the lab: joining a local church; attending his first black-tie event; punting three



times (including once overnight!); visiting the lab of Watson and Crick; making new friends, and being introduced to such dietary novelties as digestives, barley water, and sausage rolls – all added up to an “amazing” experience.

Carmen Enrique '21 headed to Trinity with plans to pursue an independent project connecting classics and linguistics through the study of New World Latin. Though she had intended

to focus on a different text, Enrique ended up exploring Ovidian allusions and influences in *The Guadalupe*, a relatively less studied poem from Mexico. Not being required to submit a final paper or project was freeing, and Enrique found herself reading academic texts with new enthusiasm. She expects to talk about her “idyllic summer” for a long time.

Iris Feldman '20 found U.K. culture and the Cambridge style of teaching more different than she expected. At first the lack of guidance in her Comparative Literature tutorials was “disconcerting” but in the end she enjoyed choosing her own research direction. Feldman describes Cambridge as “what it looks like when a place thinks about thinking for a really really long time,” and where “everything seemed designed for the perfect long thinking walk or to be an idyllic reading bench.” She learned (a) she doesn't hate beer and (b) tea can be good, especially with clotted cream. Nature is going to “figure prominently” in Feldman's thesis and she wonders “if the incredible scenery and experience of the summer might have had something to do with that.”

For **Josh Mathews '21**, going to Cambridge was a childhood dream “come true.” It was also a first opportunity to work full-time in a research lab, the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research, where Mathews's research focused on enzymes involved in innate immunity and their role in the efficacy of drugs for anemia or kidney disease. Mathews expects to “miss most” conversing and laughing with other summer fellows around the Emma dining table. Exploring Cambridge (the “gift that kept on giving”); attending two stadium football matches; visiting Loch Lomond in Scotland; and finding community in two local churches – all helped Mathews navigate some challenges and experience his fellowship as a “tremendous” and “even life-changing” time.

Shreya Menon '20 was eager to explore different research environments when she joined the computation biology group in the Department of Genetics to study regions of the human genome associated with schizophrenia. Learning to use and troubleshoot new computational tools made for slow progress and intense frustration at times, but by the end of the summer Menon had been exposed to different aspects of genetics research and learned new terminology, methods, and findings. Cambridge itself was beautiful in the summer and Menon spent many afternoons and evenings walking its meadows and parks. Other highlights: forming true friendships with the other fellows and traveling throughout Europe including to London, Amsterdam, Paris, and Venice.

Tyler Moulton '20 spent his summer at the Institute of Astronomy, analyzing photometric time series data on young stellar objects in the Orion Complex. This “wonderfully enjoyable” and “incredibly formative” experience left him with a better sense of the eb-and-flow of working in a research group, and of the institutional



and political aspects of astrophysics, along with a valuable technical skillset. Closer to Earth, Moulton learned how to punt, played a bit of footie on the Trinity Sports Field, and regularly biked along the roads of Cambridgeshire.

He also traveled to the (unofficial) Transylvanian capital of Cluj-Napoca as well as to more expected destinations, such as Paris, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Ireland. He returned with a travel bug and a strong interest in pursuing a PhD in Europe.

Vanessa Ruales Navas '20 conducted research on the multiple traffic-lights nutritional labeling system at the Centre for Diet and Activity Research, which included interviewing key individuals from a Member of Parliament to a former head of the Food Standards Agency and the Director of Childhood Obesity at the Department of Health and Social Care. All summer, Navas was struck by the helpfulness and decorum of the people she met, and by the pleasure they took in simple acts, such as sitting on the grass. In Cambridge she learned she definitely wants to be part of evidence-based public health, and many other lessons – about herself, her desired lifestyle, and the things that make her happier.



William Weiter '20 grew to love his time abroad, despite an inauspicious start when he realized upon arriving in Cambridge that he had no place to spend his first night. His research at the Department of Applied Maths and Theoretical Physics involved numerical

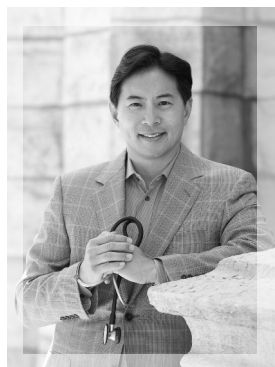
simulations to gain insight into theoretical predictions in soft-matter physics – in the process improving both his coding abilities and analytical skills. Other achievements of Weiter's summer: learning to love bangers, joining a local cycling club, and trips to London, Rome, and Barcelona.

Abigail Sage '21 is “immensely grateful” for the “nothing short of spectacular” work environment at the Gate Theatre in London, where she assisted with stage management, front of house operations, production, casting, and many other departments. Her “broad and all-encompassing” responsibilities over the course of the summer provided valuable insight that will doubtlessly prove “incredibly beneficial” in pursuing a theater career. It was a privilege to see an immense variety of groundbreaking theatre, “from the biggest theatres in the West End to the furthest corners of the London fringe scene” and it was always an “added thrill” to call the agent of an actor Sage had just seen on the West End the night before.

*Updates from and about
former H-C scholars*

H-C Scholar Vince Li (Trinity '87) reports from the front lines of COVID-19 research...

Dr. Li has been part of an international team of medical scientists conducting groundbreaking research that shows how COVID-19 not only inflames the lungs, but causes diseases through the body's blood vessels, leading to widespread blood clots and impaired oxygenation of tissues. The results of this work were recently published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.



To explore the highly unusual and unexpected ways that SARS-CoV-2 infects and damages blood vessels, Li and his team used a sophisticated battery of tissue, cellular, molecular, and genetic tests. With special 3D high resolution imaging they were able to detect the virus invading the cells that line blood vessels and document a unique response pattern of blood vessel growth and blood clots. Says Li, "There are many mysteries of the COVID pandemic. Why does the virus more easily infect some people and cause death, while others have a much milder form of the disease? Why do some patients walk around with 'silent but deadly hypoxemia'? And why does a respiratory virus cause clots in the brain and heart and lesions in the skin? Our research is shedding light on some of these mysteries."

In fact, Li's research suggests that while COVID-19 is thought of as a respiratory virus, in many ways it is a vascular disease. Li comments that it has been paradoxical to be both a 'first' and a 'last' responder, working to keep newly infected patients alive, while also conducting research using tissue from those who succumbed from COVID-19. "I'm hopeful that our research will provide a better handle on how to diagnose and treat this pandemic, which is unprecedented in modern human history."

- Pulmonary vascular endothelialitis, thrombosis, and angiogenesis in COVID-19. *New Engl J Med* 2020 (May 21, 2020)

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124 Mt. Auburn Street, 6th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02138

