The Oxonian Society® is pleased to announce its 2007 Termcard.

The Oxonian Society® is dedicated to provocative discussion and debate with the world’s best and most interesting minds. The Oxonian Society® is a Manhattan-based non-partisan non-profit organization. The Oxonian Society® is open to people of all educational backgrounds and experiences.

The Society is completely non-partisan and offers world-class speakers from all sides of the political spectrum, business, entertainment, artistic, and religious leaders. The Society offers a range and depth of events that cannot be found anywhere else in the New York area.

Like many great things, the Oxonian Society® operates on a simple formula. Typical early evening events see A-list guests participate in the Society’s famous conversational style interview, and members and guests then engage with the invited speaker in Q&A dialogue. Members mingle and socialize before and after. There is an annual gala dinner. During 2006 Sir Roger Moore, KBE, and Her Royal Highness Princess Badiya of Jordan were the guests of honor.

The Oxonian Society® donated a table for the 2006 gala to New York University and they selected high achieving students to attend. For the year 2007 the Oxonian Society® will donate a gala table to the Association of American Rhodes Scholars for the 2007 Rhodes Scholars elect to attend before they begin their studies.

Our membership is as diverse as our speakers — which is part of the Oxonian Society® experience. Academics, artists, professionals, students, political figures, business leaders, not for profit advocates — those are just a few of the categories of our members, who defy categorization.

Each year the Oxonian Society® holds a series of mixers designed to allow existing members to introduce others to the Society, encourage individuals to learn more about the Society and promote interaction among the Society’s members. These mixers are held in some of the most popular lounges.
The Oxonian Society® is incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in New York and is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code; it is a private society and not legally connected in any way with Oxford University itself. The Oxonian Society® is also not connected with any other alumni societies of Oxford or its colleges, but is completely independent. The Oxonian Society® is proud to be open to everybody, whether they attended Oxford or not.

**Highlights**


The Oxonian Society® is an non-elitist organization and membership is available to all. We warmly welcome those that attended Oxford, those that attended other universities, and those that did not have a chance to experience higher education. The Oxonian Society® is not connected to Oxford University. As an independent organization we offer the benefits of membership to all those interested in hearing the world-class speakers we regularly host.

Patron Members:

“A leading organization such as the Oxonian Society® that is open to people of all backgrounds has created a dynamic and invaluable place and vehicle where leaders can discuss and debate some of the most important pressing issues that affect us all. The Oxonian Society® has rightly become a must stop for who’s who of leaders”

— General Brent Scowcroft, only person in U.S. history to serve as National Security Advisor to two Presidents.

Coined the phrase, “The New World Order.”

Our guests have spoken on topics ranging from fine art to hard-nosed business practices; from questions of faith to matters of politics; and from philosophy to comedy. We offer something for all members. Whether your interests are in law, art, music, politics, sport, big business, religious understanding, pop culture, defense or diplomacy, the Society’s world-class guest speakers have covered them all. Even the briefest scan of the list of past speakers demonstrates the breadth, depth and caliber of tier-one guests that Oxonian Society® members have come to expect.


Some of the Oxonian Society® events can be viewed on the interactive FORA.tv video library and on YouTube. The Oxonian Society® also has an excellent relationship with GenerationEngage. Through these relationships and interactive video libraries the Oxonian Society® continues to provide access to hundreds of thousands of individuals.

Looking forward, the Society hopes to be able, with the support of key corporations and supporters, to significantly expand its mission; to provide many more world-class speakers to an ever-wider audience and bring the benefit of its speaker programmes to all those who share its values of education and enlightenment. Corporate membership is now available for your firm. Patron membership is also available for individuals. For more information on such memberships please contact membership@oxoniansociety.com
“The Oxonian Society® is a truly American experience, one that allows great leaders and the public to freely discuss our collective history. The Oxonian Society® fulfills Thomas Jefferson’s dream of enlightenment, free and intelligent questioning, and universal accessibility.” — Ken Burns

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

1/3 Mariel Hemingway is the granddaughter of the celebrated writer Ernest Hemingway, and an Oscar nominee for her performance as Woody Allen’s high school-age girlfriend in the film Manhattan. Ms. Hemingway grew up Ketchum, Idaho with her father, Jack, and grandfather, Ernest Hemingway (also buried in Ketchum). Ms. Hemingway was named after a Cuban fishing village Mariel, Cuba, where her grandfather, Ernst, visited regularly as a sportsmen. Ms. Hemingway a star in the sitcom Roseanne and Crossing Jordan. She has hosted Saturday Night Live and starred in Superman IV. An actress, mother, wife, and granddaughter of Ernest Hemingway, Ms. Hemingway has faced many personal challenges and family tragedies.

1/4 Ken Burns. Most critics consider Ken Burns to be the best documentary filmmaker in the world. Among his most notable productions were the miniseries The Civil War, Baseball, and Jazz. Burns’s documentaries have been nominated for two Academy Awards and six of his documentaries have been nominated for one or more Emmy Awards. The Civil War became the first documentary in the world to gross over $100 million. Burns innovating style and techniques have become an industry standard. The Ken Burns effect was named after him and is used in film editing, on most computer screen savers, and in Apple Computer’s iPhoto and iMovie.

1/12 General Peter Pace has chosen the Oxonian Society® to deliver his first major and public address with Q&A on the new Iraq War strategy and increasing the size of the overall military. General Pace assumed the duties as Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (the leader and highest-ranking military official) on September 30, 2005. At the Oxonian Society® we believe it is important to provide the public access to the military leadership. And to provide a unique place and vehicle where the leaders of the military can disseminate their points of view unedited to the public. The U.S. military has played a unique role since the founding of the nation and continues to be an important fabric of the country. General Pace leads 2.4 million American men and women in the armed services. There are few times in history that the United States has faced multiple and simultaneous threats. General Pace presides over the military during one of the most challenging times. General Pace is a true patriot, has served the U.S. for years, and is presently trying to steer and lead the military during an increasingly pressing time.

1/13 Mia Farrow is an acclaimed film and stage actor. The stellar list of films she has starred in includes Rosemary’s Baby, The Great Gatsby (Farrow played Daisy Buchanan opposite Robert Redford), Hannah Her Sisters (played the title role of “Hannah”), Zelig, Crimes and Misdemeanors, New York Stories, Broadway Danny Rose, Purple Rose of Cairo, Radio Days, Alice, September, Husbands and Wives, Private Parts, amongst others. Farrow was the person on the first cover of People Magazine. Her sister, Prudence Farrow, inspired The Beatles song Dear Prudence. Farrow is considered one of the most beautiful and talented women to grace the silver screen. As the mother of fourteen children - ten of whom are adopted, Farrow has devoted her life to humanitarian efforts and the care of a truly remarkable family. With the goal of helping those who are less fortunate, she brings an unending source of courage, hope and spiritual strength to her role as mother and activist. Farrow has incredible passion and sincere commitment to the children of the world. Presently Farrow is one of the few people in the world that continues to campaign for an end to the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. In reference to the women and children of the devastated region of Darfur, Farrow said “These are the most courageous women I’ve ever met. We can only bow our heads with the deepest respect at this time of suffering and terror. These people have no voice to tell the world what is happening.” She has become the courageous voice of the voiceless people of Darfur. Farrow remains one of Hollywood’s most extraordinary women.
JANUARY (continued)

1/29 Ralph Nader has been called everything from Muckraker to Consumer Crusader to Public Defender. His documented criticism of government and industry has had widespread effect on public awareness and bureaucratic power. He is the “U.S.'s toughest customer” as Time magazine noted. His inspiration and example have galvanized a whole population of consumer advocates, citizen activists, and public interest lawyers who in turn have established their own organizations throughout the country. Since 1966, Nader has been a major force in the United States and responsible for: at least eight major federal consumer protection laws such as the motor vehicle safety laws, Safe Drinking Water Act; the launching of federal regulatory agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Environment Protection Agency (EPA), and Consumer Product Safety Administration; the recall of millions of defective motor vehicles; access to government through the Freedom of Information Act of 1974; and for many lives saved. Nader has been a critic of unchecked multinational corporations and of a dangerous convergence of corporate and government power. A magazine founded by Nader in 1980, the Multinational Monitor, tracks multinational corporations and their impact on developing nations, labor, and the environment. Nader’s overriding concern and vision is presently focused on empowering citizens to create a responsive government sensitive to citizens’ needs. When asked to define himself, he always responds, “Full-time citizen, the most important office in America for anyone to achieve.” In his 2000 and 2004 presidential bids Nader earned over 3 million votes and continues to be one of the most enduring figures in national politics. Nader’s impact on the American political spectrum is enduring. As former U.S. Senator James Abourezk observed, “For the first time in U.S. history, a movement exists whose sole purpose is to keep large corporations and the government honest.”

“The Oxonian Society® makes leaders accessible to the public.”
— Education Update
**FEBRUARY**

2/3 **Frank McCourt** is an Irish-American teacher and author. He was born in New York City and grew up in Limerick, Ireland. McCourt received the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Critics Award for his stunning and moving memoir, Angela’s Ashes, which details his childhood as poor Irish Catholic in Limerick. Angela’s Ashes has sold over 4 million copies, has been published in 27 countries and has been translated into 30 languages. It was made into a hit film with Emily Watson as the star. McCourt is also the author of ‘Tis, which continues the narrative of his life, picking up from the end of the previous book and focusing on life as a new immigrant in America. His latest title is Teacher Man, detailing the challenges of being a young, uncertain teacher who must impart knowledge to his students. "Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood," writes McCourt in Angela’s Ashes. "Worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood."

2/5 **Sarah Ferguson** is a successful businesswoman and global humanitarian. Born and raised in Britain; as a girl she aspired to be a nurse or a professional horse jumper. She entered public life as The Duchess of York in 1986 when she married Prince Andrew, the second son of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. The Duchess was married in Westminster Abbey. The Duke and Duchess, now divorced, have two teenage daughters, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie. Today the Duchess of York devotes much of her life to charities that benefit families and children. She is also a bestselling author, having published books on health, personal growth, history, art, as well as stories for young readers.

2/6 **Sandra Bernhard**. For the past 25 years, Sandra Bernhard has been delighting fans and critics alike with her unparalleled comedy and acting. Bernhard blends it all into a body of work defined by her iconoclastic style and ironic look at the world that spins around her. Bernhard is on Comedy Central’s list of the 100 greatest stand-ups of all time. She first gained attention in the late 1970s with her stand-up comedy where she often bitterly critiqued celebrity culture and political figures. Her first professional credit came when she joined the cast of Richard Pryor’s 1977 TV show. Bernhard’s riveting performance as an obsessed fan in 1983’s hit film King Of Comedy earned Bernhard the award for “Best Supporting Actress” from the National Society of Film Critics. It was this film — director Martin Scorsese’s dark meditation on fame — which propelled her into the public consciousness. Bernhard managed to upstage not only Jerry Lewis but also the film’s lead Robert De Niro. Bernhard also starred in Zoolander. Her television credits include a six year stint as Nancy Bartlett on the hit network series Roseanne, Crossing Jordan, hosting her own talk show (The Sandra Bernhard Experience), and roles on everything from Sopranos, Ally McBeal, and Chicago Hope to Will & Grace, and Law & Order. But it’s Bernhard’s solo stage performance that showcases the full range of her comedic, dramatic, and musical talents. Bernhard’s eclectic, confrontational and largely autobiographical one-woman stage show, has taken Broadway by storm in the 1990s and this past year. Bernhard has been a headlining attraction for more than two decades, mounting U.S. and foreign tours.
“I served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 22 years (1959-1981), during the Administrations of six Presidents – three Republicans: Eisenhower, Nixon and Ford; and three Democrats: Kennedy, Johnson and Carter. I became President of New York University in 1981. I much enjoy the access to all sorts of leaders who come to the Oxonian Society on a regular basis. The Oxonian Society is a great benefit to our community.”

— John Brademas, NYU President Emeritus; Rhodes Scholar

Calendar of Events

MARCH

3/5 Lee Daniels began his career as a casting director for the hit film Purple Rain, and he continued managing talent that included several Academy Award nominees and winners. Daniels became a producer after becoming frustrated with the mediocre material in Hollywood. Daniels has made a name for himself tackling the type of dramas that few are willing to touch. Monster’s Ball, Daniel’s first production, was a remarkable achievement, earning substantial critical and box office success. Monster’s Ball was nominated for two Academy Awards – Best Original Screenplay and Best Actress, for which Halle Berry won an Oscar. Daniels’s next production was The Woodsman. The film starred Kevin Bacon, Kyra Sedgwick and Mos Def and made its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival. It was nominated for three Independent Spirit Awards, and received the CICAE Arthouse Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. Kevin Bacon received some of his best reviews of his career for his role in The Woodsman. President Clinton has been an admirer of Daniels and had him produce public service announcements to inspire young people to vote. The effective campaign was launched in 2004 and features actor/musician LL Cool J and Grammy award winner Alicia Keys. The New York Times had a two-page feature on Daniels, which was titled Iconoclastic Producer Morphs Into an Iconoclastic Director.

3/20 Tom DeLay. Very few people are on the fence about Tom DeLay, who was nicknamed “the Hammer” for his hard-charging, take-no-prisoners style of leadership. For twelve years afterward, he was the driving force of the Republican majority. DeLay provided a behind-the-scenes view of the most talked about stories of the past decade, involving George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Newt Gingrich, and many others. James Carville said, “if Tom DeLay were a Democrat, we would have controlled the House from 1994 to 2006.” DeLay is one of the most controversial figures in modern politics who has affected almost everyone’s life. DeLay discussed why intense partisanship is not only a good thing but fundamental to our democracy. This will be DeLay’s only public appearance in New York.

3/27 Dr. Agatston is the inventor of the famous South Beach Diet and national bestselling author. The South Beach Diet became a runaway success spending three years on the New York Times bestselling list. More than 21 million copies of its books are in print worldwide. Dr. Agatston will discuss aggressive prevention that he believes stops heart attacks and strokes. He also discussed why people with normal cholesterol numbers might actually be at extremely high-risk levels for heart attacks and strokes.

Deepak Chopra
Calendar of Events

APRIL

4/5 The April mixer will be at PM, a “world” forgotten by time, off the streets of the Meatpacking District and in a “tropical paradise.” The palm trees, the luxurious banquettes, and the seductive percussion are an escape from the ordinary. PM is designed to reflect the Caribbean and to replicate an island. The main room beckons with its soaring ceiling, gigantic palm trees, and overt energy. Members are able to introduce non-members to the Society at this upscale and intimate lounge.

4/12 Charlie Rangel, the Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee, one of the most powerful committee in the United States Congress, will discuss some of the most important issues facing the nation and solutions to them. Respected by Democrats and Republicans alike, Rangel is an 18-term Congressman representing New York’s 15th District. Congressman Rangel is the man to whom not only his district but also much of America looks up to in the fight for social justice. Although he has not been afraid to ruffle feathers in the fight for human rights and dignity, Congressman Rangel is known as a rare leader in Washington who will reach across the political aisle to compromise when necessary on legislation for the common good. Rangel’s wit and charisma have become his trademarks.

4/20 Bill Bradley is a former NBA star basketball player who later became a well known three term U.S. Senator from New Jersey and presidential candidate. Bradley chose Princeton University even though Ivy League colleges do not offer athletic scholarships. At Princeton, Bradley was a three-time All-American and became the National Player of the Year. With Bradley in tow, Princeton captured the Ivy League championship in each of his three varsity seasons. Bradley became the first college basketball player chosen as winner of the prestigious James E. Sullivan Award, presented to the United States top amateur athlete in the country. In the famous Wichita game, Bradley scored 58 points, an NCAA tournament record that still stands today. Bradley graduated with honors from Princeton and was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford. Bradley then served as captain of the gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic basketball team. Bradley returned to the U.S. to join the New York Knicks of the NBA. He helped the Knicks win their first and second national championship. Bradley was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. He then went on to serve three terms in the U.S. Senate and to challenge Vice President Al Gore for the Democratic Party’s nomination.

4/24 Secretary Jack Kemp has enjoyed considerable success and longevity in two of his careers - first professional football, and then politics. Kemp was the candidate for the vice presidency in the 1996 presidential election. Kemp served four years as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President George H.W. Bush and proved to be one of our nation’s most innovative leaders in that role. Before his appointment to the Cabinet, Kemp was in Congress for 18 years. Kemp led Buffalo to three straight Eastern Division titles and two American Football League championships, Kemp was the first 3,000 yard passer in the American Football League and the league’s Most Valuable Player. He had the most career passes attempted, most completions and most yards gained passing in the history of the American Football League. Kemp was an American Football League All-Star six consecutive years and for seven of the league’s ten years, and the only AFL quarterback to be a starter all ten years.

If you are not already a member, you may join at
www.oxoniansociety.com

The online membership application and RSVP system are easy to use and take only a few moments to complete.
**MAY**

**5/8 Ian McDiarmid** is a leading actor from the Star Wars trilogy and Tony award winner. McDiarmid is known to hundreds of millions of Star Wars fans as the Emperor Palpatine. However first and foremost McDiarmid has built a career as one of the theatre’s most acclaimed and influential figures. Last year McDiarmid won the Tony award for best actor on Broadway for his astonishing performance in Faith Healer. McDiarmid’s movie breakthrough occurred when he was cast as the Emperor Palpatine in Return of the Jedi in 1983. In The Phantom Menace, McDiarmid took on two personas, both as Senator Palpatine and his evil alter ego Darth Sidious. McDiarmid stared in Gorky Park, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, and Tim Burton’s Sleepy Hollow.

**5/10 Rue McClanahan.** Before Carrie Bradshaw and her cosmo-sipping friends on Sex and the City or the Desperate Housewives, there were the Golden Girls – four sassy seniors living out their latter years in Miami Beach. Rue McClanahan is known for her role as everyone’s favorite Southern vixen, Blanche. McClanahan shared her personal story that is every bit as colorful as the characters she plays. She talked about her first television role in All in the Family, to The Golden Girls years and beyond. McClanahan will discuss her vivacious Southern charm, and that things can and do get better with age.

**5/11 Deepak Chopra** is acknowledged as one of the world’s greatest leaders in the field of mind body medicine. Chopra continues to transform our understanding of the meaning of health through his unique understanding and experience with the best of western medicine with natural healing traditions. Chopra’s work with numerous health care professionals in both conventional and complementary healing arts is changing the way the world views physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social wellness. He has been a bestselling author for decades and his books have appeared on every bestseller list in America. His writings have been translated into 35 languages and have sold over 20 million copies worldwide. Among his most notable books are The Spontaneous Fulfillment of Desire, How to Know God, and The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success. Esquire magazine praises him as one of the top ten motivational speakers in the country and Time magazine has named Chopra as one of the top 100 heroes and icons of the twenty first century. Chopra’s frequent work with PBS includes The Soul of Healing: The Body, Mind, and Soul and Body, Mind, and Soul: The Mystery and the Magic, one of the most highly viewed in the history of the network.
May (continued)

5/23 Oliver Stone is a three time Oscar award winner. Stone is one of the leading visionaries of contemporary cinema, a director known for his powerful and controversial films. But beyond the controversy, lies a personal body of work that will long remain an influence in cinema. Whether it’s in the horrors of the jungles in Vietnam, or the set of a radio talk show. Whether it’s a district attorney fighting for truth in the assassination of a President, or a wounded Vietnam veteran returning to a country that no longer believes in him. Whether it’s Jim Morrison on stage, or Mickey and Mallory Knox on a murderous rampage around the country. Whether it’s a President on the brink of destruction, or a young man enticed into the world of greed. Stone’s films are worlds upon themselves, and reflections of our world. They are worlds devoid of any false pretense. He is a director who brings out the absolute best performances by his actors, whether it is Michael Douglas, Anthony Hopkins, Tom Cruise, Kyra Sedgwick, Woody Harrelson, Charlie Sheen, Val Kilmer, Meg Ryan, Kevin Costner, Sissy Spacek, Joe Pesci, Tommy Lee Jones, Gary Oldman, or Nicolas Cage. He is a director who has delivered countless images of pure cinema beauty and unspeakable horror and tragedy. He is a director who will long be remembered for re-examining America’s most recent history. Stone’s films’ influence will be felt for many years to come. Stone has directed critically acclaimed and major blockbuster films such as: Wall Street, Platoon, Born on the Fourth of July, JFK, Nixon, The Doors, Talk Radio, Salvador, Natural Born Killers, World Trade Center, amongst others. Stone also wrote or co-wrote: Midnight Express, Scarface, Conan The Barbarian, and Evita. He’s produced or co-produced: The People vs. Larry Flynt, The Joy Luck Club, and Reversal of Fortune. Stone has won Oscars for directing Born On The Fourth Of July and Platoon, and for writing Midnight Express.

5/29 Lives of Others took the Academy Awards by storm in 2007, and won the Oscar for the Best Foreign Film. It was an extraordinary achievement for Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. This was Donnersmarck’s first film, which he wrote and directed, and went on to win the Oscar. The New Yorker magazine and Wall Street Journal said it was the best film of the past year. Very rarely the critics agree on something. However, one thing that they have universally agreed on is the acclaim for Lives of Others. The New York Times wrote, “The suspense comes not only from the structure and pacing of the scenes, but also, more deeply, from the sense that even in a oppressive society, individuals are burdened with free will.” The New York Post said the film is “remarkable and chilling”, Chicago Tribune stated, “works beautifully, both as a social and psychological drama and as a taut, tightly wired thriller”, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution cleverly characterizes the film as “a brilliant political thriller with a rich emotional context and a dark sense of humor; this Oscar winner should be at the top of any movie-lover’s list.” Lives of Others has already generated $70 million in revenue and has had one of the highest profit margins in the last year. Highlights of the film will be shown at the Society. Donnersmarck will also bring along the Oscar and let the audience hold it.
Calendar of Events

JUNE

6/6 Ivan Reitman, as a producer and director, has created many of American cinema’s most successful and best loved feature film comedies and has worked with Hollywood's acting elite. Reitman made such hits as the ground-breaking sensation “National Lampoon's Animal House”, which introduced John Belushi to American filmgoers. From there, he directed and produced a number of blockbuster comedies including Stripes (Bill Murray and Harold Ramis), Ghostbusters (Dan Aykroyd), Meatballs, Legal Eagles (Robert Redford, Debra Winger and Daryl Hannah), Twins (Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito), Kindergarten Cop, Dave (Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver), Beethoven, Private Parts (Howard Stern and Robin Quivers), and Old School (Will Ferrell and Luke Wilson). What Lucas and Spielberg did for fantasy adventure, Reitman did for comedy. No one can deny Ivan Reitman’s impact on film and society.

6/14 Prime Minister Dr. Sali Ram Berisha of Albania, coming to the U.S. to visit the Oxonian Society®. Albania, located between Greece and Kosovo, presently has one of the fastest growing economies in Europe. Albania is the country that brought the world the family of Mother Teresa. Albania has played an important role in managing inter-ethnic tensions in Europe. The United States and NATO liberated Kosovo from Serb control, and the future of Kosovo is now being debated. Prime Minister Berisha emerged as the leader of the democratic movement and peaceful revolution. The Prime Minister will discuss the recent visit of the President of the United States to Albania, Kosovo, the future of Europe and if actual peace can ever truly exist in Europe.

6/14 The Summer mixer will be held at Stereo Lounge. Stereo is known to offer a mix of street couture and nightlife chic. The suede-padded walls and amber lighting complement the music-themed photos and graffiti murals that takes one back to the heady days of old school NYC hip hop. Members are able to introduce non-members to the Society at this upscale and intimate lounge.

6/18 Bob Shrum has been a major force in American politics as the top strategist to John Kerry and Al Gore, and wrote President Clinton's famous State of the Union addresses. Shrum has been involved in nine Democratic Presidential campaigns and in the elections of 30 United States Senators, 10 governors and the mayors of major American cities, including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia. Shrum is know for his famous personal stories about Al Gore, John Kerry, John Edwards, and Bill and Hillary Clinton, and what these major leaders are like in their off-stage lives.

6/20 Al Roker. As a host of NBC’s Today Show, Al Roker has the undivided attention of the nation (over 32 million viewers per week) every weekday morning as America prepares for work. His daily encounters with visitors from across the country on the sidewalks outside Studio 1-A are a highlight of Today. A nine-time Emmy winner, Al conducts interviews with celebrities and newsmakers around the world and does a wide variety of segments on every imaginable subject. He is the host of NBC annual network specials, such as the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Christmas Tree Lighting at Rockefeller Center, and The Rose Bowl Parade.

JULY

7/3 Brenda Blethyn. Star of the stage and the screen, the incredibly talented Brenda Blethyn was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) by her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Ms. Blethyn performs predominantly in leading roles in a variety of films, ranging from comedies and dramas to historical films. She is best known for Secrets & Lies, Little Voice, Saving Grace, A River Runs Through It, and Pride & Prejudice. She is a two-time Academy Award nominee. Ms. Blethyn’s breakthrough role came with Mike Leigh’s film Secrets & Lies. She portrayed Cynthia Rose Purley, a lower-class white woman, who after years once again comes in contact with her grown-up black daughter. For her improvised performance (Leigh favors improvisation, which he then works into scripts) Ms. Blethyn was praised with a variety of awards, including the Best Actress Award at the Cannes Film Festival, the British Academy Award, a Golden Globe and a first Academy Award nomination. With her spry and feisty manner, she has shown a flair for outlandish comedy, but has also proven her versatility in a wide range of dramatic roles, many of which have allowed her to add her brand of humor to the most tragic situations.
**AUGUST**

8/8 Duane “Dog” Chapman is considered one of the greatest bounty hunters in the world. Mr. Chapman has made more than 6,000 captures in his 27-year career. Dog the Bounty Hunter hit television show, chronicles Mr. Chapman’s operations as a bounty hunter. While the program mostly follows Chapman against criminals who violated the conditions of their bail, it also shows his life as a husband, as a father to twelve children, On June 18, 2003 Chapman captured convicted fugitive rapist Andrew Luster (heir to Max Factor cosmetics) who was wanted on 87 counts of rape and had fled to Mexico. Mr. Chapman has been parodied on a South Park episode and appeared on My Name is Earl.

**SEPTEMBER**

9/8 Black Tie Gala. The Oxonian Society®’s is pleased to announce that this year’s black tie gala will be in honor of Michael Palin, one of the founders, stars, and writers of Monty Python who continues to be one of the most influential comedians and actors in the World. The gala will include an elegant three-course dinner with wine, live music, and all guests will receive a personal signed copy of Michael Palin’s book, Diaries 1969-1979: The Python Years. Early RSVPs are strongly recommended. Table purchases are available – please email membership@oxoniansociety.com The Society has a limited number of single tickets that are available. The gala is an annual and premier fundraising event to support the Society’s programming. A portion of the table and single ticket purchases are tax-deductible.

Palin’s memorable TV and film projects include Monty Pythons’ Flying Circus, Life of Brian, A Fish Called Wanda, Time Bandits, Brazil, The Missionary, Fierce Creatures, Around The World In 80 Days, Pole To Pole, Full Circle, Sahara, Himalayas, and Hemingway. In A Fish Called Wanda Palin stole the film as a hit man with a stutter who has a love for animals.

The incredibly multi-talented Palin also brought hard to reach places in the World in a hilarious way to peoples’ homes through television in his brilliant travel series that shows Palin battling blizzards, bullets, diarrhea, and bomb scar.

Monty Python was a series of crucial importance in the development of comedy on a global scale and in various media. But although Monty Python is the most analyzed comedy program of all time it remains difficult to convey in print the sheer bombastic vitality of a show that seemed to break all the rules and then establish completely new ones.

Some of Palin’s most memorable sketches (like ‘The Argument Sketch’, wherein a man pays to argue; ‘The Dead Parrot Sketch’, where a dissatisfied customer seeks recompense from the pet-shop dealer who sold him a deceased feathered-friend; and ‘The Cheese Shop Sketch’, where a man tries to buy cheese from a dedicated store that is nonetheless entirely devoid of the stuff), all featuring Michael Palin and John Cleese. Palin was often the perfect foil to the rising ire of characters portrayed by John Cleese. One of Palin’s funniest and most loved sketches was the lumberjack of the Lumberjack Song.

The series even spawned a collection of catchphrases which belied its innovative style, the most famous being the link line ‘And now for something completely different’, and others including ‘My brain hurts’ and lines associated with individual sketches like ‘Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition!’ and ‘Nudge-nudge, wink-wink, say no more!’ All told, the programs featured a fantastically oddball set of characters: manic game-show hosts, exaggerated stereotyped Australians, aspirant lumberjacks, heroic bicycle repairmen, funny walking people, and many more of that wonderfully inventive ilk.

One of Monty Python’s funniest and biggest film successes was the Life of Brian, which was a spoof on organized religion set in biblical times and concerning an ordinary guy who is mistaken for the Messiah.

In essence, the Monty Python team are the comedy equivalent of the Beatles. Monty Python continues to entertain and influence new generations and inspire emerging creative talents. And, like the Beatles in the field of music, while other new acts come along and temporarily grab the headlines, none can challenge Monty Python’s everlasting supremacy in the field of TV comedy and film.
Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER (continued)

9/10 Gloria Steinem remains America’s most influential, eloquent and revered feminist. Steinem was a co-founder of New York magazine in 1968, and in 1971 co-founded Ms. magazine – the first women’s magazine run by women. Steinem became a leading spokesperson for the feminist movement and helped shape the debate. Her 1992 book, Revolution from Within, was a number one bestseller. Steinem is an icon to multiple generations and continues to be the leader of a major movement. Many of Steinem’s famous statements are universally quoted, such as, “The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn”, and “Most women’s magazines simply try to mold women into bigger and better consumers.” All are welcome for a fascinating evening with a historical leader who continues to be a force into the future.

9/11 Woody Harrelson is best known as the midwestern bartender, Woody Boyd, on the television series Cheers, which he won an Emmy. Harrelson starred with Wesley Snipes in the hilarious comedy White Men Can’t Jump. He then appeared in the controversial Indecent Proposal with Demi Moore and Robert Redford. Harrelson then went on to give a stunning performance as Mickey Know in Oliver Stone’s Natural Born Killers. He took the film world and press by storm again by starring opposite Courtney Love in The People vs. Larry Flynt. For his performance he received a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Actor. When Terrence Malick resurfaced on the film scene, he immediately put Harrelson in The Thin Red Line, which was nominated for multiple Academy Awards. Other Harrelson films that were widely received by audiences include North Country, Edtv and Wag the Dog. More recently, he had a fairly long run on the sitcom Will & Grace as Grace’s love interest Nathan. Whatever film or television sitcom Harrelson appears, the audience is always guaranteed a provocative performance by an extremely talented and humble person.

9-17 General Wesley Clark, former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO who liberated Kosovo, is returning to address the Oxonian Society® due to overwhelming demand. Four-star General Wesley Clark became a major figure on the political scene when he was drafted by popular demand to run for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States in 2003. But this was just one of many exceptional accomplishments of a long and extraordinary career. General Clark will discuss his difficult youth in segregated Arkansas where he was raised by his poor, widowed mother; through the horror of Vietnam where he was wounded; the post-war rebuilding of national security and the struggles surrounding the new world order after the Cold War—as a springboard to reveal his vision for America, at home and in the world. General Wesley Clark will talk about breathtaking battle scenes, poignant personal anecdotes and eye-opening recommendations on the best way forward for the country. Will General Clark throw his hat into the ring to run for president or is he going to be the next secretary of defense?
**Calendar of Events**

**OCTOBER**

**10/9 Fall Mixer.** The Grand (formerly Au Bar) was recently declared the hottest nightspot in Manhattan by the NY Times, Page Six, and US Weekly. This legendary space has been revamped with a modern touch, but without losing any of that signature elegance. The owners who also own Phillipe by Phillipe Chow, and the former chef of Mr. Chow, also offers foodsuch as the classic Chicken Satay, Soup Dumplings, Squab Lettuce Wraps, Beijing Chicken and all the other greats. That food combined with great energy, modern elegance; make a perfect evening for an Oxonian Society® mixer. Members of the Society will be on hand to answer questions. A cash bar will be available. The demographics of the mixers tend to be under the age of 40, however all are welcome.

**10/23 James Earl Jones** voice is known by people of all ages and walks of life – the Star Wars fans who know him as the voice of Darth Vader, children who know him as Mufasa from Disney’s The Lion King, those who hear him intone “This is CNN” while watching the news, and countless people who use Verizon phone services, for which he has been the exclusive spokesperson for many years. He made his film debut in 1964 in Stanley Kubrick’s Dr. Strangelove. In 1969, Jones won a Tony Award for his breakthrough role as boxer Jack Johnson in the Broadway hit, The Great White Hope (which also garnered him an Oscar nomination for the 1970 film adaptation). In 1987 he won his second Tony Award for August Wilson’s Fences. He portrayed classic characters in Field of Dreams, Hunt for Red October, Patriot Games, Clear and Present Danger, and Cry, the Beloved Country.

**10/26 Michael Gerson,** former presidential adviser and chief speechwriter who penned most of George W. Bush’s speeches, is considered by many Democrats and Republicans to be the most influential White House speechwriter since the Kennedy administration’s Ted Sorenson. Known around the administration as the “moral compass,” Gerson was more than a speechwriter, he was also a trusted insider helping to make policy decisions.

Gerson might be the most familiar person you don’t know. Gerson composed some of the most memorable President George W. Bush speeches such as the addresses delivered after September 11, the Columbia shuttle explosion, and on the State of the Union addresses. As senior adviser during Bush’s second term, he sought more funding to fight AIDS and a plan to end the Darfur genocide. Time magazine named him as one of the most influential individuals in the U.S.

Gerson’s noteworthy phrases for President Bush include “Axis of Evil” and “the armies of compassion.”

This will be a very interesting evening with an individual who was one of President Bush’s most senior advisers, at his side during some of the most challenging times, and by many considered to be President Bush’s moral compass and “other brain.”

**10/27 Sir David Frost.** Veteran television host, author and producer, Sir David Frost is the only person to have interviewed the last seven presidents of the United States and the last six prime ministers of the United Kingdom.
October (continued)

Sir David has been awarded all the major television awards - including the Emmy Award (for The David Frost Show - twice). He went on to present a string of topical review programs including The Frost Report where he first used the phrase “Hello, good evening and welcome”. He was later a co-founder and presenter of the UK breakfast television station, TV-am in 1983 and presented 500 editions of the Sunday morning interview program Breakfast with Frost for the BBC.

Following the resounding success of the eponymous Broadway hit play, and preceding the highly anticipated Ron Howard film, FROST/NIXON: Behind the Scenes of the Nixon Interviews by Sir David Frost, tells the extraordinary story of how one broadcast journalist pursued and landed the biggest fish of his career. Frost’s series of interviews with Richard Nixon, which aired four years after Nixon’s resignation following the infamous Watergate scandal in 1977, represented a watershed moment in history. They defined an intersection of politics and showbiz that we simply take for granted these days. At its time, the show achieved the largest TV audience in all of news history—a testament not only to the volatile nature of the Watergate proceedings but, perhaps more importantly, to the wildly entertaining and compelling characters of its two star players. The interviews provided the only public trial that Nixon would ever have, and were described by commentators at the time as “a catharsis” for the American people. Sir David says with an important election coming up, a new evaluation of Nixon, comparing him to George W. Bush (Bushisms vs. Nixonisms notwithstanding), and to potential democratic and republican candidates alike, will instigate lively conversation across all political parties.

During his prime, Frost was the gold standard of TV personalities, and he has lost none of his quick wit and winning personality. The event is free for members.

10/29 Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison is one of leading female senators in the U.S. Senate. In 1993 she was the elected as the first woman to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate. Politics runs deep in her blood; her great-great-grandfather, Charles S. Taylor signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. Senator Hutchinson has played a vital role in shaping America’s defense policy to ensure the Armed Forces are prepared to meet 21st century threats, homeland security by securing funding for an additional 1,500 Border Patrol agents, and tax relief. Senator Hutchison is a bestselling author and will be releasing a new book, Leading Ladies, American Trailblazers, in which she profiles women who have excelled in areas of work and study once reserved exclusively for men – including military, science, and politics. The Society will hold a lunch in honor of Senator Hutchison, while she discusses some of these courageous women from all walks of life, the future of the United States, and answers your questions. An elegant three-course lunch will be included.

10/30 Ambassador Holbrooke brokered the peace agreement among the warring factions in Bosnia that led to the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords. The New York Times hails Holbrooke as a “master of impossible missions!” Holbrooke secured his reputation as one of the world’s premier negotiators. He has received seven Nobel Peace Prize nominations and his bestselling book, To End War, was named by the New York Times as one of the eleven best books in 1998. Holbrooke served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, where he was also a member of President Clinton’s cabinet. Holbrooke has played a central role in the development of U.S. policy toward the United Nations, the Balkans, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and humanitarian crisis issues such as AIDS. Many continue to mention Holbrooke as the leading contender for the Secretary of State position in a future administration.

November

11/9 Charles Grodin has created a successful career playing low-key, uptight, and frequently wholesome comic roles. Whereas many comedians have been popular for their ability to overreact and mug their way around everyday obstacles, Grodin values understatement and subtly.

Though offered the leading role in The Graduate (1967), Grodin refused, thereby providing a lucky break for Dustin Hoffman. He played a memorably chilling role as a devilish obstetrician in Rosemary’s Baby, and then played another villainous role when he played heartless navigator Aarfy Aardvark in Mike Nichol’s Catch-22. Grodin’s big break came when he was in the lead of the Neil Simon-scripted The Heartbreak Kid (1972), in which he played a salesman who falls in love with Cybill Shepherd during his honeymoon. Though Steven Spielberg wanted him to play the role of shark expert Matt Hooper in Jaws (1974), Grodin preferred to direct the Broadway play Thieves instead. He then appeared in Warren Beatty’s Heaven Can Wait (1978).
**Calendar of Events**

### NOVEMBER (continued)

Grodin receiving rave reviews starring opposite Robert De Niro in the 1988 hit comedy Midnight Run. In the classic film Charles Grodin plays an accountant who has embezzled 15 million dollars. The mob wants him dead. The F.B.I. wants him alive. And Robert De Niro just wants him to shut up. The film took the world by storm with hilarious scenes of Monday... Escape with their lives from New York... Tuesday... Impersonate F.B.I. agents in Chicago... Wednesday... Steal plane in New Mexico... Thursday... Almost kill each other by accident... Friday... Almost kill each other on purpose. This will be an interesting evening with the humble and hilarious Charles Grodin who has made his mark in film and Broadway and accidentally “gave” Dustin Hoffman a career in film!

**11/13 Annual Debate.** Oxonian Society® and Cambridge Alumni NYC Annual Traditional Debate - "This House believes that the Internet is the greatest force of Democratization in the World."

**In Proposition**

Cyrus Habib, St. John's, Oxford, a Rhodes Scholar, Truman Scholar and Soros Fellow. Habib worked for Senators Cantwell, Clinton, and Kerry, the private equity firm Pelican Partners, the law firm Perkins Coie, and most recently Google. He has been published in a number of publications, including the Washington Post.

David Simon, Trinity, Oxford, a Rhodes Scholar and Truman Scholar. He has worked at the Council on Foreign Relations, the Moscow bureau of the New York Times, the Russia Desk in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, as a speechwriter for a Member of Parliament in the British House of Commons.

Daniel Raglan, LMH, Oxford, partner in a Wall Street law firm specializing in M&A and capital markets.

Atif Ansar has had extensive experience at the World Bank in infrastructure and urban finance. He has worked in Asia, Russia, Ukraine, and West Africa in the area of project finance and infrastructure investments. Atif, apart from his research affiliation at University of Oxford (Brasenose College), is a partner at a private equity fund and advisory firm called Next Frontier Capital.

**In Opposition**

Christopher Tine (Kings) - ex-Cambridge Union Society debater. TV Producer in New York.

Bobby Webster (Trinity) - ex-Cambridge Union Society debater. Film Producer in New York.

Diana Torres (Magdalen) - ex-Cambridge Union Society debater. Finest woman to walk the streets of Brooklyn. Marketing Executive, The Partnership for New York City.


**11/15 John Lithgow.** John Lithgow is an actor with a broad range of interests and talents in every area of the entertainment industry -- and even outside it. He has been working in show business for almost forty years, and has achieved stunning success in wildly varied ventures.

In the early 1980’s Lithgow began to make a major mark in films. At that time, he was nominated for Oscars in back-to-back years, for The World According to Garp and Terms of Endearment. In the years before and after, he has appeared in over thirty films. Notable among them have been All That Jazz, Blow Out, Twilight Zone: the Movie, Footloose, Shrek, Kinsey, Dreamgirls, Civil Action, Pelican Brief, Manhattan Project, Harry and the Hendersons, and Raising Cain.

He won a Tony Award three weeks after his Broadway debut. Since then, he has appeared on Broadway eighteen more times, earning another Tony, three more Tony nominations, four Drama Desk Awards, and induction into the Theatre Hall of Fame. His performances have included major roles in M. Butterfly, Mrs. Farnsworth, Sweet Smell of Success, and Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.

For his work on television, Lithgow has been nominated for ten Emmy Awards. He has won four of them, one for an episode of Amazing Stories, and three for what is perhaps his most celebrated creation. This was the loopy character of the alien High Commander, Dick Solomon, on the hit NBC comedy series 3rd Rock from the Sun. In that show’s six-year run, Lithgow also won the Golden Globe, two SAG Awards.

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**Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, 2007 Academy award winner for Best Foreign Film**

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**John Lithgow**

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**General Tony Zinni**

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**Senator George McGovern**

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Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

12/3 Lou Dobbs is the anchor and managing editor of CNN’s Lou Dobbs Tonight and a founding member of the network in 1980, as well as CNN’s financial news division. Lou Dobbs Tonight attracts CNN’s second-largest audience after Larry King Live. Dobbs’ calls himself an independent populist, critic of the excesses of capitalism, which he identifies as globalization, offshore outsourcing, illegal immigration, free trade deals, big business influence in government. Dobbs has won nearly every major award for television journalism. Lou Dobbs has an ax to grind with what he calls “the political class” as well as with “special interests,” big business, and especially illegal immigrants. On his television program he complains that the middle class is under siege and must fight back against those who hoard power and economic opportunity. In Lou Dobbs’ upcoming book Independents Day: Awakening the American Spirit, he examines the public policy choices over the past thirty years that have eroded individual liberties, disenfranchised the middle class, reduced worker rights and pay, and led the nation into social and political division at home as well as into conflict around the world.

If you are not already a member, you may join at www.oxoniansociety.com

The online membership application and RSVP system are easy to use and take only a few moments to complete.