UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD ISSUE 2 | 2022

UNIVFUTURES



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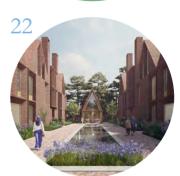












Cover (clockwise from centre): Matriculation Day 2018 PPE cohort; Radcliffe Quad tower; carols in Main Quad with The Chapel Choir, the Univ Community Choir and choirs, parents and staff from five local primary schools in 2021; London Dinner 2017; Lewis Walker (2018, Biochemistry); Lyra the Univ cat; signpost at Stavs

Above (clockwise from top left): Tom Schrecker (1952, History); Dr Martina Astrid Rodda, Departmental Lecturer, 2021-22; Sahil Shah (2018, Oriental Studies); Rachel Diggin (2019, Engineering); The Chalet; Univ North - Water Court, looking south towards the Covered Seating Area (Níall McLaughlin Architects)

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

Message from the Master

My thanks to our Old Members and friends of Univ for your continued support, which contributes to the range of educational opportunities available for students at Univ. In this second issue of Univ Futures we highlight a range of ways in which our undergraduate students have benefited from excellent teaching and access to wider wellbeing support, and our graduate students have had the opportunity to pursue particular research interests in a variety of fields. Our focus is on student life at Univ, and the ways in which your giving has helped to strengthen our work and reputation in a number of areas.

At Univ, we have a strong commitment to academic excellence, student and staff wellbeing, opening up access to deliver opportunity and equality of outcomes for students from underrepresented backgrounds and creating an inclusive culture in College. We have a reputation as a friendly, open college. For me, that reputation is reinforced by the connectivity to many of our Old Members who speak highly of the quality of the education and avenues for learning they experienced here.

"At Univ we have a strong commitment to academic excellence, student and staff wellbeing, opening up access to deliver opportunity and equality of outcomes for students from underrepresented backgrounds."

With the building of Univ North, we will see a major expansion of the College. Univ North will help us to continue to provide excellent facilities for our students and staff as we look to the future. It will also enable us to take the next steps in realising our ambitions on environmental sustainability, social impact and intergenerational living. Univ has pioneered initiatives in the past which have led to wider take up across the collegiate university. The Univ Opportunity Programme, which became Opportunity Oxford, is a good example of this. As one

I hope you enjoy reading *Univ Futures*. Thank you again for your support.

established by previous generations.

of Oxford's oldest colleges we are proud

that we have been able to balance tradition

and modernity, building on the foundations

Best Wishes

Valerie Amos

Research at Univ

Research is central to the life of the College and of the wider University. It inspires and occupies our Fellows. It is the primary focus of our postgraduate research students and the basis for their education. It is often, in the form of a research project, dissertation or thesis, what our undergraduate students identify as the most rewarding and enjoyable aspect of their degree. Research is central to our broader contribution to society. Events of recent years have sharply reminded us of the importance of basic research in preparing us for unexpected challenges in the world, and have made clear the breadth and depth of knowledge needed to confront

those challenges. Tackling a pandemic depended not only on decades of research in virology, medicine and physiology, but critically also on understanding and modelling human behaviour, transmission of information and misinformation, policy and politics, and international relations.

Research is central to Univ's teaching. Higher education exists for students to learn how to tackle unanswered questions, and so it happens most effectively in a community built around a shared passion for research and scholarship.

Professor Nicholas Yeung, Dean of Graduates and Sir Jules Thorn Tutorial Fellow in Psychology





The Oxford-Berman Graduate Scholarship

"I am immensely grateful for this opportunity, and I am excited to see where this project will lead."

Robin Timmis (2020, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics)

"I am very grateful to the funders of the Univ Berman scholarship for supporting my study here."

David McMahon (2021, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics)



Dr Robert ("Bobby") Berman (1920-2004) (1943, MA and DPhil Physics), former Emeritus Fellow, was University College's first Fellow in physics and held a number of titles at the College, including Tutor for Admissions, Senior Tutor and Camerarius. Dr Berman specialised in thermodynamics and was an extremely influential and popular tutor in the College from 1955-83,

remarkably tutoring one of the world's most famous physicists, Professor Stephen Hawking (1959, Physics). Known for his kindness and generosity towards his students, a group of Old Members created the "Oxford-Berman Graduate Scholarship" in his honour and in recognition of his valuable and much appreciated contribution to life at Univ.

The Oxford-Berman scholarship is one of the Oxford Graduate Scholarships that were established in 2012 through a ground-breaking matched funding initiative, which enabled the creation of fullyfunded scholarships for graduate students of the highest calibre from across the world. 2013-14 saw the very first Oxford Graduate scholars begin their studies.



Robin Timmis (2020, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics) is working in the Oxford Centre for High Energy Density Science with Professor Peter A Norreys, Supernumerary Fellow.

"Over the past year, I have been looking at the interaction between a high-power laser and a solid density plasma on attosecond timescales using supercomputer simulations. The laser intensities and timescales I have been looking at are only just now possible to probe in experiments in facilities such as the world-class ELI-NP facility in Romania.

"At such high plasma densities, the laser is unable to propagate through the plasma and is instead reflected. During this reflection process, the laser pulse is spatially compressed, boosting the peak intensity up to 1,000 times. The extreme radiation generated has been shown in simulation to reach the Quantum Electrodynamical (QED) regime and could be an ideal heat source for inertial confinement fusion. The boosting of the field is due to the complex micro-dynamics of the electrons interacting with the laser, relative to the heavy, and therefore essentially stationary, ions. I have focussed, most recently, on the electrons which form coherent bunches that oscillate across the front of the plasma surface. I have found that these bunches are expelled from the plasma with unprecedented density and coherence in their motion such that they dwarf current leading bunch production methods.

> "At the Diamond Light Source, the UK's premier synchrotron facility, electron bunches are used to study a vast range of applications from the structure of an unknown virus to pieces of an ancient painting. Currently, I am preparing to publish my results on electron bunches to the American Physical Society. Having now established an understanding of the reflection mechanism, for the coming year I will transition to studying the reflected laser pulse.

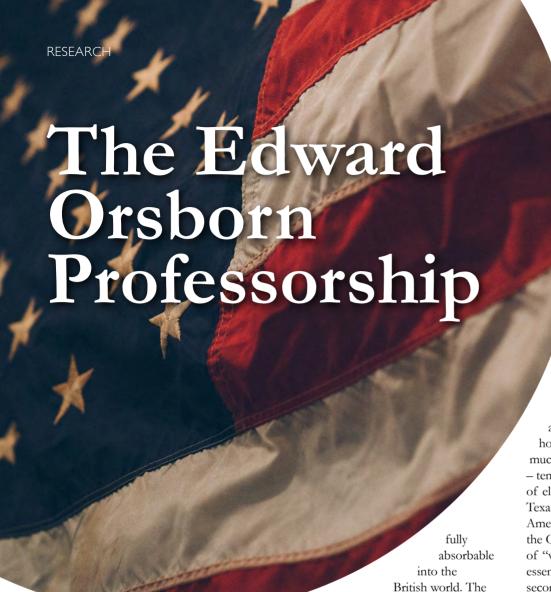
> > "This research was made possible by the Oxford-Berman Graduate Scholarship. I am immensely grateful for this opportunity, and I am excited to see where this project will lead. This area of research is especially active, and we have many ideas to explore."



David McMahon (2021, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics) is a Univ Berman Scholar from Cork City, Ireland. In June 2021 he graduated with a BSc in Physics from University College, Cork and was awarded the "SEFS Graduate of the Year" award, to recognise his effort and contributions within the University.

"During my undergraduate degree, I became convinced that laser physics is one of the most fruitful routes to making high-impact technologies of benefit to society. This led me to study Laser Wakefield Acceleration (LWFA), a technique using high-power lasers to make particle accelerators up to a thousand times smaller. This would have applications in next-generation radiotherapy, medical/industrial imaging, and scientific study. In particular, I want to work towards building x-ray lasers - modern x-ray lasers are kilometres long, but with LWFA, we expect we can fit them onto a tabletop.

"Oxford's history of academic excellence is what drew me here, and I was not disappointed! My supervisor's group is a world-leader in this field, and this places me well to achieve these goals. What I did not anticipate was finding the excellent community present at Univ, where I have made many friends. I am very grateful to the funders of the Oxford-Berman Scholarship for supporting my study here."



Adam Smith is the inaugural Edward Orsborn Professor of United States Politics and Political History. He took up his post in 2019.

By the standards of British universities, Oxford has a surprisingly long tradition of scholarly interest in the United States. In 1922, the first Viscount Rothermere endowed the Harmsworth Professorship in American History in memory of his son Harold Vyvyan Alfred St George Harmsworth who died in the First World War. It was at a moment when the British establishment was urgently trying to co-opt the rising power of the United States. Their "American cousins", as the Victorians had condescendingly called them, were confoundingly neither fully foreign nor

Harmsworth chair was a gift from a family that was becoming fully Anglo-American. It was a bet that the future of British stability and prosperity – and perhaps of the kind of liberal democracy that was emerging here – would depend on an American alliance.

The Harmsworth chair enabled an American-based historian of the United States to come to Oxford to give lectures. This initiative was as jarring to the medieval-dominated study of History at Oxford as suggesting a blast of bee-bop jazz at Evensong. But by the early post-Second World War years, enhanced by the prestige of the American Rhodes scholars, the connection between Oxford and the study of America was fully established. We now have three established chairs in addition to the visiting Harmsworth: the Rhodes Professorship of American History, the Mellon Professorship of American Government and, the most recent, my own chair, the Edward Orsborn Professorship in United States Politics

and Political History, which was established at Univ by the generosity of donors including several Old Members. In addition to helping to develop the teaching of US political history here, I am the Director of the Rothermere American Institute, which, since 2001, has been the University's research centre for the study of America and its place in the world.

Why study America in Oxford? The main answer is that America matters, that it needs to be understood in a global context from the outside in as well as from the inside out. As I write, the horrific war in Ukraine continues, while much of the media's attention is focused - temporarily I expect - on the murder of elementary school children in Uvalde, Texas. The first of those stories has an American dimension that is reminiscent of the Cold War: once again, US leadership of "western democracies" has become essential, as has its military support. The second of those stories is a sickening reminder of why, while millions around the world still aspire to go to America, millions of others shudder at the thought of living in a society with such a seemingly intractable and deep-seated problem of lethal violence. It's tempting for all of us - Americans and non-Americans - to see the United States in terms of these kinds of dichotomies: the good and the ugly; the great nation of futurity, and a model of "democratic backsliding". The reality of course is endlessly complex, but the cartoonish extremes of America, locked in another of its own cycles of violent polarisation, are dramatically compelling and politically consequential. In my view, then, the case for an Oxford centre for the study of the United States remains as strong now as it has ever been.

My own research has focused on the Civil War era. On 25 April this year I delivered my inaugural lecture at the Exam Schools in which I made the case that we should understand the war as a "conservative revolution" – that is, as a "A new generation of students has the opportunity to come to their own conclusions about how exactly an understanding of the past can shape the future."

destabilising, shattering event that was nevertheless driven by the desire of most people to hold on to something. Today, political scientists talk about America as being in a "cold Civil War", by which they mean a nation profoundly divided into two tribes, so much so that there are no agreedupon facts and in which the political system itself is under threat, but which has not (yet) actually broken apart. My work shows that present-day polarisation is deeply rooted in the American past. The history of the United States has been characterised by two impulses – a persistent veneration of the founding moment and a violent disagreement over what that founding means - and who should be included in the polity. In the years preceding the Civil War the country was divided into rival tribes who read their own newspapers, only met people they agreed with, and who genuinely believed that if the other side won, it would be catastrophic for the nation. Sounds familiar? That era of polarisation in the 1850s did not so much end as morph – through a violent war - into new lines of division, which morphed again, and again.

In other words, we need history to understand present-day politics. The past is not just prologue, but precedent. And thanks to the generosity of donors, a new generation of students has the opportunity to come to their own conclusions about how exactly an understanding of the past can shape the future.





Gwion Wyn Jones (2020, DPhil History) is the current Orsborn Scholar, supervised by Professor Adam Smith and Dr Stephen Tuffnell. His research topic is *Home Missionaries and the Making of a Spiritual Economy in the Postbellum United States*, 1865-1900.

"The Edward Orsborn scholarship has allowed me to pursue my DPhil in US history, which explores the role of Northern Protestant missionaries in the reunification of the United States after the Civil War. The scholarship has also meant that I've been able to enjoy the rich social and intellectual environments offered at both Univ and the Rothermere American Institute. Simply put, without it, I could not have followed my ambitions of becoming a historian."



Nur Laiq (2020, DPhil History), public policy practitioner, is a recipient of the Oxford-Rothermere at Univ Studentship. She was the TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities) Global South-Mellon Visiting Professor for 2019-2020.

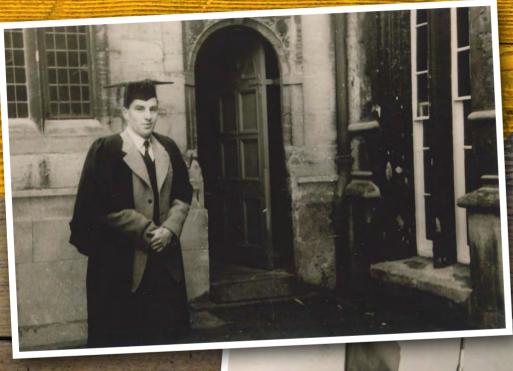
"The studentship has enabled me to conduct research on contemporary challenges to liberalism, building on my previous work in the field of public policy. I am delighted to be part of Univ's vibrant academic community, especially at a moment when shifts in the global political and economic landscape call for a deeper understanding of liberal politics and institutions."



Theo Fawcett (2020, DPhil History) is a recipient of the Oxford-Rothermere at Univ Studentship. He is supervised by Professor Adam Smith and Dr Mark Power Smith. His research topic is *Crisis of Compromise:* Generational Politics and the Coming of the American Civil War. He also rows for the Univ First Eight.

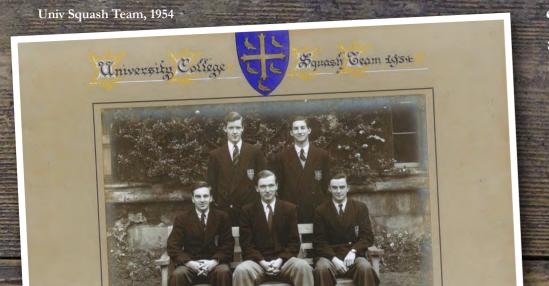
"The Oxford-Rothermere at Univ Studentship has allowed me to continue my study of the mechanisms, specifically generational, that I argue animated mid-nineteenth century US politics. In bringing together University College and the Rothermere American Institute, the studentship offers an incredibly supportive environment for undertaking significant research."

Memories ofUniv



Oxford Ski Team, Zürs, 1954 (Tom Schrecker on far left, pictured next to Nick Schlee)

Tom Schrecker at Univ, 1952



"Most of my afternoons, evenings and the long vacations were free to develop other interests - cultural, social, sportive, travel, languages etc. Although I didn't have time for many of them immediately after I went down, I was able to fall back on them in later life."

Born in 1932, Tom Schrecker was one of 669 mainly Jewish children from Czechoslovakia who were saved from the Nazis by the rescue mission of British humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton. He arrived in Britain in June 1939 on the fifth of eight trains. His father, a successful textile wholesaler, managed to escape later but his mother was killed in Auschwitz. Tom Schrecker also owes his life to Jean Barbour, who came from a distinguished Scottish family, as she had agreed to become his guardian.

Mr Schrecker was an Exhibitioner in Modern History at Univ from 1952-55. He then became Export Manager for the *Reader's Digest* and later their Managing Director for Asia. In 1967 he moved to Australia where he founded Direct Marketing Publishing and Cosmetic companies which he later sold, and retired in 1990. Since 2015 he has lived in his native Prague.

Mr Schrecker has been interviewed for the documentaries *Silá Lidskosti (The Power of Good): Nicholas Winton* (Matej Minác, 2001), which won an Emmy Award, and *Nicky's Family* (Matej Minác, 2011).

In 2006, University College was contemplating having to abolish the single Fellowship in Modern Languages on Dr Mike Nicholson's retirement. Thanks to the generosity of Mr Schrecker, the Fellowship was able to continue as the Schrecker-Barbour Fellowship in Slavonic and Eastern European Studies. Professor Polly Jones is the current Schrecker-Barbour Fellow. Mr Schrecker also supports the annual Schrecker Dinner for undergraduate students of the College.

University College is deeply grateful to Mr Schrecker and his family for this generous benefaction and elected him a Foundation Fellow – awarded to those individuals who have made exceptional benefactions to the College.



Left and centre: Students at the Schrecker Dinner, 2022

Right: Tom Schrecker and Dr Rajendra Chitnis, Ivana and Pavel Tykač Supernumerary Fellow in Czech, Prague, 2022

"I am proud to be part of the Univ community, as they have often been at the forefront of change and encouraged inclusiveness with programmes such as the recent **Opportunity** Programme and Beacon."

We are grateful to Mr Schrecker for sharing some of his memories of his time at Univ with Univ Futures:

The person who had the most impact on my life at Univ was Giles Alington, Praelector in Modern History, Dean and Senior Tutor. He was a quite remarkable man and I recommend reading about him in Robin Darwall-Smith's A History of University College, Oxford. I first met him on coming up to Univ in October 1952, after completing my National Service in the British Army. We had some discussion, including my thoughts about my post-university plans, and then he told me that he had been in touch about me with Ampleforth (the last of my eleven schools) and that the school had advised him that I tended to work too hard. This, combined with the fact that I'd won an Exhibition in Modern History at Univ and thus might feel duty-bound to try to get an outstanding degree, I was not considering an academic career and even if I worked flatout I still might not get a First, made him advise me to do as little studying as might be necessary to get a reasonable degree and devote the rest of my time to developing other interests!

This, on the face of it, unusual suggestion from one's scholastic adviser, in my case fell on fertile soil.

I already knew what a first-class academic mind was like because my friend Tony Firth, who was with me at Univ, had one. We sat near each other at Finals and he left early for

most papers and still got a Congratulated First. He later became a Modern History Fellow at Univ. Fortunately, I didn't have a complex about this and followed Alington's advice. I worked solidly in my College rooms from nine to one every day, interrupted only by my scout bringing me coffee at eleven. I visited the libraries for books once a week but didn't go to any lectures as these involved a lot of extra time getting there and back and most of our lecturers had written books. In addition, there were two or three wonderful one-on-one tutorials every week where one read and discussed the essays one had written. This was more or less the only studying I did during my three years at Univ. Most of my afternoons, evenings and the long vacations were thus free to develop other interests cultural, social, sportive, travel, languages etc. Although I didn't have time for many of them immediately after I went down, I was able to fall back on them in later life and certainly I have never been bored in retirement.

I am proud to be part of the Univ community, as they have often been at the forefront of change and encouraged inclusiveness with programmes such as the recent Opportunity Programme and Beacon. Oxford can be very proud of the part it has played in dealing with the pandemic, also.

Tom Schrecker (1952, History), Foundation Fellow

The Schrecker-Barbour Fellowship

2022 marks ten vears since I became the Schrecker-Barbour fellow here at Univ, moving from a lectureship at University College, London. I feel very lucky to have been part of institutions, throughout my career, where Slavonic studies are at the heart of the academic mission, rather than being a minority interest. It's a privilege to be part of a thriving college community of Slavonic specialists, including Dr Rajendra Chitnis, Fellow in Czech, and around 25 undergraduates and graduates at any one time. Tom Schrecker not only made my post possible, but also offers constant encouragement and support for our activities inside and outside the classroom, including Slavonic research workshops and, more recently, discussions of the war in Ukraine. I think he is as delighted as I am when our students achieve success in

their degrees! It was a particular pleasure to be able to meet Tom in Prague and discuss Univ matters when at a conference in Prague three years ago.

I teach undergraduate and graduate courses ranging across the 18th to 21st centuries, but my research interests mainly lie in the 20th century, and especially in literary and cultural developments after Stalinism. Since being at Univ, I've published books and articles on the memory politics of Stalinism, late Soviet historical literature, and Russian and Soviet biography. I've also been able to communicate my research to broader audiences through a variety of UK media outlets, and I became historical consultant for the film The Death of Stalin (directed by Univ alumnus Armando Iannucci) after we met at the College Feast not long after my appointment.

"Tom Schrecker not only made my post possible, but also offers constant encouragement and support for our activities inside and outside the classroom."



Now, I'm working on several projects, which will take my research in new directions: into the 21st century, and into new comparative dimensions. I'm writing a book on Gulag fiction for Bloomsbury, which will compare literary texts from the 1930s to the 2020s: an exceptionally rich, important but complex tradition including writers such as Solzhenitsyn, Shalamov, Dovlatov and a surprisingly large number of Putin-era authors. I'm also designing a large collaborative project on Soviet spatial history, looking especially at migration and settlement on the margins of metropolitan zones in Russia, Ukraine and Latvia, and the

provincial literary, dissident and religious communities of people banned from the zones around Moscow, Leningrad, Kyiv, Riga and other major cities. Although this project will have to evolve in response to the war in Ukraine, I am already working on one important part of the project with historian colleagues in Kyiv, digitizing archival materials, safeguarding them from damage, and using them as the basis for collaborative publications, which should start to come out later this year and next year.

Professor Polly Jones, Schrecker— Barbour Fellow in Slavonic and East-European Studies and Professor of Russian



Teaching at Univ

Univ is one of the larger Oxford colleges in terms of its undergraduate population, and, despite our size, we maintain a high ratio of tutors to students. We are a hive of teaching and learning activity! We continue to value very highly small-group tutorials, and we take seriously the academic and personal journeys of each individual student. Many of our finalists secured results which represent great personal triumph, including the fifty per cent who were awarded firsts.

This last year, the College had more applicants for undergraduate study than ever before, making us one of the most popular (and competitive!) colleges in Oxford. In large part, this popularity is due to the academic reputations our tutors have garnered, but it is also a testament to the College's outreach activities, and its public commitment to widening participation through its Opportunity and Beacon Programmes.

Dr Andrew Bell (1993, History), Senior Tutor

The Cawkwell Teaching Fund



Classics in Oxford centres on the detailed study of substantial texts in their original languages. The transformative significance of the additional language teaching that Univ is able to provide to our Classics students thanks to the Cawkwell Fund is hard to overstate. Whether a student is preparing for Classics mods or a prelim exam as part of a joint

course with English, Oriental Studies or Russian, the level expected in Latin and/or Greek is challenging, and that level is needed not just for exams but for the student to be able to flourish in the rest of the course.

The landscape for Classics in schools continues to change. Even without the disruptive effect of the pandemic, students who arrive with previous experience of Latin or Greek are needing more support than ever to reach this level. Those who embark on learning the languages from scratch are similarly in need of help to make the transition from the neat sanitised language of elementary textbooks into the complex language of some of the world's greatest writers.

Faculty-based language teaching provides the core part of these needs, but it is in College in our smaller groups and extra classes that Univ students benefit from being able to practise and develop their language skills intensively.

Having the confidence that we have the resources to help students from whatever background to reach the linguistic level required allows us to look ever more broadly in our selection process and offer places to students whose aptitude for the subject has not been matched by the availability of language teaching in their previous education.

Dr Richard Ashdowne, Supernumerary Fellow, Tutor for Undergraduates and Stipendiary Lecturer in Linguistics and Classical Languages



"I'm the youngest addition to the Univ tutorial team for this year. I did my DPhil at Oxford, but before then I was taught in a very different system: I'm from Italy, where university teaching is conducted through lectures and seminars, never tutorials, and one-on-one contact with tutors is minimal. That leads me to value the tutorial system here even more. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn from students, and also to teach them as early as possible that academic discussion is based on the free exchange of opinions, on as equal a footing as possible. I like having a relaxed tutorial style, where students are encouraged to bring their own ideas and challenge my own if they want to; and my favourite tutorial of any course is always the one where I let my students pick their own essay topics."

Dr Martina Astrid RoddaDepartmental Lecturer, 2021-22, Classical Literature

"Having the confidence that we have the resources to help students from whatever background to reach the linguistic level required allows us to look ever more broadly in our selection process."



"When you're approaching Latin or Greek from scratch, which is what I did since neither was offered at my school, you undergo intensive language classes every day. These are helpful because not only does the frequent homework, testing, and classwork result in fast learning, but you also feel yourself becoming more adept in the language from week to week, which is incredibly encouraging; I think the knowledge that you're making progress is itself a strong motivator to keep at it, especially when you're very new to subjects as demanding as Latin and Greek!

"Translation classes and tutorials are often small in size, a dynamic that I never experienced in school. These allow for rapport to be built between students and tutors, which creates an environment where you feel comfortable asking questions and discussing your own ideas (sometimes a daunting prospect!) – it definitely helps to combat impostor syndrome knowing you have a support system of tutors both brilliant and kind."

Tilly Binucci (2019, Classics), current student



Wellbeing at Univ

Most of us know that we function and feel better, and work more effectively, when we make time for relationships, and for leisure and extra-curricular activities that we enjoy. So, here at Univ, we provide support for our students to engage in a range of activities not connected with their studies and to meet others who share those interests. This is important in itself as it contributes to the physical and mental wellbeing of individual students, and to the wider community of which they are a part.

It is also important because it supports the learning and research that is at the very heart of everything that we do as a College. We are grateful to our Old Members and friends who support us in these goals, and we are glad to report on the difference that this makes to students who benefit from these opportunities when they are here.

Revd Dr Andrew Gregory, Chaplain and Welfare



The David and Lois Sykes Travel Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of our Old Members and friends, Univ is able to offer a range of travel grants and scholarships to undergraduate and postgraduate students – funding fieldwork and other trips linked to their studies. The David and Lois Sykes Scholarships for travel to China were established through the gift of Univ Old Member David Sykes (1963, Chemistry) and his wife, Lois.



"We were motivated to initiate the China Travel Scholarship programme because of the old cliché that 'travel broadens the mind'. We felt that this can be particularly true for those living in the Oxford 'bubble.'

"It is always a pleasure to read the journals written by the travellers, sometimes visiting places which we ourselves have visited. The experiences described demonstrate that there is a world outside Oxford, and generally the further you travel from your cultural comfort zone, the more interesting and rewarding it becomes."

David and Lois Sykes

One of the recipients of the David and Lois Sykes Travel Scholarship was Sahil Shah (2018, Oriental Studies) who travelled to China in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. An extract from his travel diary is included here:



I was lucky enough to be able to visit Shanghai, Sichuan, Hangzhou and Hong Kong from Beijing, where I was staying for my year abroad at Peking University, between August and December 2019.

While the time I spent at Peking University laid the foundations of my time in China, it was the travel to other provinces that helped to colour and add detail to my impressions of the country. No one can be certain when anyone from the outside will next be able to visit China – or indeed whether China is entering a period akin to Japan from 1603 to 1868, its Sakoku or "chained country" era, when it was shut off from the rest of the world – making me all the more grateful I had the opportunity to see as much as I did.

Wherever I travelled, I was challenged to question, and constantly refine, the tools I used to observe and "digest" China. The criteria I landed upon were, of course, not the ones we use to examine the West, but, more surprisingly, not the ones I was armed with when I arrived in China either. My travels suggested to me that China is more fruitfully understood in the language promoted by its central government.





From the outside, this language seems rather propagandist – and it undoubtedly is. However, to me, it turned out to ring true as a descriptor for Chinese society than even the Chinese government itself might realise. That is to say – China is not a "Chinese" country in the image of our Western orientalist fantasies – a land of dragons, temples and calligraphy with old men whispering about Confucius; nor is it a "Westernised" country, as suggested by the endless images of Chinese cities



"Wherever I travelled, I was challenged to question, and constantly refine, the tools I used to observe and 'digest' China."

and their skyscrapers plastered all over our media. Rather, its modernity is exactly what its great leader claims... a modernity of "socialism with Chinese characteristics for the modern age". This should not evoke the images of Lenin and Marx that such a term conjures up for many Western ears, and which Chairman Xi might be seeking to convey. In reality, it is a byword for unbridled Capitalism: the richest are wildly rich by any Western standards but the ordinary (let alone the poorest) live lives far below the standards of any developed country, and are ruled by an

iron-fisted, highly centralised government. This phenomenon has been much commented on, but I might just add that Beijing seemed an exceptionally expensive city once you factor in how much lower the average wage is compared to places like London or New York.

I would like to thank David and Lois Sykes once again – although my time in China was cut short, I feel so incredibly fortunate to have been to so many of the places I had planned for such a long time to visit and this was only possible due to their generous support.



Robin Mallinson with his four sons, David, James, Peter and Andrew

"I chose to support the College (having gone to university myself in America), to memorialise my father's connection to Univ in a way which could benefit students in perpetuity (hopefully!) whilst recognising the importance that sport can play in the total university experience.

"I know my father thoroughly enjoyed playing for the Blues at hockey (followed 30 years later by my brother, James), but also represented the University and the College at cricket, fives and squash. When I discussed the idea with him, he agreed that he would love to play a small part in helping attract academic undergraduates to Univ who could also pursue their extracurricular passions, particularly sports.

"He appreciated hearing about some of the recipients and how they applied their Robin J C Mallinson bursaries, and my brothers and I look forward to experiencing a similar enjoyment over the years to come."

Peter G C Mallinson



The Mallinson bursary has greatly helped me compete with OUHC Women's Blues for the third year in a row. I used the bursary for necessary physiotherapy sessions after more than one injury this year, which got me back to full fitness.

This year, we played over 40 matches, many of which were as far away as Edinburgh and Durham, and the bursary helped with travel expenses. As well as tough matches, sometimes against Olympians in the BUCS premier league, we won our Varsity match against Cambridge in March, my second Varsity win with this team!

We also play in a national club league which extended past normal Oxford term dates, and so using the bursary to pay for vacation residence to be available for these games was a huge relief for me.

Finally, it allowed me to purchase new kit for the season to come, including a brand-new hockey stick! I'm grateful to the Mallinson family and honoured to be a recipient of this bursary. It has allowed me to remain fit throughout a long season, and to compete at high levels of this sport without any anxieties about the cost associated with it.

Rachel Diggin (2019, Engineering) – Hockey

This academic year has seen the return of Rugby League in Oxford to how it was before the pandemic, with matches every week all over the country and training sessions back to full capacity. Although this return to play has provided some much-needed relief from lockdown boredom, it has also proven expensive. The past year has seen a few of the staple midlands university teams folding as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, so for matches this year we have had to travel further afield. The bursary has helped me to make my share of contributions to these increased travel costs.

This year I took up the role of Welfare secretary. An important part of this role is taking care of the mental health of all club members, and the bursary has enabled me to access some important resources to do this.

Mid-way through Hilary term this year I sustained an ACL rupture and meniscus tear during a match. The bursary enabled me to fund enough physio and gym sessions to get myself sufficiently prepared to play in the annual Rugby League Varsity match against Cambridge only four weeks later.

I will be going on tour to Ghana this July with OURLFC, where we are set to do lots of outreach work and promotion of rugby league in rural areas, as well as playing a fixture against the Ghanaian National 1st team. Sponsorships have helped to cover costs but travelling through the pandemic incurs lots of extra expenses, which have been eased by the bursary.

I am so grateful for the support this bursary has given me throughout this year, and it will continue to help hugely with my recovery from surgery!

Daniel Cotton (2019, Engineering) – Rugby



I am very grateful for the support I have received this year in the form of the Robin J C Mallinson bursary. With these generous funds, I have been able to purchase new gymnastics equipment, receive physiotherapy from a leading provider and will use the funds to enter the Adult British Gymnastics Championships later this year.

My new gloves and loops have allowed me to increase my volume of high bar training as I have been able to work compatible skills without risk of blisters, leaving other skills such as turns and dismounts to be prioritised on the chalked high bar. As a result, I placed 2nd on high bar with a well-executed routine at Varsity 2022. I am still "breaking in" the leather of my new rings' handguards but in the future they will make it easier to perform skills transitioning from above and below the rings.

Without the Mallinson Bursary, I would not have benefitted from targeted physiotherapy and bespoke rehabilitation exercise plans from the Lilleshall Clinic, who frequently work with gymnasts on the GBR team. Some of the funds were also used on wrist supports, and since, I have not experienced any of the wrist and forearm pain I'd had issues with over many years.

It has been great to return to a more regular training schedule this year and to be back competing. At BUCS I was pleased to place 6th all-around with 2nd place on pommel horse, while at Varsity I came 4th all-around in the A team competition. In August, I look forward to competing at the Adult British Gymnastics Championships for the first time. I would like to thank the Mallinson family for supporting me in my sporting and academic journey during my time at Univ!

Lewis Walker (2018, Biochemistry) – Gymnastics

COVID-19 had restricted me from training to my full ability for over two years. I knew that returning to the sport at an international level while studying full-time would be a challenge.

Although this year's annual varsity boxing match against Cambridge was cancelled, the Robin J C Mallinson Bursary has allowed me to regularly commute to London for the high-level sparring and training that has been essential to my development as a boxer over the past six months. The bursary has also funded much needed new equipment, including a pair of boxing gloves and boots.

I am so grateful to the Mallinson family, and I don't know how I would have got through this year without it. Thanks for all the support!

Roberto Lacourt (2020, Chemistry) - Boxing



Sustaining the Chalet

In 1967 Tony Firth (1952, History), Emeritus Fellow, appealed for support for the Chalet from those who had been there. The main roof had collapsed in 1966 and the leaders – Tony, Sir Jeremy Lever KCMG QC FRSA (1953, Law) and Christopher Cox of New College – were in difficulty: they didn't own the Chalet, there was no money and there were strict limitations on sterling leaving the UK. The appeal got off the ground quickly, thanks especially to gifts from the Bateman brothers - Dr Christopher Bateman (1955, Medicine and Physiology), Robert Bateman (1958, History) and Dr Nigel Bateman (1962, Medicine) - and Sir David Edward KCMG PC QC FRSA (1969, Classics), Honorary Fellow. This was a factor in convincing the

leaders that they must buy the Chalet from Sir Roger Mynors and manage it through a charitable trust. Jeremy Lever loaned the purchase price and this monumental act of faith was rewarded by the appeal responses.

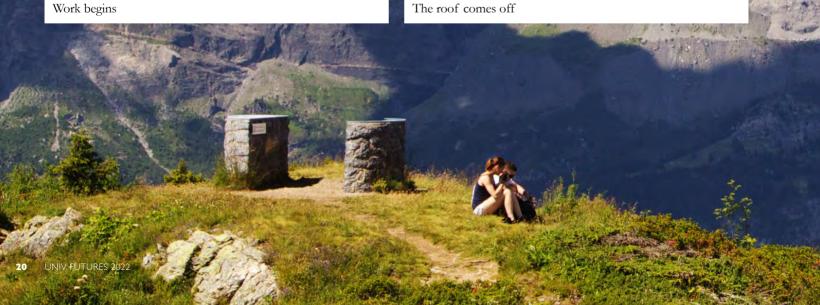
The first trustees assumed responsibility for an ageing building in the rigours of Alpine summers and winters. The early years, inevitably, were dominated by financial prudence, if not parsimony. In 1987 work needed on the woodwork and rendering was met by a further appeal. In 2002 the trustees launched a longterm programme of restoration, initially supported by the three colleges, Univ, Balliol and New College, and then by an appeal commemorating the centenary of the rebuilt Chalet of 1909. The aim was to

bring the building to a level at which regular maintenance would secure its durability.

The final phase of this process was renewal of the steel-clad roof and by 2020 this was essential. The trustees had made provision for it but during estimates it became clear that the 1966 work, by force of circumstance, had been inadequate and that almost complete replacement of the beams was required. And, as so often, exploration revealed more problems: in particular the chimneys were unsound and to prevent damp, landscaping was required to take the surrounding land back to its 1909 level. Costs rose to a daunting f177,000 and will increase this year by the making-good needed before the first post-COVID parties this summer.







The trust appealed once again to Chaletites. It is gratifying to report that support among our members remains just as strong: at the time of writing £106,000 has been raised from Univ's Chaletites alone.

Work started in 2021 while the Chalet was free of student parties. Trustees chose to replace the roof with aluminium shingles on the basis of durability, cost, and an appearance close to the 1909 wood shingle. The opportunity was taken to put in new windows, creating a more usable loft, and a new chimney of double-insulated steel flue, safer and more efficient. During the work, it was found that 1966 water penetration had cracked two major joists and steel braces were inserted with treatment to avoid further deterioration.

This restoration, daunting in its scope, is the single largest piece of work since the Chalet was rebuilt in 1909. It would not have been possible without the generosity of Chaletites and in recognition, the trustees decided that their names will be preserved in the Chalet.

We now have a Chalet fit for the future and can only be grateful. Univ is fortunate to have had its association with this remarkable institution since 1952, and the Chalet parties are luckier still in the unfailing support of their predecessors, whose generosity has preserved the Chalet for future generations.

Dr Stephen Golding, Emeritus Fellow and Chalet Trustee "We now have a Chalet fit for the future and can only be grateful."





The new, improved loft



Re-roofed, shuttered, free of land encroachment and waiting for the 2022 parties

"This restoration is the single largest piece of work since the Chalet was rebuilt in 1909. It would not have been possible without the generosity of Chaletites."

Those who would like to know more about Stephen Golding's recently published history of the Chalet parties, Oxford University on Mont Blanc, or its spin-off novella, That Other Summit, may contact Stephen via Stephen.Golding@univ.ox.ac.uk

Buildings and Fabrics These are exciting times at Univ. Building a wants to be part of it, and

These are exciting times at Univ. Building a new community takes time, and the last six years' work is about to culminate in Phase I of Univ North breaking ground in November. Clearance and demolition will keep us busy until we start to see what has long been in our collective mind's eye rise out of the ground next spring.

Phase I brings with it all of the community elements of the development, the things that will turn the old Stavertonia into a buzzing, vibrant place to live, work and study for all our people. The next three years will be truly transformative for our small society. Everyone

wants to be part of it, and for that we are very grateful and inspired to keep going.

We should not lose sight of all the wonderful things about the High Street that make Univ so special to us all. Some of the day-to-day improvements — such as putting a lift into the WCR or replacing the Library roof — might not have kerbside appeal, but they will make a difference to our diverse community, enabling them to enjoy Univ together. We keep our shoulder to the wheel.

Angela Unsworth MBE, Domestic Bursar and Fellow







Next Steps for Univ North

What are the next major milestones?

- 4th Quarter 2022 (targeting November): Demolition, Site Clearance and Preparation Started.
- 2nd Quarter 2023 (targeting April): Award Phase 1 Contract and Start Construction.
- 2nd Quarter 2025: Deliver Phase 1 buildings for final readiness for occupation.

What is the tendering process?

The tendering process is the means by which the College engages with the construction market to identify the best partner to be the construction contractor. This main contractor is being selected through a pre-qualification and two-stage tender. The competitive first stage is followed by a period of exclusive negotiation with the preferred contractor up to contract award.

Three shortlisted contractors were issued with final tender information in June 2022. The first stage tender period lasted 12 weeks, followed by a six-week evaluation and approvals process. Shortlisted contractors were asked to comment on the design information to confirm its robustness for first stage-tender return for their

overhead, preliminaries and profit costs, and an indicative price for one of the Water Court buildings. This novel step means that the College has a good handle on the whole project's costs early in the tender process.

The first stage tender submissions will be assessed and a recommendation for award debated in Michaelmas 2022. The first stage tender award comprises a Pre-Construction Services Agreement which includes the site clearance and demolition. Having final site preparation overseen by the likely main contractor enables a better transition between demolition and the start of construction.

Univ North rendered views (1-r): Walnut Lawn, looking north towards the student cafe; Water Court, looking south towards the Covered Seating Area; Water Court East Villa from a passageway looking east. Niall McLaughlin Architects.



What is the design team doing following the hiatus during the pandemic?

The design team was re-mobilised in June 2022 with new contracts let by Univ's wholly owned design and build company, UnivDevCo Ltd. It comprises the architect, Níall McLaughlin Architects Ltd; the civil and structural engineer, Price & Myers; the building services engineer, Max Fordham; the cost consultants, Arcadis; the project management services company, Bidwells (Oxford); the landscape designer, Kim Wilkie; the principal designer (HSE), Bureau Veritas; FLAC for arboriculture; planning consultants, Barton Willmore, and many others. The project is now a huge team effort to bring Univ North to fruition as each plays their vital and particular roles to ensure that every aspect of the project is subject to the best possible counsel.

The design team is currently working on validating engineering changes and the detailed technical design (RIBA Stage 4). In parallel, the tendering process will identify a preferred construction contractor whose in-house design resources will cooperate through the finalisation of technical design into 2023. Subject to finalising the negotiations and Governing Body approval, construction contract award is anticipated for April 2023.

Our Old Members, friends, students, Fellows and staff have been invited to the site over the past year to attend thematic tours – covering project planning, the intergenerational living aspect of the development, the nursery, sustainability, and the history of Stavertonia.



"It was an eye-opening experience to see how Univ Old Members reflected on their journey with passion, joy and gratitude. It soon became clear that supporting this new home for students will help future generations fulfil their potential, as Univ has aimed to do since it all began."

Naseem AlKhoury (2021, Health Science), current student



"I was impressed with the scale and ambition of the proposed development. As a former OMT trustee, and now member of the Univ North Working Party, it has been lovely for me to see this project moving forward. The design and facilities that will be offered are tremendous and I look forward to seeing them take shape over the coming years."

Helena Miles (1985, Law), volunteer

Innovative Philanthropy



In July 2022 the
College announced
an innovative
agreement
between David
C Frederick,

Univ alumnus and Foundation Fellow, University College, and the University of Pittsburgh, which enables the phased donation of \$35 million to fund the transformational Univ North.





Why Regular Giving Matters

We are so grateful to countless Old Members and friends of the College who give regularly to Univ. Each and every donation, regardless of its size, has enabled us to navigate through these difficult times. Gifts to Univ's Area of Greatest Need underpin everything that we

do, enabling us to continue to deliver world-class teaching, research, and student support.

With rising inflation and the continuing impact of COVID-19, it is as important as ever for us to be there for our students and academic community. Whether through our dynamic student support schemes, world-class tutorial system, or through funding one of the many aspects of student life, the gifts from our supporters have a clear and

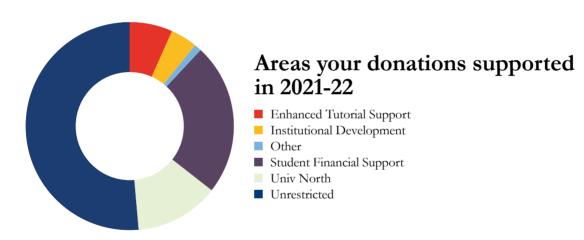
meaningful impact on the College.

It has been wonderful to have all of our students back with us in College this 2021-22 academic year. However, the long-term implications of the pandemic on our students and the College continue. The generous support of Old Members and friends has had an immediate and practical impact. But this is also a long-term effort, which is why your continued partnership and support via regular giving is vital.

These pages highlight examples of where your generosity has had the greatest impact on the College community, and some of the Univ initiatives that you have supported this past academic year.

Thank you.

In 2021-22 more than £1.02m was raised in Regular Giving from 630 donors. Participation was 19.2%.



"Much of what we enjoy as students at Univ, from fantastic facilities to an array of bursaries, would not be possible without the generous support of our donors.

"During my tenure as JCR President, the cost-of-living crisis in the UK has been a major worry for many students. Resources such as the Student Support Fund can help to offset these concerns and ensure that all of Univ's students feel secure in the knowledge that the College can assist them if they experience financial difficulties.

"The support that Univ offers, allows students to fully embrace the wealth of opportunities Oxford provides for personal, academic and professional development."

Samuel Williamson (2020, Engineering), JCR President 2021-22



Univ's Area of Greatest Need

Unrestricted donations to Univ go a long way in supporting all levels of College life, specifically the Area of Greatest Need. With your support, we admitted 39 fully funded graduates in 2021-22. In the 2020-21 academic year, £82,000 was distributed through the Student Support Fund to those facing unexpected financial difficulties. The College invests over £5.5 million annually to cover the costs of a range of requirements, from academia through to the upkeep of our buildings and grounds. Unrestricted giving allows us to support essential welfare services, travel grants, subsidies for sports and societies, outreach, new books and our tutorial system, among other things.

We are grateful to the many Old Members and friends who support us in this vital way. In setting up a regular donation you are helping the College to plan for the future.

Univ's 2021-22 Initiatives

Univ is an exciting and unique college: a hivemind of inspiring energy and innovation shaped by its students, academics, Old Members and friends. It is the people who make Univ the wonderful environment that it is and we are always looking at ways to enhance our community. In particular, we were grateful for the support shown to initiatives such as the Early Years Support fund, the Hart Visiting Fellowship in Law and the Centenary Visiting Professorship in PPE.

This year, our student telethon callers discussed several important initiatives with Old Members and friends of Univ. You may have received a call highlighting the need for Early Years Support, a fund that has been set up to alleviate financial pressures for early career academics, staff and students with young children.

Our callers also reached out to discuss the importance of academic excellence at Univ, highlighting the re-endowment of the HLA Hart Visiting Fellowship in Law and the launch of the Centenary Visiting Professorship in PPE. Both initiatives bring with them the opportunity for members of Univ to engage with new and innovative perspectives in the field, enabling the academic work undertaken within the Univ community to continue to thrive.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to support these initiatives. We are also grateful to our Old Members for taking the time to speak to our current students: it means a great deal to them.

Natalie Matias, Regular Giving Manager



A Window on our Financial Activities



As I write this year's note, it is striking that Univ's attentions once again are dominated by external events.

Our pandemic

response, focused as it was on health and welfare matters, has now been replaced by interventions that are economic and financial. The College is feeling the pressures of cost inflation, the challenges of disrupted supply and deep impacts on staffing; our "high walls" offer no shield. We shall prevail but it is demanding effective, new responses across the breadth of our activities.

As usual, our financials for this year will not be available until December, so the charts recorded here are for 2020-21. Their form remains similar to the prior years' figures, despite the turmoil of the pandemic. Again, our accounts show total income exceeding expenditure by a small sum and largely by virtue of the donations that provide enduring support for our charitable activities.

Spend on academic activities was in excess of the natural income from these sources and was topped up by distributions from our investments. This financial strength, alongside the diversity of our resources, remains an enviable base despite being under pressure from the pandemic. The pandemic meant that there has been little conference activity – something that we shall correct in 2022 – and the distributions from our endowment portfolio remain weak because the recovery of property rental receipts is hampered by voids and relief that we had to afford to distressed tenants.

Univ adopts a Total Returns policy

and seeks to manage its expenditure within a fixed rate of drawings; this forces the College to live within its means. Investment capital losses and gains are non-cash movements – nearly $\mathcal{L}(9)$ million for 2020, reversed by gains in 2021 of $\mathcal{L}(3)$ million, and likely more losses for 2022 – so don't impact directly our annual management income and are not represented in these charts.

Nevertheless, we are mindful of them as the College looks ahead. Our attentions are on rebasing costs onto a sustainable path in the aftermath of the pandemic. Univ will take the long view – it can afford to, being able to accept some volatility.

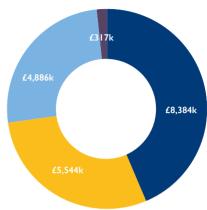
For the future, our capital investments are mapped along three distinct lines: our investment endowment portfolio; our existing functional premises, and Univ North. On the latter, which should both enhance and bring efficiency to our operations, the development project is making excellent progress having, in June, issued tender documentation to a strong shortlist of three contractors. We are excited by our selections.

Less glamorously, but perhaps as significantly, we have made substantial progress in uprating the College's internal financial processes and project governance in preparation for the inevitable strains that this project will place on the College.

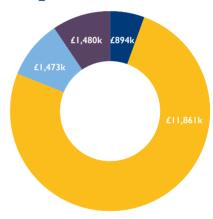
Univ continues to confront its challenges, despite the pandemic's "hangover". It is able to do so confidently because of its strong foundation and enviable Old Member and support community, of which we are very proud. Thank you for all that you do to help the College; your generosity is deeply appreciated.

Dr Andrew Grant (1977, Chemistry), Finance Bursar





Expenditure



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

"Univ continues to confront its challenges, despite the pandemic's 'hangover'. It is able to do so confidently because of its strong foundation and enviable Old Member and support community, of which we are very proud."



Our major giving circles bring together those who have made substantial contributions to the College over their lives.

We are committed to thanking and recognising our donors, so each Giving Circle has its own associated events and communications. This is in addition to an invitation to the annual Donor Day event and receiving a copy of *Univ Futures*. Members of each group are also listed in the annual Roll of Donors.

Univ is truly humbled by the generosity and support of its Old Members and friends.



1249 Society

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

Recent Leavers £12.49 per year

Under 30£124.90 per year

30 and above £1,249 per year

The Major Benefactors' Society

The Major Benefactors' Society recognises those who have given over £25,000 to the College over their lifetime. All members are invited to an exclusive annual event. In May 2022, we hosted our Major Benefactors at the Univ Boathouse for a Summer Eights lunch overlooking the racing.

The Principal Benefactors' Society

Univ's Principal Benefactors comprise those members of the community who have supported the College with significant gifts and a total lifetime giving of over £250,000. Members are invited to the Founders' and Benefactors' Evensong and dinner in the autumn, as well as the Major Benefactors' event.

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 are invited to all of our donor events and, additionally, the Feast of St Cuthbert.

Changes to thresholds

To remain consistent with the rising costs of student support, tuition and academic research, qualification amounts for our giving circles will be changing from 1 August 2023. Please note that current members will not "drop out" of groups and, until that date, anyone who reaches the current thresholds will become eligible for membership.

For further details, and information on the upcoming changes to our recognition group thresholds, please see our Donor Charter at bit.ly/ufm149, email development@univ.ox.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1865 276 674.



The William of Durham Club recognises those who make provision for the College in their will. Members and potential legators receive an invitation to the William of Durham Luncheon.



Diary of Events

Events in light blue are exclusively for donors.

	N	22
4	U	44

16-18 September University of Oxford Alumni
"Meeting Minds" Weekend

18 September 1960-62 Diamond
Anniversary Luncheon

20 September USPGA (Golf) Autumn

Meeting

21 September Univ Virtual Book Club, facilitated by Lord Butler

24 September 1993-96 Gaudy

25 September 1972 Golden Anniversary

Reunion

29 September Alumni Drinks in Edinburgh

1 October Donor Day

30 October Founders and Benefactors
Evensong and Dinner

3 December Advent Carol Service

2023

2 February18th Univ Seminar11 FebruaryDinosaurs and

Cassandrians' Dinner

11 March Old Members' Football Day

18 March 1997-2000 Gaudy

25 March 2020 Leavers Dinner (TBC)

13 May William of Durham Day*

27 May 1249 Luncheon

Master's Drinks Reception

Boat Club Dinner

11 June Old Members' Cricket Day

For more information about events, please visit: bit.ly/ufm213

Follow the QR codes on individual stories to find out



University College, Oxford High Street, Oxford OX1 4BH univ.ox.ac.uk