

Merton College Charitable Corporation (MC3)

Annual Appeal 2023

New Reach Scholarship for Undergraduates (Target: \$150,000)

The Reach Scholarship was created to enable undergraduates of exceptional academic ability from low-income countries to access an Oxford education. This scholarship, covering both tuition fees and living costs, is funded collaboratively by the JCR, the University and alumni donations. Merton has already hosted two Reach Scholars and your support for the next cycle will make it possible for us to host a third. The current scholar Jana (pictured) will finish her degree next summer, and you can read more about her on the College website: www.merton.ox.ac.uk/jana-nedelkoska.



Graduate Scholarships

Increasing support for graduate students is a major priority for the College. Thanks to the impressive collective generosity of Mertonians, nine new graduate scholarships have been funded since the summer of 2021 – including five annually-funded ('pay-as-you-go') scholarships in a range of disciplines: Chemistry, Archaeology, Law, Mathematics, and History.

With increased financial pressures on students, we strive to maintain this momentum. The College wants to provide as much support as possible, especially for students in Humanities subjects facing chronic underfunding.

New MC3 Graduate Scholarship for the Humanities (Target: \$400,000)

The MC3 graduate scholarships provide critical tuition and cost-of-living funding for world-class scholars to pursue their graduate research at Merton. Following the successful completion of three scholarships (the Americas', John Roberts and John Kirby Scholarships), MC3 is now looking to begin accumulating funds for a fourth endowed scholarship, this time in support of the Humanities disciplines. You can read more about the recent MC3 graduate scholars in Annual Board Meeting (ABM) papers which will have been sent to you by e-mail. If you don't have the papers to hand, please write to mc3headquarters@gmail.com.



Two recent John Kirby and Americas' MC3 Scholars

New Graduate Scholarship in Music (Target: \$110,000)

This year we aim to raise \$110,000 to provide essential living costs for four years of doctoral study in Music, a financially-challenged subject which evokes our shared humanity across time and space. We will look to match this with University funding for fees, creating a full scholarship and a transformational opportunity. An opportunity to name the scholarship will be offered for a donation of the full amount (\$110,000). In that event, any surplus will support the establishment of a second scholarship.





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Academics

Funding the Regius Chair in Mathematics (Remaining Target: \$400,000)

The Regius Chair in Mathematics was granted a permanent home at Merton in 2020 and has an endowed cost of c. £3.25m. Established by royal warrant, it was announced as part of the late Queen's 90th birthday celebrations and is held by Merton's Professor Sir Andrew Wiles (pictured). Sir Andrew is a renowned mathematician famous for his proof of Fermat's Last Theorem. MC3 generously committed to contribute \$624,000 towards the full funding of this post, with now \$400,000 left to raise. We invite further gifts to fulfil this special commitment towards what is the first Regius Professorship awarded to Oxford since 1842 and a prestigious magnet for mathematical excellence at Merton.



Chapel & Choir



The Dobson Organ's 10th Anniversary (Target: \$70,000)

As the College looks forward to celebrating the 10th anniversary of the installation of the widely-acclaimed Dobson Organ in the College Chapel – manufactured and built in Lake City, Iowa – we seek to raise funds to cover the cost of essential maintenance of the organ and associated activities. The organ programme at Merton offers unrivalled training for two organ scholars at any one time: they receive tuition on repertoire and improvisation, masterclasses from visiting performers as well as regular concert opportunities. We also hope to raise funds to cover the cost of regular concerts to be given by guest organists from all over the world. The first of these will be the 10th anniversary Gala Concert, to be given by Olivier Latty, the Organist of Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris in April 2024.

Sport

Helping our sporting Blues (Target: \$25,000)

Committed to sporting participation and excellence and in light of Covid disruptions, the College is eager for students to have the opportunity to develop athletic talents that support physical and mental health. Whilst adequate funding exists for amateur College sports and Cuppers competitions, our funding for students participating in Blues-level sports at University level is inadequate. In the last two years, the College has only been able to cover around half of essential Blues-funding needs across 24 different sports, in a scheme run jointly with the JCR and MCR. We want to expand that funding by raising \$25,000, enabling the College to support our Merton Blues for a five-year period, covering club subscriptions and tournament entry fees. Any surplus raised will help us go further, by embracing travel, accommodation, and costs of individuals' competition kit.



Special Project: Library



Sandy Irvine's Expedition: Library exhibition project (Target: \$10,000)

The College plans a special exhibition to mark the centenary of Mertonian Andrew 'Sandy' Irvine's (pictured) great Everest expedition. In 1924, Sandy was chosen for an expedition led by George Mallory. The expedition represented the third British attempt to reach the summit of Everest. It resulted in tragedy with the disappearance of both men. The 2024 exhibition in College anticipates featuring precious items recovered from Everest (Irvine's iconic ice axe and oxygen cylinder), alongside carefully reproduced clothing. We seek donations to support the costs of exhibiting these unique treasures for the first time in Oxford. A College symposium will be held, bringing together renowned explorers and scholars, to which Mertonians will be invited, with access available online. This exhibition appeal follows a previous campaign to digitise Irvine's expedition diaries and correspondence, generously supported by Neil Brown and Eric Braverman, as well as other MC3 members.