



Welcoming Alumni back

On a sunny day in September, the College welcomed back alumni and guests to a dinner to mark its 25th Charter Anniversary. Alumni from as far away as Singapore and Hawaii — and as close as Jericho here in Oxford — came together to celebrate.

Our guest speaker **Deborah Frances-White** (1997, English) reflected on her time at the College and her career as a writer, comedian, broadcaster, and host of the highly successful *The Guilty Feminist* podcast. According to Deborah, “Harris Manchester College made me. The time I spent here was formative, both to my career and to my personal life. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to people who came before me to open doors. I challenge you to consider who isn’t in the room and who should be here. We as alumni need to make sure that others can have the same extraordinary experience.”

You can see more pictures of this event [here](#).

Next year’s Alumni Weekend Dinner will be on 23rd September — put it in your diary now so you don’t miss it!



Inspired by the rousing oration by **Deborah Frances-White** at the Alumni Dinner, **Dr Aron D’Souza** (2009, Jurisprudence) has pledged to match donations made by alumni up to a maximum of £10,000. We will use the money to help refurbish the Chapel’s IT (see page 2).

Our goal is to complete the fundraising by the end of October, making it possible to live-stream the Alumni

Carol Service to alumni around the world.

To make a donation, please [click here](#).

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Projects and Plans

Keeping the HMC community informed about our strategic initiatives

Bringing HMC to a global audience



At the heart of the College is the Chapel. Built in the arts and crafts style at the end of the nineteenth century, when the College first came to Oxford. It is well known for its stained-glass windows designed by Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris, and its painted organ pipes. Our Chapel is unusual in that, historically, it was designated for those who could not accept the beliefs of any particular denomination, and this open spirit continues today. The Chapel is for all to enjoy, regardless of belief.

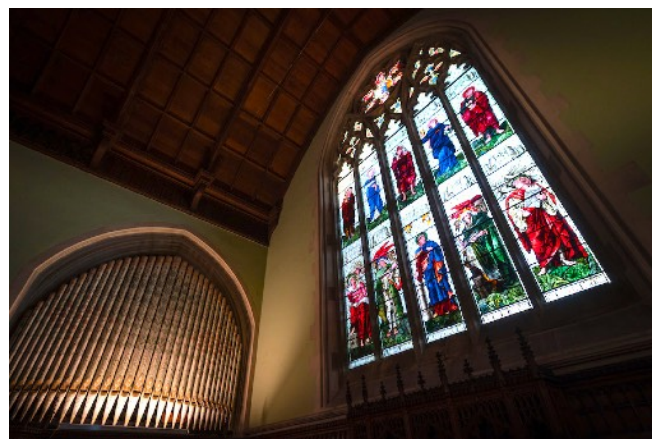
It is a tranquil space in the midst of the bustle of College life, enjoyed by many.



We want to bring our talks, concerts, lectures and weddings, as well as religious services, to the HMC community wherever they live. We also want to make sure the Chapel is updated so it can better serve the College's needs.

We want to ensure it continues to serve the College community by:

- Installing new sound systems to support different kinds of events;
- Installing permanent live-streaming equipment so that we can include alumni and friends across the globe in major College events;
- Insulating the roof cavity to reduce heat loss and save energy.



We have already secured a sum of £35,000 from the University's College Contributions Fund, to which we will need to add match funding through further gifts.

Will you accept the challenge?

Dr Aron D'Souza (2009, Jurisprudence) is asking his fellow alumni to join him in supporting this project. He has pledged to match £1 for £1, up to a maximum of £10,000. Our deadline for gifts in time for this year's Carol Service is 31st October 2022.



To **make a donation** to support this project, please [click here](#).

For **further information** about the College's plans, please visit: hmc.ox.ac.uk/projects-and-plans

My Story, My HMC

Muloongo Muchelemba MA, PPE (2002)

Director of Selection, Rise • Founder of Pan-African news and ideas blog, ongolo.com • Ex-banker
• Author • Keynote speaker • Rhodes Scholar

What I'm doing now

I joined The Rhodes Trust in August 2021 as the inaugural Director of Selection for Rise, an initiative of Schmidt Futures and the Rhodes Trust, which finds brilliant young people and supports them for life as they work to serve others. We receive thousands of applications from over 170 countries around the world and select the top 500 finalists who compete to become one of the 100 Rise Global Winners.



“What I loved the most about HMC was the diversity of the students and the incredible life stories that we exchanged over dinner — at a mature students’ college you can really be yourself.”

Best memory of HMC

I have lots of wonderful memories! If I had to pick one, I'd say it was the food — we had the best dining hall in Oxford. I hardly got to eat at other colleges because my friends preferred to come to HMC. I will always be grateful to David Woodfine, the High Steward, and his team for taking great care of us. I still have David's book, *From Kitchen to High Table*, which I use when hosting dinner parties.

Favourite activities at HMC

Even though I belonged to both the JCR and MCR, I spent most of my time in the JCR. I used to man the bar on Sundays when it was quiet and largely smoke free — to think that people still smoked indoors back then! The JCR Committee also planned the best bops. My favourite bop was a llama-farm-beach-party we organised in the middle of February after Mansfield

College said HMC should be turned into a llama farm. We took the dis(respect) on our chins, put on our swimsuits and partied the night away. Sadly, there were no llamas in attendance but we knew they were with us in spirit.

Why HMC?

What I loved the most about HMC was the diversity of the students and the incredible life stories that we exchanged over dinner. That's the benefit of being at a mature students' college — you can be yourself. One of the students during my time was Judge Oliver Popplewell who became the one of the oldest mature students at Oxford when he decided to read PPE more than 50 years after he got a law degree from 'the other place' (aka Cambridge).

HMC was also very international during my time and the college had a Junior Year Abroad exchange programme with Menlo College, which involved a wine tasting competition. Everyone in the college took part in the practice sessions and I got to know my wines really well. HMC was small enough that students became really good friends — most of my closest Oxford friends are people I met there.

Why is giving to HMC important?

No other college caters for mature students at Oxford the way HMC does and that is why I feel a sense of duty to give back to the college to ensure that it continues to survive and thrive.

Advice to current students

Enjoy your time at HMC — I really did — and become proud ambassadors of the college while you're at Oxford and after you leave.

College News

We are delighted to report that HMC came **9th in the University of Oxford Norrington Table** for the academic year 2020–2021. The Table ranks the 30 colleges that accept undergraduates in terms of Finals results.



It's never too late to think about what you want to do with the rest of your life.

A joint venture between Harris Manchester College and the Rhodes Trust, Oxford Next Horizons is a six-month experience for mid to late career participants with expertise in any field. Join us in the first programme of its kind in Europe, based at the world's oldest English-speaking university. You will leave with new energy, new ideas, new perspectives, and a new network of friends and mentors. For more information, visit our website at nexthorizons.hmc.ox.ac.uk

The **Wellbeing Research Centre** at HMC is an academic partner and contributor to the *World Happiness Report* which is published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the report, which uses global survey data to report how people evaluate their own lives in more than 150 countries. Read more at worldhappiness.report

Principal Jane Shaw was delighted to welcome **Ambassador Hayashi and Madame Hayashi**, from the Embassy of Japan in the UK, to the



official Oxford opening of the *Ash, Ember, Flame: a Japanese Kiln in Oxford* exhibition in June. The exhibition contains a selection of ceramics fired in the Anagama kiln at Oxford University Kilns in Wytham Woods,

curated by Director **Dr Robin Wilson** (2011, Visual Anthropology) and Ceramic Artist Callum Forbes.

We are planning a number of open events to allow members of the public, schools and community groups to discover more about the innovative project and view the pots on display. You can read more [on our website](https://www.hmc.ox.ac.uk), or email librarian@hmc.ox.ac.uk

Fellow **Professor Bee Wee** CBE, Consultant in Palliative Medicine at Sir Michael Sobell House and Associate Professor of Palliative Care at the University of Oxford, published a second edition of *Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care: A national framework for local action for the period 2021-26* in May 2021. Co-produced with 34 national organisations, this work provides the national blueprint for driving improvements in palliative and end of life care across England.

Dr Janina Ramirez, HMC Research Fellow in History of Art and BBC broadcaster, published two ground-breaking books in 2022: *Goddess – 50 Goddesses*, *Spirits, Saints and Other Female Figures Who Have Shaped Belief* in partnership with The British Museum and *Femina – A New History of the Middle Ages, Through the Women Written Out of It*. The latter was an instant Sunday Times Bestseller upon publication. You can see more on her website janinaramirez.co.uk



On a very warm day in June the College hosted the **25th Anniversary Charter Garden Party** – the first since the start of the pandemic. The Principal hosted fellows, staff and friends of the College in the gardens, where they dined on fabulous food produced by our very own kitchens. Guests were entertained by the College choir, directed by then Music Director John Dunston, as well as an innovative balloon artist! Pictured here are Principal's PA **Kate Wilson** and Domestic Bursar **Clare Davies**, providing G&D deliciousness for guests and their families.



College News (continued)

Dr James Whitbourn has joined HMC this term as our new **Director of Music**.

James is an experienced choral director and distinguished composer who has also worked for the BBC for many years.

He is currently Director of Music at St Edmund Hall (a post he will continue to hold) and we are fortunate to be able to share James with Teddy Hall, as their main chapel service is on a Sunday and ours is on a Wednesday. He is a member of the Faculty of Music and is also on the staff of St Stephen's House. You can read more about James at jameswhitbourn.com

In May, the College welcomed two **Harris Academies** (Battersea and Bermondsey), pictured below in front of the statue of



Lord Harris, benefactor to both the schools and the College, which bear his name.

The inaugural **Harris Manchester College Record** is due to be published in Winter 2022. Fellow **Ashley Walters**, Director of Governance & Projects, is the Record's first editor, with contributions across the academic, student and staff community.

Student Spotlight

I am **Yansheng Zhou**, a soon-to-be second year Engineering Science undergraduate at HMC. Originally from Singapore, I spent two years in the army before pursuing my undergraduate studies as a mature student at the College.



My interest in motorsports, as

well as my passion for engineering, prompted me to join the University's Formula Student team, Oxford University Racing, in my first year. Formula Student is an engineering competition organised by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, where students design and manufacture a prototype single-seat race car and compete against student teams from around the world.

This project provided a platform for me to apply the engineering knowledge from my first year of studies and allowed me to have a hands-on experience with an engineering project that supplements the theoretical grounding that the University provides. It also reinforced general engineering knowledge and practice, reminding us that

the small details do matter when putting engineering into practice.

This year is Oxford University Racing's first year building a prototype electric car. As part of the Race Team, my job was to organise logistics for the team, including the transportation of our car and all essential equipment to the test and competition venues, and personnel registration for the competition. In addition, I ensured compliance with the rules for the car — a major challenge for engineering designs in many fields — collating any issues and providing feedback to the respective technical teams.

The chance to compete at Silverstone was awe-inspiring, as it gave me a chance to set foot on a track with so much history across various motorsport categories. It also gave me a great opportunity to interact with other like-minded engineers and learn from the car designs of other Universities from around the world.

Overall, Formula Student was an enriching experience which greatly complements our taught Engineering Science course, and I am grateful for support from the University which helped make it happen. In future years I look forward to taking up other engineering roles, and leading the development of our car and student team! You can read about the [Oxford Team here](#).

Alumni News

The College is delighted to announce the appointment of alumna **Rev Dr Claire MacDonald** FRSA as our new Chaplain and Tutor for Ministerial Studies from Michaelmas 2022. Claire writes: "I am thrilled. Harris Manchester is not only the college where I trained as a minister, but a place whose commitment to inclusion and diversity is matched by its dedication to creativity and innovation." Principal Jane Shaw said the College was very pleased to appoint a Unitarian Chaplain, the first in many years. See more [on our website](#).



Dr Tobias Tanton (2012, Theology) has been appointed as HMC's Early Career Fellow and Tutor in Theology from October. Tobias studied at the Australian National University and worked in commerce and information

technology before turning to academic theology. You can see more [here](#).

At a graduation ceremony in early June **Nigel Cliff** (1994, English) became part of a small prestigious circle of those awarded Higher Doctorates by the University of Oxford. The Doctor of Letters (DLitt) degree was conferred on Nigel in recognition of a body of work of international importance. He is a British historian, biographer and translator, as well as a screenwriter and a film and theatre critic for *The Times*.



He is also a contributor to *The Economist*, a reviewer for *The New York Times Book Review*, and has lectured at Oxford University, the Harry Ransom Center and the The British Library. Very generously, Nigel has also donated signed copies of his books to our new Alumni Collection within the Tate Library here at the College.

Dr Eric Eve (1972, Theology) has retired as the Robert Wills Fellow and Tutor in Theology at HMC. Having originally studied Engineering Science at Brasenose College, he went on to work for EMI Electronics Ltd in the field of radar aerials before spending 15 years in the family business. He then returned to Oxford where he obtained his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in Theology at Harris Manchester. He continues his connection with HMC as an Emeritus Fellow and a Dean of Degrees.

Dr Christopher Haddad (2019, Oriental Studies) has returned to his native Sydney, Australia. If you are interested in attending or organising HMC alumni events in Sydney, please feel free to reach out to him at christopher.joseph.haddad@gmail.com

We also offer our congratulations to **Matthew Key** (2015, Literature & Arts), who was elected an Associate Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Natasha Salonen (2016, Human Sciences & former **JCR President**) is running for Mayor of her home town, Wilmot Township in Canada. Election day is 24th October. Natasha currently works for the Ontario Government in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and has experience in post-secondary, Federal and International politics dating back to 2012. To find out more, visit her website at natashasalonen4wilmot.com



After graduating from Oxford with a First in History & Politics, **Marcus Tan** (2018) went on to Columbia University's excellent MA Regional Studies: East Asia programme. Towards the end of his studies, he participated in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences' *SynThesis* competition, in which students had to present their MA thesis in three minutes, using only one slide and no notes. Marcus tied for first place with his presentation *Panda Diplomacy: A Study of Chinese Diplomatic Discourse*. You can see a YouTube video of his presentation [here](#).

Welcome to the Global HMC Alumni community!

Whether you have completed your first — or fourth — degree at HMC, you are part of a worldwide alumni community. You can also enjoy a variety of benefits and opportunities to return to College and meet with members of your community.



Meet up with old friends and make new ones at HMC events for alumni, supporters and friends, from the annual *Meeting Minds in Oxford* celebration, and receptions and reunions in college, to bespoke events around the world hosted by our Principal, Fellows and other alumni.

Thinking of applying for another programme? Joining an event? Booking B&B for a guest? Or do you just fancy a stroll in our stunning gardens? Our alumni are always welcome as visitors.

Looking to meet others in your field? Or perhaps you'd like to provide careers advice to a current student? We're always interested in helping alumni and current students to connect.

Please contact the Development Office at alumni@hmc.ox.ac.uk and visit our website's Alumni pages for News, Events & Publications: hmc.ox.ac.uk/alumni-and-supporters, and don't forget to follow us on social media: [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

Alumni benefits

Merchandise

Fancy an HMC-branded puffer jacket or sweatshirt? Scan this QR code to visit the [College Store](#), where profits from every sale are returned to HMC to help fund bursaries for current students.



Library Access

Alumni are welcome to use the Tate Library as a study space once they have left College, although we would ask that you make arrangements in advance to avoid the disappointment of closed or busy periods.

Please contact librarian@hmc.ox.ac.uk to arrange access or to discuss any Library matters, including book donations or using material in the Archive.

Accommodation

We have a limited number of guest rooms during term time, but greater availability during the vacation periods. For current special alumni rates and details, contact Tina Knowles, our Accommodation & Housekeeping Manager on 01865 271022 or email her at tina.knowles@hmc.ox.ac.uk

Dining in College

HMC Alumni are entitled to dine in College. You can book a place for yourself and one guest once a term, for either Monday or Wednesday evening Formal Hall, for just £35 per head, including VAT and wine. To join Fellows, alumni and other College members in a delightful Oxford experience, contact Nick Jefferies, our Conference Manager on 01865 281476 or email him at nick.jefferies@hmc.ox.ac.uk

Private Functions

Thinking of holding a conference or an office meeting? Perhaps planning a wedding? Did you know that we are one of the very few College chapels to host weddings for same sex and mixed sex couples? The College has several function rooms that are available for private hire by alumni, throughout the year, at preferential rates. Find more information on conferences [here](#) or contact Nick Jefferies as above. For weddings, contact Rev Dr Claire MacDonald at claire.macdonald@hmc.ox.ac.uk



Additional University of Oxford Benefits

As an alumnus/a of the University of Oxford you are also entitled to an Oxford Alumni Card and its associated additional benefits, including email for life, and great discounts in hotels, restaurants, museums and shops in Oxford and elsewhere. To find out more, visit the Oxford Alumni site www.alumni.ox.ac.uk

Dates for your diary

Michaelmas term

University Sermon on the Sin of Pride — with guest preacher **Philippa Perry**.
20th November 6.00pm, HMC Chapel.

HMC hosts a University Sermon only every few years, so this is a special occasion. Come and hear Philippa Perry, writer, psychologist, agony aunt for The Observer, artist and co-host of *Grayson's Art Club* on Channel 4.

Alumni Carol Service —
3rd December — book [here](#).

Future events

House of Lords Alumni Dinner —
9th February 2023 — book [here](#).

Benefactors Dinner — 18th March 2023
(by invitation).

Rhodes Alumni Anniversary Dinner —
29th June 2023

Alumni Weekend Dinner — 23rd Sept 2023.

Open days — be an ambassador for the College! (check our website for these events: [hmc.ox.ac.uk/visits-and-open-days](#)).

For updated information about HMC events visit our website [hmc.ox.ac.uk/events](#)

There are also many lectures, workshops and events run by the University's colleges, departments, schools and museums.
(The list below is not exhaustive)



Oxford University Alumni events:
[alumni.ox.ac.uk/events](#)

TORCH | The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities: [torch.ox.ac.uk/whatson](#)

Blavatnik School of Government:
[bsg.ox.ac.uk/events](#)

Saïd Business School:
[sbs.ox.ac.uk/events](#)

Mathematical Institute:
[maths.ox.ac.uk/events](#)

Department of Physics:
[physics.ox.ac.uk/events](#)

Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment:
[smithschool.ox.ac.uk/list/events](#)

General University events:
[ox.ac.uk/events-list](#)

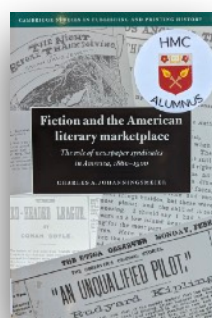
Donation to HMC Library



Special thanks are due to alumnus **Dr Charles 'Chuck' Johanningsmeir** who has kindly donated a copy of his book *Fiction and the American literary marketplace* to the HMC Library, containing the

following dedication:

"For Harris Manchester College, where as a Junior Year Abroad student from 1979-1980 I first got excited about combining my love of literature with my strong interest in history."



College memories

Have you stumbled across any **HMC gems** while undertaking a spring clean? We'd love to see them! Get in touch to let us know what you've found at alumni@hmc.ox.ac.uk

Have you updated your contact details?

If you have a new address, email or phone number, do please let us know so we can keep our records up to date. If you would prefer not to receive HMC publications and mailings by post or email, please get in touch via alumni@hmc.ox.ac.uk and we will update your contact preferences.