



Dear Alum,

Goodness, it's almost the start of the new academic year! We've also passed the first anniversary of our **My HMC** newsletter, which now reflects the College's refreshed branding.

I'm so grateful to everyone who has sent in news, comments, photos and memories. I'm inspired by your spirit, your generosity and your journey here and afterwards. You are the best ambassadors for Harris Manchester College. It's this special connection that I hope you will wish to share via video in our **My Story, My HMC Video Contest**. You can read more about the contest and how to win College merchandise [here](#).

We are looking forward to welcoming many of you to our **Alumni Dinner** on 23rd September, with our fabulous speaker **David Wienir** (PPE 1993-1994). You can book your place [here](#).

I'm pleased to let you know that HMC will be well represented at the University's **Meeting Minds Alumni Weekend** (22nd-24th September), from lectures on the origins of

the OED to medieval women to publishing – and an a capella concert in our Chapel! Check out Diary Dates on the back page or book via the Meeting Minds [website](#).

I hope to see you back at College then!

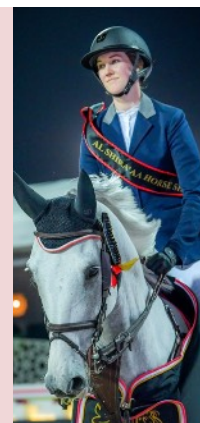
Sincerely,



Shona Nicholson  
Development & Alumni Relations Manager

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## Projects and Plans

Keeping the HMC community informed about our strategic initiatives

### The Worthington Circle: Harris Manchester's Legacy Society

Since its earliest days, the College has been the beneficiary of visionary donors who have chosen to continue their support for Harris Manchester after their lifetimes.

These gifts have provided scholarships, purchased books for the Library, refurbished meeting and tutorial rooms and purchased IT equipment for the Chapel and Hall – and so much more.

The lives of present and past Harris Manchester students have been positively touched by the generosity of alumni and friends who have supported the College through a gift in their Will. Legacy commitments to Harris Manchester ensure its vitality and create a firm foundation for the education of future generations of mature students at Oxford.

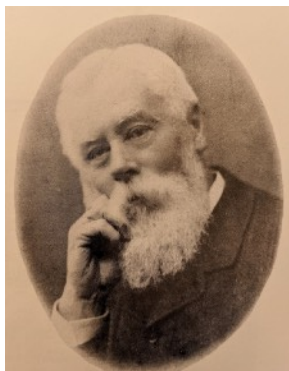
Studying English literature at HMC was a life-changing opportunity for me, and wouldn't have been possible without the support of a generous scholarship. It was a pleasure to name the College in my Will to support the amazing work it does for mature students of all backgrounds.

**Dr Fergus McGhee**  
(2013, BA English Language and Literature)



Legacy commitments to Harris Manchester ensure the vitality of the College and create a firm foundation for the education of future generations of mature students at Oxford.

The Worthington Circle recognises, celebrates and thanks all those who have committed to leaving a legacy gift to Harris Manchester College, Oxford.



The Circle is named in honour of the social reformer and architect Thomas Worthington who, with his son Percy, designed and built the main College quad between 1889 and 1893. This legacy society ensures that other visionary benefactors are

given the opportunity to help build a sustainable and strong future for Harris Manchester College.

A gift in your Will can ensure that we will continue to maintain and grow the existing excellence in every aspect of teaching, learning, research and College life. If you are interested in finding out more about the types of bequest you could make, and how to go about it, please download our legacy guide [here](#).

If you would like a confidential conversation, please contact the Development Office at [alumni@hmc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@hmc.ox.ac.uk).

Legacy commitments to Harris Manchester ensure the vitality of the College and create a firm foundation for the education of future generations of mature students at Oxford.



## My Story, My HMC

### Jamie Coats (1984, BA History)

Co-founder and CEO, Wise Responder, Inc.  
Wise Responder is a social venture spin-out of Oxford University, linked to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).



### What I'm doing now

I am currently CEO of Wise Responder, Inc. Our mission is to close the 'social data gap' by empowering financial institutions, corporations, institutional investors and governments around the globe to use its multidimensional poverty index (MPI) metrics and the United Nations' SDG1 Index (Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty) to make objective, metrics-driven decisions that improve sustainable investing impact, reduce business and operational risks and foster economic growth through the creation of sustainability-linked financing and investment.

### Best memories of HMC

Frances Walsh was my tutor in History. I had the misfortune to have a number of personal tragedies impact my time at College and had

to be away for a while. Frances was an amazing support and helped organise my studies so I could continue. I also picked several unusual courses, including history of Middle East at the time of Crusades, and she managed arrange for the top expert in the field to tutor me. I am left-handed and what is termed 'cross-lateral', which makes navigating in a right-handed dominated world a bit fraught, and it was great to get the support I needed to thrive. Her personal support and guidance was amazing and just what was required. I remain impressed and grateful to this day.

### Favourite activities at HMC

I coxed the then Manchester-Linacre Eight. On Valentine's Day 1985 while training for Torpids at 6.30am we hit an ice sheet in the Thames that ripped a two-foot hole under bow's seat and we started to sink. We just made it to the landing stage as the boat waterlogged but luckily did not sink. I very much enjoyed the adventures of rowing.

**“Be curious and ask for support to pursue your curiosity.”**

### Why HMC?

Harris Manchester has a small, personalised atmosphere and was very supportive of me in the good times – and even better in the bad times!

### Why is giving to HMC important?

Society needs opportunity for people who have varied advantages for all sort of reasons. HMC delivers this opportunity in Oxford.

### My advice to current students

Be curious and ask for support to pursue your curiosity.

## College News

HMC Honorary Fellow **Prof Anna Deavere Smith** has been appointed to President



Biden's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. Members include prominent artists, scholars and philanthropists who have demonstrated a serious commitment to the arts and humanities. You can read more on our website [here](#).

At the end of Trinity term HMC bid farewell to organ scholar **Alastair Stone**, who has completed his studies and will be taking up the post of assistant organist at Ripon Cathedral. He's been an integral part of the musical life of the Chapel over the past year and we wish him well.



Congratulations to current student **Xun Hu** (MEng Engineering Science) and his Cequestre teammates who impressed the judges at [StEP Ignite 2022](#), the University of Oxford's Student Entrepreneurship Programme. Their pitch was for investment to form a novel carbon capture and utilisation company, aiming to extend the lifetime of existing resources by making carbon capture profitable. Cequestre received a £25,000 cash prize, alongside support from Oxford Science Enterprises and Oxford University Innovation to help turn their idea into a commercial business, including a roadmap to access further investment.

Law student **Nicholas Stone** has been awarded the 2022-2023 Sir Roger Newdigate Prize, for best composition in English verse not exceeding 300 lines in length on the subject 'Outermost'. You can read his poem [here](#).



In June, HMC held its first **Prospective Students Dinner**. Hosted by Admissions Officer & Academic Office Deputy **Richard Molyneux** who organised the event (pictured bottom left) and Development & Alumni Relations Manager **Shona Nicholson**, it gave interested students a peek at the life that awaits them should they come to HMC as students.

Current student **Katie Glover** (MSt Historical Studies) won the 2023 Sawyer Graduate Prize for her research poster on The Victorian Governess in Colonial New Zealand. Katie's poster can be viewed [here](#).



This is the second year the Sawyer Prize has been awarded and has been made possible by a kind bequest from the late David Sawyer, friend of the College.

*(See more about the importance to HMC of such legacies on page 2 of this newsletter).*

We extend a slightly belated but nonetheless warm welcome to Chris Manning, who joined HMC in May as the College's new Bursar. Chris joins us from the Department of Biochemistry, where he was Head of Finance and Administration.





## College News (continued)

Congratulations to HMC Tutor in Engineering, **Prof Harrison Steel**, awarded the [RAEng Engineers Trust Young Engineer of the Year](#) and the prestigious [University of Oxford's Early Career Commercial Impact Award](#).

Congrats also to Law students **Diane de Young de la Marck** and **Joseph Foye**, winners of the **Oxford University**

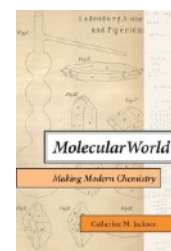


**Press and The Inns of Court College of Advocacy National Mooting Competition 2022-2023.** One of the most prestigious and popular mooting competitions in the UK, it offers undergraduate

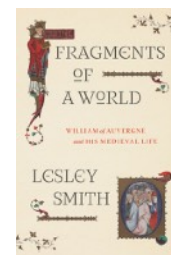
law and GDL students the opportunity to practise and perfect their advocacy skills.

## Books

A new book by **Dr Catherine Jackson**, Peck Fellow and Tutor in History, *Molecular World: Making Modern Chemistry*, compellingly reshapes our view of 19th-century chemistry, explaining a critical period in the quest to understand and manipulate organic nature.



In May **Prof Lesley Smith**, Senior Tutor and Tutor in Politics, published *Fragments of a World: William of Auvergne and His Medieval Life*, the first modern biography of the influential teacher, bishop and theologian. The book casts a new image of William of Auvergne for our times – deeply attuned to both the spiritual and material needs of an ever-changing populace in the medieval city.



## Student Spotlight

My name is Annabel Joost. I am a 26-year-old third-year undergraduate from California reading History. Like many HMC students, my path to Oxford was rather unique. I moved away from home to Germany at the age of 15 to pursue my passion and a career in equestrian showjumping – I had a deep love of horses and a desire to learn how to train young horses to a top international level. Alongside my athletic schedule, I engaged with my academic interests through independent study and tutors. It was a privilege, but also a huge responsibility, to pursue independent study; I realised at a young age that the totality of what I gained from my studies came only from my own initiative. My tutors and the relationships I developed with them allowed me to recognise the impact of a teacher who can inspire curiosity. In combination with my love of learning, this is ultimately what encouraged me to sit my A-Levels and apply to Oxford. As an independent



candidate, I will never forget walking into a gymnasium of 200 boys at an all-boys school to sit the exams.

With such a unique academic background, arriving at Oxford for my first year was certainly a shock to the system, and a dose of imposter syndrome may have got the better of me.

I am thankful to everyone at HMC for being so supportive and continuously encouraging me, especially Professor Lesley Smith. I was lucky enough to have her as my tutor for two papers, my favourite two thus far, and still consider her a mentor. Having found my footing after a wobbly start, I can confidently say that I now very much enjoy my studies. Alongside my degree, I enjoy exploring the endless lectures I find on *OxTalks*, particularly those on political history and international relations. My experience at Oxford has been an incredible journey and I look forward to my final year ahead, knowing that I will always be part of the HMC family.

## Alumni News

Alumna **Adina Bezerita** (2021, MSt Theology), winner of John Templeton and Peter Harrison awards (2022), now teaches internationally on



the relevance of ancient philosophy in the sciences and humanities. She tells the Development Office that the inspirational setting at Harris Manchester, along with its luminary thinkers, have played a key role in facilitating her interdisciplinary graduate research,

*The Quest for Self-Knowledge: A Critical Exploration from the Classical Period to Today.*

Through her company, Numinous Threads, Adina researches and presents interdisciplinary topics on ancient philosophy, relevant to contemporary thought and with application across the humanities and the sciences. One of her most recent projects was in collaboration with NASA-ESA.

**Prof James Dwyer** (JYA, 1982 Philosophy), Arthur B. Hanson Professor of Law at William & Mary Law School, is about to publish his latest book, *International*



*Migration of Children: Human Rights, State Power, and Nations' Duties* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2024). His most recent book, also published by OUP, *The Oxford Handbook of Children and the Law*, was released in 2020.

## Our congratulations go to...

**Rowena Purdy** (1991, BA Oriental Studies) was recently elected Chairman of her Parish Council in Lincolnshire and selected to be a member of Motorsport UK's LGBTQ+ Expert Committee, which is currently looking at ways of promoting motorsport's total acceptance of LGBTQ+ competitors, marshals and officials. She tells the Development Office that she's also in the midst of writing her life story. Can't wait to read it!



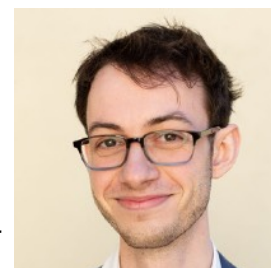
Early Career Fellow and Tutor in Theology **Dr Tobias Tanton** (2012, MPhil Theology) has been accepted into the prestigious Psychology Cross-training Fellowship Programme for Theologians at the University of Birmingham. You can read more [here](#).



**Joe Dollin** (2022, MBA), an experienced goaltender, has been signed by professional ice hockey team Oxford City Stars for the upcoming 2023-2024 season. More information [here](#).

**Matthias Fahrenwaldt** (2019, MSt Historical Studies) has just completed a second PhD, this time in History. The subject of the thesis is Erich Ludendorff, who was chiefly responsible for German strategy in World War I.

**Coleman Yorke** (2020, MSc Clinical and Therapeutic Neuroscience) has been selected as a Henry Luce Scholar. This programme enables young scholars unfamiliar with working in Asia to "be comfortable being uncomfortable". Coleman will spend the coming year in Seoul as a researcher in the Youth and Young Adult Development Lab at Yonsei University to further study and explore the mental health of adolescents and young adults. We wish him well.





## Alumni News (continued)

### Inspiring alumni provide careers advice to aspiring current students



In May, the College held its first-ever careers workshop for current students. The session on Law was developed through conversations with alumni, **Ben Rusch** (2000, BA Jurisprudence) and **Parwana Zahib-Majed** (1999, BA Jurisprudence) and the HMC Law Society. Other alumni who provided their expertise at the Workshop include **Satveer Chaudhary** (1989-90, JYA Politics), **Tim Foot** (2011, BA and MPhil Classics; BA Jurisprudence at HMC from 2018-20), and **Valentina Telushkina** (2017, MSc Taxation).

The **Law Careers Workshop** started with a brief overview of their career paths followed by one-to-ones with the current students.

Open to HMC students, this Workshop was unique in that it allowed students from other colleges to take advantage of the advice and experience of our alumni.

The College thanks sponsors Consilio and DLA Piper for their generosity.

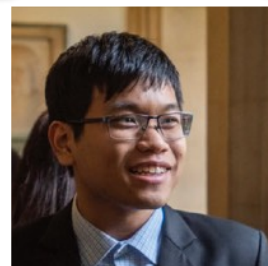
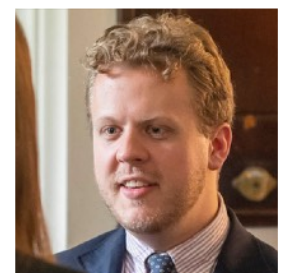
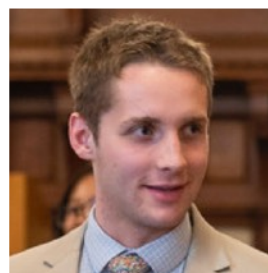


We also owe particular thanks to Supernumerary Fellow, **Maureen O'Neill**, who so ably hosted this inaugural event.

Special guests included **Prof Francis Rose** (HMC Senior Research Fellow) and **Judge Jo-Lynne Lee** (HMC Visiting Fellow and Judge in the Superior Court of Alameda County in California), pictured below with HMC Fellow **Kristin van Zwieten** (Clifford Chance Professor of Law and Finance in the Law Faculty and the Gullifer Fellow at HMC).



You can see more photos from the Law Careers Workshop [here](#).



## Dates for your diary

**HMC's Annual Alumni Dinner** – Saturday 23rd September, 6.45pm for drinks and 7.30pm. Celebrate with friends and tutors and hear our brilliant guest speaker, **David Wienir** (1993, PPE). David's legal career began as a litigator and First Amendment lawyer in New York, and he has since represented celebrities such as Steven Spielberg and Madonna. Book this event through the College website [here](#).

## Alumni Weekend highlights

Book the events below through the University's Meeting Minds [website](#):



**The Dictionary People** – Saturday 23rd September, 9.30 to 10.30am at the Maths Institute. HMC Senior Research Fellow in Linguistics **Dr Sarah Ogilvie** will tell tales of the unsung heroes who created the Oxford English Dictionary.

**How rediscovering Medieval Women can shape our future** – Saturday 23rd September, 4.00 to 5.00pm at the Maths Institute.

**Dr Janina Ramirez** is HMC Research Fellow in the History of Art. She is the author of Sunday Times number 1 best-seller *Femina: A New History of the Middle Ages Through the Women Written out of it*.

**Future of Publishing** – Friday 22nd September, 2.30 to 3.30pm at the Maths Institute.

**David Wienir** (1993, PPE) Assistant General Counsel at HarperCollins Publishers and **Rosie Talbot** (2009, History of Art) will bring their wealth of experience, as well as their own author journeys, to this discussion on what the future holds for the publishing industry.

**The Oxford Alternatives Reunion** – Saturday 23rd September, 2.30 to 3.30pm in the HMC Chapel, celebrating 30 years of 'rock' a cappella music at Oxford University at the college where it all began. The group was co-founded in 1993 by HMC alumnus **David Wienir** (1993, PPE) and two other Oxford students as an alternative to the University's chapel choirs.



## Future Alumni Events

**Alumni Carol Service** – Saturday 2nd December, from 3.00pm in Chapel. Celebrate the start of the festive season, with seasonal refreshments afterwards in the Arlosh Hall. Free for alumni and their guests. Book [here](#).

**Annual Alumni Tayler Talks London Dinner** – Wednesday 24th January 2024, Middle Temple. **The Rt Hon the Baroness Scotland of Asthal KC** is a British diplomat, barrister and politician, serving as the sixth Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations – the first woman to hold the post and the second from the Caribbean. You can book your place [here](#).

## Other HMC Events

**HMC Chapel Services** – led by our Chaplain, alumna **Rev Dr Claire Macdonald**, under the theme *Food for Thought: nourishing hearts and minds*, at 5.45 to 6.25pm every Wednesday in term. Our special guest preachers include Baron Leslie Griffiths, Adam Slate and The Rev Sue Sinnamon. A little music, a little silence – and a little bit more.

**Upton Lecture** – Tuesday 14th November at 5.00pm in the HMC Chapel, given by **Prof Susan James**, Birkbeck College London, whose research spans the history of 17th and 18th century philosophy, political and social philosophy, and feminist philosophy.

**Inaugural Manchester Lecture** – Monday 5th February 2024 at 5.00pm in the HMC Chapel, by **Prof Dinah Birch**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Impact, and Professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool.

**Open days** – *Be an ambassador for the College! Check for these events at [hmc.ox.ac.uk/open-days](http://hmc.ox.ac.uk/open-days). For updated information about HMC events visit our website [hmc.ox.ac.uk/events](http://hmc.ox.ac.uk/events).*

## Stay in touch

Please scan the code to make sure we have the most up-to-date details to enable us to stay in contact with you.

