



It is fitting that a university with traditions of great scholarship and enquiry should provide a primary focus for concern about mankind's future.

James Martin

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Dr James Martin (Keble College 1977), who has been called 'the Guru of the Information Age', is widely recognised as an authority on the social and commercial ramifications of computers and technology. He has written more than 100 textbooks, many of which were seminal works that changed perceptions in the information technology industry. In 1977 he received a Pulitzer Prize nomination for his book, *The Wired Society: A Challenge for Tomorrow*, based on his predictions and progressive views about technology. His most recent book, *The Meaning of the 21st Century: Transformation and Survival*, focuses on the rapidly worsening problems of the planet – and the practical actions that can be taken to alleviate them.

Dr Martin is Founder and Chairman Emeritus of Headstrong, a global consultancy that helps leading companies worldwide create real business value from digital technologies. *Computerworld*, in its 25th anniversary issue, ranked Dr Martin fourth among the 25 individuals who have most influenced the world of computer science.

The Sheldon Medal Presentation Ceremony for Dr James Martin

- 6.00 pm: Reception in the Sheldonian Theatre
- 6.30 pm: Public Orator to formally begin the proceedings
The Chancellor's Address
Presentation of the Sheldon Medal
Musical performances by Keble College Organ Scholar and members of Keble College Choir, led by Simon Whalley
- 7.30 pm: Dinner in Divinity School

As the pace of change around us becomes ever greater and higher education becomes increasingly global in its outlook, the support of our benefactors is essential if Oxford is to remain among the small number of truly great international universities.

The Chancellor, The Rt Hon the Lord Patten of Barnes, CH



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
THE SHELDON MEDAL
PRESENTED TO DR JAMES MARTIN
MONDAY 13 MARCH 2006



Norman McEath



Portrait of Gilbert Sheldon ascribed to Sir Peter Lely



Drawing of the reverse side of the Sheldon Medal



Jane McAdam Freud

OXFORD WOULD NOT EXIST without the generosity and vision of its benefactors who over the centuries provided its buildings and endowed its scholars. This tradition which continues today helps maintain Oxford as one of the world's very best universities.

The Chancellor's Court of Benefactors was established in 1990 by the late Lord Jenkins, Chancellor of the University (1987–2003), to give additional recognition to those benefactors who have contributed in a very significant way to the development and strength of the University. Inclusion on the Court is one of the highest honours that Oxford can bestow upon its most generous and dedicated friends, and provides them with an opportunity to remain closely involved with senior members of the University. At its inaugural meeting in 1990, 28 of Oxford's most outstanding benefactors were admitted to the Court; today there are more than 130 members.

In 2002 the University created a new mark of distinction to honour further levels of support from individual benefactors: the Sheldon Medal. This distinction is reserved for those donors whose contributions have made a significant strategic difference to the life and work of the University. A maximum of one medal is awarded and presented each year. Lord Wolfson, FBA, Chairman of the Wolfson Foundation, and Mr Wafic Rida Said were the first benefactors to be honoured with the Sheldon Medal.

The Sheldon Medal

The Sheldon Medal itself is named after one of Oxford's early benefactors, Gilbert Sheldon, who graduated from Trinity College in 1620. During his tenure as Chancellor of Oxford (1667–69), his benefaction supported the construction of the Sheldonian Theatre where today's celebrations take place. The Sheldonian was the first major commission of the young Christopher Wren who was, at that time, Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford. Wren's design was based on the great amphitheatres of ancient Rome (with the addition of the roof for the colder northern climate). Since its opening in 1669, the building has played a significant role in the life of the University and its most important ceremonial events continue to take place here.

Jane McAdam Freud

The Sheldon Medal is the first to be created by the University in nearly 75 years. Designed by the artist and medal designer Jane McAdam Freud, each Sheldon Medal is unique. Cast in silver, one side depicts the Sheldonian Theatre with the University of Oxford's crest integrated with the design, whilst the obverse consists of the benefactor's portrait. Jane is a graduate of the Royal College of Art, Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors and Secretary of the Society of Numismatic Artists and Designers. Her works are represented in many private and public collections, including the British Museum, the National Museum of Ireland, the Berlin State Museum and the Pulitzer Collection, St Louis, Missouri.

Each medal is individually crafted and honours benefactors who have made a significant difference to the life and work of the University. Only two specimens of each medal are produced: a silver presentation piece that is awarded to the donor and a further copy that is deposited within the Heberden Coin Room of the Ashmolean Museum.



The James Martin School of the 21st Century

The human population explosion, global warming, epidemic diseases and world poverty are just some of the problems facing the world today. Dr Martin's generous endowment in support of the James Martin 21st Century School, which is among the largest ever received by the University, is particularly concerned with finding ways to understand and cope with the enormous global challenges we are now facing.

The School has been designed on a 'hub' and 'spoke' model, with a Director, a small administrative staff and a number of James Martin Fellows at the centre from which span research institutes or 'spokes' undertaking leading-edge research in their own subject area. At the outset ten research areas have been selected. These include climate change, an increasingly ageing society, extreme inequalities in wealth, the risk of infectious disease epidemics and the effects of rapid technological change.

This very generous support that has made the School of the 21st Century a reality is Dr Martin's second major benefaction to the University. It builds on the work of the James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization, which has already established itself as an influential force. The Institute is also playing a key role in putting the work of all the constituent research institutes together.

As one of the world's very best universities, with leading scholars across a wide range of disciplines, Oxford will be at the forefront of the work to find solutions to the world's most pressing problems. The focus of the School is on stimulating Oxford's research overall, by giving the University's scholars the resources and the time to think imaginatively and positively about the problems and the opportunities that the future will bring.

Professor Sue Iversen, CBE, Acting Director, James Martin School of the 21st Century

The founding research institutes of the School:

The James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization (Director: Professor Steve Rayner) is playing a key role continuing its research on the big issues of science, technology and environment.

The Environmental Change Institute (Director: Professor Diana Liverman) is seeking to innovate two urgent and related topics: prevention of dangerous climate change through policies such as carbon trading and energy alternatives, and evaluation of new approaches to environmental governance.

The e-Horizons Institute (Directors: Professor William Dutton and Professor Paul Jeffreys) is examining the role that large-scale online information and communication technology networks are having on breakthroughs that enable transformations in scientific research and communication and in other arenas of society.

The Oxford Institute of Ageing (Director: Dr Sarah Harper) is building on its existing research and expertise to establish three interlinked interdisciplinary research components: global ageing, redefining institutions for ageing societies, and longevity and radical life extension.

The International Migration Institute (Directors: Professor Steve Vertovec and Professor Stephen Castles) is looking at one of the key challenges for the 21st century: international migration.

The Oxford Future of Humanity Institute (Director: Dr Nick Bostrom) is assessing technologies that have the potential radically to transform the human condition and is studying threats to human survival and global catastrophic risk.

The Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences (Director: Professor Julian Savulescu) is questioning what limits should be placed on research, development and use of the new biosciences, such as stem cell science and cloning, and asking how unethical research and development can be prevented.

The Institute for Emergent Infections of Humans (Director: Professor Angela McLean), a cross-disciplinary collaboration involving mathematicians, biologists and clinicians, is examining what infections are likely to emerge next, and whether we will be able to control them.

The Institute for the Future of the Mind (Director: Baroness Susan Greenfield) is building on the world-leading expertise on the brain at Oxford and conducting research on developing the young mind, protecting the older mind, and states of consciousness and the influence of age.

The World Education Institute (Directors: Dr Thomas Benson and Dr Angus Hawkins) will recruit volunteers from all over the world, train them and deploy them, mainly to support teachers in developing countries.

www.21school.ox.ac.uk

Mankind faces huge challenges as the 21st century unfolds. It is essential that our leading thinkers commit time, energy and resources to finding solutions to the risks and problems which could threaten the future of humanity itself.

James Martin