Medieval and modern history has been studied at Oxford for longer than at almost any other university: a Regius Professor of Modern History was first appointed in 1754, and undergraduate examinations began in 1850. Today the University is one of the world’s most encompassing centres for the study of history. The faculty has about a hundred permanent teaching staff, nearly twelve hundred undergraduates, and almost five hundred graduate students attracted from many countries.

History has always been a strong and popular School at Christ Church with, for much of Charles Stuart’s career, four Official Students and 20 undergraduates per year. Although the numbers have changed (we now have three Official Students and 12 undergraduates) the quality of History at the House is exceptionally high: in 2006 there were six History Firsts.

The three History tutorials are:


Dr Catherine Andreyev, who has published on the military and political history of the USSR and on the Russian emigration in the 20th century. She is interested in Russian historical, social and intellectual culture. She is continuing to work on Russian emigre politics and her broader interests in social, cultural and political history are reflected in this research. Her publications include Vlasov and the Russian Liberation Movement: Soviet reality and émigré theories (Cambridge, 1987).

Dr Brian Young, whose interests include British intellectual and religious history, the Victorians and the eighteenth century. Historiography and a short biography of his are included in a recent book on the Oxford University of Modern History and Religious and Diplomatic History in Eighteenth-Century England (Oxford, 1998).

History at Christ Church

Development and Alumni Office
Christ Church
Oxford OX1 1DP
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)1865 286325
Fax: +44 (0)1865 286587
Email: development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk
Charles Stuart was one of the dominant figures at the House in the second half of the 20th century. He came up as an undergraduate in 1938 and, after a spell with SIS during the war, he returned as a lecturer in 1947, becoming an Official Student in 1948. From that time onwards until his retirement in 1987 he remained deeply involved in the affairs of the House serving as Junior and Senior Censor, and he taught approximately 700 Christ Church historians.

His friend and colleague Dr John Mason noted that “for sheer grasp of subject he was unmatchable”, yet Charles published little in his long career. Unquestionably this was because Charles saw his role as that of a teacher and mentor and not only whilst his pupils were at the House but long after they had left. His connections in the City were many and he often used them to further the careers of former pupils.

Tutorials with Charles Stuart were, by all accounts, often daunting affairs. The surprisingly tall, slightly stooping figure in his cavernous gown cut an imposing figure in his rooms... (imagery) ...Charles was able, through a deliberate and complex process of questioning, to lead his students ultimately to think what, and how, they ought to think...

...It was, therefore, as much about the broader building of the individual as it was about learning.

The Post

The current resources of Christ Church are fast approaching a time when they will no longer be able to sustain the high-quality education which has been the pride of the House for so long. We have found some innovative ways to address this, for example by appointing some fixed term Students. But this is a short-term solution and it does not overcome the serious threat in the tutorial system, which is at the core of Christ Church. We need to continue to attract the finest academic minds. The Campaign for Christ Church is aiming to address some of these problems by raising money to increase the endowment so that we can secure funding for posts for this and for future generations.

Our endowment of approximately £450 million is professionally managed and the revenue generated by our investments accounts for over half our operating income. However, our liabilities continue to grow and the current lack of resources is putting serious pressure on our ability to deliver the best possible education. We need to raise £46 million to secure academic posts and relieve the pressure on endowment funds. Some of the posts we do support are already in existence and some are new developments, which reflect a particular need or growing demand.

The cost of the majority of posts is split between the University and the college. In the future it will be necessary for the college to fund in their entirety some posts that have previously been jointly funded. For others, the fundraising will be done in collaboration with the University.

The Charles Stuart Society

The Charles Stuart Official Student in Modern History will endow one of the three existing history posts at a cost of £1,000,000. More information on History at Christ Church can be found on the fold-in page.

It is hoped that we are able to fund the Charles Stuart Official Student in Modern History through donations from a limited number of his former pupils who will form the Charles Stuart Society. The society will hold an annual dinner, the venue of which will alternate between London and New York, involving guest speakers.

The rules of the society (guests, procedures, new members, speeches) should be decided by the members through “evolution”, but reflect as far as possible the character of the man.

The current resources of Christ Church are fast approaching a time when they will no longer be able to sustain the high-quality education which has been the pride of the House for so long. We have found some innovative ways to address this, for example by appointing some fixed term Students. But this is a short-term solution and it does not overcome the serious threat in the tutorial system, which is at the core of Christ Church. We need to continue to attract the finest academic minds. The Campaign for Christ Church is aiming to address some of these problems by raising money to increase the endowment so that we can secure funding for posts for this and for future generations.

Our endowment of approximately £450 million is professionally managed and the revenue generated by our investments accounts for over half our operating income. However, our liabilities continue to grow and the current lack of resources is putting serious pressure on our ability to deliver the best possible education. We need to raise £46 million to secure academic posts and relieve the pressure on endowment funds. Some of the posts we do support are already in existence and some are new developments, which reflect a particular need or growing demand.

The cost of the majority of posts is split between the University and the college. In the future it will be necessary for the college to fund in their entirety some posts that have previously been jointly funded. For others, the fundraising will be done in collaboration with the University.

...It was, therefore, as much about the broader building of the individual as it was about learning.

The income raised by gifts of shares provides a particularly tax-efficient way of giving to charity for individuals in the United Kingdom. This share-giving technique enables the donor to claim full income tax relief on the value of the gift and then claim tax back on your gift.

If you would like to discuss making a donation please contact: The Development Director The Development & Alumni office Christ Church Oxford OX1 1DPT el. +44 (0) 1865 286582 Fax. +44 (0) 1865 286587