



PRIDE OF HERTFORD:  
A SNAPSHOT OF ALUMNI TALENT



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“We all know Hertford is a special place – I like to describe it, to each wave of freshers, as the friendliest of Oxford colleges and that they are about to become members of a community that lasts for life. We are proud of our alumni; what they do and have done.

So here is our celebration of the men and women who today's students will join.

Our fellows are engaged in cutting-edge research across the kaleidoscope of disciplines; and Hertford alumni are spread across the globe working in all manner of institutions and organisations, with each person making an impact in a variety of ways. In a university that boasts world leaders, Nobel laureates, and even a dozen saints among its alumni over the centuries, each and every Hertfordian is carving out their own distinctive path.”

Every one of you has a story to tell. *Pride of Hertford* is a small snapshot of some of those individual stories, about their background before Oxford, how they shaped the life of the college whilst here, and how their time at Hertford has influenced their career paths.

*Pride of Hertford* forms part of an ongoing living storytelling project, HertFolk – [www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/hertfolk](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/hertfolk) – that continues on the college website. There you will find more stories and fuller articles about our alumni, and you can contribute your story to the project by emailing [development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk).





## Wanda Wyporska

### 1997

Wanda came to Hertford in 1997 to study for a Masters in Languages, and later DPhil in Modern European History. She is now Executive Director of The Equality Trust – the national charity that campaigns to reduce social and economic inequality for a fairer society.

#### HISTORY & LANGUAGES

I was lucky to have been mentored by Professor Norman Davies at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, London, where I gained a first-class honours degree in Polish Studies. He recommended I apply to Hertford for the Starun Senior Scholarship, but as for so many before me and since, it was really Simpkin who clinched it for me. As an historian, I was drawn to the beautiful buildings and sense of place; grand, yet not grandiose.

During my first year studying for a Master of Studies in Research I enjoyed the various social events organised by the MCR and exchange dinners, which naturally I had to attend as the Bar Steward. Hertford's close proximity to my beloved Duke Humphrey's Library, the Old Congregation House café, and the

King's Arms, ensured a balance of work, rest and play. In the summer of 1998, when I awaited the outcome of my grant application to embark on my DPhil, I realised that I would have been devastated had I not continued with my studies here at Hertford.

In 2013, I published *Witchcraft in Early Modern Poland 1500-1800*, which was shortlisted for an award. After Hertford, I worked at the TUC on lifelong learning, was responsible for equality and diversity at the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, and campaigned on anti-bullying, sex and relationships education, homo-, bi- and transphobia, and poverty. This was excellent preparation for taking up the role of Executive Director at The Equality Trust.

Here at The Equality Trust we are campaigning to reduce inequality, because the evidence shows that in societies with higher rates of income inequality, we see higher rates of physical ill health, infant mortality, mental ill health and incarceration. We also see lower levels of social mobility, child wellbeing, and huge health inequalities. We campaign for cross-governmental inequality reduction strategies, legislation and transparency on pay ratios and more progressive taxation. We are also the UK convener of the global Fighting Inequality Alliance, we work with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and politicians from all parties. I'm delighted that we are also working on school and college resources on inequality, supporting teachers and young people to challenge inequality, because inequality is not inevitable.



## Tom Bashford

### 1998

Tom read Biochemistry at Hertford, before completing a graduate-entry programme in Medicine in London. He is a specialist registrar in anaesthesia and critical care at Addenbrooke's Hospital, and an Academic Clinical Fellow at the University of Cambridge, with an interest in improving anaesthesia care in low income countries.

#### BIOCHEMISTRY

I applied to Hertford from a South London technical college, as my struggling (now deceased) comprehensive had lost its sixth form several years previously. This might imply 'access programme' success, but as with all caricatures it doesn't paint an accurate picture. I'd always been bewitched by the idea of Oxford as an escape from Tooting. Interviews in December heightened the agony of expectation. It snowed. I was put up in a beautiful room in OB quad. Everyone I met was awesome. I found in the King's Arms my spiritual and victual home. I was utterly, irrevocably, hooked. The letter that fell through the mat on Christmas Eve was heart-stopping.

Of course romanticism is a poor basis for a relationship. Luckily Hertford was, and remains, a fundamentally

good place. Academically strong but not overbearing, friendly, irreverent, grounded. It gave me the best of Oxford: lifelong friends, an understanding of what academia looks like when done well, and the confidence that comes from realising that most successful people have no real idea what they are doing.

On leaving, with an adequate degree and a clear conviction not to become a biochemist, I worked briefly for the Royal Society before enrolling on a graduate entry course at St George's Hospital Medical School in London. St George's is in Tooting; this was disappointing. The course was otherwise ideal, and I left with a much better degree in Medicine than I achieved in Biochemistry. I headed off in the direction of Anaesthesia and Critical Care because it's

terrifying, and I thought that was a good basis for an interesting life.

During my junior medical training I spent a year with VSO working in Ethiopia. This set the course for the rest of my career which has focussed on how to improve anaesthetic care in low-income countries. I'm interested in how complex systems deliver healthcare, and how these can be designed or re-engineered to improve that care. I'm now at another university, which is slightly younger and further east than Oxford, pursuing a PhD in Engineering and completing my clinical training. I spend as much time as possible working alongside the charities Lifebox and Addenbrooke's Abroad, who are dedicated to making a tangible difference to safer surgery and anaesthesia in their partner countries.



## Sherard Cowper-Coles

### 1973

Sherard Cowper-Coles is Group Head of Public Affairs for the HSBC banking group. After Hertford, where he read Classics, he spent over 30 years in the Diplomatic Service, ending up as Ambassador successively to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan. He was knighted in the 2004 Birthday Honours.

L I T E R A E   H U M A N I O R E S

I didn't choose Hertford, but Hertford chose me. It could not have turned out better. There were some misgivings. On the day I arrived, the Dean had put a note on the college noticeboard headed simply 'VOMIT', under which he had typed 'I wish to see less of this around college in future'. But things soon picked up. I tried almost everything, at least once, and met so many people the likes of whom I had never met before.

When it came to the afterlife, I always knew that I would love the Foreign Office. I spent more than 30 very happy years there. I was offered a choice of learning Arabic, Chinese or Japanese, and chose Arabic, out of vanity and ambition, because I thought I could be ambassador in more countries. I was sent to the famous Foreign Office Arabic

School above Beirut, which Nasser had called the 'British spy school'. But we were evacuated from there and I spent the rest of my time learning Arabic in London, Syria and Alexandria. Postings as a political officer in Cairo, Washington and Paris followed, interspersed with jobs in London, and later head of the Hong Kong department in the run-up to the handover in 1997. Then, in 1999, I was pulled out early from a dream posting to Paris, to work as head of the office for the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook. He was a difficult, but talented man, of whom I became very fond. I then learnt Hebrew, and went as Ambassador to Israel during the second Palestinian intifada – a difficult but professionally very interesting time. I was then sent to Saudi Arabia, for four years as ambassador during a particularly

unpleasant Al Qaeda campaign. My three final jobs all related to Afghanistan – a beautiful country, whose people had suffered and still suffer terribly, from too much foreign intervention for too long. I was so pleased that Brad Pitt, who stars in *War Machine* (about the misguided US intervention in Afghanistan), read my book about it, and came to see me in London for a briefing.

When in 2002 a letter reached me in Israel from Walter Bodmer saying that I had been elected to an Honorary Fellowship, I thought it was a wind-up. But it wasn't, and I am so glad, because it has enabled me, in a small way, to start repaying my debt to an institution where I spent four of the happiest, and most productive and stimulating, years of my life.



## Zoë Lee

### 2004

Zoë had two ambitions for 2016: to complete her PhD and make her Olympic debut. She achieved both, passing her PhD in March and winning silver with the women's eight at the Rio Games.

G E O G R A P H Y

At 16 I was preparing myself for a career in sports physiotherapy. While at sixth-form college, though, I decided I was more interested in playing sport than learning about it, and found geography and geology to be much more engaging. Eventually, encouraged by good AS levels and my principal, I decided to apply to Oxford, where I initially visited Hertford, which coincidentally was holding its open day. Straight away I knew this was the college I wanted to apply to. Without studying at Hertford, I wouldn't have started rowing, and without that I wouldn't have become an Olympic silver medallist.

I was determined to get a Blue in netball. But after watching my friends race in Summer Eights, I realised I wanted to row too. I found myself balancing work with university netball,

college rowing and the university development rowing squad in my second year. Rowing was a really different type of team sport.

In my third year I went to Tunisia as part of my course to study deserts. I recall standing on top of a sand dune. Looking around all you could see was sand – it was unforgettable and I wanted to learn more! This without doubt made me determined to pursue a PhD looking at the movement of sand grains by the wind.

My life changed when I started training with the senior GB team. I had to be available constantly to train with the squad, cramming research into any spare time. Although busy and stressed, the two complemented each other well. I had to balance having my PhD ready for submission

with trialling for the Olympic team. Thankfully I was successful in both, finding out that I had passed my PhD on the same day that I helped qualify the British Women's eight for the Olympic final.

What I think makes Hertford special is that the sense of community is absolutely college wide. When I decided to apply, I knew that the interview process would be tough and that hundreds of equally able students would be applying for a place. But instead of letting this unnerve me, I tried to show the interviewers my personality and demonstrate that even if I didn't have all the answers I was intrigued and wanted to learn. You never know where life might take you and it is much more fun if you're enjoying every moment.





## Lucie Burgess (née Whitford) 1993

A student of the legendary Neil Tanner, Lucie read Physics at Hertford. Combining her studies with an active interest in digital strategy and consulting, Lucie went on to manage the strategy for the British Library. She moved closer to Hertford, working at the Bodleian, and now works as Head of Personal Data for the Digital Catapult.

PHYSICS

I was always fascinated by the natural world, how things worked, and the mysteries of the very large and very small, so studying Physics seemed natural. I had Neil Tanner and Robin Devenish as tutors, who were incredibly supportive and had brilliant, inspiring minds. In the first year, our play *Three More Sleepless Nights* made the final of Drama Cuppers at the Burton Taylor Theatre, which involved carrying an entire bed along Broad Street. The second year involved many sleepless nights with people who are now lifelong friends, and a summer in the Clarendon Lab firing a laser at various wafer-thin materials. I won a scholarship, a prized First, and the Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics Prize.

After working with the Secretariat for the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change, I worked for Arthur Andersen in London as a business analyst during the dot com boom. I left to join Xilerate and spent a year investing in exotic businesses like music pods in clubs, early progenitors of gaming sites and an online pharmaceutical exchange. In 2006 I applied for a role as Head of Strategy at the British Library where I led the development of the Library's 2020 vision, a glimpse ahead to the knowledge systems of the future.

Then I heard that the Bodleian was recruiting a new Director of Digital and I was absolutely thrilled to get the job. I was immensely proud to be awarded a Senior Research Fellowship at Hertford in recognition of the research I led into digital preservation, open scholarship

and open science. I championed digital innovation at the Bodleian and persuaded the University to invest in Bibliotech, an e-book distribution platform.

In 2015 I began studying for an MSc in Computer Science at Birkbeck College. Studying in the evenings while working and raising a family has been an enormous challenge but I'll soon submit my thesis. In 2016 I joined the Digital Catapult as Head of Personal Data and Trust, and later led the Digital Health strategy. The last year has been tremendously stimulating; developing projects with small companies working in emerging technologies from artificial intelligence to the Internet of Things. It also gives me the chance to advocate for the role and talents of women working in the dynamic world of technology.

## Julian Whitehead 1963

After reading Modern History as a Baring Founder's Scholar, Julian went into a career in military intelligence, after which he worked with Historic Royal Palaces. Now retired, he combines his undergraduate passions with his professional experience as a writer.

HISTORY

I was one of the very lucky generations who had their university fees paid for by the state and, having got an Oxford degree, was able to get a job with little difficulty. In my case I was particularly fortunate because I was accepted by Hertford as a Baring Founder's Kin Scholar. The College was rather basic when I went up in 1963, with no running water for most staircases. Although a financially poor college, it retained a certain style and the cutlery in hall was solid silver. I read History and was fortunate to have Felix Markham and John Armstrong as tutors who both certainly had style, and would offer Madeira at tutorials. Oxford gave me the opportunity to have so many experiences. These ranged from a bit of rowing, the Officers Training Corps, and being a member of the Conservative Association

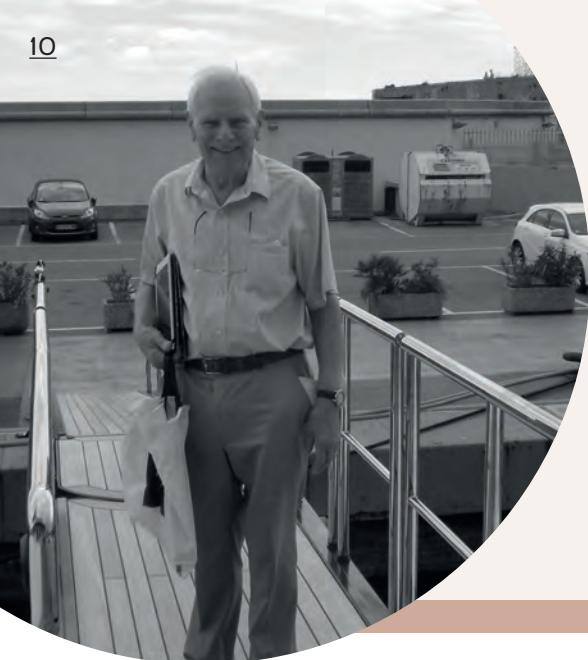
Committee, where I was fortunate enough on different occasions to meet and chat to the Prime Minister, and various Cabinet Ministers. I also acted in two Hertford plays, one of which was performed at the Playhouse.

After Oxford I joined the Intelligence Corps where I had a wide variety of interesting jobs mainly relating to the Cold War and counter-terrorism. I left the Army in 1998 having been Chief of Staff of the Intelligence Centre and then Deputy Director of Defence Security. Following a spell in industry I ended up with what was for me a perfect job of being Security Advisor at Historic Royal Palaces. My office was at Hampton Court Palace overlooking the Thames, but I was also responsible for a number of other wonderful palaces such as

Kensington and the Tower of London. The job combined my knowledge of security, with working in surroundings of major historical importance where I could indulge my lifelong interest in history, which had been developed at Hertford.

In retirement I combine intelligence and history by writing about the history of intelligence. My first book was *Cavalier and Roundhead Spies* and my most recent book is *Rebellion in the Reign of Charles II*. I live in a village near Woodstock, so I am in easy reach of the Bodleian where I suspect I spend more time now that I did as an undergraduate!





## Norman Perrin

### 1948

A student in post-war Oxford, Norman came to Hertford as a Maths scholar, later switching to Engineering Science for his Finals. He went on to a career in the RAF, rising to the role of Air Vice Marshal and President of the Ordnance Board.

ENGINEERING SCIENCE

After five gruelling days of exam papers, and an interview which dealt with many aspects of my life – but not at all with the academic subjects – I was offered a scholarship to read Maths at Hertford, although I would eventually study Engineering Science. There are many anecdotes about such interviews but the item that stuck in my mind was when, towards the end, I was asked if I was ‘musical’, I blithely replied that, of course I was, because I had played the bugle in the Boys Brigade. This produced a burst of merry laughter and I left wondering whether that was a good thing or bad.

On arrival, my ration book caused the bursar some anxiety, being blue rather than the standard buff colour. Reassured that it would be exchanged for the grown up version

in a few weeks’ time when I had reached the age of 18, he asked what benefits had accrued. This culminated a week or two later in being singled out for a special dessert at dinner: a solitary banana was borne in on a silver charger.

So how did those three years contribute to the rest of my life? They enabled me to grow up in a mature culture that encouraged a flexible approach to problems and situations when a change of direction was needed. I learned that whatever the context there is always someone nearby who knows more than yourself about problem-solving. That approach was to serve me well in my later RAF career, where over the course of some 35 years I migrated from would-be Civil Engineer to Aeronautical Engineer, and thence to

Missile Systems Engineer, and finally to Ordnance Engineer. A career that brought me to Air Vice Marshal and President of the Ordnance Board.

After retiring in 1986 I took a job as the Director of the Telecommunications Engineering and Manufacturing Association. The industry was burgeoning and it involved a whole new learning experience. I later became Secretary General of a European confederation of national associations who were embarking on their own version of liberalisation in the face of determined interference by busybody EU Commission staff (*plus ça change*). That activity lasted for some nine to ten years until I finally retired for good, to enjoy my life of bridge, crosswords, and following Liverpool FC.

## Emily Rayfield

### 1993

Emily originally thought of reading Fine Art at Oxford, but soon changed her mind and came to Hertford to study Biological Sciences. Following a PhD in Cambridge, she has embarked on an academic career as a palaeontologist, and now works around the world in this field. She is also dedicated to promoting diversity in the scientific community.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



I originally wanted to study at the Ruskin School of Art, but I eventually settled on applying to study Biological Sciences. The Hertford prospectus stated that the college was interested in female applicants from northern state schools who would like to study science. At that point my mind was made up. I still recall the moment I opened my offer letter from Hertford, and the floods of tears that followed.

We were told back in the early 90s that biotechnology was the next big thing for biosciences. Lectures, courses and practical sessions on vertebrate evolution and anatomy, however, fostered my latent interest in whole organism biology and the biology of extinct animals – palaeontology.

Palaeontology is not the dry and dusty subject it was once perceived to be. My research has focused on the use of new technologies; using X-rays to image the internal anatomy of fossils and engineering analysis to reconstruct extinct animal functions and evolutionary history. After completing my PhD and postdoctoral positions and fellowships in Oxford, Cambridge and the Natural History Museum, London, I arrived at the University of Bristol in 2005.

My work takes me around the world, to exotic locations, exciting fossils and interesting people. I now engage future generations of earth scientists and palaeontologists in my role as lecturer, supervisor and mentor. I also serve on the councils and executive committees of learned societies and help steer their diversity

agenda. The percentage of ethnic minorities, individuals from lower socioeconomic groups and those who identify as disabled reaching the upper echelons of academia in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects has yet to reach double figures. The percentage of female Earth Sciences professors has only recently reached the double-digit mark; the situation is worse in other physical sciences. All figures except gender diversity have remained depressingly static over the last ten years. There is much more that needs to be done to encourage and foster diversity within the sciences. It’s a privilege and a challenge to be in a position to strive for change and fight for others to have the opportunities I was offered at the start of my university career.





## Eugenie Reidy

### 2001

Eugenie started at Hertford at the beginning of the millennium reading Archaeology and Anthropology. Since graduating, she has been committed to international development and outreach with indigenous peoples.

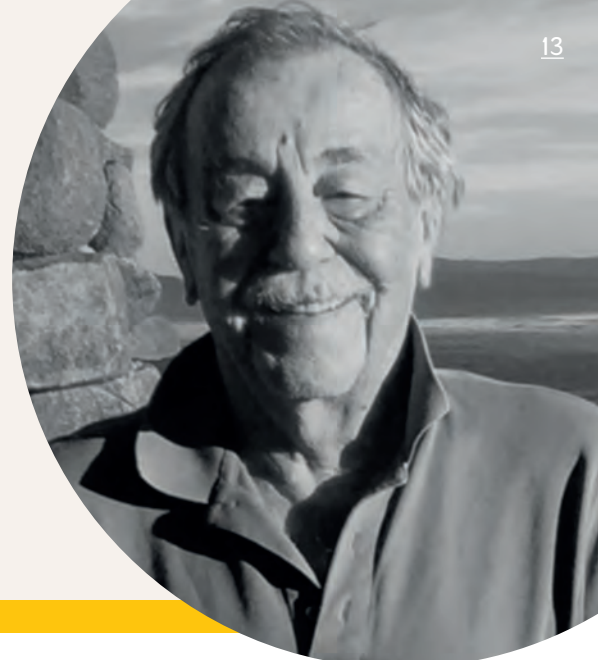
ARCHAEOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY

Struggling to choose between art and science, and wanting to travel and see the world, my eighteen-year-old self learned through a better-informed friend about 'Arch and Anth'. It was a trigger for looking seriously at Oxford, and Hertford – one of the few colleges that offered the course and which had a reputation for being a more down-to-earth and less 'powerhouse' environment than others. In a spartan room in OB Quad I couldn't sleep before the interview, convinced I couldn't possibly have read or learned enough to be a serious candidate. Then in a wood-panelled study high above the cobbles, two professors drew me into an almost conspiratorial discussion on Incan warfare psychology and sacred Ganges oil lamps – leaving me absolutely hungry for more.

After Hertford I went on to do a masters degree in the anthropology of development at SOAS (University of London) and then worked in international development with a focus on indigenous peoples. In South Asia the highlights of this were staying with indigenous families on the banks of India's River Narmada and touring a travelling children's cinema in Pakistani Kashmir after the 2005 earthquake. Then I worked for NGOs in East Africa, with dusty, happy stints of fieldwork living with nomadic pastoralist communities, before spending several years in the Nairobi-based UNICEF regional office. This was a whole new education, not just in fascinating and fragile contexts like Somalia and South Sudan, but in policy and bureaucracy too. Living in Africa was also an education, not least in what a rare privilege my life

and particularly education has been. It is heart-breaking to befriend and encourage incredibly smart young people only to realise how much stands in the way of them getting the education they deserve, and a reminder not only to grab all the chances Hertford and Oxford offer, but also to embrace the spirit of sharing them as broadly as possible.

I'm now based in Sydney, working for a fantastic foundation called Jawun that supports Aboriginal communities, including sending skilled people to Aboriginal organisations that burst with ideas and dedication but lack professional or technical capacity. Those people are corporate or government employees who in turn get a re-education in Australia's history, culture and identity.



## Jurek Martin

### 1960

Jurek read Modern History at Hertford, where he also pursued an active interest in cricket. After graduating, he moved to the US, initially as a teacher, before embarking on a career in journalism. He received an OBE in the 1997 New Year's Honours. He now lives in Washington DC, and still writes for *The Financial Times*... if it doesn't interfere with his golf.

HISTORY

I arrived in Hertford in 1960 as a Meeke Scholar. My main tutor, 'Felix' Markham the Napoleonic scholar, was already a legend in his own time. The weekly sessions with him were a minor art form, as he lisped ever more wetly, leaning further back in his chair until we all wondered when it would finally tip over, which it never did.

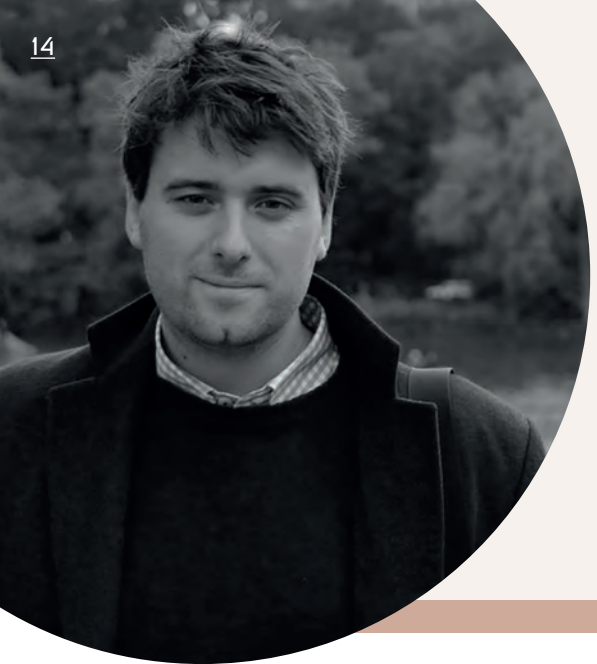
I went straight from Oxford to California because I was 21 and wanted to get out of England. In three years there I was a teacher, salesman and bartender, but I also started writing about all the wonderful things I'd seen and experienced (it was, after all, California in the 60s, sex, drugs and rock'n'roll and much more besides). One, for my old home town newspaper, the *Berrows Worcester Journal*, proved pivotal to my future life. It was about comparing baseball,

to which I had become addicted, with cricket, at which I'd been reasonably good. It was this clipping that Gordon Newton, fearsome editor of the *Financial Times*, was reading before interviewing me for a vacancy. He looked up and said 'what's a double play?' Briefly I thought he was referring to something financial, about which I knew nothing, so I told him what it meant in baseball. He asked how a pitcher could make the ball swerve and dip. I screwed up a piece of paper and demonstrated assorted grips. He said, you've no qualifications to join the FT, but you've just explained baseball to me better than anybody else, you're hired, I'll make you a journalist.

I spent time in New York, Washington, and London. Next came Tokyo for four years. I had to be innovative in

my approach to writing, something that brought me recognition in the form of two British Press Awards, though nothing like the 15 minutes of fame my wife and I enjoyed by becoming the first western couple to dance in public with the Crown Prince and Princess, now the Emperor and Empress. In 1986, I was appointed foreign editor in London, the only other job, apart from Washington, to which I aspired, the spider in the middle of a marvellous web of well over 100 foreign correspondents and staff.

I was lucky enough to live in a golden age of newspaper journalism which is on life support today. I am old school in the sense that I believe journalism is a craft, not a profession. At my best I was a pretty good plumber.



## Ewen Maclean

### 2006

Attracted to Hertford by chance, Ewen studied Physics as both an undergraduate and a DPhil student. Having studied in Switzerland as part of his research, he is now based there permanently at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

#### PHYSICS

Oxford didn't give me a great vibe at first. Coming from a rural state school in Scotland applying to uni down South wasn't a particularly natural choice, but my Dad and I had driven down for the science open day and I'd devoted the morning to checking out some colleges I'd picked from the prospectus.

Hertford had made it onto my shortlist of colleges by virtue of having one of the largest number of physics tutors listed in the prospectus. It rapidly set about demolishing my first impressions of Oxford. As I approached down Cattle Street it became apparent some sort of revelry was going on. A banner eventually appeared proclaiming it was also the Hertford College Open Day. Inside I was met by a cheerful student, to whom I hesitantly

explained that I'd actually come for the science open day, but if it was alright I'd still like to have a quick look around the quad. 'Nonsense!' was the response: I had to join in some of the Hertford activities too! Sure enough I soon found myself ushered onto a guided tour of the college buildings, and on my return was introduced to Dr George Ducas, one of the physics tutors at Hertford, who was about to lead a tour around the university department.

It was actually Dr Ducas who introduced me to the field I work in now – particle physics – which I initially studied for my MPhys and later for my DPhil. For this I was lucky to get the opportunity to study beam-dynamics in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the highest energy accelerator in the world, operated

by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva. I spent three years in Geneva completing my DPhil. I even got to be in the main auditorium at CERN as the Higgs Boson discovery was announced, and though my contact with the college was much less than as an undergraduate, support was always there if needed.

After finishing my DPhil I did a postdoc with the University of Manchester, and then returned to Geneva where I'm now working through a CERN Fellowship and studying nonlinear-dynamics in the LHC. Looking back it's funny to think I would be somewhere totally different if a friendly student and tutor hadn't shown me around a Hertford Open Day.



## Lena Thu Phuong Nguyen

### 2005

Lena read Oriental Studies at Hertford before going on to do further study in International Development. Following voluntary work in Vietnam and a position at UNICEF, she now freelances as an international development consultant.

#### ORIENTAL STUDIES

I grew up in Poland, the daughter of Vietnamese immigrants. We arrived in Warsaw on the eve of the collapse of the Iron Curtain. Fifteen years later, Poland joined the European Union, and suddenly applying for a university in the UK, and perhaps even Oxford, became a real possibility.

I attended a state school, where, though teachers were extremely supportive, there was little by way of resources to help us write personal statements, navigate UCAS, or prepare for admissions interviews. Needless to say, I did not know how to choose a college, but from the first day I felt that the friendly and inclusive Hertford was home. Hertford didn't have a tutor for Chinese Studies but I always had

the support of Bjarke Frellesvig, and always felt there was a lot of attention devoted to each student academically and personally. I remember at one of the Orientalists' drinks, perhaps towards the end of my second year, a tutor asked whether I still did creative writing – something we talked about during my admissions interview.

After Hertford, inspired by my dissertation research on inequalities faced by the children of rural-urban migrants in China, I went on to study International Development. From there, I took a delayed gap year in Vietnam, where I got involved in a project documenting how schools in disadvantaged districts managed funding from international organisations. This then led to a

job with UNICEF, which continued for the next six years, taking me on different assignments to various countries, ranging from researching the implementation of children's rights while based in the hills of Tuscany, to supporting external communications in Thailand and the Philippines, to overseeing a public financial management support programme for the social welfare ministry in Myanmar (Burma). Earlier this year I moved to Berlin with my husband and I'm now freelancing as an international development consultant. This gives me the flexibility to pursue my other interests (such as creative writing).





## Lucy Davenport-Broder

### 1991

Lucy was initially nervous to apply to Oxford, but a degree at Herford in English coupled with an active extra-curricular life set her up for a career on the stage. She subsequently studied at the Royal Academy of Drama and Acting and now pursues a busy life as an actress and voice-over artist based in Los Angeles.

ENGLISH

I almost didn't apply to Oxford at all. My fiercely Mancunian school experience made me fear that such places were for posh people only – a terrible reverse snobbery. But I came down on a field trip and fell in love with the place. There was a feeling of it being somewhere where ideas and life were happening.

I will be forever grateful to my years at Hertford for pushing me to my limit – academically, physically (all those night sessions!) and even providing me with an informal career training. I did over twenty plays whilst at Hertford, including long summers doing open-air Shakespeare. This proved an invaluable preparation for the rigors of the life of an itinerant player. I shall never forget lying on the stage at the Oxford Playhouse as the seemingly dead Juliet and

being heckled by school parties, or 'sleeping' in the rain in Exeter Gardens as Titania.

After Hertford, I went to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (having survived my last Hertford Final and my final audition for RADA, scheduled on the same day). Two weighty and stubborn institutions faced off – who would budge? Well, in the end, I went into sequestration with the Junior Dean of Hertford, who accompanied me to my audition in London and then returned to sleep over and write my paper at Julia Briggs's house the next day. It was quite the transitional moment.

Hertford gave me the scaffolding on which to build a career, and it had stretched and challenged me in

every way possible because I'd been taught to work hard, always to strive to be better and to embrace risk.

In 2006 my husband and I moved to Los Angeles, where we still are, now with two children (Ella and Louis), and a diversified career in both on-screen acting and voice-over work. I have worked with some people on my bucket list – Martin Scorsese, Jay Roach – and I've done a lot of ditch digging in-between (I'm very good at dying in several different accents). I have just finished editing and performing in the world premiere of my husband's play, *Our American Hamlet*, at the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company in Boston. I know I wouldn't have been on that stage but for the hours spent in the Rad Cam or in Julia's armchairs.



## Rob Williams

### 1983

From an early age Rob wanted to work in international development, and his college education and experiences helped to equip him with the necessary tools to make a difference. He is now Chief Executive at War Child, a charity dedicated to helping children affected by conflicts around the globe.

JURISPRUDENCE

I applied to Hertford from inside of a family drama. My parents had gone bankrupt and separated. We were suddenly homeless and I ended up living with my grandparents. This wasn't the worst hard-luck story in the world but enough to leave me feeling precarious. Although I had no clear expectations of Hertford, the interview turned out to be the most intriguing conversation of my life to date, and the offer letter that followed felt like a doorway to a much better place.

I studied Law. I knew already that I wanted to be an aid worker but international development was not offered as a degree subject in 1983. From the stupendous amount of reading required, I did learn how to spot the important bits, and that's been really useful. And then there

was the boat club. I rowed in my first year, was Captain in my second year and President of the club in my third. I decided that I wanted to get as many people on the river as possible, and did!

So how much of that is helpful at War Child? Our job is to help children caught in war zones. We run schools in refugee camps. We help child soldiers to leave their militia groups and go back to their families. We provide psycho-social support to tens of thousands of children a year who have fled shelling, bombs and piles of rubble.

Hertford taught me how to work seriously hard, and the lawyer's eye for the big issue helps to figure out what to do first in a crisis. More obviously, as a Chief Executive, every

day I use the skills I learnt at the boat club. Being men's Captain allowed me to practice recruiting rowers, getting them the boats and coaches they needed, agreeing targets and celebrating successes.

Most of my career has been in aid, which is what I wanted to do at the age of 18. I've worked with great teams to respond to the Rwanda genocide, the Angolan civil war, Afghanistan, Sudan and now the Syria conflict. I was not a leader when I came up to Oxford and I could easily have missed that part of myself. But Hertford gave me a chance to discover it. Whilst my tutors made me think, the college boat club gave me a chance to lead. Most of all, Hertford gave me a lifeline from a difficult family situation.



## Bahi Ghubril

### 1989

Born in Lebanon, Bahi studied Engineering Science at Hertford, before embarking on a career in finance and as an entrepreneur. His company, Zawarib, is rapidly becoming one of the most important travel and mapping services in the region, and he maintains active involvement in the financial sector as a consultant, now dividing his time between London and Beirut.

ENGINEERING SCIENCE

I was born in Beirut, but spent my school years in England before successfully gaining a place at Oxford to read Engineering Science. At Oxford I spent my extra-curricular time getting to know a wonderful array of characters from all walks of life and nationalities, by participating in the various student activities that the University allows, from rowing to acting to language clubs, science societies and the Oxford Union.

After Oxford, I embarked on a career as portfolio manager and investor in various banks and financial institutions in the city, which I supplemented with a variety of other projects. These ranged from theatre productions, launching a magazine and record label, taking time off, spending a year in Rome as well as time in Beirut, personal investments

in various SMEs and personal projects, along with pursuing an acting career that I keep up on the side to this day. In 2010, I launched Zawarib, a Lebanon-based mapping service that has become the main reference point for what to see and places to go.

I am inspired by people that set their own agenda, creating a lifestyle and objective (as well as evaluation measures) that are self-created and not a copy-paste of something they believe they ought to be/follow. To that end, individuality combined with professionalism and dedication to your own values and objectives is of the utmost importance. It is invigorating to see in others and infectious to all. That is what drives me and inspires me.

For me, the work I now cover with my company Zawarib combines my passion for my country, my skills in presentation (and so acting) as well as financial acumen and engineering experience to create projects that are meaningful, engaging, adventurous, audacious and passionate! All things that Oxford helped me develop and celebrate.

In addition, I have set up a financial consulting company in the UK, based out of my flat in Covent Garden, which works with investment boutiques, family offices, small or starting up hedge funds in analysing their management structure, and advising on process, personnel, and often trade ideas and investments that make sense to them or their clients.



## Katie Targett-Adams

### 1997

Katie read Medieval & Modern Languages at Hertford, but felt her true calling in life was as a musician. She now pursues a busy life of music-making out of her base in Hong Kong which sees her perform across Asia and further afield, including at Hertford where she was involved in the centenary celebrations of the Bridge of Sighs.

MEDIEVAL & MODERN LANGUAGES

My father gave me the middle name 'Emma' after his Cambridge college, Emmanuel; when I wrote to the college asking if my five Scottish Highers would be accepted there, I received a disheartening response. As my original dream faded away, Hertford opened the door to my own unique university experience at Oxford. I appreciated Hertford's welcoming attitude to diversity, which was palpable on day one as a fresher. There is no 'typical' Oxford student at Hertford; just real people from all walks of life.

My passion for studying languages didn't equip me with a clear sense of vocation. My career path became clearer when I was offered the opportunity to sing and play my harp in Washington DC, an invitation I initially declined from the red phone

box outside of college as I was also preparing for my Finals. However, my parents advised me to call back, and the rest is history.

My next break came after graduating, when I was spotted singing and playing at Stirling Castle and was invited to perform in Nanning, China, by an embassy official. I subsequently learned Mandarin, made easy by my Hertford training, and I am now based in Hong Kong. It turns out that there aren't so many harpists from Scotland singing in Chinese across Asia, and so I found my professional niche, providing a cultural link for 'East meets West'. I have performed at many governmental, diplomatic and British royal events and given solo concerts to thousands of people in China.

One performance I will always treasure will be the Centenary Celebrations of Hertford Bridge. The college invited me to give a concert before the black tie dinner celebrations. It was a huge privilege to let the echoes of my voice and harp fill the wooden walled room in OB Quad, blending memories of a student Oxford with my professional life. The following day's performance in the marquee ended up with dancing alongside Will Hutton, Hertford tutors, staff, supporters and friends - surreal and wonderful all at the same time.

Recently I was approached by a television director after a music performance in Shanghai. She asked me to coach the Miss Universe China candidates in performance skills on the show. I am also now a fully-fledged British etiquette tutor in China.





## Kerensa Jennings

### 1989

Kerensa read Modern Languages at Hertford before forging a diverse and successful career working for BBC and HRH Duke of York, as well as becoming a bestselling author.

#### MODERN LANGUAGES

Going up to Hertford was the most intimidating and amazing thing I had ever done. Neither of my parents had A-levels or had gone to university, nor indeed had anyone from my family at all, so when I made it, it took a little while to get used to the idea.

From the age of 12, I had my heart set on Oxford after my headmaster had said to my parents 'Kerensa's a very bright little girl. If she works hard, I believe she could go to Oxford.'

Looking back I can hardly believe how life has unfolded since then. I'm a bestselling author, professor, strategist, TV producer, and an executive coach. I credit my time at Hertford for so much of what I have gone on to achieve. My time as a student opened my eyes to the wonder of the world, to possibilities,

to opportunities. Giving someone a chance in life is enormously valuable as is igniting a spark of interest that can help someone to realise their full potential. This is what fostered my own lifelong love of literature.

The texts I devoured as a student developed my flourishing passion for poetry. I was particularly intrigued and touched by the works of Rainer Maria Rilke. Indeed my fascination for his work features heavily in my debut novel, a psychological thriller called *SEAS OF SNOW*. Likewise, my thesis was titled 'Persecution and Revenge of the Innocents', a psychoanalytical study of Grimm's fairy tales. My interest in archetypes and themes of good and evil was cultivated at Hertford and again, this is the silver thread that runs through *SEAS OF SNOW*.

Today I work at Buckingham Palace as Director, Office of HRH The Duke of York, and I run the newly launched digital equivalent of The Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award. Previous career highlights include being Programme Editor of Breakfast with Frost coinciding with the life changing events of 9/11; my time as the BBC's Election Results Editor; and spending five years as the BBC's Head of Strategic Delivery.

If I could have a word with my nervous, anxious, insecure eighteen-year-old self, I would tell her life would be full of challenges and difficulties, but also untold opportunities. And I would quote Rilke: 'Life has not forgotten you, it will not let you fall.'



## Athol Williams

### 2015

Athol studied for an MPhil in Political Theory, focusing on the responsibilities that economic institutions have to promote social justice, especially in societies with the enduring effects of historical injustices. He now dedicates his life to fighting social and economic injustice, and has founded Read to Rise, a charity providing educational opportunities for children.

#### POLITICAL THEORY

For the first 24 years of my life I lived in poverty under Apartheid in South Africa, a system of complete race-based oppression, enforced violently and supported by its beneficiaries. But I found freedom in books. I read whatever I could find, with encyclopaedias and dictionaries my favourite because of the range of topics they covered. And I dreamed that I would study at the best universities in the world, a wild fantasy considering that I was receiving an education designed for manual labourers and that my high school was shut for months at a time owing to political unrest.

I acted upon this dream and persevered relentlessly. When I got accepted to study at MIT in the US, I begged for money just to get a flight there. Knowing no one, and without

money, I lived homeless in Boston until I managed to convince the university to create a scholarship for me. In addition to MIT, I went on to earn masters degrees from Harvard, LSE, London Business School and Oxford. In my autobiography, *Pushing Boulders: Oppressed to Inspired*, I describe how, knowing of my dream to study at Oxford, my younger brother bought me a university jacket. I vowed that I would only wear the jacket once I was an Oxford student, and I held onto that jacket for 17 years before I could finally wear it in 2015. In every possible way, coming to Oxford and Hertford has been a life-long dream come true.

After a successful international business career, I retired from business at 40 to dedicate my remaining years to supporting social

justice and economic development in South Africa. Just as books and education had set me free, I set out to offer disadvantaged children a similar opportunity. I founded Read to Rise which distributes new books to children and delivers a programme that seeks to inspire them to read. I believe that inspiration is a vital element of education because an inspired person can rise above their obstacles. I know this first-hand. To date we have worked with over 50,000 children.

While at Hertford my political theory studies focused on the role that corporations ought to play in promoting social justice. This pursuit will form an important component of my teaching, advisory work and writing.



## Gautam Patel

### 1999

Gautam completed a Masters in Biochemistry at Hertford and now works as a senior policy manager in India for scientific research to inform poverty reduction. He works closely with government officials across India in implementing effective poverty alleviation policies.

B I O C H E M I S T R Y

The first night at Hertford I was daunted and tearful after my parents left. The Sutton Trust had originally brought me to Oxford for a summer school the year earlier, which convinced me that hard work can overcome hardship. My first year at Hertford was a rush of trying to keep up, fuelled by cornflakes, bottled pasta sauce (with anything), and not much sleep.

I was far from prepared for study at Oxford. In my first year, I did not take the weekly reading lists seriously; I thought the length was to impress us. My low scores told me I had been wrong. My first-year failure instilled in me a new way of learning. I became the first to reach the library, and very fast at photocopying. I read thoroughly, I underlined, made one-page

notes, mind-maps, and advanced to scheduling weekly peer-group discussions. My tutor was sharp, always to the point, and seemed to enjoy extending the famed individual one-hour Oxford tutorials to two-hour: a mentally agonising experience. This gave me a way to learn that outlasted the chemical stench of the organic chemistry laboratories.

Oxford gave me the foundations of scientific thinking, being systematic in applying concepts and sharp in analysing details. Today, I apply these same principles of precision and logic in my work at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) in India. I work closely with state governments across India to disseminate research findings of what has been found effective in

reducing poverty, so that policy is informed by scientific evidence. In the same way that medicine has benefited from nearly two centuries of scientific trials, the development sector has two decades of randomised evaluations to measure impact and cost-effectiveness. Where there is commitment, we work with governments and implementation partners to scale-up evidence-based approaches. This includes a programme to build stable livelihoods for ultra-poor women-headed rural households in Rajasthan, Bihar and Jharkhand, and urban community sanitation solutions being tested with municipal governments in Odisha. It is great to see governments recognise the need for quality data, robust analysis and evidence to inform decisions.

## Grace Newcombe

### 2008

Grace originally thought of studying Medicine at university, but the award of an Organ Scholarship at Hertford combined with a degree in Music has led to a career as an Early Music singer, ensemble director, and researcher.

M U S I C

While I was still at school, I couldn't quite bring myself to choose between music and medicine. Studying medicine was something of a craze in my school-year, and an astonishingly high proportion of my friends made the sensible decision to keep their musical skills as an evening hobby, and to become doctors. I'm sure my parents were quietly hoping for the same decision from me.

After much umming and aching, various meetings with the school careers advisors, and umpteen warnings of the financial insecurity of attempting to be a freelance singer, I followed my heart (what else can you do as a teenager?) and chose music, convincing myself that everything would be fine. I picked Hertford for its active choir and music society, its beautiful wisteria, and its reputation

for friendliness and openness. I was delighted to be selected as the new Organ Scholar for Hertford's excellent chapel choir. Musical direction and organ playing is still something of a man's world, and female organ scholars are a minority. This isn't the boys' fault, of course; it's largely due to England's wonderful but rather one-sided tradition of child choristers in cathedrals. I was proud to represent a college that chose actively to support and promote me as a choir director and organist. Hertford also had a female chaplain in my time, and selected another female organ scholar after me; it is a college that enjoys challenging the status quo and levelling the playing field, whatever your background. (But don't worry boys, it's not only the girls who receive such support at Hertford!)

During my three years directing the choir and studying music, I found myself drawn further and further down the rabbit hole of 'Early Music', partly due to Oxford's thriving Early Music scene. Eventually, thanks to the combination of my academic training at Oxford and my practical experience as an organ scholar, I was in a position successfully to apply to the world's leading conservatoire for the performance and study of Early Music, the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Switzerland. I have since enjoyed five years in Basel, started a PhD at the UK's top institute for research in Music (the University of Southampton), founded my own medieval music ensemble, Rumorum ([www.rumorum.com](http://www.rumorum.com)), and I am now working with musicians and ensembles in Europe which my pre-Hertford self would never have believed possible.







# Rebecca Mills

2004

Rebecca Mills studied Medicine before pursuing a career in orthopaedics. She has recently returned from a period of study and training in Sydney and is now combining a career in medicine with scientific research

MEDICAL SCIENCES

I was fairly hesitant about applying to Oxford – I didn’t know anyone that had been and particularly for medicine. The course was very different from other medical schools, with a heavy science focus.

However, I decided to take a chance with my ‘spare’ UCAS choice and, after being randomly allocated to interview at Hertford and spending a night in the bar meeting the other candidates, I remember feeling quite certain that this was the college for me! I am now training as an orthopaedic surgeon, a career choice I firmly believe I would never have even considered had I not been emboldened by the Hertford tutorial system, and encouraged to believe anything was achievable, no matter how competitive.

I also had no idea that studying at Hertford would open so many doors to incredible opportunities for my future career. I have just returned from 18 months in Sydney, where I was funded by the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship to dual train as a scientist in a world-renowned orthopaedic biology and engineering lab. Here, I developed a novel model of implant-associated infection and furthered our knowledge of the mechanisms by which such devastating infections occur. I hope that my work will facilitate the development of new antimicrobial agents to improve patient outcomes worldwide. Certainly my science-focused undergraduate education gave me the confidence to take on this challenge and to value taking time out of my orthopaedic programme to train as a surgeon-scientist.

My time living in Sydney also offered the opportunity to continue the Hertford spirit of ‘having a go’ at all manner of sports, and so, naturally, I took up everything from beach volleyball at sunrise to twilight yacht racing, and even found myself enrolled in a highly competitive SUPBALL league – a game unique to Sydney that involves playing rugby/lacrosse on stand-up paddleboards!

To the next generation of Hertford medics, I would encourage you to embrace the very different medical education you receive at Oxford – enjoy being quizzed relentlessly in tutorials and learning to stand up for yourself. It will help you develop the confidence you need to excel in your future careers!



# Cristopher Ballinas Valdés

2003

Cristopher is Professor and Associate Researcher in Public Policy at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico City. He is committed to the development of disadvantaged people in his country, and working for the improvement of government institutions.

POLITICS

I still remember it clearly; I was one of many postgraduates arriving at Hertford and trying to find their way to the lodge while avoiding tourists and audacious bikers. I was in my late twenties then and had been working for the Mexican government as a mid-level bureaucrat for a couple of years.

I was delighted to be accepted at Hertford. It was renowned for its international, friendly and relaxed atmosphere, and for its long tradition in my discipline (Thomas Hobbes’ pathbreaking *Leviathan* was written there!). From the porters to the Principal, everyone was attentive and approachable.

Hertford provided me with an exceptional environment for living and for developing my academic and professional goals. I have now

achieved more than I could have ever imagined – I’ve worked at the apex of the government pyramid as Senior Advisor to three deputy ministers in Mexico and possess extensive high-level experience in policy design and implementation. After graduating from Oxford, I was appointed as Deputy Director General for Planning and Social Development for the most vulnerable population at the Ministry for Welfare. After that I was appointed Associate Professor in Public Policy at Mexico City’s ITAM where I teach and research on executive government, autonomous agencies and public policy. It was here that I developed the largest investigation into autonomous agencies in Mexico, which has been published by Palgrave MacMillan (2011) and translated into Spanish in 2017.

In addition to all this, I represent Mexico in Kendo. It goes without saying that being part of the Oxford Dark Blues provided me with a competitive foundation that enabled me to join Mexico’s first team and collect a decent amount of silverware. Most recently at the World Kendo Championships in Japan in 2015, I finished among the top eight, and won silver and gold medals at the Latin American Championships. This triumph can only be compared to beating Cambridge a few times (although not as much as I wanted) at the Varsity Games.



## Steve Frost

### 1995

Steve read Geography at Hertford, and has gone on to a career of campaigning for diversity and inclusivity as core values for big corporations – and, not least, the 2012 London Olympics.

#### G E O G R A P H Y

I am still a 'young' 39-year-old, and I am fortunate to love what I do. I embed human rights in corporate decision-making to actually improve decisions. We try to de-bias systems and processes by challenging how groups think, tackling blind-spots and implementing nudges. We call it diversity and inclusion or inclusive leadership, and it has never been more important.

One of my career highlights to date was a scary moment but also one of my proudest. I was invited to train the fifty captains of the fifty ships in the Royal Navy on diversity and inclusion. The ban on LGBT personnel serving had been overturned in 2000, but the culture lagged behind the law. As I faced fifty intimidating souls in HMS Ark Royal's mess room, all cross-armed and staring intently,

I was aware I had been given 20 minutes. In fact, the session lasted almost three hours and some of those captains are clients, colleagues and friends to this day.

People still slightly mock me for my choice of geography as a subject (isn't it all colouring in and capital cities etc?) but in fact I loved it as a discipline – to learn more about the world and develop ways of thinking about it and trying to comprehend it. It's stood me in good stead, not least with the current changes à la Brexit and Trump and its direct relevance to my professional work today.

And consequently, my love of travel is definitely correlated with my love of geography. At Hertford I undertook my dissertation with three fellow students in Tanzania. We were

analysing the gender impact of the World Bank's economic policy on coffee farmers. Since then, my work has taken me to all continents and manner of places including diversity and inclusion in Saudi Arabia!

I am inspired by making a difference. Of course that's easy to say but I mean it. Hertford gave me a wonderful foundation of intellectual rigour and kind community. Now, I actively seek out smart people who care. I've employed a gang of such folk in my company and I actively seek clients and colleagues of such ilk. We have so much work to do.

It's important to be yourself, surround yourself with people who will let you be you and work hard doing something you love. Hertford's a great place to start that journey.



## Barbara McGowan (née Tedoldi)

### 1984

Barbara studied Biochemistry at Hertford in the 1980s and initially moved into a career in finance, working for Barclays and JP Morgan. However, she soon drifted back to science and medicine, and is now a Consultant Endocrinologist specialising in obesity at Guy's & St. Thomas's Hospital, London.

#### B I O C H E M I S T R Y

I ended up at Hertford largely by chance. My sixth-form tutor had been trying for 25 years to send a student from our local comprehensive school to Oxford, and in 1984 I was the lucky one to get a place. Having moved from Italy six years previously, my knowledge of the English language was still a bit rough around the edges and Oxford, to me, seemed like a place for the posh and privileged. I will never forget my first Sunday night at formal dinner when I was made to wear a black gown, sit alongside clever scholars, drink Hertford wine and inevitably think 'what on earth am I doing here?' I soon came to love the Hertford way. It was definitely not exclusive, with many students arriving from a variety of backgrounds which made the atmosphere friendly and relaxed. The chemists were inevitably geeky, the

English scholars airy and cool, the geographers lazy but fun.

My best memories of Hertford include getting tipsy on sherry with the college Chaplain, the excitement of early morning rowing on the river, the Pimms, Torpids and bumps, the tuck shop, setting up the first Oxford Women's football team, the memorable Hertford bar lock-downs, Sunday lunch at the King's Arms, and the weekly phone calls to mum. Memories with my new friends which were free of mobile phones, internet, emails and the shackles of social media. I guess the new generation may struggle to comprehend...

Armed with a biochemistry degree I soon realised that life as a scientist was not for me. At the time, I was hoping to study medicine but the

thought of a further five years in higher education was enough to suppress those feelings. Initially I joined the city, spending two years at Barclays as an investment banker and three years at JP Morgan, in New York, London and Milan. It took me five years to pluck up the courage to give up banking and pursue a real passion for medicine. I secured a place at the Royal Free Hospital in London and never looked back. During my training, I had two wonderful children, squeezed in a PhD and became a consultant and Reader in Diabetes and Endocrinology. I am currently based at Guy's & St Thomas's Hospital and specialise in obesity. My experience in finance has been useful for the post of Treasurer for the Society for Endocrinology and trying to comprehend the complexities of the NHS.





## Carolyn Hitt

### 1987

Carolyn studied English at Hertford before going on to a successful media career. Now she works as a television and radio producer, award-winning newspaper columnist, and is co-founder of the independent production company Parasol Media. In addition, she works closely with the Welsh government to encourage applications to Oxbridge.

ENGLISH

It was never my idea to apply to Oxford, but it was the best idea I never had. I'd grown up in the Rhondda Valley instilled with the notion that education was sacrosanct. My grandfathers, miners whose lives were cut short by this brutal industry before I was born, saw education as the escape shaft. My father was the first in his family to go to university, studying English and becoming a headmaster, and my mother became a nurse and then a lecturer.

Although it was a given I would go on to further education, Oxford seemed a step too far. It didn't help that my perceptions of the place had been somewhat skewed by the lavish television adaptation of *Brideshead Revisited* in the early 80s – complete with Hertford locations. But my wonderful English teacher wasn't

going to let my prejudices and lack of confidence hold me back. She suggested Hertford and reassured me that the college was inclusive and mindful of the anxieties state school students might have. The memory of my late mother's tears of joy on learning I'd achieved a place is one I still cherish.

I remember the myriad opportunities for extra-curricular fun. My coxing career was short-lived thanks to a near miss with a pleasure boat, but the college choir, orchestra and women's cricket XI proved more lasting forms of recreation – as did providing cartoons for the college magazine *Simpkin*. My early broadcasting ambitions were also realised as I made my first student radio reports on BBC Oxford. I have taken the lesson of getting into

Hertford through life. Ability has to be backed up with belief, and now I'm attempting to pay it forward by becoming a Seren Ambassador – a Welsh government project to increase the low numbers of Welsh pupils attaining Oxbridge places. The project provides a network of regional hubs designed to support pupils in developing their academic potential and gaining access to the top universities.

It has been hugely rewarding to talk to talented young people and tell them: 'Of course Oxford – and Hertford in particular – is for you.' Recently a mum got in touch to say her daughter had not considered applying but I'd given her the confidence to do so and now she has her place. I hope it turns out to be the best idea she never had too.



## Graham Winyard

### 1965

Graham Winyard CBE FRCP FFPH read Medicine at Hertford and the Middlesex Hospital, and spent his career in public health and management including six years as the Medical Director of the NHS in England. Now retired, he is happily married and an active granddad.

MEDICAL SCIENCES

I decided I wanted to be a doctor in the fourth year of secondary school, a decision based on nothing more than doing well in science, an abstract desire to 'do good', and the fact that my grandfather had been a stretcher bearer in the Boer War. I was the first in my family to go to any university, let alone Oxford. I was pulled out of a timed practical exam involving woodlice 'for a bit of a chat' by Hertford's now legendary medical tutor Miles Vaughan-Williams, on the basis of which I was offered a place.

Oxford and Hertford were simply astonishing. It was OK to enjoy intellectual discussion into the night. Enthusiasm was fine; you did not have to pretend to be cool. Coming from a boys' grammar school I was dazzled by the style and élan of the female medics, and in awe of the

effortless self-assurance of public school contemporaries. I passed the necessary medical exams but was diverted by life and a broken heart around finals; fortunately a third was not the barrier in medicine that it would have been in other fields.

I eventually chose public health as a career and, like Oxford, this opened amazing opportunities including two years in Papua New Guinea mid-training. Challenging management posts in the NHS and the Department of Health followed, culminating in six years as Medical Director of the NHS in England in the 1990s. There were the inevitable frustrations that come from working in large bureaucracies and with politicians, but also opportunities to think big and bring those ideas to reality. Most satisfying was being able to

persuade the Labour government to include the National Institute for Clinical Excellence in its NHS reform programme, having previously developed the concept in Wessex. I led reviews of prison healthcare and of the Defence Medical Services, and for the final eight years of my career was a postgraduate dean, responsible for the training of several thousand junior doctors.

The same intellectual curiosity kindled at Oxford has taken me into new fields in retirement. I belatedly discovered the thrill of academic study for its own sake through a Masters in religions at SOAS. My developing Buddhist practice infuses my personal life and has led to my becoming lay treasurer of a Theravada forest monastery in West Sussex.



## Jason Millar

### 2003

Jason read English as an undergraduate and initially pursued a career in publishing. However, he soon found his vocation in life as a wine merchant and expert, and now works as a director of Theatre of Wine. He still uses his literary skills as a wine journalist, and in 2016 was awarded the Vintners' Cup.

E N G L I S H

I grew up in Northern Ireland. It was rural and quiet. I did a lot of reading and dog-walking, and, when I was older, arguing about politics which probably helped with my tutorial skills later on.

I packed a lot into my time at Hertford, not all of it academic. I remember talking lexicography with Charlotte Brewer, Shakespeare with Emma Smith, and some brilliantly bizarre conversations with Tom Paulin about how John Clare's 'hatching throstle's shining eye' is a rifle metaphor. Even as a devout atheist, I remember the cool darkness of the chapel to which I sometimes escaped when things got a bit much. I also remember walking into Blackwell's on the day after my Finals and buying a ridiculous amount of books that I'd wanted to read for years but couldn't quite justify before.

After Hertford, I had a five-year stint in publishing. It seemed the natural progression from an English degree, but in the end it wasn't what I was hoping for. In an unexpected way, the collaborative atmosphere I had hoped to find in publishing is much more prevalent in wine, and I made the switch in 2011.

Now I am one of three directors of Theatre of Wine, an independent wine merchant, retailer and wholesaler based in London, where I am responsible for retail, restaurant and event business, as well as buying and importing directly from areas as diverse as Bordeaux and Greece. I also write a regular industry-focused column for *Drinks Retailing*, host wine tastings in our stores and private venues, and act as a wine judge and cellar consultant.

In 2016 I won the Vintners' Cup for the highest mark worldwide in the top level of the Wine and Spirit Education Trust's courses, the Level Four Diploma. It's a tough exam – a combination of theory and tasting – so I was chuffed to come out with the top mark despite a hideous question about pruning methods in Champagne.

Although I have never really believed in inspiration, wine certainly comes close. What could be more inspiring than Dionysus? When you taste things like Madeira from the 1858 vintage and reflect that the grapes were picked before Italy or Germany existed, when Queen Victoria was on the throne and Darwin announced his theory of evolution, it is a profound aesthetic and cultural experience.

## Sandy Oh

### 1990

From DJ-ing to banking to global experience design consulting, Sandy's career path wasn't planned, but they have all been stepping stones to where she is now!

P P E



My romantic notion of English schools stemmed from a steady diet of Enid Blyton books as a child. Growing up in Singapore, the thought of studying in Oxford or Cambridge seemed like a far-away fantasy; until I heard about a small group of British tutors in a top Singapore junior college who were highly successful in fielding students to Oxbridge. I eagerly applied to join their course, and it was through them I landed at Hertford.

The world can be divided into two camps of people: those who have a clear idea of what they want to be since they were young, and those who don't. As a student, I was in the latter camp. After graduating with a PPE degree in 1993, I applied to be a DJ at a Singapore radio station. I lacked a career plan but knew that

I enjoyed DJ-ing. When the DJ job didn't pan out (a fortunate thing with hindsight), I took the conservative route and landed at an investment bank. Over fifteen years, I was on high-pressure trading floors of various banks trading bonds with institutional clients.

In spite of a successful corporate career, there was a side of me that wanted to do my own thing. I started and ran my own businesses four times, including once to open a bar and restaurant which finally allowed me to satisfy my earlier DJ ambition. Most significantly, it was the third venture that left the longest lasting impact. In my final year in banking, I worked with a mentor to help me figure out what I really wanted to do with my life. It was a revelatory and transformational process which led

me to leave banking and become a mentor myself. The experience made me realise the importance of having a personal long term vision – not one dictated by peer pressure, but one that resonates with your innermost being that makes you thrive. With my knowledge and experience, I want to help individuals and organisations strive towards positive change for better and sustainable outcomes. It is with this purpose that I co-founded Nomadism (<http://nomadism.co/>).

Would I have predicted that I would be running a global experience design consultancy whilst building a house and sustainable garden in Tasmania, Australia (more of the latter on my blog <http://calyx.blog/>)? Absolutely not! You cannot predict the future but it doesn't mean you shouldn't have a plan.





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# Accolades for Hertford's academics

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Alison Young received the title of Professor of Public Law in the University's 2016 Recognition of Distinction exercise.

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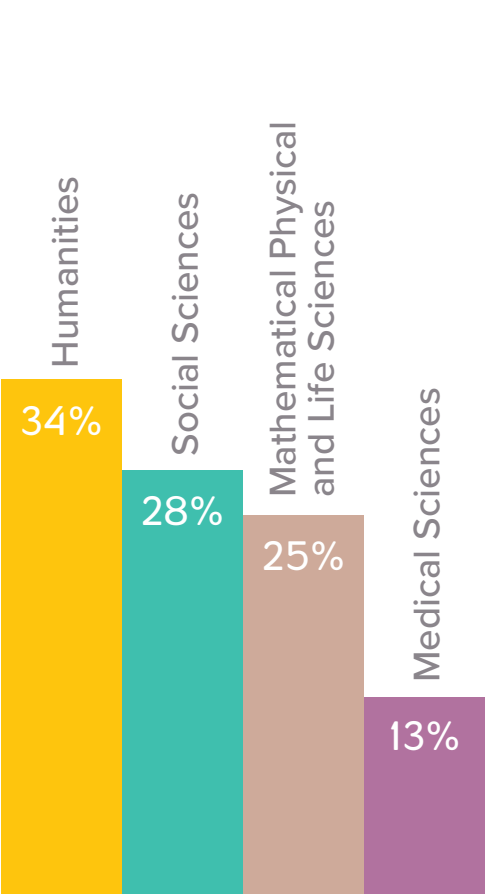
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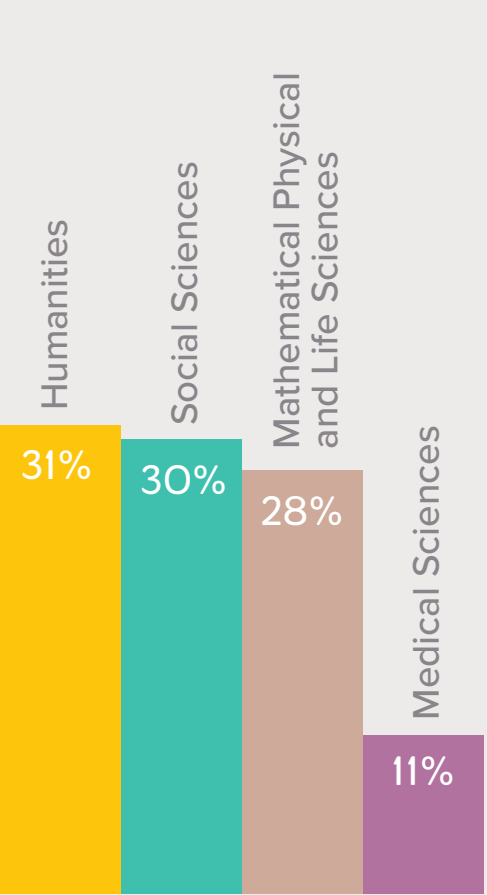
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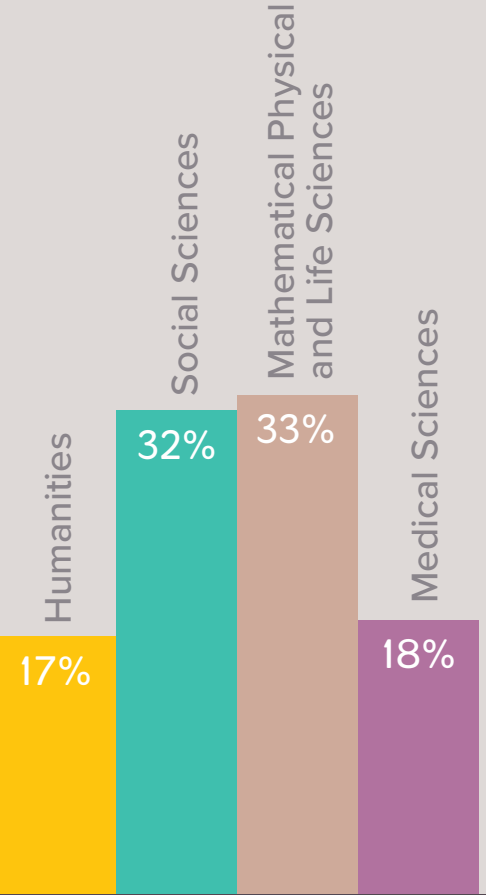
## Undergraduate teaching and research academics



## Undergraduates in the different divisions



## Postgraduates in the different divisions

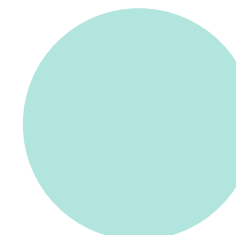
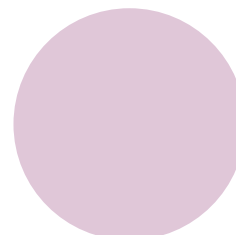
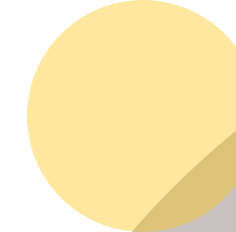
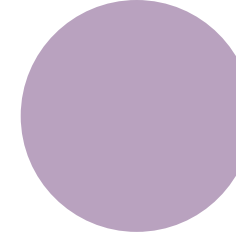


## UK and Overseas Students





# MEET SOME OF THE NEXT GENERATION: OUR POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARS



## Andrea Caleo

Senior Carreras Scholar,  
DPhil in Theoretical Astrophysics

Andrea is a physicist who specializes in astrophysical fluid dynamics. His DPhil project involves creating models of the sun and other stars to explain recent data on the internal rotation of these structures. He has published an original explanation for the rotation of the outer solar radiative zone and subsequently gathered evidence for the stability of this and other models. He has also acted as Tutor for the Astrophysics course for MPhil students in Physics.

## Eva Miller

Senior Scholar in Assyriology

Eva's DPhil research focuses on the history and culture of the Neo-Assyrian Empire, which conquered vast territories from its heartland in Northern Iraq between the 10th and 7th centuries BCE. Her work centres on narratives about enemy punishment under King Ashurbanipal, including flaying, beheading, mutilation, and mockery, in both written sources and palace art. During Ashurbanipal's reign, such sources saw innovative experiments in both form and content.



## Louis-David Lord

Mann Senior Scholar, DPhil in Computational Neuropsychiatry

Louis-David's DPhil research in the emerging field of computational neuropsychiatry is highly interdisciplinary and explores the intersection of neuroimaging, network theory and computational modelling. He is interested in the dynamical interactions and consequences of human brain networks over many timescales. Louis-David notably investigates changes in the brain's functional architecture in altered states of consciousness.

## Laura-Marie Töpfer

Mann Senior Scholar, DPhil in Economic Geography

As China now holds the world's second largest pool of financial assets, institutional investors have emerged as important new actors in Chinese finance but remain little understood. Laura-Marie's research seeks to fill this gap by exploring new dimensions of foreign institutional investment and Chinese capital market development. In a joint effort with her research team, her latest work helped pioneer the debate on London's rise as the first Western offshore financial centre for Chinese currency and the consequences for its labour market.



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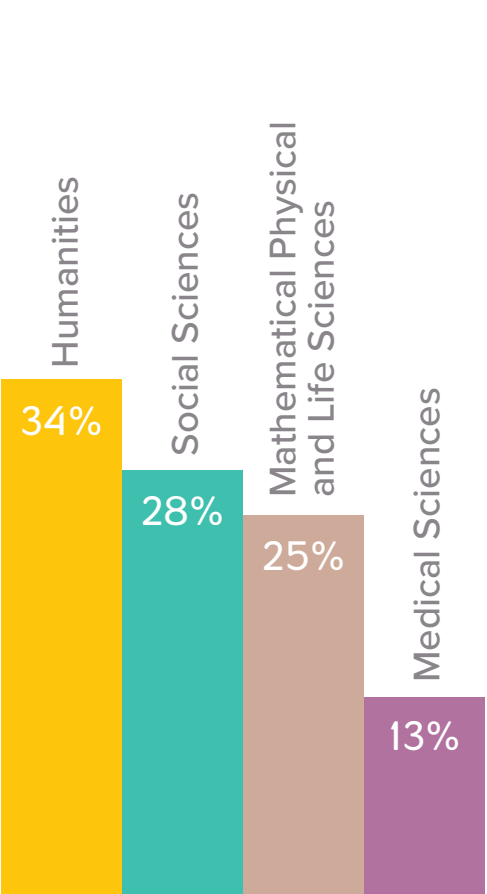
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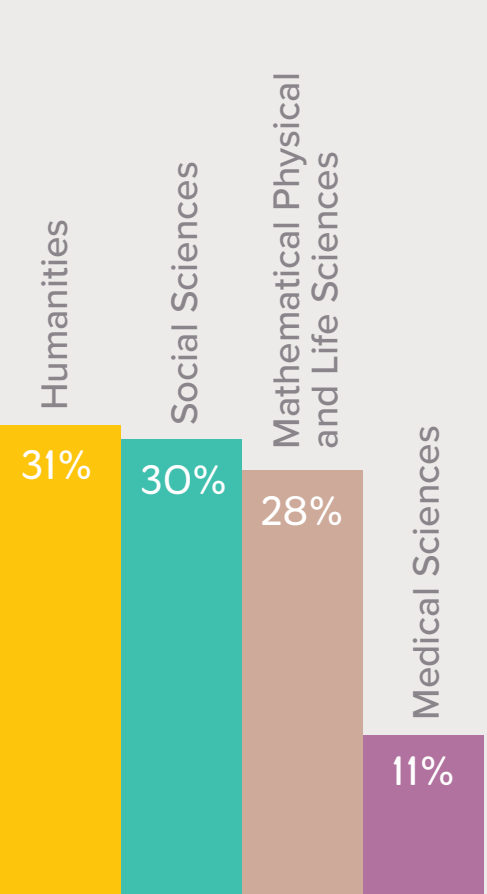
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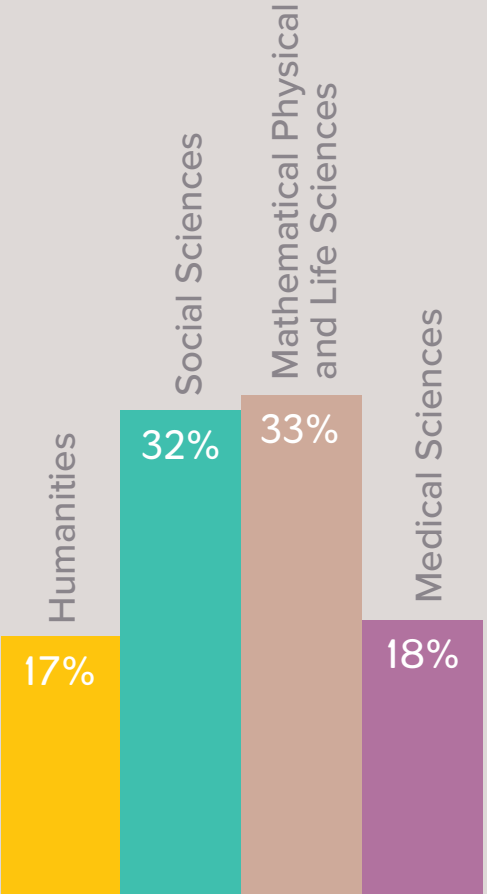
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## UK and Overseas Students





# MEDICAL SCIENCES

## Mr Simon Brewster

Senior Research Fellow, Co-ordinating Tutor of Clinical Medicine

Simon is a consultant urological surgeon, specialising in prostate cancer and other prostate disease. He currently researches the use of focal high-intensity focused ultrasound treatment of localised prostate cancer and the utility of MRI scanning to monitor prostate cancer. He co-authors the *Oxford Handbook of Urology* and edits the content of patient information booklets and webpages produced by Prostate Cancer UK. Simon also co-founded the Oxfordshire Prostate Cancer Support Group.



## Professor Dame Kay Davies

Dr Lee's Professor in Anatomy

Kay's research investigates the molecular basis of a variety of neurodegenerative diseases, with a particular focus on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a progressive muscle wasting disorder for which no cure yet exists. Her studies identified utrophin as a protein that could compensate for the lack of the muscle protein dystrophin – an absence that causes DMD. Kay has co-founded Summit Therapeutics, a drug development company, to develop this further and potentially to lead to the first cure for this disease, and more recently another company: Oxstem.



## Professor David R. Greaves

Fellow and Tutor in Medicine

Chronic inflammation can be a defining feature of many human diseases from coronary heart disease to rheumatoid arthritis. David's research probes the role of chemokines – proteins produced during inflammation – in heart disease. This basic science research is uncovering novel pathways that can be targeted for the development of new anti-inflammatory drugs.







## Professor Rebecca Sitsapesan

Professor of Pharmacology, Fellow and Tutor in  
Physiology, Pharmacology and Medicine

The release of calcium ions from intracellular stores is of fundamental importance in cell biology, initiating and regulating a wide variety of cellular functions, from muscle contraction to cell division. Rebecca studies intracellular ion channels, which are proteins that enable this calcium release process. Her work identifies the involvement of these proteins in diseases such as sudden cardiac death, high blood pressure, polycystic kidney disease, and osteogenesis imperfecta.



## Professor David Stuart

Professor of Molecular Biophysics, Senior Research  
Fellow in Molecular Biophysics

Viruses are attractive targets for study at the molecular level, as they are simple enough that it is possible to achieve a rather complete understanding of their biology. David's research particularly focuses on virus structure and virus-receptor interactions, basic puzzles of virus assembly, and virus evolution. In addition, he is interested in applying structural knowledge to help in the design of antiviral therapeutics and improved vaccines.



## Professor Alison Woollard

Associate Professor in Genetics,  
Fellow and Tutor in Biochemistry

Alison studies molecular mechanisms of cell fate determination during the development of *C. elegans*, a transparent nematode worm that serves as an outstanding model organism for many different areas of biological investigation. Her research analyses the complex mechanisms by which cells become different from one another as an organism develops from egg to adult. She also has an interest in the biology of ageing and is modelling human neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, in worms.







STATISTICS

## Professor Arnaud Doucet

Professorial Fellow in Statistics

Many data analysis tasks involve estimating unknown quantities from given observations. When these observations are chronological, the relationship can be established as a function of time, such as the tracking of an aircraft using radar. Arnaud's work in statistical inference – the establishment of a probabilistic relationship to deduce these relationships – has led to the development of novel sequential Monte Carlo experiments and their application to cases where the observed data is highly unstructured.



ZOOLOGY

## Clive Hambler

Lecturer and Tutor in Biological and Human Sciences

Clive is an ecologist who researches and teaches issues in environmental management, with a specific focus on the reduction of extinction rates. His research helped initiate the debate on rewilding, which he defines as restoration towards greater naturalness. He examines the processes following habitat disturbance and identifies the ecological impacts of energy policies. Clive also has led research on biological mechanisms stabilising atmospheric composition.



## Professor Martin Maiden

Professor of Molecular Epidemiology, Fellow and Tutor in Biology

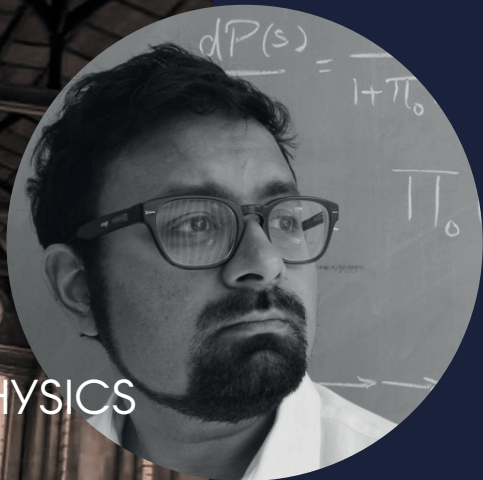
Martin's research is focused on developing an understanding of the biology of bacterial pathogens – microorganisms that cause disease. Using a wide array of modern techniques, he strives to achieve a multi-disciplinary evolution-based approach to investigating biological problems. Martin particularly concentrates on *Neisseria meningitidis* – a major cause of bacterial meningitis and septicaemia worldwide. He is highly involved in translational work, including vaccination.



## Dr Alan Lauder

Lecturer and Tutorial Fellow in Pure Mathematics

Alan's research looks at computational number theory, with a particular focus on elliptic curves and modular forms. This part of number theory plays an important role in developing advanced cryptographic methods.



PHYSICS

## Dr Siddharth Parameswaran

Associate Professor of Theoretical Physics, Fellow and Tutor in Physics

Sid is a theoretical physicist studying "quantum condensed matter": solids, liquids, and gases where quantum mechanics leads to complex cooperative behaviour. He is interested in phases of matter naturally described by the mathematical language of topology, and in what happens when they are driven from their natural equilibrium state. Besides exploring fundamental questions about the rich emergent phenomena possible in nature, progress in these areas promises new routes to computing and electronics.



## Professor Pat Roche

Professor, Fellow and Tutor in Physics

Developing and using forefront instruments and telescopes to investigate the properties of cosmic dust and gas in a range of astronomical objects is a major research theme. Pat is the president of the council of the European Southern Observatory, an intergovernmental organisation that operates the world's premier telescopes in the Atacama Desert in Chile. He also chairs the board of ALMA (Atacama Large Millimeter Array), the first global astronomical facility.





## Professor Claire Vallance

Fellow and Tutor in Physical Chemistry

Claire's research group works on the general areas of chemical reaction dynamics, time-of-flight imaging, and opto-chemical sensing. They develop a variety of new experimental tools – including high-speed imaging sensors, ion detectors, and optical sensing platforms – and use these to study gas-phase molecular fragmentation pathways to explore new analytical methods for chemical structure determination and to develop ultra-sensitive techniques for the chemical characterisation of tiny liquid samples.



## Professor Michael Wooldridge

Professor of Computer Science, Senior Research Fellow in Computer Science

Agents are computers that act autonomously on behalf of a user. Giving these agents social ability and thus creating computers that can cooperate, coordinate and negotiate with each other would be a massive leap forward in artificial intelligence. Michael's research uses and develops game theory – the mathematical theory of interaction between self-interested agents – to inform the design of these multi-agent systems.



## Professor Manolis Chatzis

Associate Professor in Engineering, Fellow and Tutor in Engineering Science

All sorts of infrastructure elements are subjected to extreme vibrations, from bridges and buildings of major importance to museum exhibits and hospital equipment. Estimating their reliability when they are subjected to extreme wind, earthquakes or human-induced vibrations is an important tool for their proper management. Manolis' research uses numerical models and improvements in measured data to estimate the risk of infrastructure elements being compromised by vibrational excitations.



## Professor Zhanfeng Cui

Donald Pollock Professor of Chemical Engineering, Professorial Fellow in Engineering

Zhanfeng conducts research on enabling technologies for regenerative medicine, including tissue engineering and stem cell therapy. He led the China Regenerative Medicine International Technology Centre, where he focused on translating laboratory research into clinical applications related to neural regeneration, diabetes, cancer and orthopaedic repair. Zhanfeng also studies new purification and formulation techniques for biological therapeutics, such as antibodies and vaccines.



## Professor Tony Wilson

Professor of Engineering Science, Fellow and Tutor in Engineering

Tony's research centres on microscopy, imaging and applied optics. He has published extensively on the theory and implementation of scanning optical microscopes and the development of confocal microscopes. His work has also led to the establishment of two companies, Oxford Optoelectronics Ltd. and Aurox Ltd.



## Professor Fernando Alday

Professor of Mathematical Physics, Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics

One of the fundamental questions in contemporary theoretical physics is the search for the *theory of everything*. Fernando's research centres on this by focusing on string theory as well as theoretical high energy physics. This ultimate theory would unify quantum mechanics, the theory of the very small, with general relativity, which governs the behaviour of big objects like planets. Fernando currently researches two directions where this attempt at unification has been successful: the AdS/CFT and AGT conjectures.

COMPUTER  
SCIENCE

ENGINEERING  
SCIENCE

MATHEMATICS



# MATHEMATICAL, PHYSICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

## Professor Hagan Bayley

Professor of Chemical Biology

By studying the fundamental properties of proteins found in the membranes that surround cells and their internal compartments, Hagan's research uses insights from different areas of science, such as protein chemistry, biochemistry, molecular genetics and biophysics. Hagan launched the spin-out company Oxford Nanopore Technologies, which has developed the first single-molecule, label-free method of sequencing DNA. Recently, he founded OxSyBio, which exploits 3D printing to produce synthetic tissues for medical applications.



CHEMISTRY

## Dr Mike Laidlaw

Lecturer and Tutor in Inorganic Chemistry

Mike's research focuses on studying the electronic structure of cyanide-bridged mixed valence transition metal complexes. Originally through optical, nonlinear optical and electrochemical methods, his investigations currently centre around using electron and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopies to probe the extent and effects of partial delocalisation of a single electron between two indirectly connected metal centres in a model system.



## Professor Chris Schofield

Senior Research Fellow in Organic Chemistry

Chris's work focuses on applying chemical principles and techniques in order to understand biology. One focus of his research group is understanding and combatting antibacterial resistance, including resistance to the clinically important penicillins. A second focus concerns understanding the details of how environmental factors regulate gene expression, with a particular focus on oxygen regulated processes relating to diseases including cancer and anaemia.





## Professor David Thomas

Professorial Fellow in Geography

David's research explores the effects of past, current and future climate change in dryland and desert environments. Not only has this work improved the predictive ability of climate models, but his research has also contributed to a greater awareness of the ways in which human activity drives modern environmental change and how ancestral humans responded to past environmental changes, especially in Africa, Arabia and India.



LAW

## Professor Alan Bogg

Professor of Labour Law, Fellow and Tutor in Law

By looking at several aspects of law theory, Alan explores issues such as the intersection between migrant status and labour rights. His work was cited by the UK Supreme Court in the *Autoclenz v Belcher* case, which led the Court to make a landmark decision on sham self-employment, and on illegality as a bar to the race discrimination claims of trafficked migrant workers. Most recently, his work was cited with approval by the Supreme Court of Canada in its historic decision to recognise the right to bargain collectively as protected by the Canadian Charter.

## Matthew Windsor

Junior Research Fellow in Law

Matthew is currently writing a book on the professional responsibility of government lawyers who advise the state on international law and foreign policy. He also researches the intellectual history of the advisory function through a focus on the *Mirrors for Princes* literary genre and its approach to political ethics.



## Professor Alison Young

Professor of Public Law, Fellow and Tutor in Law

Alison's research looks at theoretical issues in public law, particularly the constitutional theory of the UK and the European Union. She also focuses on a comparative analysis of human rights protections. Alison has published on the concept of sovereignty as invoked in the Brexit debate and recently completed a book on democratic dialogue.



POLITICS

## Dr Radoslaw Zubek

Associate Professor of European Politics, Fellow and Tutor in Politics

Radoslaw's main research interests include the comparative study of executives and parliaments in Europe, and agenda-setting in European parliaments. He also explores political issues relating to Europeanisation and national compliance with EU law.





## ARCHAEOLOGY

### Professor Nick Barton

Professor, Fellow and Tutor in  
Palaeolithic Archaeology

Nick's research is mainly based in North Africa and Europe, and centres on the study of early humans and past climatic change. One of Nick's projects, as co-principal investigator, concerns the study of caves and looks at the timing of major changes in hunter-gatherer behaviour in North Africa over the last 100,000 years.



## BUSINESS SCHOOL AND ECONOMICS

### Dr Richard Povey

Stipendiary Lecturer in Economics

Richard's primary research is on the consequences of altruistic motivation in economic theory. He uses game theoretic modelling techniques and social welfare analysis to show that altruism can have negative as well as positive effects, and that there may exist a "socially optimal level of altruism" for society as a whole. He is also interested in evolutionary game theory and optimal taxation theory.



### Dr Steve New

Associate Professor in Operations Management,  
Fellow and Tutor in Management

Steve's work currently has two main threads: operations improvement and supply mapping. Three particular angles in his current work are: understanding the topology and structure of supply networks (especially in the global automotive industry), finding ways of identifying and eliminating the use of forced labour in the supply chain, and tracing the invisible virtual supply chains that sit behind Cloud Computing.

### Dr Arhat Virdi

Stipendiary Lecturer in Management

Arhat's areas of expertise span the economics, finance and accounting disciplines. His research is mainly focused on risk management, the interplay between (re)insurance and capital markets, and the possibility of objectivity in financial reporting.



### Dr Elizabeth Baldwin

Associate Professor, Roger van Noorden Fellow  
and Tutor in Economics

Elizabeth's work on consumer preferences for indivisible goods introduces "tropical geometry" to economics. This has exciting applications, for example, in the design of auctions in which multiple different goods are sold simultaneously. She also works in environmental economics: in recent work, she considers the importance of irreversibility of investment and endogenous technical change in determining the timing of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



### Dr Jamie Lorimer

Associate Professor in Human Geography, Fellow  
and Tutor in Geography

There is an invisible world of lifeforms that live in, on and around us. Jamie's current research develops new ways of engaging people with this microbiome, exploring what happens to how we understand ourselves and our homes when we become aware of microbes. He also focuses on the rise of probiotic approaches to human and environmental health, which use living organisms to rewild everything from human bodies to nature reserves.



## GEOGRAPHY



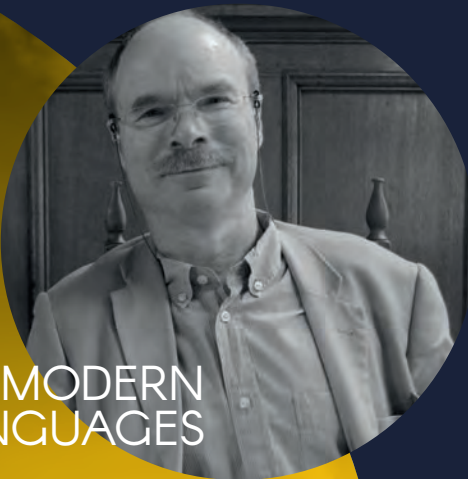
## Dr Jieun Kiaer

Young Bin Min-KF Associate Professor of Korean Language and Linguistics, Senior Research Fellow and Tutor in Oriental Studies

Jieun's work on Korean linguistics argues that the syntax – the emergence of rules governing structure of words in language – is not random, but rather driven by efficiency and expressivity. She has fully developed this thesis in her most recent book *Pragmatic Syntax*. She is also actively involved in Korean pedagogy, creating textbooks on Korean language and linguistics.

# SOCIAL SCIENCES



MODERN  
LANGUAGES

## Dr Kevin Hilliard

Lecturer and Tutor in German

Kevin conducts research into eighteenth-century literature and the intellectual history of leading German figures. His book *Freethinkers, Libertines and Schwärmer* highlights how the tension between these three types and the religious orthodoxy of the period shaped eighteenth-century German literature.

## Dr Katherine Lunn-Rockliffe

Fellow and Tutor in Modern Languages

Katherine's main research interest is nineteenth-century French poetry. Her first book, *Tristan Corbière and the Poetics of Irony*, was a study of the unconventional poetic wit of Corbière, a Breton poet of the 1870s. More recently, she has shifted her focus to the Romantic period, and is currently writing a book on the idea of progress in Victor Hugo's verse.

## Dr Oliver Noble Wood

University Lecturer in Golden Age Spanish Literature, Fellow and Tutor in Modern Languages

Oliver's research focuses on the literary and visual culture of sixteenth and seventeenth-century Spain. His particular interests include canonical writers of prose and poetry (notably Cervantes, Góngora, and Quevedo), the reception of classical authorities, and links between literature and painting in the period.



## Dr Benjamin Skipp

Lecturer and Tutor in Music

Benjamin is a musicologist and performer. His doctoral research was on minimalism and he has written recently on the music of Arvo Pärt. Benjamin's academic interests include music historiography, analysis and the music of Haydn. He is also working on projects relating to the intersections of performance and the theory of music.

## Professor Peter Millican

Professor of Philosophy, Gilbert Ryle Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy

Peter's main research focus is early modern philosophy, especially David Hume. He has also published on themes such as metaphysics and the philosophy of religion. These interests easily mix, because Hume's arguments still play a major role in discussions of topics such as rationality and the basis of morality. Peter is also extremely active in outreach on the boundary between philosophy and computer science.

## Professor Bjarke Frellesvig

Professor of Japanese Linguistics, Fellow and Tutor in Oriental Studies

Bjarke's principal area of investigation is the history of the Japanese language. His work over the past few years has focused on the syntax of Old Japanese (dating from the eighth century AD) and on creating an electronic annotated corpus, the *Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese*, of the extant texts from that period. Most recently, he has been co-editing a *Handbook of Historical Japanese Linguistics* with contributions from over 50 authors, which is expected to be published in 2018.



## MUSIC



## PHILOSOPHY

ORIENTAL  
STUDIES





## Professor Emma Smith

Professor of Shakespeare Studies, Fellow and Tutor in English

Emma's work focuses on drama from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries with a particular interest in Shakespeare. Her work investigates the critical function of Shakespeare in culture – how scholarly consensus emerges and interpretations of Shakespeare do certain cultural work at different moments. In 2016, Emma authenticated the newest discovery of a Shakespeare First Folio, which was found in the collection at Mount Stuart House on the Isle of Bute. Her lectures are available on iTunes U.



## Dr David Hopkin

Fellow and Tutor in History

David's research focuses on the social and cultural history of modern Europe. He studies oral culture, such as songs, tales and riddles, in order to uncover the lives of an illiterate majority in history. He is currently conducting research into the lively work culture of lacemakers in Catholic Europe by studying the songs they sang collectively. These songs give great insight into the lives of an otherwise almost hidden social group: poor women.



## Professor Ian McBride

Foster Professor of Irish History

As Foster Professor of Irish History, Ian holds the only endowed chair of Irish History in the UK. He has a broad interest in the history of Ireland between the seventeenth and twenty-first centuries, especially its politics, culture and intellectual life. He currently holds a Leverhulme Major Research Award, enabling him to spend two years researching and writing a study of the impact of the penal laws on eighteenth-century Ireland. The persecution suffered by Irish Catholics during the Penal Times ranks as one of the central components of Irish national mythology.

## Dr Ingrid Rembold

Junior Research Fellow in History

Ingrid's current project seeks to reassess the reform of monasteries in the time of Charlemagne and his successors, a formational period for the development of monasticism and ideas of governance. She is also completing a book-length study from her PhD dissertation, titled *Conquest and Christianization: Saxony and the Carolingian World, 772-888*.



## Professor Giora Sternberg

Associate Professor of Early Modern History, Ellis-Barnard Fellow and Tutor in History

The celebrated ceremonial of Louis XIV's court characterises the importance of status symbols in early modern Europe. Giora's first book, *Status Interaction during the Reign of Louis XIV*, examines how the daily objects and acts of court became symbols of status, used by both monarch and courtier to emphasize their social positions and to further their political agendas. His current work investigates the role of writing practices in these and in other ancien régime struggles.



## Professor Christopher Tyerman

Professor of the History of the Crusades, Senior Research Fellow and Tutor in History

Studying crusading as a cultural, religious, political and social phenomenon of medieval Western Europe, Christopher lectures and publishes widely on various aspects of the crusades, from motivation and perception to their social and intellectual structures.

HISTORY



# HUMANITIES

## Professor Charlotte Brewer

Professor of English Language and Literature,  
Fellow and Senior Tutor

Charlotte's research focuses on the history and editing of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), in particular its quotations and quotation sources. Looking at how the OED has changed from its first publication (1884) to the present enables her to investigate the OED's successive treatment of canonical literary writers, such as Shakespeare, Chaucer and Austen, and its influence on literary and linguistic history. Charlotte also works on dictionaries' changing reflection over time of cultural phenomena more generally, such as sexuality and politics.



## Dr David Dwan

Associate Professor, Fellow and Tutor in English

David focuses on the connections between literature and the history of political thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, paying particular attention to Irish writing. His first book, *The Great Community*, explored the history of cultural nationalism in Ireland from Edmund Burke to W. B. Yeats. David is currently completing *Liberty, Equality and Humbug: The Political Thought of George Orwell* for Oxford University Press.



## Dr Catherine Redford

Access and Outreach Fellow,  
Career Development Fellow in English

Catherine researches one of the lesser-known themes in Romantic literature: *The Last Man*. Her other work examines wider depictions of apocalypse, and representations of ruined cities and underground spaces in Romantic and Victorian literature. She has recently written a short guide to the Gothic novel. Catherine spends 50% of her time on access and outreach work with schools.







## Will Hutton

Principal

Will Hutton has been researching and writing on the links between innovation, ownership structures, and industrial strategies for more than 20 years, forming the core of a number of books, including *The State We're In*, *Them and Us* and *How Good We Can Be*. He currently co-chairs the Purposeful Company Task Force, initiated by the Big Innovation Centre and supported by the Bank of England, whose ongoing research into what drives corporate purpose informs government and company policy alike. Will's work on executive pay resulted in the invitation to lead the Fair Pay Review in 2010, and he has also chaired commissions on ownership, the creative industries, and the NHS.

“Hertford College, like other Oxford colleges, is a charity: its trustees are its fellows. My task, as Principal, is to promote the best interests of the college as a place of advanced study, learning, education and research – ensuring that it is soundly and prudently managed to meet those ends. Rather than being a chief executive, I lead through persuasion, and I'm accountable to the fellows as trustees through the college's Governing Body.

I chair the college's key committees (including its Governing Body) and foster all aspects of college life: effective day-to-day running; ensuring the best possible

student, staff and fellows' experience; and developing its strategy. I'm the college's ambassador to the outside world, in the university and beyond, and work closely with the Development Office, fellows and old members to generate successful fundraising. I preside at public functions and host events.

It is, in short, an all-encompassing and challenging job. But although demanding, it is fun (in the main!) and very worthwhile, with the additional reward that it is located in one of the most beautiful spots in the country.”



# Inspirational teaching and pioneering research

A snapshot of the college and its academics in 2016–2017.

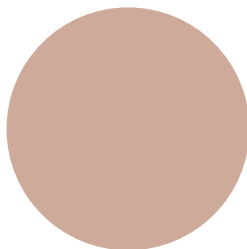
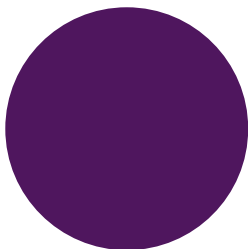
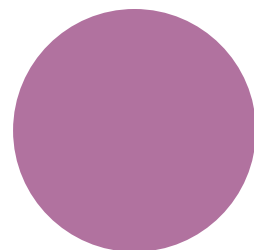
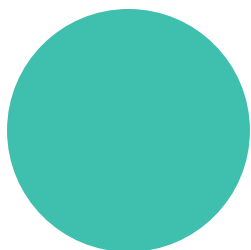
A college is a microcosm of the wider university. The intimate environment creates serendipitous crossovers, inter-disciplinary collaboration and inspiration. No college better exemplifies this than Hertford. Our fellows and tutors are deeply committed to academic excellence alongside a longstanding ethos of fairness and opportunity.

All tutors at Hertford are engaged in research: they don't just teach their subjects, they reshape them. It is because tutors are at the forefront of investigation into their subjects that the tutorial system is so precious. It means that students get the benefit of insights from those who are leading their disciplines, and they develop a more rigorous approach to argument, reasoning and research.

In this publication, we showcase the breadth and diversity of academic excellence and research within the college. We hope you'll agree with us: Hertford has a lot to be proud of.







HERTFORD'S ACADEMICS:  
INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING AND  
PIONEERING RESEARCH