



SOMERVILLE COLLEGE ANNUAL FUND

1ST AUGUST 2014 - 31ST JULY 2015

5 REALLY GOOD REASONS
TO SUPPORT THE SOMERVILLE ANNUAL FUND

1 We believe that no student should be deterred from applying to Somerville for financial reasons

Our undergraduates and graduates are overwhelmed by the generosity of the Somerville community. Last year, 85 (21%) of our undergraduate students received a bursary. Since its foundation in 1879, philanthropic support from our alumni has been at the core of College life. We continue to maintain our commitment to high academic standards, pioneering research and ensuring that the best and brightest minds attend Somerville, regardless of financial background. We are committed to providing outstanding support to current and future generations of students and our Annual Fund makes a genuine and direct impact on student lives at College, both academically and personally. Moreover, we continue to provide a range of bursaries to those who need them.



'Although I have only been at Somerville for under a year, I have already realised how invaluable having an Oxford Opportunity Bursary has been for me. I also hope the financial support will enable more opportunities to open up in the latter years of my study.'

Away from my academic work, I have played many games for the successful SCFC 2nds, helping the team win the league and gain promotion. In Trinity Term I also hope to play for Somerville College Cricket Team, fulfilling another one of my passions. Away from sport, I am a member of Marcus's Marvellous Mathematicians- a group of current maths students who run workshops and activities and give talks about maths to a wide range of audiences. This allows me to demonstrate to others how fun maths can be, by teaching it via a non-conventional approach. I hope to continue all of these pastimes, plus more, as I head into the later years of my degree.

Having to get a job during term, I would have struggled to maintain my academic standards and enjoy an active social and sporting life. The Bursary truly has allowed me to enjoy Oxford, for which I can only be appreciative.'

CAMERON FERN (Mathematics, 2014)



2

We believe that the tutorial system inspires academic excellence and is the best in the world

The tutorial system fosters a supportive and challenging environment that allows students to achieve their full potential. Somerville offers a diverse programme of disciplines, providing access to world-class academics and researchers in their field. The Annual Fund provides essential support to protect this brilliant, but costly, form of learning and guarantees that we can continue to attract and support our academics throughout their careers at Somerville. It ensures that the College remains at the forefront of pioneering research and that our students continue to enjoy what is unquestionably the hallmark of an Oxford education.

Why the tutorial system matters, and matters a great deal



'Having worked on the 2014 Telethon, I know first-hand the sheer proportion of Somerville's funds that goes to maintaining this exceptional system... no price can truly be put on the tutorial system – it's the reason I applied to Oxford for English Language and Literature rather than an American counterpart. It's the method which encourages my curiosity and nurtures the hypothetical into the intellectually novel. Without tutorials, those

small but pressing questions would not be asked, but drowned in the pressures of time and large work groups. They offer the perfect space in which to refine the brilliant but generalised information lectures provide. Tutorials have clarified, crystallised, or spurred on my ideas countless times, thanks to the attention they guarantee from my tutor.'

CLARA-LAEÏLA LAUDETTE (English Language & Literature, 2012)



3

We believe that our ambitious development of facilities serves our students' needs

Somerville is committed to maintaining and improving its facilities and buildings and this process is one of our greatest ongoing costs. The College often needs to refurbish a proportion of student accommodation as well as undertake smaller projects that make a genuine difference to their experience, such as the refurbishment of the Penrose Loft last year. Providing a home way from home allows students to focus on progressing in their studies and this is a key reason that Somerville is consistently ranked as one of the best Oxford Colleges for student satisfaction.



'I thoroughly enjoyed my experiences as a caller during the Telethon and the support from alumni was incredible. Since then it has been a joy to see the changes around College that have been enabled by the Annual Fund. Most noticeable are the new rooms in Penrose Loft. These are a great addition to the College's facilities, allowing more students to really make the most of their time at Somerville and avoid the stresses of living out, especially

when so many students have finals in second year!'

BRIGITTE STENHOUSE (Mathematics, 2012)

Future projects

- Lighting in Park Music Room
- Refurbishing bathrooms & kitchens in Dorothy Hodgkin Building
- Redecorating main staircases in House



4

We believe that our ability to help more students is strengthened by each and every donation

Every year, donations from Somervillians add significant value to the College and make a direct and lasting impact on the lives of students here. In our 2014 Telethon, 55% of those contacted made a gift to the Annual Fund, which is a fantastic result. We hope that as many Somervillians as possible will join us to enable us to support even more students and help the College remain accessible to all. Giving at all levels inspires greater participation from others and demonstrates the commitment of our community to the future of Somerville.



'One of the great things about Somerville is how willing alumni are to give back to the College, in whatever way they can, in order to positively influence life here. It is obvious how strong the sense of community is between students, both former and current, and it's so encouraging knowing that there are people who believe in what Somerville stands for and what it has to offer its students.

When alumni come together to support the Annual Fund, it has such a profound impact. It means that Somerville can constantly strive to enhance the services it provides its students. Alumni combining their efforts really does help in so many ways, from maintaining the beautiful College grounds to providing financial assistance to students who need it. All of these aspects make sure that every student at Somerville, regardless of their situation, has the best, well-rounded university experience they can get, allowing them to reach their potential here and then in whatever they pursue after leaving Somerville.'

TOOBA QADRI (Biochem, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, 2012)



5

We believe that the College can act more swiftly to address unexpected needs and core activities with the support of unrestricted gifts

Unrestricted gifts are extremely valuable to Somerville. They give us the flexibility needed to apply the funds to the areas of greatest need and they guarantee that current and future students have the same opportunities as those that you enjoyed at Somerville. Your gift helps ensure that future generations of Somervillians can continue in the footsteps of so many before them: instigating change in society and transforming the lives of others.



'Social justice is at the heart of Somerville's mission. Enabling and encouraging people of all backgrounds who have the ability to benefit from it to experience the best higher education experience possible has always been a key goal for Somerville and always will be.'

DR STEVE RAYNER (Senior Tutor)



MAKING YOUR GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND

Every gift to the Annual Fund – regardless of size – makes a valuable and immediate difference to the lives of students at Somerville today. Annual giving is at the core of the tradition of giving back that connects students and Somervillians of every year. Please make a gift today.

Making a regular donation

Regular gifts can be made monthly, quarterly or annually for any number of years you choose and this helps the College to plan ahead and make good use of donation income. Direct debits can be set up online at www.somerville.ox.ac.uk/donate; alternatively you can complete and return the enclosed form in order to begin a regular gift.

Making a single donation

Single donations can be made by most credit/debit cards online at www.somerville.ox.ac.uk/donate or www.oxfordna.org (USA only). Alternatively you can make a single gift by completing and returning the enclosed form.

Tax-efficient giving from Europe

Donors in the USA can make tax-efficient donations via *Americans for Oxford* (www.oxfordna.org) while those in Canada can now make tax-efficient donations directly to Somerville. Somervillians in France, Switzerland and Germany can make tax-efficient donations to the College.

Transnational Giving Europe (TGE) is a partnership of leading European foundations that facilitates tax-efficient cross-border giving. Please contact the Development Office for more information.

Gifts of shares

are particularly tax-efficient as they are free of both Income and Capital Gains Tax. To find out more information about making a gift this way, please contact the Development Office.

Legacies and Planned Gifts

are an increasingly important way of underpinning the financial independence of the College and ensuring its continued success. A gift in your will, no matter the size, is something that will be remembered and appreciated by generations of future students and academics. Somerville will soon be launching a legacy society, and we look forward to publicising this exciting development in the coming year. For more information on legacy gifts, please contact the Development Office.



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Front image courtesy of Katie Paul (Medicine, 2010)