

UNIVFUTURES

C E L E B R A T I N G P H I L A N T H R O P Y



Contents

03

Message from the Master

08

The Dr Andrei Klein Czech Scholarship

12

University College Boat Club

16

The Centenary Visiting Professor of PPE

20

Area of Greatest Need

24

Investment report 2019-2020

04

The Oxford-Radcliffe Graduate Scholarships

10

The Univ-Rhodes Scholarship

14

Univ's Opportunity Programme - five years on

18

The Pavel and Ivana Tykač Fellowship

22

The importance of giving regularly

26

Giving circles and events

04



08



10



12



14



16



Cover (clockwise): main photo, Dr Karima Chiuri (2017, Medicine), Rhodes Scholar; 40 Years of Women at Univ Garden Party; 1249 Society Reception, Univ Boat House; Prague photo by Jaromir Kavan on Unsplash; Women's Boat Club; Radcliffe Quad, University College; detail of a stained glass window depicting Oscar Wilde, generously donated to the College by Michael Seeney, a Wilde scholar and collector.

Above (clockwise from top left): Tin Hang (Henry) Hung (2017, DPhil Plant Sciences), Radcliffe Scholar; Hana Bernhardtova (2020, Biochemistry); Univ Men's Boat Club, Summer Eights 2019; Main Quad; Ruqayah Juyel (2017, Law); Maitha Al Memari (2018, MPP).

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A large print version of this magazine is available on request.

Message from the Master

Welcome to *Univ Futures*, our new donor relations magazine. We are extremely fortunate in Univ to have a supportive and generous group of Old Members and friends of the College.

Your giving has helped us to deliver a range of academic related programmes and extra-curricular activities over the years, for example, making accessible our historic High Street site. You have endowed Fellowships, helping us to maintain our excellent academic standards, helped us through the pandemic by investing in technology to deliver hybrid teaching, and supported students through scholarships, travel grants and contributions to the student support fund. We are extremely grateful for your continued support.

I started my tenure as Master in the midst of the pandemic and was impressed with the care and thought which had gone into Univ's planning. Supporting the student experience and ensuring the safety of everyone in the Univ community was at the top of the agenda and we worked hard to make it a reality, but it has still been a difficult time for everyone.

Whilst we dealt with the day to day operational challenges created by the pandemic we also moved forward on the



Univ North project. We were extremely pleased that a review of our plans by a group of Old Members and Fellows concluded that the project remained relevant and appropriate, despite anticipated changes in the global education environment post Covid.

We are delighted that we have managed to maintain contact with so many of you through our virtual events, including the Global Conversations series, virtual donor day, book club and annual seminar. We are looking forward to hosting more in person events as the global response to the pandemic and vaccination programmes lead to an opening up across the world.

I hope you will find *Univ Futures* useful. Its purpose is to tell you more about the impact of your gifts and the difference you have made.

Enjoy it.

Valerie Amos

“We are extremely fortunate in Univ to have a supportive and generous group of Old Members and friends of the College.”



THE OXFORD-RADCLIFFE GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

A £10m commitment by Old Members has helped transform Oxford's reputation for scientific research

“The generosity of Univ’s Old Members in supporting the Oxford-Radcliffe Graduate Scholarships has had a transformative impact on our graduate student community.”

Baroness Valerie Amos

It was the biggest single commitment Univ has received in modern times. The £10m pledge by a group of Old Members in 2012, which laid the foundation for the Oxford-Radcliffe Graduate Scholarship programme, provided greater opportunities for those wanting to pursue their education beyond their first degree.

The Oxford-Radcliffe Graduate Scholarship programme – which is unique to Univ – provides for up to 12 full scholarships each year to candidates applying to courses in a variety of science and social science fields, including Earth Sciences, Bioscience, Inorganic Chemistry for Future Manufacturing, Synthesis for Biology and Medicine, Statistics, Politics and International Relations. The scholarships cover course fees and provide a grant for living costs, and are made for the full duration of the agreed course. They complement other scholarships fully-funded by the Oxford Graduate Scholarship Matched Fund, such as the Oxford-Bob Thomas Graduate Fund, the Oxford-Cawkwell Graduate Scholarship and the Oxford-Finnis Graduate Scholarship in Law. In total, there are currently 38 fully-funded scholarships for 2021 entry.

Sir Ivor Crewe (Master 2008-2020) said: “The Radcliffe Benefaction transformed graduate studies at Univ. In addition to funding many more scholarships each year, it galvanized the Univ community into raising endowment funds well in excess of the original benefaction, such that almost all our research students are now fully funded.

“It was an inspirational and far-sighted gift of historic importance in the life of the College.”

How did such a historic commitment come about? The answer lies in the

combined efforts of Old Members, College officials and University authorities to help overcome concerns that graduate studies were becoming unaffordable to many students with excellent academic qualifications due to the increasing lack of financial support. The fear was that increases in undergraduate fees would leave many with tens of thousands of pounds of debt, and dissuade potential applicants from graduate study unless funding was made available.

Professor Nick Rawlins (1968, PPP), Emeritus Fellow, who was Pro Vice Chancellor, Development & External Affairs for the University, said: “Independently, Sir Ivor Crewe and I were worried about what the impact would be on graduate recruitment at a time when undergraduate fees went up to a really significant level. For the first time ever, we were now going to find that people who already owed £40,000–£50,000 were considering graduate study, and also thinking about how they would be able to fund it. There was a real fear that people would just conclude that they couldn’t afford it.”

Professor Peter Jeppard, Vice Master, who was Dean of Graduates at the time, said his experience as Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee for the Medical Sciences Division showed how important it was to raise funds sufficient to pay for full scholarships and a living allowance, not simply provide a more limited degree of

financial support. He said: “It was very clear to me from watching that process that, firstly, in order to attract the best people, you needed to offer them funding and, secondly, you needed to make that funding full funding, so it had to be the fees and the stipend. I’d seen that work extremely well to attract very good students, and make sure that they came to Oxford and not Harvard, UCLA, Cambridge or wherever else it might be.”

A group of Old Members was having similar thoughts at the same time. They wanted to ensure that a higher number of talented graduate students would have the opportunity to work with leading academics at Univ and across the wider University to pursue their ambitions regardless of their financial circumstances. They came together to provide the initial £10m donation, challenging the College to raise supplementary funds to increase the sum available. The University also agreed to match part of the sum raised. As a result, £30m is now available to the College for graduate scholarships.

One Old Member who became a donor remembers: “The reason for establishing the Radcliffe Scholarships was to make Oxford far more competitive in attracting the highest calibre graduate students. The programme was a leverageable fundraising mechanism for all colleges that could be used University-wide to raise

very material endowments to fund both a greater number and more competitive levels of graduate scholarships.”

Professor Rawlins recalls that financing the Scholarships jointly by the College and the University proved critical. “In discussion with Ivor, he said he had a possible offer of help from external sources, but it was going to need the University to come up with an attractive scheme. So, in essence, it was like building a bridge from both sides of the river:

“It was an inspirational and far-sighted gift of historic importance in the life of the College.”

Sir Ivor Crewe

“There was a real fear that people would just think that they couldn’t afford it.”

Professor Nick Rawlins

the University recognised that we really needed to do something, and at the same time College had a possible funding match available.”

The resulting Oxford-Radcliffe Scholarship programme has been more successful than anticipated. According to Professor Jezzard, the scholarships have had a positive impact on the wider graduate programme. He said: “What I realised over the years was that as we began to expand our programme – and it surely must be one of the most successful college-based graduate scholarship programmes in Oxford – the quality of the people that we had apply to us, and the quality of people that we ended up with, went up and up. We found that such good people were applying to us – even if we didn’t end up funding them ourselves, either through the Radcliffe or one of our other scholarship schemes – they were often of such a quality that they got the funding somehow anyway.

“So, a very high proportion of our students now are fully funded, either by us directly through our programmes, or indirectly because they just are highly talented students. I think that’s another benefit that we’ve realised through this donation.”

Fully funding the scholarships has also had a positive impact on academic performance. Professor Jezzard again: “Another metric that I tracked was completion rates, and they absolutely improved as a result of the quality of the students and the fact that they didn’t have those financial worries. They didn’t need to take outside work, they didn’t need to be distracted from their studies, and they were fully funded – so there was a real benefit.”

The programme has also had a beneficial impact on wider College life. Professor Rawlins remembers that some had been worried that the huge growth in

graduate student numbers might have had an adverse impact on the atmosphere in the College. “I would have said it totally did not” he said. “I think it has added a new layer of interest. Endowing graduate scholarships means that in around twenty years, or thereabouts, we will have achieved for graduates something that took centuries to achieve for undergraduates.”

“It surely must be one of the most successful graduate scholarship programmes in Oxford.”
Professor Peter Jezzard

The end result has been a stream of highly talented graduates joining the College, many of whom could never have afforded to study without the scholarship. Professor Caroline Terquem, the current Dean of Graduates and Tutorial Fellow in Physics, said the extremely generous support

brought to Univ some of the very best Oxford graduate students working in frontline research areas. “The Radcliffe scholars who have graduated so far have continued in academia as research fellows in the most prestigious universities in the world, or have secured jobs in the private sector, including creating their own spin-out

“These scholarships are life-changing for students.”
Baroness Valerie Amos

companies,” she said. “They are very distinguished ambassadors for Univ.” Sir Ivor Crewe said the scholarships had been instrumental in building Oxford’s reputation in the sciences. “Oxford’s research students are critical to the University’s scientific pre-eminence in the world” he said. “They are the unsung heroes of the transformational advances that Oxford science has made in the last two decades. Oxford has only been able to compete with North America and the Far East in attracting the top talent among young scientists by offering them full scholarships.

“The Radcliffe Benefaction has enabled Univ to take the lead among the colleges in building up the bank of graduate scholarships so rapidly and contributing to the outstanding achievements of Oxford science.”

Baroness Valerie Amos, the current Master, said: “The generosity of Univ’s Old Members in supporting the Oxford-Radcliffe Graduate Scholarships has had a transformative impact on our graduate student community. It has enabled us to attract the most academically talented students from a wide and

“They are very distinguished ambassadors for Univ.”
Professor Caroline Terquem

diverse range of backgrounds.” She added: “These scholarships are life-changing for students who receive them, as well as having a generational impact. Thank you.”

Grant Clelland (1981, History)

Meet the scholars

What our current (and former) Radcliffe Scholars say:



Naroa Ibarra Aizpurua (2020, DPhil Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics): “I feel honoured to have been given this prestigious scholarship. Not only has it helped me fulfil my dream of doing a DPhil in Oxford, it has also helped me feel confident and proud of myself. This scholarship has given me the sense of belonging to a historic community that I know will persist throughout the years.”



Sahra Ghalebikesabi (2019, DPhil Statistical Machine Learning): “It means everything to me. Ever since I was a little girl, my mother kept telling me that one day I would get into Oxford and change the life my family has. I studied day and night just to be here.”



Rebecca Colquhoun (2020, DPhil Environmental Research NERC DTP): “The scholarship meant that Oxford became the most attractive place for me to attend for graduate study. It has turned out to be a great decision for my academic growth – and my supervisor is great. It was a real boost to be awarded the scholarship and have my hard work acknowledged in this way.”



Tin Hang (Henry) Hung (2017, DPhil Plant Sciences): “I consider it a very prestigious and generous gift from the donors, and it is a great motivation towards my research. I am proud to say that the achievements in my doctoral studies are tied to my scholarship. Without the scholarship it would be hard to afford the tuition as an international student.”



Mahan Ghafari (2018, DPhil Interdisciplinary Bioscience DTP): “The scholarship has, without a doubt, been the most important thing that happened during my DPhil at Oxford. Without the support from the scholarship, I would not have been able to carry out my research and stay productive.”



Linda Van Bijsterveldt (2017, DPhil Medicine): “After my undergraduate studies, my dream was always to pursue a career in cancer research. I was very grateful to get an offer to start my MSc degree, and the Radcliffe Scholarship allowed me to continue my research during the doctoral programme.”



Liliana Barbieri (2016, EPSRC CDT Biomedical Imaging – MRC Weatherall Institute) (Former Radcliffe Scholar): “With the independence given by the scholarship, I was able to acquire and expand my knowledge, working on cutting edge research and receiving training from incredible people who I am honoured to have worked with. The scholarship also gave me the opportunity to spend four years in the multicultural Oxford environment. I am very proud of the scientist, woman, and global citizen I became during these years.”

Dr Andrei Klein Czech Scholarship

“The purpose of the Scholarship is to help students from Czech and Slovak Republics benefit from all the wonders that Oxford and Univ have to offer.”

Dr Pavel Klein (1974, PPP)

Univ’s extensive community is an inter- and multi-national one: more than one third of our students come from outside of the UK. In this spirit, Univ is very pleased to be able to offer the Andrei Klein Scholarship for undergraduate students normally resident in the Czech or Slovak Republics. This offers a considerable amount of financial support towards the students’ academic fees, and helps to grow and diversify Univ’s community.

Dr Andrei Klein, for whom the scholarship is named, was raised in Sevlus, currently Vynohradiv, a town in the Carpathian Mountains of former Czechoslovakia, and he survived some of the most turbulent years of European history. He was a Jewish orphan and spent his formative years in concentration camps during the Nazi occupation of 1939-1945. After the war, he became a successful doctor, and after the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union in 1968, moved to the United Kingdom, where he established his own medical practice. He worked hard during his life to ensure his son had the opportunities that circumstances had never allowed him, including the chance to come to Oxford.

His son, Pavel, came up to University College to study Psychology, Philosophy and Physiology in 1974. The rich cultural and intellectual life at Oxford had a profound effect on him, something from which he hopes the new Dr Andrei Klein Scholars will also benefit.

This past academic year, in September 2020, the College welcomed its first

“It is an incredible opportunity, as it removed the financial barrier of studying at my dream university.”

Karolina Zvonickova
(2020, Biomedical Sciences)

recipients of this scholarship, Karolina Zvonickova and Hana Bernhardova. Though perhaps not the most normal first year to have matriculated in, not least because of unexpected lockdowns in the Czech Republic and the impact of the pandemic on Univ life, the two scholars have greatly enjoyed their first year at Univ. You can hear more from them by following the link opposite.

We look forward to welcoming the next scholar in a few weeks’ time, and other scholars in the future. As this is an endowed scholarship, the College is pleased to be able to continue offering the scholarship in perpetuity.

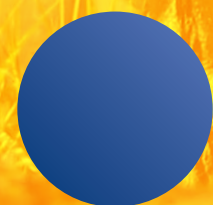
The Czech Republic is known for its own great historical universities and we have advertised the Klein Scholarship in the Czech and Slovak Republics, to

“The scholarship meant that I got the chance to be at Oxford, because without it I wouldn’t be here.”

Hana Bernhardova
(2020, Biochemistry)

encourage prospective students to look further afield and consider a degree at Oxford. The Development Office has been very fortunate to have the support of Univ’s Czech Fellow, Dr Rajendra Chitnis (more on page 18), whose expertise and advice has helped us to contact nearly 50 schools directly to advertise the scholarship.

We have now advertised the scholarship three years in a row and look forward to welcoming more applications in the years to come. The scholarship will be awarded to one student per year, and any student applying from the Czech or Slovak Republics will be automatically considered. In time, we hope to have a large community of Klein scholars, much like our cohorts of Radcliffe, Rhodes, and Swire scholars.



The Univ- Rhodes Scholarship



“This history is what drew me to Univ, where I’ve had the incredible honour of studying in the same spaces as one my intellectual heroes: C.S. Lewis.”

Vidal Arroyo (2019, MSc Statistics)



“Since walking through the Univ doors, as a Rhodes scholar I have become a more well-rounded person through the diversity of people I have engaged with.”

Maitha Al Memari (2018, MPP)

Established in 1903, the Rhodes Scholarships are one of the oldest and most prestigious international graduate scholarships. They enable outstanding young people from around the world to study at the University of Oxford. The Rhodes Trust describes Rhodes Scholars as “people who have a vision of how the world could be better and the energy to make a difference.”

In 2019 and 2020, combined gifts from a group of Old Members enabled the endowment of a permanent Rhodes Scholarship at Univ – in partnership with the Rhodes Trust. The University agreed to provide 40% of the funding that would allow four Rhodes scholars to study at Univ at the same time. Univ and Rhodes, with the help of generous benefactors, would raise the remaining 60%.

Many of those who become Rhodes scholars are motivated by a desire to make major changes in their home countries. Through taking up significant roles, for example, in industry and government, they have had a meaningful impact in areas such as human rights, global health care policy, the environment, science and technology, and education reform.

Vidal Arroyo (2019, MSc Statistics) is a Rhodes scholar from Rancho Santa Margarita, California, USA. In May 2019 he graduated with a BSc in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and a minor in Computational Science from Chapman University, and is currently studying fat cell biology and its relation to obesity using AI-inspired data integration techniques.

“Being the first Rhodes Scholar from my university has not only enabled me to develop deep, meaningful friendships with others who aspire to solve humanitarian issues, it has also given me the opportunity to experience the rich history and culture that Oxford has to offer,” he said.

“This history is what drew me to Univ, where I’ve had the incredible honour of studying in the same spaces as one my intellectual heroes: C.S. Lewis. I am so grateful for the opportunities that both Rhodes and Univ have graciously offered me, and I plan to pay it forward as a mentor for the next generation of humanitarian-scientists.”

Maitha Al Memari (2018, MPP) is a former Rhodes scholar from Abu Dhabi, UAE who completed her MSc in Education (Comparative and International Education) last year. Since July 2020 she has been a Strategy Specialist in the Abu Dhabi Executive Office, reviewing

and advising on local government departments’ strategies specifically in the field of education, government, and urban planning.

She said: “Since walking through the Univ doors, as a Rhodes scholar I have become a more well-rounded person through the diversity of people I have engaged with, immersed in its community, through the space that Univ has provided for both formal and informal discussions.”

Many of those who have donated to the scholarships agree that their time at Univ helped enrich both the academic and non-academic aspects of their lives. Bruns Grayson (1974, PPE), a Foundation Fellow, said: “When I came to Oxford to take a place at Univ I didn’t realise that the College would be the centre of my life there. I think that I imagined it would be more or less like an American university. The close connections between the Fellows of the College and both graduates and undergraduates was a surprise, as was the intimacy and intellectual intensity of tutorials as a means of learning.

“The College was everything important about my life for those two years. I left richer in friendships and memories, and with a little more learning. I am happy to think about those yet to come who will, like me, be blessed to join a vibrant and special community.”

Meanwhile, for Peter Carfagna (1975, Law), the time at Oxford was also a personal milestone.

“Winning the Rhodes Scholarship was the highlight of my academic career when I received it, and the next ‘best step forward’ for me was being accepted into the Jurisprudence Programme at University College,” he said. “I enjoyed every minute of my studies at Univ, learning from the best tutors imaginable, particularly John Finnis with whom I have (very happily) stayed in touch ever since.

“However, the absolute best part of my Rhodes/Univ Experience came during my second year during which I was blessed to spend the first year of my married life at Staverton with my wife (now of 44 years) Rita.

“That is why Rita and I were inspired to give back both to Univ and to the Rhodes Trust by making our multi-year pledge to the Rhodes Scholar/Univ College partnership. It is our hope that our donations, along with the donations of many others, will allow current and future Rhodes/Univ Scholars to benefit from the same ‘lifetime of happy memories’ that Rita and I still cherish when we think about Univ, to this very day.”



“The College was everything important about my life for those two years. I left richer in friendships and memories, and with a little more learning. I am happy to think about those yet to come who will, like me, be blessed to join a vibrant and special community.”

Bruns Grayson (1974, PPE)



“It is our hope that our donations, along with the donations of many others, will allow current and future Rhodes/Univ Scholars to benefit from the same ‘lifetime of happy memories’ that Rita and I still cherish when we think about Univ, to this very day.”

Peter Carfagna (1975, Law)





University College Boat Club

Jamie Coleman (1994, Social Studies) and his late father Jimmy Coleman CBE (1964, Law) enjoyed giving back to the College which gave so much to them. The Coleman family have supported the College since the 1980s including purchasing rowing equipment, supporting the construction of Univ's stunning new Boathouse, travel scholarships, postgraduate scholarships and Student Support (formerly the Student Hardship Fund). Their most recent gift supported the Boat Club Coach appointment.

What brought you to Univ?
I felt it was a stepping stone toward greater success in life.

Who inspired you during your time at the College?
Master John Albery, George Cawkwell, and Leslie Mitchell

What are your most treasured memories of your time at Univ?
Dinners with George and Pat Cawkwell.

What were the highlights of your association with the Boat Club, particularly of rowing with the First Eight?
Stroking the first eight named after my father and getting double bumped due to equipment failure. I had to calm enraged blues and olympians by explaining that rowing is just a game. I found the experience both humbling and amusing.

Why do you support Univ, and why would you encourage others to do so?
I believe in giving back.

“Sports are a very important aspect of student welfare.”

Jonathan Cheesman

Meet the Boat Club Coach

Jonathan Cheesman, Boat Club Coach, has been coaching at Univ for the past two and a half years and has been overseeing the club coaching programme whilst focusing on coaching the M1 and W1 crews. Before coming to Univ he was the Head of Rowing at Lady Eleanor Holles School in Hampton. He has been coaching for 30 years and has coached at all levels, from beginners to Internationals; and all ages from 12 all the way up to masters in their 80s. He has extensive experience coaching University athletes, having coached at both Newcastle and Cardiff Universities. Jonathan oversees the club coaching programme, and he is also responsible for the Boathouse.

“When we locked down in March 2020, I essentially mothballed the Boathouse but we still wanted to train. Over the past few years I have been making sure that rowing is not only an opportunity for excellence, but also to give the students a break from the stresses of everyday life.

“The first thing was to establish online training, devising programmes, turning

everyday household objects into resistance training. As we got to the end of the first lockdown, I had to sit down and coordinate all the advice coming from the Government, the College, the University and British Rowing. With the first unlock we started off with singles and pairs. Once we'd tested protocols and systems, we started planning for the students' return. We had our guidelines in place, we had timetables for outings, and we had a traffic light system in place – both the Government one and our own internal one.

“I would like to thank Alex Wowra, Housekeeping Manager, and her fantastic team. We went to them with a long list of stuff to make the Boat House COVID-19-safe and they delivered! Every boat that has gone out has been disinfected before and after it's on the water – the students have become experts. We're hoping that they will bring this new enthusiasm for cleaning back to their College rooms!

“As Michaelmas term commenced, with our COVID-19 systems in place and social distancing, we managed to pretty much go

back to normal rowing. By the November lockdown, we'd just raced at the first winter league event, with positive results. This time we were prepared. I would like to thank Angela Unsworth, Domestic Bursar, for organising moving some of the ergos up to the main site and Staverton.

“Coming out of the second lockdown, we hit the ground running. We were the first boat on the water in Oxford on 29 March at 6am and we were 25 minutes on the water before anyone else managed to get out of bed and join us! Since then we've been running our term as normal. We had four women's eights and three men's eights for Summer Torpids. Our novice programme has worked out very well. We're seeing around about 80–90 students rowing. The standard is so high across the board!

“We could have just hung up our oars but, from mine and the College's point of view, sports are a very important aspect of student welfare. We have worked hard during the pandemic, we have ticked the right boxes and we've got a fantastic group of people coming through.”

Univ’s Opportunity Programme - five years on

The Univ Opportunity Programme was launched in 2016 to drive up the number of undergraduate offers made to talented UK students from under-represented or disadvantaged backgrounds. It built on the College’s longstanding commitment to widening participation at Oxford. We were the first college to appoint a full-time Schools Liaison Officer, the first to establish a formal student ambassador scheme, and the first to launch an online hub of academic enrichment materials for prospective applicants. Now in its fifth year, the Univ Opportunity Programme has brought about a step change in the range of backgrounds represented in our undergraduate community, and it has driven change across Oxford.

The concept is a simple one. We increased the number of undergraduate places available at the College by ten per year, and reserved those extra places exclusively for students coming from backgrounds which the University has identified as priorities for widening participation. Students admitted under the programme attend an intensive residential bridging course in the summer prior to the start of their degree. The course explores and develops high-level academic skills that support the success of participants in their future studies. Alongside building a strong academic foundation, students have a chance to settle into university life and get to know each other through social activities. Meeting other students, making friends and learning from each other’s experiences are hugely important aspects of the programme.

The programme does not entail any compromise on academic standards. Quite the opposite! It has demonstrated that academic standards and widening participation go hand in hand. Students admitted under the programme are selected according to the same rigorous processes as any other student, and they are required



to achieve the same grades in their school-leaving exams. In selecting students for the programme, though, we take particular account of data relating to the performance of their schools, of progression rates to university from their neighbourhoods, and of the socio-economic circumstances of their background, and we assess their prior academic performance in this context. The role of contextual data in university admissions is widely studied by education experts, and its utility is now well-established.

It is a matter of great pride to the College that the Univ Opportunity Programme has been a runaway success. In its first year, the number of students admitted from under-performing schools and disadvantaged neighbourhoods trebled, and we have maintained that number in all subsequent years. In 2017, the then Minister for Science and Universities congratulated the College on the programme in the UK Parliament. In 2018, the Univ Opportunity Programme was awarded first prize in the inaugural Vice-Chancellor’s Diversity Awards in the category “promoting diversity in the student body.” Most importantly, the students admitted under the programme have had good experiences at the College, and in many cases have enjoyed considerable academic success. This year, there are students in all four undergraduate years who were admitted under the programme and who achieved a First or a Distinction in their university exams. Overall, the average exam performance of students admitted under the programme is the same as the average of the College as a whole.



“The College stood out as a beacon for opportunity, inclusion and engagement.”

Dr Andrew Bell (1993, History), Senior Tutor

Perhaps the greatest endorsement of the programme is that, as of 2019, it has been adopted by every other undergraduate college in the University under the name Opportunity Oxford. Admitting 200 students per year, Opportunity Oxford is now the University’s flagship widening participation programme. There is no immodesty in stating that Univ led and the University followed.

As described, the Univ Opportunity Programme may sound like a simple endeavour, but it was a very bold step for the College to take. It involved increasing the size of our student body, which has very significant implications for accommodation and other facilities, for tutorial teaching, and welfare and hardship provision. The commitment to admitting Univ Opportunity Programme students was a significant driver of the College’s decision to develop its North Oxford site on the scale that is now envisaged. The North Oxford site and the promotion of equality of opportunity go hand in hand. In this, as in so much else, we are sustained by the generosity and expertise of many Old Members, colleagues, and friends of the College.

The launch of the Univ Opportunity Programme saw us adopt a strong public stance on the relationship between higher education and social justice. In so doing, the College stood out as a beacon for opportunity, inclusion and engagement. We know that much remains to be done, both in terms of undergraduate and graduate admissions, and in terms of the recruitment of academic staff, if the College is to be as representative and inclusive as we wish it to be. We remain ambitious to pursue excellence and diversity, each intertwined with the other.

Dr Andrew Bell (1993, History), Senior Tutor

Meet the students



“I was so convinced that Oxford would never want someone like me. But my Dad turned around and said ‘you need to put your name into the hat to be considered’. I’ve not looked back.

“The bridging residential option influenced me significantly in picking my college. The time spent on the course was valuable in many ways: socially, academically, but most of all, as an acclimatisation period. The experience meant that, when October came, I hit the ground running.”

Ruqayah Juyel (2017, Law), former JCR Women’s Rep



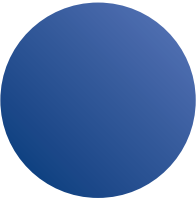
“As a student who knows first-hand the benefits of access initiatives such as the Univ bridging programme, I could not be happier to see the University taking the necessary steps to ensure that more prospective students of the future are extended the same life-changing opportunity”

Ffion Price (2017, History and Politics), former JCR Access and Equal Opportunities Rep



“The Bridging programme helped to ease me into independent study and made the prospect of Oxford tutorials much less scary because I already had an idea of what was expected of me and how to do it.”

Ellie English (2017, Experimental Psychology)





Top: Facade of The Queen's College, Oxford
Bottom: Photograph of University College, Oxford by Professor Joel David Hamkins, Sir Peter Strawson Fellow in Philosophy

The Centenary Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Politics and Economics

When philosophy, politics and economics (PPE) was established as a subject at Oxford in 1920 as “Modern Greats”, it was seen as a watershed moment in the long history of undergraduate education at the University. The “new” subject would formally synthesise the key theories and texts from each of the three disciplines, so that future statesmen and business leaders would have the necessary academic background as they sought to transform the world after graduating.

As a result, Oxford has, for the past century, regularly educated both foreign and domestic world leaders, including Kofi Busia (Univ, 1939), former President of Ghana; Bob Hawke (Univ,

1953), former Prime Minister of Australia; John Kufuor (Exeter, 1961), former President of Ghana; Festus Mogae (Univ, 1965), former President of Botswana; Imran Khan (Keble 1972), international cricketer and 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan; Benazir Bhutto (LMH, 1975), former Prime Minister of Pakistan and Nobel Prize winners, such as Malala Yousafzai, who graduated from Lady Margaret Hall with a PPE degree in July 2020.

Just over one hundred years since PPE was established the creation of a new, fully endowed Visiting Professorship in PPE, targeted at the world's best academic talent in the three subjects, will significantly enhance the profile of the subject. The Centenary Visiting Professorship in PPE is supported by an extraordinary anonymous gift. The Visiting Professorship will be shared between Univ and The Queen's College, Oxford. Each college will host a Visiting Professor in each of the three subjects once in every six years with the first Visiting Professor starting in the academic year 2022/23.

A working party of academics and fellows representing the two

“Oxford's renowned PPE course has attracted some of the world's finest academics to the university during the last 100 years; this new Visiting Professorship is designed to ensure that this continues for generations to come.”

Anonymous donor

“I feel so proud when I see the PPEists I taught at Univ, now doing such brilliant work in business, in government, and in civil society.”

Professor Ngaire Woods, Senior Research Fellow and Dean, Blavatnik School of Government

colleges and the three faculties has met during this academic year, to propose suitable candidates, prepare the logistics, and ensure that the inauguration of the Visiting Fellowship has the greatest possible global impact.

The establishment of this Visiting Professorship in PPE will provide both leadership and day-to-day benefits for students and fellow academics, further embedding the study of philosophy, politics and economics into the fabric of the College. By bringing the work and ideas of academics outside of Oxford directly into the University, it will prepare PPE for the next 100 years. In the modern world, the international context has become an integral part of any study of philosophy, politics and economics.

The Pavel and Ivana Tykač Fellowship

“Univ is extremely proud not only to be one of just a handful of colleges to offer Czech with Slovak, but also to have Rajendra in its ranks – a dedicated fellow and tutor for Czech students.”



In a university renowned for its world-leading expertise in Russian and Slavonic studies, Univ is unique in hosting fellows in both Russian and Czech. In the early 60s, Univ decided to have its own modern languages fellow, in Russian, a post held for many years by Dr Michael Nicholson. Endowed by Tom Schrecker after Dr Nicholson's retirement, the fellowship became known as the Schrecker-Barbour fellowship in Slavonic and East European studies and has been held by Professor Polly Jones since 2012. For over fifty years Univ has been the only Oxford college where one could study modern languages only if Russian or Czech was one of them. Over this period, dozens of Univ students have studied Russian and Czech together, making Univ a centre for undergraduate and graduate Slavonic studies.

However, Czech and Slovak at Oxford faced an uncertain future after the University's Czech lecturer, Jim Naughton, died in 2013. In 2017, Pavel and Ivana Tykač offered their financial support for a fellowship position at Univ for Czech, a hugely significant gift for the future stability of Czech studies at Univ.

Dr Rajendra Chitnis was appointed the first Ivana and Pavel Tykač Fellow in Czech at Univ in 2019. He teaches the whole history of Czech and Slovak literature from the fourteenth century to the present day, and his research focuses mainly on Czech, Slovak and Russian literature from the late nineteenth century onwards. He previously taught at the University of Bristol, and Palacký University, Olomouc, in the Czech Republic.

With Czech, Slovak, Polish and Russian taught alongside French, German, Italian and Spanish, modern languages at Univ encompass Europe from East to West, producing outstanding, versatile linguists. Univ is extremely proud to be one of just a handful of colleges to offer Czech with Slovak.

Studying Czech at Univ at a glance

Year 1

- 1 Generally offered “ab initio”, so intensive language work in the first year
- 2 Poetry: Karel Hynek Mácha: *Máj* (1836); Karel Hlaváček: *Mstivá kantiléna* (1898)
- 3 Drama: Karel Čapek: *R.U.R.* (1921); Josef Topol: *Slavík k večeri* (1967)
- 4 Short Prose: Jan Neruda: *Doktor Kačísvět* (1876); Růžena Jesenská: *Mimo svět* (1909); Alena Vostrá: *Elegie* (1963); Jan Balabán: *Kluk* (2004)

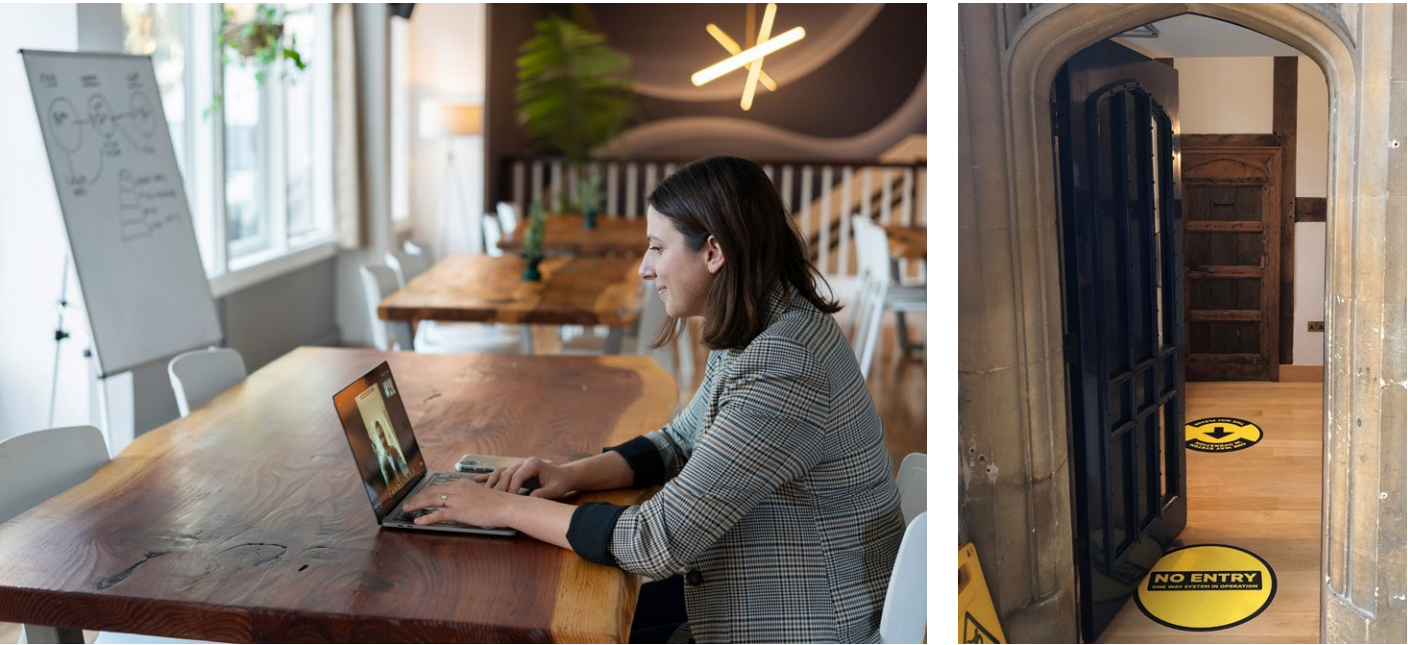
Years 2 and 4

- 1 Start of the Final Honours School course
- 2 More intensive language study (building up to translation and essay writing in Czech/Slovak)
- 3 Choice of topic papers:
 - Period paper – 1774 to present (literature)
 - History of Czech and Slovak (linguistics)
 - Medieval texts (literature)
- 4 Modern authors (literature) – choice of three:

Jan Amos Komenský	Vladimír Holan	Bohumil Hrabal
Daniela Hodrová	Ján Johanides	Dušan Mitana

Year 3

- 1 Year abroad (split with other subject), half in Czech or Slovak Republics
- 2 Study at a university on the Erasmus programme, work in an internship, or teach English at a school/gymnasium



Images (clockwise from top left): remote studying; signage to encourage social distancing in College; hand sanitisers around College; marquees for meetings in the Fellows' Garden; microwaves for student rooms

Area of Greatest Need

Supporting the College during the COVID-19 pandemic

“The health, welfare and wellbeing of students and staff was our priority.”

This has been an extremely difficult 18 months for the College, the University and the world. In March 2020, as a result of the spread of COVID-19 and the Government’s decision to declare a national lockdown, the difficult decision was made to send students home where possible, and to close our doors. Staff, Fellows, and students quickly adapted to online working through Teams and Zoom, and daily exchanges in the dining hall or pidge room were replaced with emails, WhatsApp messages, and video calls.

The health, welfare and wellbeing of students and staff was our priority.

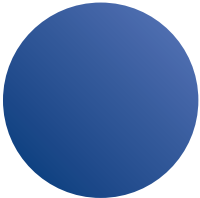
We welcomed our students back in Michaelmas of 2020, with students grouped into households, seats in hall placed two metres apart, and a scaled-down workforce physically in College with many staff working from home.

Trinity Term saw the beginning of the easing of restrictions as students faced the prospect of another year of exams – some in person, some done remotely. Students were able to socialise and collaborate more freely, in their rooms or common rooms, or out and about in Oxford. We hope that tutorials, seminars, and lectures will be back to being face-to-face in Michaelmas Term 2021.

Throughout this time we have been looking at what we can learn and what we can retain to continue to improve the way we communicate and handle challenges in the future. Financial support from Univ’s community has made a tremendous difference during this difficult period. Thanks to the generosity of Old Members and friends of the College, we have been able to improve our e-conferencing facilities,

purchase the equipment and signage necessary to encourage social distancing and hand sanitising, create outdoor spaces under marquees for tutorials and meetings, provide microwaves for student rooms for periods when the Buttery was closed, and enhance our audio recording facilities in the Chapel so that services, music and events could be shared with members of the College around the world. Thanks to your “Undesignated” gifts – also known as gifts to our “Area of Greatest Need” – we have been able to divert funds to respond quickly and effectively to fluctuating Government guidelines, allowing us to continue to prioritise the safety of students and staff, while still emphasising our commitment to welfare, inclusion, and academic excellence.

Thank you.



The Importance of giving regularly

When looking back over the past 15 months, I am overwhelmed with gratitude: for our supportive Univ community, for our donors and for everyone’s patience. Thank you.

Support via Regular Giving underpins many aspects of life at Univ. We welcome gifts of all sizes and encourage supporters to donate on a regular basis.

As a result of the pandemic, many of our activities have been adapted and we have now run four innovative “virtual” telephone campaigns. We were one of the first Oxbridge colleges to run telethons entirely remotely. Continuing with running these telethons enabled us to stay connected with our alumni and are an essential part of our regular fundraising. Our team of callers have found it hugely beneficial to speak to you and in particular share their insights into student life during a global pandemic!

We received amazing support from our Young Univ Old Members (aged under 35) during our June 2021 telethon campaign

in support of Univ North, and almost £236,000 has been raised by them. Over 97 members of Young Univ participated in the campaign with matriculation year 2008 taking the record, with 12 Old Members having made a gift to the Univ North project. Each and every gift is important and helps make a big difference.

Our Regular Giving programme has had to change and adapt this year (as we all have!) with fundraising activity taking place at different times, and this has also been reflected in the timing of funds raised.

I would like to thank Old Members and friends for their continued loyalty, support and kind generosity. By choosing to make a regular gift, supporters help us to make long-term commitments to the development of the College.

Marlies van Wijk, Regular Giving Manager

A new Univ initiative: our first Legacies Telethon

Legacies have always played a vital role in the history of Univ and in March 2021 we ran a pilot legacies telephone campaign. This telethon was planned thoughtfully and sensitively with the aim to connect with Old Members and to have conversations about legacy giving.

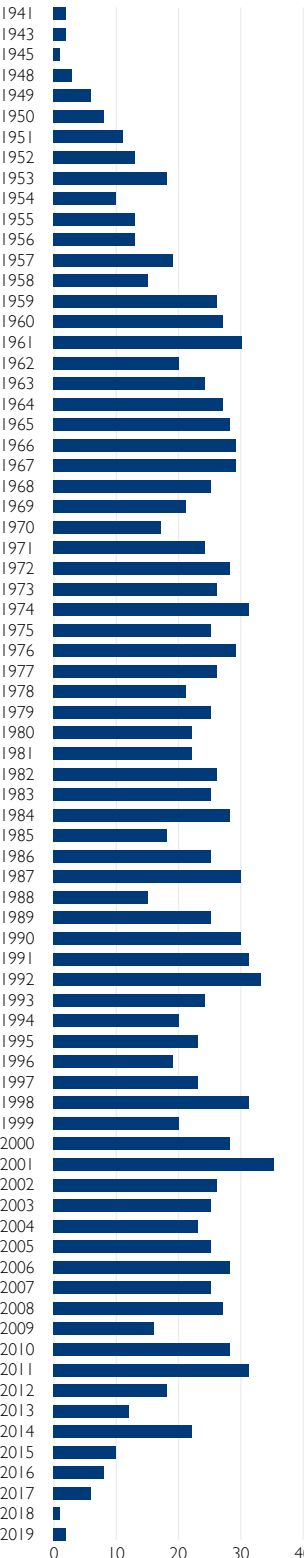
It proved to be very popular with both the student callers and our Old Members. Having started with around 229 known legacies in place (excluding anonymous) we:

- Gained 14 which had been in place but not known to us
 - An additional 21 Old Members said they were intending to include Univ in their wills
- If all of these intentions are fulfilled, this would bring us to 264 legators for the College, or an increase of 15%
 - 41 said they would consider a legacy in their own time
- 71 of our new legacies booklets were sent out
 - There were a further 37 Old Members who asked for more information. Thank you.

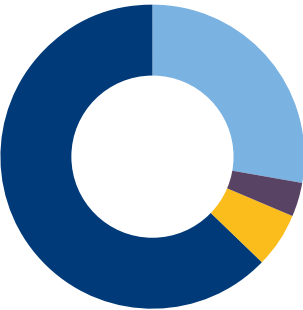
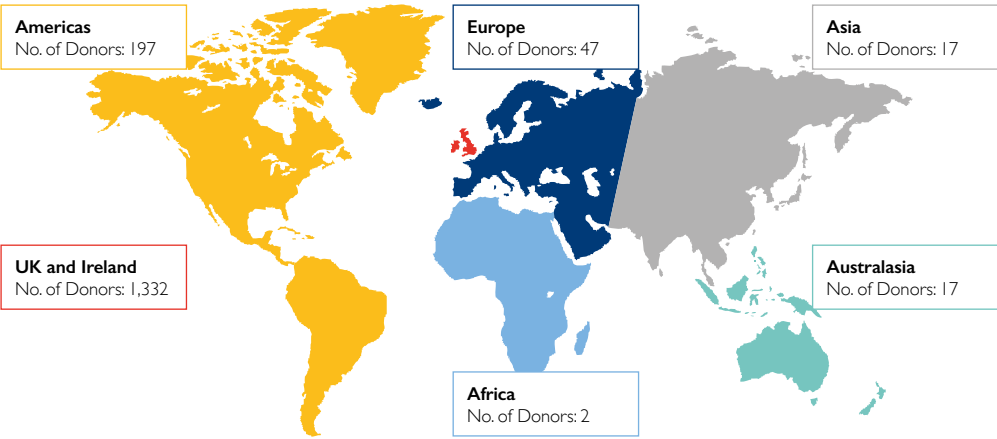
Martha Cass, Deputy Director of Development

Regular Giving in 2020/2021

Donors by matriculation year



Giving donors by region



Funds pledged in 2020/21 by area

Student Support: £356,057.96 3.6%

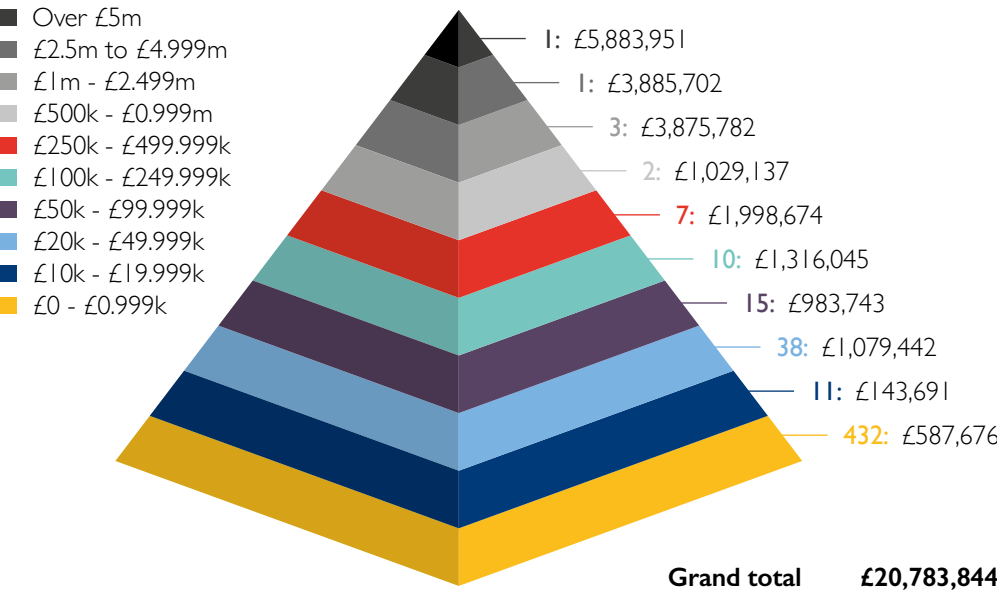
Other areas of College life: £585,891.54 5.9%

Capital Developments: £6,146,113.05 63%

Academic Positions: £2,692,642.24 27.5%

Grand Total £9,780,704.79

Funds pledged to Univ North (by August 2021)



Investment Report

2019-2020



A window on our financial activities

Your generous giving and support for the College remains a vital cornerstone of the College's successful delivery of its higher education, research and academic activity. This support has never been more keenly appreciated than over the past year when the world changed all around us.

It can be troubling to recall the series of events triggered by COVID-19, but the College is proud of its response. The College was closed from 20 March 2020, slightly ahead of the national lockdown, in order to protect member wellbeing. This necessary first step was just the start of a very challenging period that demanded professional flexibility and adaption from everyone in, and associated with, the College as no part of our activities was untouched.

Despite our financial strength – Univ is just about in the top third of Oxford colleges' wealth and has always retained liquid resources for exactly the sort of risk that hit us in 2020 – our natural operating income was badly hit, with the impact on the commercial property portfolio being particularly severe. Nevertheless, efforts to bear down on costs were successful, although couldn't match the fall in income. While our financial assets appear to have recovered, the income receipts from property will take time to repair.

Our financials for 2020/2021 are not available at the time of going to press so the accounts for 2019/2020 are illustrated here. They reveal a number of key points very well.

As is typically the case, our spend on higher education and academic activities exceeded their natural income. This was exacerbated in 2020 as there were no students in residence in Trinity Term. Our investment income was also down because of collapsed dividends and our missing rental receipts subject to COVID-19-caused credit risk. So, while our endowment portfolio is robust and well-diversified, the impact of COVID-19 on business

trading and pessimistic perspectives on values has meant a very challenging period. In this context, our net income before the COVID-19 losses in our endowment portfolio was over £6 million, which again reveals all too clearly your generosity. It is greatly appreciated – thank you.

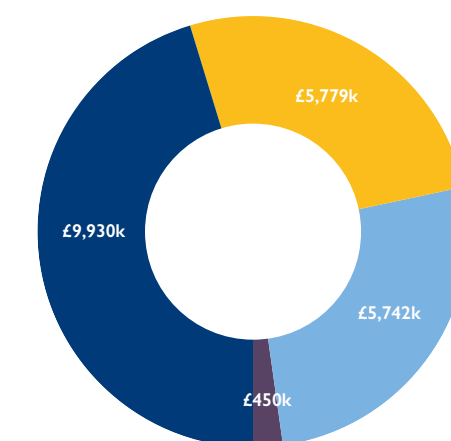
In terms of other noteworthy financial activity, the major focus remains on our proposed development project at 115 Banbury Road and the expansion of the Staverton Road Annexe. Called "Univ North", it will be the largest single increment in our functional premises for over three centuries. In October 2020, the College received planning consent for the masterplan, comprising 150 new bedspaces, a café, gym, nursery, study space, all set in landscaped grounds. The College is deep in preparation so that we can confidently tender for a construction contractor and deliver the project to the cost and quality that our members expect.

Univ North represents a fabulous opportunity to enhance the domestic provision for our undergraduate and postgraduate members. In all the pressing work needed to ensure that the College can manage this exceptional additional activity, you will be pleased to hear that we continue to support the essentials of academic excellence, good governance (Charity Code) and transparent, compliant processes.

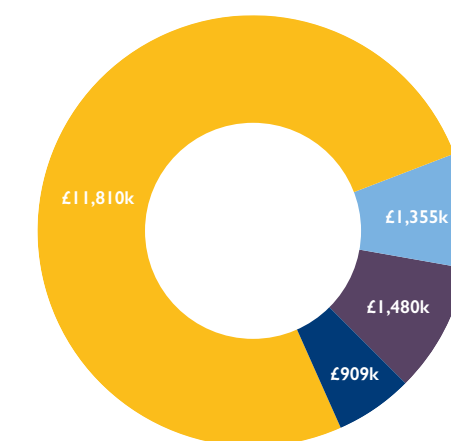
Please do get in touch with the Development Office or me directly should you wish for any additional information.

*Dr Andrew Grant
(1977, Chemistry), Finance Bursar*

Income 2019/2020



Expenditure 2019/2020



- Donations & Legacies
- Teaching, Research & Residential
- Investments
- Other

Giving Circles

Univ has its very foundations in giving and philanthropy, and this continues to this day. We are committed to thanking and recognising our donors, and one way that we look to do that is through our Giving Circles.

Each Giving Circle has its own associated events and communications, and all Giving Circle members will continue to be invited to the annual Donor Day event and receive the *Univ Futures* magazine. They will also receive special recognition in the annual *Roll of Donors*, which from this year will accompany *Univ Futures*.

1249 Society

The 1249 Society was established in 2014 to recognise and thank those donors who, through their generosity, lead the way in supporting future generations of students and advancing the interests of the College.

Members of the 1249 Society will receive a copy of *Univ Futures* every year, and will be invited to the annual Donor Day and the 1249 Reception, which will alternate annually with other events in College.

The qualification amounts for our annual giving circle, the 1249 Society, have been the same for nearly seven years. We would like these amounts to remain consistent with the rising costs of student support, tuition and academic research and will therefore be making changes to the qualification amounts from 1 August 2023. We will also be introducing a new age group: 30-35.

Recent Leavers	From 30-35
Increase from £12.49 per year to £20 per year	£500 per year
Under 30	35 and above
Increase from £124.90 to £200 per year	Increase from £1,249 per year to £2,000 per year

William of Durham Club

The William of Durham Club recognises those who make provision for College in their will. Members receive a copy of *Univ Futures*, and are invited to the annual Donor Day and the William of Durham Luncheon, to which all members and potential legators are invited.

Read about our first legacies telephone campaign on page 22.

Major Giving Circles

Our major giving circles bring together those who have made substantial contributions to the College over their lives. Univ is extremely humbled by the generosity and support of its Old Members and friends, and our Major Giving Circles are one of the ways in which we recognise their support and thank them. Details for each group are below.

In order to remain consistent with the rising costs of student support, tuition and academic research, the boundary between and qualification amounts for our Major Benefactors' Society and Principal Benefactors' Society will be changing from 1 August 2023. Please note that donors will not "drop out" of the Principal Benefactors' Society. Until 2023, any donor reaching the current qualification level will become a member of the Principal Benefactors' Society for life.

The Major Benefactors' Society

The Major Benefactors' Society recognises and thanks those who, over the course of their lifetime, have made substantial contributions to Univ. Major Benefactors will receive a copy of *Univ Futures*, be invited to the annual Donor Day, and will be invited to a special event, such as a dinner or reception, following one of our regular events. This will alternate each year with other College events.

The Major Benefactors' Society – increase from £25,000-£249,999 to £25,000-£499,999.

The Principal Benefactors' Society

Univ's Principal Benefactors comprise those members of the community who have diligently supported the College with significant gifts during their life. The Principal Benefactors' Society celebrates this generous philanthropy. Members will receive a copy of *Univ Futures*, be invited to the annual Donor Day, and will be invited to the Founders' and Benefactors' Evensong and dinner in the autumn, as well as the Major Benefactors' event.

The Principal Benefactors' Society – increase from £250,000-£999,999 to £500,000-£999,999.

Foundation Fellows

Foundation Fellowships are offered to donors who have made considerable gifts to Univ, and who have helped to shape and nurture the College. Foundation Fellows will receive a copy of *Univ Futures*, be invited to the annual Donor Day, and will be invited to the Feast of St Cuthbert in the spring, as well as the Major and Principal Benefactors' events.

The Foundation Fellowship – will remain at £1m lifetime giving.

For further details, please see our **Donor Charter** at bit.ly/ufm149, email development@univ.ox.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1865 276 674.

Further information about giving to Univ can be found on the College website: bit.ly/ufm116



Diary of Events

Events in **gold** are exclusively for donors.

2021

30 September	Class of 1994 Virtual Reunion
28 October	Class of 1995 Virtual Reunion
31 October	Founders' and Benefactors' Evensong
11 November	USPGA Autumn Meeting
18 November	Univ in the Arts
23 November	Annual Seminar – The Good, the Bad and the Unexpected: How businesses responded to COVID-19
24 November	The Centenary Visiting Professor of PPE - launch event
26 November	Mitchell Building 50th Anniversary Celebrations
2 December	Class of 1996 Virtual Reunion
4 December	Advent Carol Service

2022

28 January (TBC)	Dinosaurs and Cassandrians Dinner
3 February	London Dinner
26 February	Donor Day
12 March	Old Members' Football Day
12 March	College Feast of St Cuthbert
19 March	1988-92 Gaudy
26 March	1970 and 1971 Golden Anniversary
April (date TBC)	Intercollegiate Golf
April (date TBC)	Oxford North American Alumni Weekend
May (date TBC)	Univ in the City
21 May	William of Durham Day
25 May	USPGA Spring Meeting
28 May	Summer VIIIs Luncheon, Major Benefactors Reception and Dinner
June (date TBC)	Leander Boat Club Lunch
24 June	Univ Ball

For more information about events, please visit bit.ly/ufm128



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