

A photograph of two individuals from behind, wearing red academic regalia (caps and gowns) with black lace trim. They are standing in front of a dark building with a large, arched, stained-glass window in the background. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window.

CHANCELLOR'S COURT OF BENEFACTORS

Court Matters

2019–20

THANK YOU

We were delighted to announce the conclusion of the Oxford Thinking Campaign in October 2019. The campaign has raised £3.3 billion from more than 170,000 donors since it began in 2004.

The generosity of our donors is helping us to enrich lives through the provision of scholarships, new teaching and research programmes, cutting-edge facilities, access initiatives, public engagement, cultural collections and much more.

Further philanthropy is vital to the University's future ambitions. Oxford will focus its fundraising on supporting Strategic Priorities set for 2018 to 2023, including improved access for talented students from all backgrounds; more graduate scholarships; endowing academic posts; and new teaching and research facilities. Please see page 8, Investing in the future.

For further details, please visit our microsite, which celebrates the impact of your generosity: www.development.ox.ac.uk/report2018-19.

RESEARCH



£722 million
raised for research
programmes and
activities



£434 million
raised for buildings,
infrastructure and
equipment

TEACHING



More than **175 posts supported**,
of which **135** are fully or partially
endowed

GARDENS, LIBRARIES & MUSEUMS



£270 million+
raised for gardens,
libraries and museums



Visitor numbers
have doubled during
the campaign

STUDENT SUPPORT



1 in 4 UK undergraduates
receives a bursary



8,600+ participants
in the UNIQ spring and summer schools

£3.3 billion raised
170,000+ donors

CONTENTS

The impact of the Court | 2
Investing in the future | 8
About the Chancellor's Court | 16
Court life | 18

Images © John Cairns Photography, except the following:
p. 4 © John French; p. 5, pp. 8–9, p. 13 © Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford (RSL);
p. 6 © Samot/Shutterstock.com; p. 11 © Samantha Ibbott; p. 13 © Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp
(Parks College); pp. 14–15 © NBBJ Architects; p. 18 © César Manivet; p. 19 © Ashmolean Museum/
Photography © Jeff Koons (Jeff Koons), © Ian Wallman (Boat Race); p. 21 Maciek Tomiczek;
p. 23 © Vinesh Rajpaul (Rhodes Scholars)

CHANCELLOR'S FOREWORD

The world has passed yet another turbulent year since we last met: millions on the march against oppression and inequality; environmental turmoil in the Amazon; political rancour at home; uncertainty at nearly every turn. Yet as it has always done, Oxford endures. Indeed it thrives, and continues to preserve the best of world civilisation and advance the frontiers of human possibility.

Such resilience would not be possible without the generous support of our friends in the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors, who are instrumental to Oxford's efforts to help shape the future for the greater common good.

This year the University received its largest donation since the Renaissance: £150 million for the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities. The new complex will gather together the University's founding disciplines: the core humanities, along with all the many off-shoots that have developed since the University's beginning, nearly a thousand years ago. The centre represents Oxford's commitment to the role of the humanities in the 21st century, bringing a humane and enlightened approach to the often bewildering challenges of our modern world.

This year also saw another remarkable demonstration of the abiding faith that our friends and partners have in Oxford: the successful completion of the Oxford Thinking Campaign, which surpassed its goal and raised £3.3 billion – the largest fundraising campaign in the history of European higher education. Such support is fitting for a University that once again was ranked first in the world by the *Times Higher Education* rankings.

Our commitment to continuing progress has seen another robust expansion of the University's outreach and widening participation efforts: the UNIQ programmes, Opportunity Oxford, Foundation Oxford and more. Their goal is to increase substantially the proportion of students coming to Oxford from under-represented backgrounds. Oxford is committed to being a champion of diversification and access for all.

Improving the lives of our students continues to be a key priority. As you might have noticed on your visits here, Oxford is busy with the construction of new housing for University students and staff. By 2023, we plan that new accommodation for 2,000 graduate students and staff will be available. This boom will also have the great benefit of easing pressure on the local housing market for the general public.

As always, innovation remains a watchword for the University. We have seen the expansion of innovation districts in and around Oxford, including at Begbroke Science Park and Osney Mead. Additionally, the University has announced a new strategic research fund and will inject £10 million into the fund each year, for transformational projects that would not likely be funded from other sources. This will provide new opportunities for partnership to support vital research and help train the next generation of researchers.

The University also added Oxford's 39th college. The provisionally named Parks College will draw together researchers from across the University's academic divisions seeking interdisciplinary insights and breakthroughs on some of the biggest issues of our time. Initially, research will focus on three broadly defined areas: artificial intelligence and machine learning; environmental change; and cellular life.

Whatever alarms the coming year throws our way, we know our partnership with the visionary benefactors represented in the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors (CCB) will continue. You honour us with your friendship, your guidance and your good will. Together we will keep moving forward in our quest to build a better world.

The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, CH
Chancellor, University of Oxford



'Whatever the coming year throws our way, we know our partnership with the visionary benefactors represented in the Court will continue.

You honour us with your friendship, your guidance and your good will. Together we will keep moving forward in our quest to build a better world.'

— The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, CH
Chancellor, University of Oxford



THE IMPACT OF THE COURT

Members of the Court are supporting ambitious and pioneering projects across the University

MAJOR STRIDES IN BIG DATA

Oxford has created the world's first major institute dedicated to biomedical big data, an important new area of scientific research, thanks to the support of the Li Ka Shing Foundation.

The Big Data Institute (BDI), which officially opened in 2017 and comprises a 350-strong cross-disciplinary community, constitutes Phase 2 of the development of the Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Information and Discovery at the University of Oxford; Phase 1 saw the launch of the Target Discovery Institute (TDI) in 2013.

BDI researchers work to solve important problems in the acquisition, collation, analysis, interpretation and application of large-scale data sources linking measurement of biological parameters to health outcomes. They have already published hundreds of papers, won many accolades, been successful in securing millions of pounds of funding and shaped policy and practice within medicine and population health. Latest projects include a new drug trial for kidney disease and the development of innovative AI in pathology.

The UK government's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has funded a new Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Health Data Science based in the BDI, where students work with a wide range of technology and health-related partner organisations including Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Microsoft, IBM and NVIDIA. The first students were welcomed to the BDI in October 2019.

The institute has also developed a range of major new research partnerships. Among the most significant of these is a five-year collaboration with Novartis to establish a world-leading research alliance. This will improve drug development by making it more efficient and more targeted. Using artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced analytics, the alliance aims to transform how Novartis adopts data science at scale from multiple data sources, beginning with flagship programmes in multiple sclerosis, dermatology and rheumatology.

Other key partnerships include a strategic collaboration with the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington and a role as a Substantive Site within the newly formed Health Data Research UK (HDR UK) organisation. The HDR UK NHS DigiTrials project partners (NHS Digital, Microsoft, IBM and the Nuffield Department of Population Health) are developing a digital service that will reduce the cost of developing new treatments and improve the quality of information available to patients and their doctors.

The National Consortium of Intelligent Medical Imaging (NCIMI), launched in November 2018, is also led from within Oxford University by the new centre. The consortium is a £17.5 million public-private partnership funded by Innovate UK, which aims to integrate expertise to accelerate the potential impact of AI in enhancing the utility and efficacy of clinical imaging for patient benefit and for UK plc. The NCIMI has a large base in the Big Data Institute and acts as a hub for a national cloud-connected network that includes some of the UK's leading medical companies including GE Healthcare, Siemens, Philips, Leica, Canon and Roche Diagnostics.

www.bdi.ox.ac.uk

'We use the latest statistical and machine learning technologies to peer into vast data sets and try to spot patterns that are relevant to why some people get a disease and what we can do to make them better.'

— **Professor Gil McVean**

*Founding Director of the Big Data Institute
and Professor of Statistical Genetics at the
Nuffield Department of Medicine*



'Even as emphasis in education shifts away from the humanities, the skills and values they cultivate remain critically important. Humanities teaching and research foster deeper understanding of our complex world and encourage us to engage people and ideas with curiosity, empathy, and humility. SNF is proud to help sustain and strengthen humanities education and scholarship related to the Hellenic world at Oxford, today and in the years to come.'

— **Stelios Vassilakis**
*Chief Programs & Strategic Initiatives Officer
at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation*

HUMANITIES TEACHING AND RESEARCH SECURED FOR THE LONG TERM

The humanities at Oxford have benefitted significantly from the longstanding and generous support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), which has been instrumental in the realisation of important teaching posts, graduate student funding and new facilities.

SNF's commitment has ensured that a number of vital posts are now endowed in perpetuity, including the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Clarendon Associate Professor and Fellow of Ancient Greek Philosophy (2014); the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Bywater & Sotheby Professor of Byzantine and Modern Greek Language and Literature (2019); and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Associate Professor of Byzantine Archaeology and Visual Culture (2019).

Those appointed to these prestigious leadership positions are authorities in their fields. Crucially, they expose students to an unrivalled experience guided by world-leading academics, which will benefit the humanities community at Oxford and beyond for generations.

In 2012, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Graduate Scholarships also provided funding for three outstanding doctoral students in one of each sub-field of the Faculty of Classics: Classical Languages and Literature; Ancient History; and Classical Archaeology. Former Stavros Niarchos Foundation Scholar Dr Joshua Thomas, who is now Lavery-Shuffrey Early Career Fellow in Roman Art and Archaeology at Lincoln College, says: 'I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a DPhil student and gained so much in terms of skills and training. That experience is thanks to the generous support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, without which I would not have had the financial means to pursue my studies.'

In 2005, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation donated £500,000 to support the building of the Stelios Ioannou School for Research in Classical and Byzantine Studies, and in 2019 the foundation announced a further gift of £3 million. This will support the transformation and expansion of the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research, building the centre's capacity with the recently announced endowed posts mentioned above, the introduction of a newly appointed directorship, an administrative role and three graduate scholarships.

It is thanks to such committed generosity that Oxford continues not only to attract the brightest scholars and researchers but to maintain its reputation as one of the most stimulating intellectual environments for humanities scholarship in the world.

For more on the Stavros Niarchos Foundation's history and mission, see www.snf.org/en/about/history-mission.

Above: Mosaic of Emperor Justinian I and his retinue, in the Basilica of San Vitale, Ravenna — one of Italy's most famous Byzantine mosaic panels, completed in 547 A.D.

The Creative Destruction Lab (CDL) is a programme for seed-stage, massively scalable, science-based companies or ventures.

The programme employs an objective-based mentoring process with a goal of equity-value creation, particularly suited for early-stage companies with links to university research labs.

BOOST FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT THE SAÏD BUSINESS SCHOOL

Thanks to the support of donors including Patrick Pichette and Peter Davies, UK and European science entrepreneurs can now benefit from a programme that helps to commercialise their ideas and scale their businesses.

The Creative Destruction Lab (CDL) at the Saïd Business School is a programme for massively scalable, seed-stage, science and technology-based ventures. The CDL was founded at the University of Toronto in 2012, and Oxford is home to the first CDL in Europe, which will welcome its first cohort of artificial intelligence companies in September 2019. The other CDL sites are Toronto, Calgary, Montreal, Vancouver, and Halifax.

The nine-month mentorship programme matches start-up founders with experienced entrepreneurs and investors to set focused, measurable objectives with the goal of maximising equity-value creation. In the first year, the programme will focus on companies applying artificial intelligence to create new products and services. Following four onsite sessions, the programme will culminate in a 'Super Session' in Toronto that will bring together the most promising ventures from across all six CDL sites.

Professor Peter Tufano, Dean of the Saïd Business School, says: 'With CDL we are taking the next step to support world-class scientific research and innovation across the UK and Europe. This programme helps business and technical founders overcome the challenges of developing early-stage ventures into large-scale profitable organisations, by providing outstanding guidance on mission-critical aspects such as developing a commercial strategy, hiring the right people and securing funding.'

www.creativedestructionlab.com/locations/oxford



BUILD SOMETHING MASSIVE



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The University Strategic Plan 2018 to 2023 sets out a framework of priorities for the University, its divisions and departments. Oxford is investing in a wide range of important new developments that support these priorities. The following stories highlight a number of projects, aligned to the Strategic Plan, where philanthropic support will play a vital role in their success.

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR THE HUMANITIES – THE STEPHEN A. SCHWARZMAN CENTRE

The humanities form the basis of our collective values, fostering mutual understanding between cultures and helping us to make sense of the world. Today's urgent challenges require independent and far-reaching debate, particularly in light of the rapid development of science and technology. There is unprecedented demand for ethical thought regarding the application of such advances, especially in the emerging field of artificial intelligence. The humanities are an indispensable tool for understanding society's complex issues and in helping to shape the world.

The Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities at Oxford has been made possible through a foundational gift of £150 million from US businessman and philanthropist, Stephen Schwarzman. The centre will facilitate research, teaching and debate on important issues, as well as provide opportunities for audiences to engage with and be inspired by the humanities. The centre will be housed in an impressive array of facilities totalling 23,000 square metres. In addition to accommodating seven humanities faculties and a humanities library, it will also comprise outstanding music, performance and community facilities, including a 500-seat music, theatre and dance auditorium, a 250-seat film screening

Above: *Schilflied* (Reed Song, 1845) by Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847). Mendelssohn made a copy of this song which he composed in 1842 and set music to words by Nikolaus Lenau.

Not only did Mendelssohn write it out in hand, he also illustrated it with a meticulous watercolour which depicts the song's opening line: 'On the lake's unruffled surface rests the moon's fair beam'. The manuscript was purchased by the Bodleian Library in 2007 with funds generously provided by the B.H.Breslauer Foundation.

auditorium, a broadcast studio, a 200-seat flexible performance space, a knowledge exchange hub, including classrooms for primary school children, and a dedicated Institute for Ethics in AI.

At its core are three interlocking programmatic spheres: academic, cultural and community, and ethics in artificial intelligence. These spheres will overlap in powerful ways to enhance and broaden our understanding of what it is to be human. The academic programme will build on Oxford's existing excellence in teaching and research to sustain and develop Oxford Humanities as a world leader. The centre will nurture scholars at all stages of their careers and will be home to the world's leading humanities faculty. Endowing this community, along with securing a range of graduate scholarships is a key priority.

The cultural and community programme will enable us to take our academic research out to the public, to inspire new audiences and enable them to engage with key themes in a 'hands on' way. It will draw on expertise across the humanities at Oxford to offer a stimulating array of activities and resources that bring in diverse local and global audiences for mutual learning experiences. We aim to create an exciting, thought-provoking and enjoyable cultural programme that will increase the impact of the humanities.

The third sphere will focus on the ethics of artificial intelligence via an Institute for Ethics in AI. This will utilise expertise and insights from all of the academic divisions at the University. Research will range from the immediate technical, ethical, legal, economic and policy impacts, to longer-term consideration of transformational AI. The University of Oxford aspires to become a global leader and advocate for the safety, fairness and governance of AI systems for the future, and this centre will be pivotal in achieving that aim.

Each of these areas require support from philanthropists who share our vision to advance the impact of the humanities across Oxford and around the world. There are numerous opportunities for involvement, including the endowment of core posts, supporting the development of the cultural and community activities, naming key spaces in the centre, and advancing the new Institute for Ethics in AI. There are many ways in which donors can play a significant role in helping us to create an inspirational environment for research, teaching and public engagement on an unparalleled scale.

www.schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk



'By creating a dedicated focus for research and teaching excellence in Southeast Asian studies, Oxford will make a significant contribution to the global academy. Very few universities in the world can match Oxford for the range and intensity of its academic expertise. This ambitious, thoughtfully integrated knowledge enterprise will put Southeast Asia at its heart, benefitting both the citizens of the ASEAN countries and the people of the wider world.'

— **HRH Sultan Nazrin Shah**
Campaign Patron for the Southeast Asian Studies Centre and CCB Fellow

ADVANCING THE STUDY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

Southeast Asia is rich in history and cultural traditions, with an economic dynamism that is creating rapid change and burgeoning global influence. It has a fast-growing middle class, increasing investments in education, an expanding tourism industry, and industrialised dynamic regions with buoyant opportunities for international trade and investment.

To understand the changes taking place in this important region and their potential consequences for the world, it is essential to assemble a community of specialists at the forefront of scholarship, whose work gives the region due attention, has tangible relevance and impact, and can facilitate fruitful exchange of ideas.

To address this need, the University plans to create a Southeast Asian Studies Centre. The centre will be based at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies and will have shared posts and teaching across several other key University departments, including Geography and the Environment, Politics and International Relations, and Anthropology and Museum Ethnography.

Once established, the centre and its academics will conduct world-leading research, educate the most talented students as future experts in the region, promote knowledge and understanding of Southeast Asia as a key player in the global order, and build collaborative links with leading universities in ASEAN countries.

Instrumental to this vision is the establishment of seven new associate professorships, which will specialise in subjects including environmental sustainability, regional governance, political economy and visual anthropology. These key posts will greatly expand Oxford's ability to host and facilitate dialogue and exchange with Southeast Asian scholars and institutions. In early September, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Louise Richardson, visited Thailand to share the University's plan to establish a Southeast Asian Studies Centre with Oxford alumni.

'Oxford makes a priceless and distinctive contribution to the lives of people on an international scale,' says The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, CH, Chancellor of the University of Oxford. 'We are delighted that this opportunity has arisen to work with visionary benefactors to strengthen Oxford's ties with the ASEAN countries. It is my fervent hope that we can go forward together, and help build a better world.'

www.area-studies.ox.ac.uk



Above: Rainforest House at the Oxford Botanic Garden

Opposite page: Professor Sarah Whatmore (Head of the Social Sciences Division), HRH Sultan Nazrin Shah, Vice-Chancellor Professor Louise Richardson, and Dr Afifi al-Akiti (Fellow in Islamic Studies), at the Academic and Royal Launch for Oxford's Southeast Asia Studies Centre campaign

PUTTING PLANTS BACK ON THE AGENDA

Plants underpin all aspects of our everyday lives, providing us with the air we breathe, food, medicine, clothes and more. Yet the importance of plants is under-estimated in society, and plant diversity is being lost at an alarming and unprecedented rate. Indeed, of an estimated 400,000 plant species in the world, more than 20% are threatened with extinction.

Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum (OBGA) is well-placed to address these growing challenges. Founded in 1621, Oxford Botanic Garden is home to nearly 6,000 different types of plant, some of which are critically endangered in the wild. Harcourt Arboretum (acquired by the garden in 1963), is located just a 15-minute drive from Oxford and contains some of the finest conifer collections in the UK, including giant coastal redwoods.

Whilst both collections have immense teaching, research and public engagement potential, this potential cannot currently be fully realised. OBGA urgently needs facilities that are modern and fit-for-purpose. Erected in 1972, the garden's existing glasshouses now struggle to maintain stable growing environments and guarantee the minimum temperatures required to keep its internationally important plant collections alive. A lack of all-weather facilities at both sites also seriously limits opportunities for public engagement, education and academic collaboration.

To mark the garden's 400th anniversary in 2021, OBGA has drawn up bold plans to redevelop these ageing facilities. New glasshouses will enable the optimal climate zones and conditions for growing plants that cannot be grown and conserved at the garden currently; state-of-the-art laboratories and teaching facilities will enhance links with Oxford's world-renowned Department of Plant Sciences, as well as with external universities and institutions; and new, all-weather spaces will drastically improve the visiting experience of the public, students and researchers alike.

These changes will transform OBGA into an internationally renowned, 21st-century botanic garden – one worthy of a world-leading university like Oxford, and equal to other leading global university botanic gardens, such as Beijing, Harvard, Leiden, Bonn and Zurich. In short, this will enable OBGA to achieve its mission to share the scientific wonder and importance of plants with the world, and inspire the plant scientists of tomorrow.

Philanthropic support will be essential in securing this vision, and in enabling Oxford to play a key role in influencing the wellbeing of our planet and its billions of inhabitants for centuries to come.

www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk



'I knew about the University, but I would never have thought to apply without the scholarship. It just seemed unachievable to someone out of state school in America.'

— **Sandra Ionescu**
Frost Scholar, MSc in Pharmacology

'Coming from Afghanistan, I would never have made enough money to afford a course like this. Without the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust I would not have been able to come.'

— **Pashtoon Atif**
*Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholar,
Master of Public Policy (MPP)*



PRIORITISING GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate students represent the beating heart of a thriving research university: pushing towards ground-breaking discoveries, attracting exceptional academic staff, and creating a dynamic environment for stimulating intellectual exchange.

Throughout its history, Oxford has sought to attract, nurture and invest in outstanding scholars with the potential to become the leaders and educators of the future. The University offers a wide range of scholarship opportunities for graduate students – owing in large part to the success of the Oxford Graduate Scholarships Matched Fund, which leveraged gifts totalling £138 million matched by £91 million of funds from the University. Building on this momentum, Oxford has declared graduate funding a key strategic priority, with a commitment to establish 300 new graduate scholarships by 2023.

These new scholarships will be available to applicants covering the breadth of academic specialisms and many intersecting diverse curriculum areas. The type of donation required to fund such opportunities has the ability to resonate on a personal level with supporters, as each scholarship can be tailored to the individual interests and geographies of donors.

The University is also working to improve access to postgraduate study for talented individuals who would find it a challenge to continue their education because of socio-economic or financial circumstances. In the summer of 2019, Oxford held its first graduate access summer school programme (UNIQ+).

In comparison to some of the large-scale capital projects supported by philanthropists, scholarships can present a more accessible route for those wishing to make a direct impact with a significant donation: such gifts have altered the life courses of many remarkable scholars, and scholarships that are endowed in perpetuity constitute a legacy that will benefit both students and their subject areas for decades to come.

For international students, a scholarship can mean the difference between taking up a place at Oxford, or choosing an institution closer to home. Sandra Ionescu arrived in Oxford in 2014 to read for an MSc in Pharmacology, considering herself 'extremely lucky' to have been the recipient of a Frost Scholarship – one of ten made available to students from Florida studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

'It was completely down to having the scholarship,' she says, recalling her initial decision to study here. Sandra remains in Oxford, now as a DPhil student in Chemical Biology researching the way proteins in bacteria contribute to antibiotic resistance, and how they might be developed to serve other functions, such as biosensors.

Visionary philanthropists now have the opportunity to stand with the University in its commitment to graduate students by pledging support for scholarships at Oxford: prized gifts capable of propelling life paths in an altogether new direction, often with extraordinary consequences.

www.development.ox.ac.uk/impact-stories/harnessing-the-power-of-graduate-scholarships

Right: The Jackson Wing of the Radcliffe Science Library, part of the new Parks College, on South Parks Road

Below: Artist's impression of the new common room, dining hall, and aerial view of Parks College



PARKS COLLEGE: A UNIQUE AND HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY

For almost 900 years, the University's excellence has been sustained and advanced by visionary benefactors, many of whom have given their names to prestigious scholarships, institutions and colleges: living legacies that have carried the benefactor's values down through the centuries.

The creation of a new college is a rare event in Oxford's storied history, yet a historic opportunity has arisen for philanthropists who share the University's vision of fostering the highest level of academic excellence for the greater common good: naming an entirely new Oxford college. This will be only the 39th college founded since scholarly teaching began in Oxford. Few benefactors will ever have a chance to make such a deep and lasting impact on the advancement of human knowledge.

The new college is provisionally named Parks College and its founding President is Lionel Tarassenko, Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University. The college will not only provide a space for interactions between researchers from the University's four divisions; it will also foster a culture of interdisciplinary exchange by putting on regular events that catalyse them: workshops, seminars, reading groups and weekly lectures for the whole college community.

Graduate and postdoctoral students, and academic staff will actively engage in the intellectual and social life of the college, typically attending a college event after spending the day in the lab, often staying for dinner to continue the conversation.

To promote the ethos and practice of interdisciplinary interaction, there will be an initial focus on three research clusters, whose themes have been chosen for their wide reach across the divisions of the University, their strongly interdisciplinary nature, Oxford's existing and potential strengths in these areas, and their innovation and entrepreneurship potential.

The initial clusters will focus on the topics of artificial intelligence and machine learning; environmental change; and cellular life – each of them broadly defined. Once there is a full complement of graduate students, it is anticipated that the college will have six to eight interdisciplinary clusters. An open ethos, as well as an emphasis on diversity, internationalism and innovation, will be strong features of a college whose members are engaged in exploring global challenges.

The University is spending £40 million of its own funds to re-develop buildings in the Science Area so that they can accommodate both the new college and a 21st-century science library for the University on the historic Radcliffe Science Library site. It is proposed that the college will start recruiting graduate students for admission in October 2021.

The benefactor who endows the college will not only have the unique opportunity to advise, consult and help shape elements of the college's research programme as it grows but will join the ranks of Oxford college founders in carrying the Oxford mission of learning and enlightenment to future generations.

www.ox.ac.uk/parkscollege

Situated at the gateway to Oxford's famous Science Area, the Life and Mind Building will combine innovative teaching, research and training facilities with spaces designed for the wider public, reflecting a commitment to making Oxford science accessible to all

A NEW CENTRE FOR LIFE AND MIND SCIENCES

Understanding the foundations of life and the nature of the human mind is essential to our wellbeing on the planet. Surprisingly, the disciplines of biology and psychology tend to be treated separately within academic institutions. This norm is set to be challenged at Oxford, where a new building for Life and Mind research will advance Oxford's strengths in fundamental science by creating cutting-edge research facilities. It will also help formulate policies and practices that will improve our natural environment, schools, health services and our daily lives, providing immeasurable benefits for the world.

Each department that will be located in the Life and Mind Building conducts world-leading research. For example, Oxford biologists research numerous questions about the nature of life, such as how it arose, how specific adaptations develop from DNA sequences, how new adaptations arise, and how humanity depends upon the services these ecosystems provide. They are interested in understanding the generation, maintenance and loss of biological diversity, and in using this understanding to guide humanity's reliance, and impact, on the natural world.

As humans, we not only feed, move, and procreate; we also anticipate, imagine, decide, judge, feel, empathise, remember and communicate. Oxford psychologists' research into the biological and psychological mechanisms of the mind helps us understand how we develop over our lifespan: how we acquire languages and learn to read, how we make decisions, how we behave, and why some flourish whereas others

falter with psychological or brain disorders. The science of the human mind is central to many important human endeavours, for example, establishing effective educational environments, designing technical and digital interfaces, informing economic decision making, and preventing and developing treatments for neurological and mental health disorders.

In addition to supporting each of these fundamental disciplines, the Life and Mind Building will uniquely foster cross-disciplinary work between biologists and experimental psychologists to address topical and pressing challenges facing humanity. We will share our joint expertise and research findings to influence and implement public policy. Innovative research hubs will bring together biologists and psychologists, their local and global international collaborators, clinicians, and public and industry stakeholders to address global challenges related to life and human behaviour. The Thriving on a Healthy Planet hub, for example, will investigate animal and plant food production and the decisions that our growing population makes around diet and low impact lifestyles.

Recognising the global significance of Life and Mind research and teaching, the University has committed a significant proportion of the £210 million required for this project. However, the realisation of the ambitious vision for the Life and Mind Building will only be possible through partnership with like-minded philanthropists who are committed to securing the future of interdisciplinary research that will shape our understanding of our planet, of human behaviour, and of their coexistence, informing debate and helping to address global challenges for generations to come.

Below: Artist's rendering of the design concept for the exterior of the Life and Mind Building





Above: New members are welcomed to the Court at the autumn meeting in Oxford

Opposite page: Members of the Court hearing from Dr Robert Easton (Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Development and External Affairs) at the Court's annual autumn meeting

ABOUT THE CHANCELLOR'S COURT

'More than a recognition society, the Chancellor's Court represents a powerful working partnership with our most committed friends, as together we help build a better future – for Oxford, and for the world.'

— **The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, CH**
Chancellor, University of Oxford

The Chancellor's Court of Benefactors celebrates and recognises Oxford's most outstanding friends and supporters.

Presided over by the Chancellor, The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, CH, the Court has over 250 members from around the globe whose significant contributions have assisted Oxford in being the world leading institution that it is today.

The impact of the members of the Court on the University is tremendous. Their exceptional generosity supports the brightest students, provides the best facilities for academics and scholars, and enables researchers to generate ground-breaking discoveries that benefit communities internationally.

Membership of the Court is conferred by the Chancellor and members may be individuals, or nominated representatives of companies and trusts.

UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

The Boat Race, London

Sunday 29 March 2020

Chancellor's Court in London

Wednesday 6 May 2020

Annual Meeting of the Chancellor's Court, Oxford

Thursday 1 October 2020

'It is good to be made to feel part of a community that wishes to change lives through the power of education.'

'I really appreciate the Court. It is something that is directly connected to philanthropy and to philanthropists who have a stake in Oxford's future.'

— **Members of the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors**



Court members' active participation in life at Oxford is welcomed and encouraged.

Membership of the Court brings both recognition and also exceptional access to the University. We want members to be easily in touch when they wish to be, and actively involved, in whatever way suits them best.

Court members usually have their own personal relationships with the University, often with a faculty, a college, a school or an individual – or all of these! In addition, the Donor Relations team is here to help with anything that might add to Court members' experience. We are delighted to effect introductions, to organise visits, to answer queries or to assist with any new contacts members might wish to make.

Keeping in touch

Information sent to members is carefully managed and tailored to their interests. Bespoke reports on the areas supported by a member and news regarding important developments at the University are sent at appropriate moments. And the termly Court e-newsletter *Oxford Perspectives* provides updates and news of forthcoming opportunities.

Frequently, members are closely involved in the work of their sponsored area, with regular visits for events and meetings. They might also be asked to bring their expertise to bear and be invited to sit on a faculty or college board. This support is invaluable and we are grateful for it.

There are also other invitations to University occasions, to add to the broad range of options for members' potential participation.

Two Court-specific events are held each year. The annual meeting in Oxford and a second gathering in London. Hosted by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, these also provide an opportunity for members to meet each other.



PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH:

Andrea Roger & Miranda Chalk

Senior Donor Relations Officers
University of Oxford Development Office

E donorrelations@devoff.ox.ac.uk
T +44 (0) 1865 611525

www.development.ox.ac.uk



COURT LIFE

It is our privilege to recognise the indispensable contribution our benefactors make and to involve them in the life of the University – from academic ceremonies to sporting events as well as presentations, private tours and formal dinners.



'It was an excellent day – one of the best.'

'Many thanks for the brilliant efforts which made the event such a success! ... I enjoyed the whole day very much.'

Above: Professor Lionel Tarassenko speaks about Oxford's plans for a new postgraduate college at the Court's reception in London

Below, left: Members of the Court were invited to a private view of the landmark *Jeff Koons* exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum in 2019

Below, right: The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race on the Thames in London is perennially popular with members of the Court. Here the Chancellor welcomes guests at the University's special 'floating reception' on the River Thames in London.



MEMBER EVENTS TO ENGAGE AND INSPIRE

Members of the Court are invited to events throughout the year so that they may engage with the leadership at Oxford, gain a greater understanding of developments at the University and enjoy a programme of world-class speakers and exhibitions. Such occasions also enable members to connect with one another and deepen their relationship with the Oxford community.

The **autumn meeting of the Court**, hosted by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, includes a ceremony in Oxford's historic Convocation House to welcome new members, a chance to hear from leading academics, to meet students and to join behind-the-scenes tours of the University facilities. The days' festivities culminate with dinner in one of Oxford's colleges.

A **reception and dinner for the Court in London** offers a mid-year update and a convivial evening with a guest speaker, where the insights of members are welcomed in wide-ranging discussions about the University's future.

Recognising that our donors reside all across the globe, events for members are also organised through our international offices in North America and Asia. Special lecture series bring distinguished academics from Oxford to speak about new and topical research; and alumni gatherings such as the Meeting Minds reunions see alumni and friends come together in major cities around the world for academic talks, recitals, exhibitions and social events.





Above: Karolina Watroba, Professor Edmund Herzig (Director) and Raphaël Millière of the Ertegun Graduate Scholarship Programme in the Humanities

THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors is one of the highlights of the Oxford calendar. On 19 September, the University shared many of the achievements that have been made possible due to the support of members of the Court, with talks by some of our outstanding scholars and academics, and behind-the-scenes tours, offering unparalleled insights into Oxford's advances in medicines and our leadership in law, ethics and the study of society.

THE DAY'S TOURS AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

FROM MAGIC MUSHROOMS TO MAGIC MOUNTAINS: VISIONS OF THE CONTEMPORARY HUMANITIES

From molecules to consciousness

Raphaël Millière, Ertegun Programme Resident Alumnus and DPhil candidate

How does the brain produce a sense of self? To answer this question, neuroscientists use psychoactive drugs to induce temporary disruptions of the sense of self in the laboratory, using neuroimaging to investigate what happens in the brain when self-consciousness breaks down. Drawing upon his doctoral work, Raphaël Millière showed how this research programme can benefit from philosophical insights. Firstly, making conceptual distinctions between several notions subsumed under the phrase 'sense of self' can help neuroscientists narrow down their hypotheses. Secondly, questionnaires traditionally used to assess the subjective effects of drugs can be complemented with 'micro-phenomenology', an interview technique rooted in philosophical research.

Who reads *The Magic Mountain*?

Karolina Watroba, Ertegun Programme Resident Alumna and DPhil candidate;
All Souls Fellow-Elect

In her doctoral thesis, Karolina Watroba looked at many different readers and readings of Thomas Mann's landmark modernist novel *Der Zauberberg* (*The Magic Mountain*, 1924). Books matter when they are read; culture matters when it is used. In her talk, Karolina showcased two particularly intriguing readings or uses of *The Magic Mountain* that she has come across in her research – *The Wind Rises*, Hayao Miyazaki's recent Japanese anime, and promotional materials of the World Economic Forum, which shares its setting in the Swiss resort Davos with Mann's novel. By looking at these surprising encounters with *The Magic Mountain*, we can better appreciate how cultural texts help shape the world we live in.

'Never since 1945 has the defence of human rights been more necessary. I'm proud that the Bonavero Institute has joined the fray and delighted by the impact it is already having.'

— Yves Bonavero

Founding donor of the Bonavero Institute
and member of the Court

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE BONAVERO INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Court members visited the newly established Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, a research centre in the Faculty of Law, housed in a beautiful new building at Mansfield College. They heard from **Professor Kate O'Regan**, Director of the Bonavero Institute and former judge of the South African Constitutional Court, and **Helen Mountfield QC**, a leading public law and human rights barrister and Principal of Mansfield, about the importance of research on human rights for the adjudication of human rights in domestic courts. **Yves Bonavero**, founding donor of the institute, outlined his family's approach to philanthropy and why establishing a research institute dedicated to human rights research was necessary in today's world. **Dr Stefan Theil**, **Dr Oliver Butler** and **Miss Lisa Hsin**, all young researchers with the Bonavero Institute, explained the research they are undertaking in fields including modern slavery, data protection and the right to privacy, freedom of speech and the regulation of social media, and the role of parliament in modern democracies.

WHO WANTS TO LIVE FOREVER?

Professor Alison Woollard, Tutorial Fellow in Biochemistry and Associate Professor in Genetics

The search for the elixir of youth has been a fantasy through the ages, but is it possible to live much longer, or desirable? Why do organisms age? And why do different creatures have such different life expectancies, from a few hours to hundreds of years? Members joined Alison on her quest for eternal youth, as she introduced her favourite creature, the tiny nematode *C. elegans*, and revealed how this humble worm is letting us into the secrets of a long and healthy life.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE MUSEUM

Director, **Dr Silke Ackermann**, and her colleagues **Dr Stephen Johnston** and **Dr Lee Macdonald** each led Court members on a tour of the galleries providing a unique opportunity to handle some of the museum's breathtakingly beautiful and sophisticated astronomical instruments and to examine closely highlights from the rarely shown photographic collection, all in the 17th-century building that was the original home of science in Oxford.

Members experienced the unique heritage of the museum first-hand and learned about Vision 2024 – the ambitious plans to 'revolutionise' the History of Science Museum in time for its first centenary, which will include the sensitive refurbishment of its landmark building.

Below: Members of the Court enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of Oxford's History of Science Museum



AWARDS & HONOURS

Throughout the centuries, visionary philanthropists have made exceptional gifts that have contributed significantly to the life and work of the University of Oxford.

This remarkable support continues today, helping us to transform lives and society around the world. To acknowledge this invaluable support, the University is delighted to honour the generosity of its donors in a variety of ways, which includes membership of the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE COURT

The CCB Fellowship recognises members of the Court who have provided exceptional philanthropic benefactions, in excess of £10 million, to Oxford. Known as CCB Fellows, members of this distinguished and visionary group are making a long-lasting difference to a multitude of academic priorities at Oxford.



Above: Supported by Court members Andrew and Dame Pamela Banks (top left), the Rhodes Scholarships offer a life-changing opportunity for exceptional young people – from all over the world, and in all fields of study – with the potential to make a difference for good in the world

Below: Cast in silver and individually crafted, the Sheldon Medal carries the benefactor's portrait, while the reverse design depicts Oxford's historic Sheldonian Theatre

HOLDERS OF THE SHELDON MEDAL

- The late Lord Wolfson, *Chairman of the Wolfson Foundation*
- Mr Wafic Rida Saïd
- The late Dr James Martin
- Sir Michael Moritz and Ms Harriet Heyman
- Lord and Lady Sainsbury of Preston Candover
- Sir Leonard Blavatnik
- Mrs Mica Ertegun
- The Trustees of the Garfield Weston Foundation
- Mr John McCall MacBain O.C.



THE CLARENDON ARCH

The names of some of the University's most outstanding philanthropists are engraved on the slate tablets under the Clarendon Arch, near the Bodleian Libraries. These include important historical figures, such as Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, and some closely associated with Oxford's history: Sir Thomas Bodley, John Radcliffe. These sit alongside individuals and organisations that have supported the University in more recent times such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, Investcorp, André Hoffmann, Dickson Poon, and Guy and Julia Hands.

Today, this distinction is reserved for members of the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors contributing over £5 million, and is made on the recommendation of the University Council.

SHELDON MEDAL

The Sheldon Medal is the University's highest mark of distinction to honour individual benefactors whose contributions have made a transformative, strategic difference to the University. The medal is named after one of Oxford's early benefactors, Gilbert Sheldon, who graduated from Trinity College in 1620. During his tenure as Chancellor of Oxford (1667–9), his benefaction supported the construction of the Sheldonian Theatre.



Sheldon Medal recipient Sir Leonard Blavatnik at the opening of the Blavatnik School of Government in 2016, with HRH The Duke of Cambridge, Professor Ngaire Woods, Dean of the School, Vice-Chancellor Professor Louise Richardson, and Master of Public Policy students. The Blavatnik School of Government exists to inspire and support better government and public policy around the world



If you have any comments or questions about the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors, or are a member requiring assistance, please get in touch with:

Andrea Roger & Miranda Chalk, Senior Donor Relations Officers
University of Oxford Development Office

University Offices
Wellington Square
Oxford OX1 2JD
United Kingdom

E donorrelations@devoff.ox.ac.uk
T +44 (0) 1865 611525

www.development.ox.ac.uk