WHY DO WE RUN AN ANNUAL APPEAL?

Robinson is home to around 400 undergraduates and 180 graduates. The uniqueness of Cambridge University (and, of course, Oxford, but really nowhere else in the world) is the small group individualised teaching that we are still able to provide to all our undergraduate students. Those of you who studied as undergraduates at Robinson will have experienced that at first-hand. This is, however, a hugely expensive system to maintain — but it is worth maintaining.

Our graduate students benefit from a range of accommodation, pastoral and social facilities that are not matched by many other colleges. Again, our costs for such provision far exceed our fee income. We are fortunate in having a thriving conference business — a business that many other colleges envy. Despite the very significant growth in our endowment fund and the income from our conference business we are in no different a position from many other colleges — yet more resources will be needed if the uniqueness of a Cambridge education is to be preserved for future generations.

Donations from alumni and friends are vital to our continued stability and growth. In order to meet our growing aspirations, our resources need to show similar growth. Part of our mission — as a registered charity — is to raise funds to support the College’s activities. A Cambridge education can be life changing and Robinson prides itself on its outstanding teaching and pastoral care, as well as its inspiring academic environment. It is essential that we continue to offer financial support to ensure that financial considerations do not deter any suitably qualified student from applying to Robinson or thriving whilst here.

Although we fundraisers throughout the year, each year we focus our efforts on a two-week telephone appeal. As well as raising funds, your conversations with current students provide an excellent opportunity to update our database with your correct contact details, to hear from you how best we can improve our alumni activities and to put you in touch with our current student body.

I am so grateful to be part of a community of friends, Fellows, and staff. As a fourth-time caller, I am even more grateful to be able to support an education which is open to all our students. I see outstandingly bright careers of service and excellence, and to hear about how Robinson used to be. It is so rewarding, of memoirs which have been created at this College over its 40 years of existence that Robinson — that intimate community — reveals itself to be a mammoth society as diverse and accomplished as the people sustaining it.

Michael Panayi

THE 13TH ANNUAL APPEAL

WE WANT TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE TEACHING, RESEARCH, LEARNING AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR MEMBERS TO ALLOW THEM TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL.

To help us achieve this, we aim to ensure that we:

• Enable the best students to come to Robinson, regardless of their background or financial circumstances.
• Attract and retain the best supervisors, scholars and researchers from around the world.
• Sustain Robinson’s teaching and research environment.

To get in touch if you would like more information, if your contact details have changed, or if you have news to share, please get in touch.

Catherine Biggs
Deputy Development Director
Grange Road
Cambridge
CB3 9AN

development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk
+44 (0)1223 339036/7

Registered Charity No 1137494

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you would like to get in touch with us, please contact us at the following address or via email.

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Deputy Development Director
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Registered Charity No 1137494
HOW CAN I HELP?

Donations support a range of College Initiatives, but currently the two most pressing areas of need are Student Support and College Teaching.

STUDENT SUPPORT

For many students, the student loan they receive is not enough to cover all their living and academic expenses. Bursary funds provided by Robinson were established to offer assistance to undergraduate and graduate students in need, easing the financial burden and allowing them to make the most of the academic and extra-curricular opportunities Cambridge offers, regardless of their background.

In the past year, 71 Robinson students were made Cambridge Bursary Scheme Awards of up to £3500. Robinson contributes 50% of the Cambridge Bursary Scheme to any qualifying Robinson student (the rest is made up by the University).

In addition, the College makes a further 25–40 awards each year, from the Pegasus Bursaries Fund and the Bye-Fellows’ Fund, to students facing additional costs, unexpected changes in circumstance or to those who do not qualify for CBS support such as overseas and graduate students.

COLLEGE TEACHING

Robinson is committed to small-group teaching, the hallmark of our collegiate tradition.

College teaching lies at the heart of the Cambridge education experience, but it is costly. At Robinson College, supervision teaching costs just over £250,000 per year and, although tuition fees cover part of this cost, we need to fundraise to ensure that our students continue to receive small group supervisions led by world-leading academics.

Cuts to University funding have been significant in recent years and as a younger College we lack a sufficient number of University-paid academics on our Fellowship in some subjects. As such, the College must directly employ CTOs (College Teaching Officers) to supervise our students in these areas. It is vital that we offer our students a comprehensive teaching package and that we do not fall behind in our provision. We are currently fundraising to sustain CTO positions in HSPS (Human, Social, and Political Science), Economics, Music, Law, Maths and English.

In the past year Robinson has used its funds to support 125 CTO positions.

It is easy to assume that small donations do little to affect the overall financial picture, but this is not the case at Robinson. If every person called during the annual appeal made a single £10 gift, this would enable us to fund an additional 5 full CBS student hardship bursaries next year. On behalf of those students, thank you for your help – it will make a huge difference.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Our alumni and friends helped all of this to happen. Around one quarter of our undergraduates received financial support during the year and our graduate students benefited from MHD and MPhD scholarships and studentships, bursaries and research grants. College Teaching Officers helped to sustain the supervision system that is central to Robinson and a Cambridge education.

Last year gifts totaling £187,465 were pledged during the telephone calling programme. We hope that you will join us in making this year’s Annual Appeal another resounding success.

The Warden
Professor David Yates
MA (Cantab et Oxon) Solicitor, FRSA

2016 WAS A YEAR IN WHICH WE CELEBRATED MANY SUCCESSES, WITH OUTSTANDING EXAM PERFORMANCES IN SUBJECTS RANGING FROM LAW TO MATHEMATICS AND CHEMISTRY TO ECONOMICS. OUR SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN WON CUPPERS TROPHIES, BLADES, BLUES AND HALF-BLUES ON THE SPORTS FIELD AND IN THE WATER. BRICKHOUSE AND ROBINSON COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY ENTERTAINED US WITH CONCERTS AND THEATER PRODUCTIONS AND THE MAY BALL WAS AS VIBRANT AS EVER.

IN 2016 DONATIONS WORTH £15 A MONTH OR LESS RAISED OVER £38,000

IN NEW GIFTS AND PLEDGES RAISED IN 2016

WHO GAVE THE FUNDS RECEIVED?

WHAT DONORS SUPPORTED

TOTAL GIVING IN 2015/6

Last year Robinson raised £2,635,756 in new gifts and pledges. 15.9% of Robinson alumni gave in 2015/16, 17% of former undergraduates and 79% of former graduate students. 25% of Fellows gave.

49 people have notified Robinson that gifts to the College are included in their Wills.

£2,635,756
IN NEW GIFTS AND PLEDGES RAISED IN 2016

Current and former staff and Fellows 10%
Academics 64%
Companies and organisations 13%
Non-alumni 10%
Parents of alumni/students 1%
Discretionary 10%
Buildings and collections 7%
Non alumni 1%
T rusts 2%
Alumni 13%
Students 19%