



Brasenose  
College  
UNIVERSITY of OXFORD

# Donor Impact Report 2016





# Welcome

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**It is my pleasure to introduce the latest Brasenose College Donor Impact Report.** Alumni and friends play a crucial role at Brasenose; making a tremendous impact on the fabric of the College and the experiences of the students and Fellows who live and study here. In 1509, Brasenose was founded on benefactions and since then our community has continued to give back each and every year. Thank you for your fantastic contribution to College life.

Oxford, both as a University and a city, can add distinct pressures to the lives of our students and, since my arrival in October 2015, I have seen first-hand how your support helps alleviate those pressures. On top of the usual university living expenses and learning costs, the traditions on which we pride ourselves can also be problematic for some: these unique experiences can add financial difficulties and your support means that all students, regardless of their backgrounds, can jump at every opportunity that an Oxford education presents. Given our track record in producing world leaders in a variety of fields, you are likely to have made a difference to the higher education of a thought-leader of the future: that is a unique opportunity for all involved.

“You have donated  
£2.7 million to BNC  
in the last year.”

This report demonstrates how you have made a difference in all areas of College life. In the last financial year, you have been more generous than ever before, donating over £2.7million to our annual and endowment funds. Wherever one turns at BNC, the impact of philanthropy is on display. From the extension and refurbishment of the Library, to the endowment of Fellowships; from supporting student bursaries, to bolstering our greatest need fund; your support is at the heart of everything we do. Thank you for such wonderful generosity.

I look forward to seeing you back at BNC in the near future.

**John Bowers QC**  
*Principal*

# Your gift in good hands

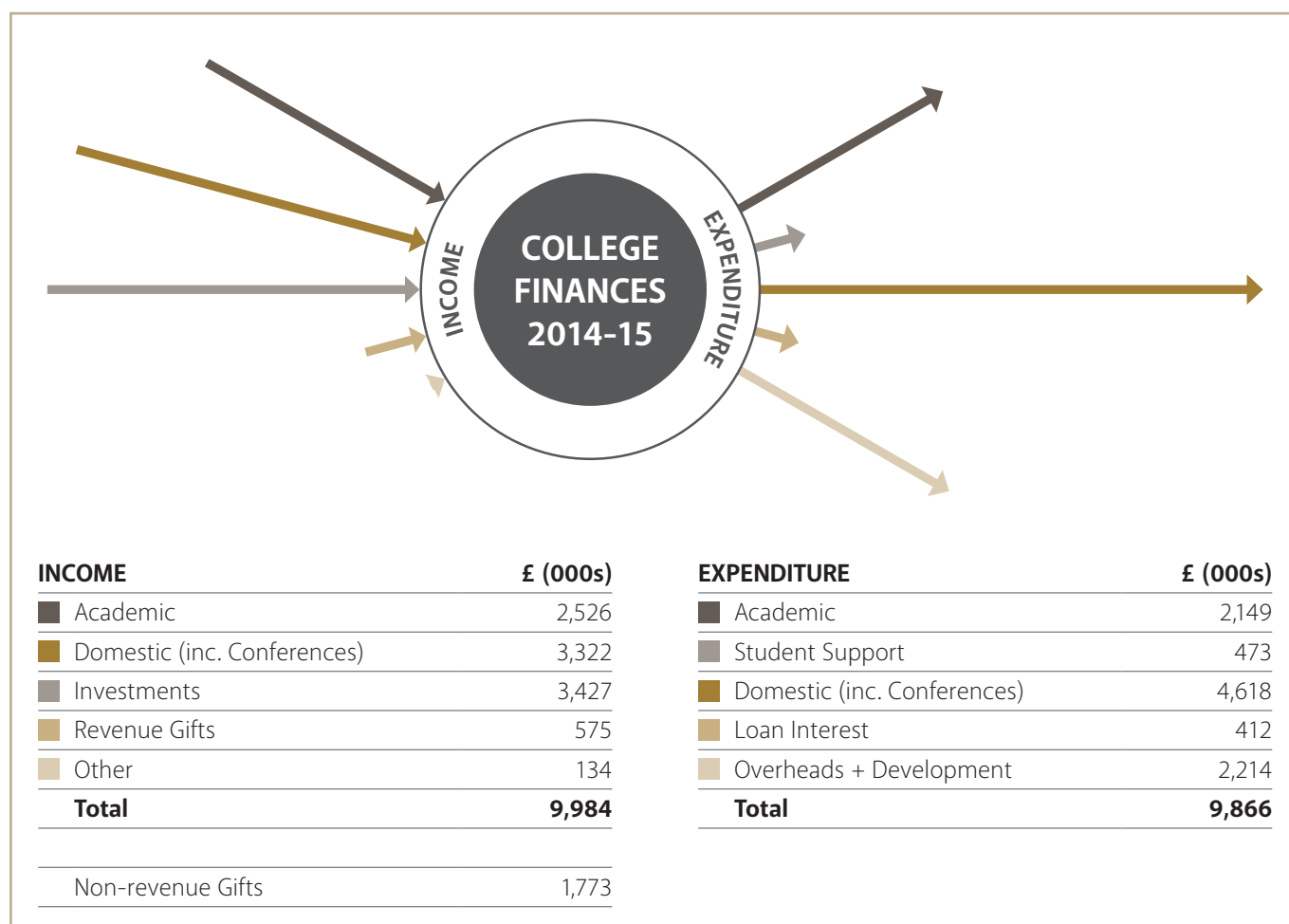
In the financial year to 31 July 2015 the College received revenues of £10.0million, unchanged from the previous year. The operating costs were £9.9million, providing a modest surplus of £0.1 million.

A third of the College's costs are financed from investment returns. The College's endowment grew to £113 million, benefitting from rising stock and property markets, and £0.7 million of capital donations. We remain very grateful to the alumni who sit on the Investment Advisory Committee, providing their considerable asset management experience and expertise to the College *gratis*.

During the 2014-15 year the College undertook the first phase of a major project to renovate the Cloisters, in order to create a new Reading Room linked to the Library above. This project has continued to grow over the last year and we are nearing our goal of providing much needed study space for students (at their request!) and also a new modern archive facility in the basement underneath the Stoker Room. Donations of £1.1 million for this project were received in 2014-15 and further pledges of £3.0 million were made towards the full cost of £4.3 million.



**Philip Parker**  
*The Bursar*





# Your Impact on Brasenose College



## UNDERGRADUATE ROOM

"The bursaries I have received have helped me pursue my creative and academic interests without the constant panic that I might not make ends meet. More than that, it allows me to feel included in all of Oxford's wonderful opportunities without worrying about financial issues outside of my control. I cannot ever fully articulate my gratitude for everyone who makes my time at Brasenose possible."

Markus Beeken



## LECTURE ROOM

Historian and student telephone campaign caller, Emily was offered work experience with the archiving department of the Bodleian over the Long Vacation. At the end of her second year, she jumped at the opportunity of learning how she could use her studies once she graduates from Brasenose. Emily applied to the Annual Fund for support to cover the costs of her daily commute from home to Oxford. She thanks donors for enabling her to undertake this internship:



"Without the financial grant which helped cover the costs of my daily commute, I simply wouldn't have been able to afford to accept this internship. I feel really privileged that I have been able to make the most of the opportunities offered by Oxford, and that the Brasenose community has been so supportive. I have come to regard this city as home and it is with your help that I am able to jump at every opportunity offered here."

Since finishing her internship she has a much better idea of the careers open to History graduates and looks forward to using her experience at the Bodleian in her final year and onward career.

Emily Boseley

## UNDERGRADUATE ROOM

First years, Rachel and Ben, were supported by the Annual Fund to investigate the refugee situation in Denmark. They travelled to a tiny village called Ræhr, where a school has been converted into a learning centre for asylum-seekers. While there, they joined a class for those who had recently been granted refugee status by the government.

Ben and Rachel explain: "The class comprised several Syrians, one Afghan and a Sri Lankan. They all had stories of escaping from violence, and it was surprising to hear what Ruben, the Sri Lankan, had been through. They all had the same response to our questions of how they arrived in Denmark: by any means possible. And they answered in similar uniformity to questions of "why Denmark?": they simply wanted to go where they could live without violence.

"We also visited a tent camp in Thisted; an eye-opening experience. Life in the camp looked more materially tolerable than might be expected: the tents had Wi-Fi and heating, and there were activities run throughout the week. It seemed to be the mental struggles that affect life there. Despite the efforts of camp staff, there's little to do most of the time. As a result, many of the residents simply lie in their beds all day and feel severely depressed.

"Having called our generous alumni in our recent telephone campaign, we know more than most the impact that you have at BNC. Our trip to Denmark was unforgettable. Meeting the individual refugees, usually presented as a mass crowd on TV, gave us a lot of perspective on the crisis as a whole. The lengths they had gone to in the hope of one day having lives even a fraction as comfortable as our own was astonishing, and something that will stick with us throughout our time at BNC and beyond. Thank you for giving us this amazing opportunity."

Rachel Dunne & Ben Davies



## HCR

Thanks to the generosity of Annual Fund donors, Kartika (MSc International Health and Tropical Medicine) spent two months in Laos undertaking a systematic review on the quality of antidiabetic medicine within the Oxford Tropical Network.

In 2015, it is estimated that there were 415 million people affected by diabetes worldwide, and in 2040 it is expected to rise to 642 million. The quality of medicine varies dramatically across the world, with the proportion of counterfeit medicine reaching over 30% of the circulating medicine in developing countries. A worrying statistic.

Thanks to the support of Brasenose donors, Kartika got the chance to be involved with the unit's activity; learning how to conduct ground-breaking research and how to make a real difference to public health in the developing world. She says: "It taught me that, even when resource is limited, we can still undertake good quality research as long as we are creative."

Kartika Saraswati



## PRINCIPAL'S LODGINGS

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## LIBRARY



Brasenose College's historic library was designed in the seventeenth century to house 2,300 books and to be used by 28 Fellows. Today, the original space is required to serve over 60 Fellows, 550 students and 60,000 books.

With the significant generosity of a small group of Old Members, work to extend the library downwards into the Old Cloisters is nearing completion. Many other alumni have been generous in sponsoring chairs, desks and bookcases in the new space. Some of these once-in-a-generation opportunities are still available.

## JCR

Milo Smith represents Oxford in the annual Varsity Ski Races against Cambridge in Val Thorens. Milo thanks Annual Fund donors for helping to cover his training and equipment costs, which ultimately led him to fulfill his long-standing ambition of competing with the Oxford Blues.



After winning his place to compete with the Oxford 1st team, attention turned to the main event: The Varsity Races. These consist of two runs of Giant Slalom (GS) in the morning, one run of Slalom in the early afternoon, and one run of floodlit Night Slalom in the evening.

Both Oxford Blues teams put in strong first runs in the GS, with the men holding 1st, 2nd, 5th and 7th positions on the leaderboard. The second run of the GS gave a similar result, leaving the Cambridge Mens' Blues trailing by 20 seconds going into the Slalom. In fact, Oxford gave a stellar performance all round, taking 4 wins out of 6 teams, resulting in a resounding overall win.

Milo says: "My thanks go to Annual Fund donors for their generous financial support of my ski racing, without which my personal improvement and subsequent contribution to the Oxford Blues team would not have been possible."

Milo Smith





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**Photographs**

Lucas Bunnetât, Emily Boseley, Studio Blanco, Benjamin Davies, Julia Diamantis, James Fletcher, Joe Organ, Kartika Saraswati, Siddarth Shrikanth, Milo Smith

**Library impression**

Lee Fitzgerald Architects

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