Access to Excellence
While other institutions talk about the importance of widening access, at Wadham we’re actually doing it. We’re giving students from all backgrounds access to Oxford, and we’re doing it by finding the very best talent in places – throughout the world – where others may not look.

With a student body among the most diverse in the University and a world-class academic reputation, Wadham is demonstrating that fair access, international reach and academic excellence go hand in hand. Our mission now is to break down the barriers that still exist, offering opportunity and scholarship to the very brightest students from all communities and from all walks of life – including potential graduate students who might be put off by cost. We want Wadham to be the living proof that fairness in education is not about lowering standards; it’s about gathering up the best, wherever in the world they are to be found.

So help us to find them. Building on the secure platform of your wonderful generosity during the Wadham 2010 Campaign, our priority now is to invest in Access to Excellence. Our future is to drive the very best scholarship and research through to graduate level and beyond, by recruiting the brightest students and by nurturing their talent here in the heart of Oxford.

This is why we are running schools programmes, master classes and aspiration days, working with teachers and pupils, parents and carers. We are raising the horizons of the very smartest young people, showing them how Wadham can change their lives for ever. We are also funding more places for Oxford’s best graduate students, allowing gifted young researchers to come here regardless of their personal means or their country of origin.

Last but not least, we are providing a home for outstanding research fellows, junior and senior, to enhance Wadham’s international reputation for learning, discovery and innovation.

We are doing all this because in the twenty first century we want Wadham to be true to its historic values of openness and enlightenment, true to those brilliant seventeenth century polymaths who first defined our College’s belief in modernity and progress. Please help us to continue developing Wadham as a progressive, open, special place, with scholarship as impressive as the best in the world.

Above all, please help us to give others the opportunities that Wadham gave to you.

Ken Macdonald QC
Warden, Wadham College

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I grew up on a council estate in Peckham. So Oxford was a shock to the system. But behind the beauty and intelligence of Wadham’s seventeenth-century facades, I found intellectual inspiration and friendship. I was valued there for my mind – not my colour, my age or my gender.

David Gustave (History, 1996)
Chief & Imagination Officer, Reluctantly Brave

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Cutting our own path to excellence.
Our comprehensive strategy covers every step of the educational journey, as well as targeting even higher standards in both research and in the facilities that make the best work possible. Our goal is to raise a total of £30 million in new funds by 2020 to put this strategy into action.

Thanks in no small part to your 2010 Campaign investment we have an extraordinary College environment: remarkable researchers, first-class facilities and a talented student community. Your generosity has helped to preserve a proud tradition of academic excellence stretching back to the seventeenth century; when Wadham innovators took the radical step of founding the Royal Society and, in doing so, invented modern science. With your help, we want our College to reflect that fine legacy today and into the future, making it available to new generations.

Our vision: over the next decade, Wadham will become a beacon for fair access in the UK and across the world by identifying and removing the barriers that impede potential applicants, students and researchers in their quest for excellence.

In the UK, state schools educate 93% of children and 67% of triple-A achievers at A level... but just 60% of the undergraduates admitted to Oxford.*

At Wadham, 69% of our UK undergraduates are state-educated. But 72% of our UK applicants are state-educated, so there is still a gap to close.*

More than 35% of applicants offered a postgraduate place at Wadham (and across Oxford) turn it down for lack of funding.*

That Wadham was one of the first historically men’s colleges at the University to admit women gave me and many others an opportunity to participate in a cultural and generational shift. And Wadham has remained expansive, inclusive and innovative.

Lissa Muscatine (Politics, Rhodes Scholar, 1977) Owner of Politics and Prose bookstore and coffee house in Washington DC and former chief speechwriter to Hillary Rodham Clinton

*www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/alumni/wadham-in-numbers
## Access to Excellence Fund

**Total target: £30 million**

£22 million raised (August 2016)

### One distinctive strategy.

**Five bold steps.**

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<th>Applicants</th>
<th>Undergraduates</th>
<th>Graduate students</th>
<th>All Wadham graduates</th>
<th>Fellowships and facilities</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Raising aspirations and attracting talent</td>
<td>Fulfilling potential and nurturing our community</td>
<td>Competing for the world’s most gifted minds</td>
<td>Opening doors to a better world</td>
<td>Maintaining world class teaching and research at Wadham</td>
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<td>Building on Wadham’s hugely successful access work to date, we ask you to support more open days, more outreach visits to priority schools, more work with teachers and more subject-specific summer schools, as well as helping us to pioneer new online resources for preparing applications. Make it possible for us to find the best.</td>
<td>Today’s students bear a greater financial burden than any generation before them. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we will create more targeted bursaries and scholarships, and offer greater pastoral and academic support for those who most need it.</td>
<td>Many elite overseas institutions now offer full PhD funding. In order for us to continue to attract the best we ask you to help us create new scholarships for international students, as well as for UK students who are burdened with such high levels of debt.</td>
<td>Ultimately, there is no point removing barriers from talented students’ progress to and through Oxford, only for further barriers to rise up when they choose a career. We therefore seek donations of both money and time for careers support – whether for inspiration days, online careers resources or grants to enable internships and volunteering.</td>
<td>We want a College environment that is among the finest in Oxford. It is by offering the very best education founded on the very best research that we attract the very best students. Help us to secure the future excellence of Wadham’s scholarship by endowing Fellowships. Help us also to maintain a physical environment in which all of our students can reach their full potential.</td>
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### Target

| £5m | £5m | £10m | £10m |

Working with the University, we will build on Wadham’s past pioneering activities and develop distinctive new models to gather up talented students regardless of their backgrounds. We have devised a comprehensive five-step access strategy to realise our vision – to recruit the very best wherever they are to be found and to nurture their talent to the full in their years with us. This strategy requires a total investment of £30 million, which we aim to raise by 2020. Please help us to break through the myriad of barriers to opportunity – and proclaim once again Wadham’s famous commitment to openness and progress.
Lighting the beacon.
Looking to you.

First a few facts about Wadham’s finances. Like most Oxbridge colleges and top U.S. universities, we rely on our well-invested endowment to generate much of our income. Thanks to our donors and prudent financial management, our endowment currently contributes 26% of the College’s annual income. Regular alumni donations to the Wadham Fund account for another 9% of our revenues.

Now for some harder facts. The cornerstone of the Oxford education, the tutorial system, is expensive to maintain and the system is under immense pressure. The average cost of an Oxford undergraduate education is estimated to be £18,000 a year but tuition fees cover only 50% of these costs.

Add this to today’s uncertain higher education funding regime and, even with UK fees at an all-time high, there is a clear shortfall. There is also a distinct danger that the demands of our core activities, teaching and research, will erode our current budget for access, outreach, undergraduate support and graduate scholarships. In other words, we can only sustain the quality of an Oxford education thanks to the support of our alumni and friend.

Recognising your support
There are a number of ways in which we recognise your vital contribution to Wadham’s future, from membership of the Wilkins, Nicholas, and Dorothy Circles to permanent acknowledgment on the Donor Wall in the Cloisters.

Benefactors giving more than £1 million can be elected to a Foundation Fellowship. Every gift to the College is also recognised by the University and donors can become a member of the Vice-Chancellor’s Circle or the Chancellor’s Court of Benefactors.

You can read more about the ways we recognise your support on www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/alumni

My father was a Hong Kong taxi driver and my mother a tailor. They did not even graduate from secondary school and they could not speak English. Studying in Oxford was an impossible dream for me. But when I was given a scholarship to Wadham I resolved to pass the blessings to others.

Victor HB Lee (Engineering, 1993) Investment Manager, J.P. Morgan, former Lee Shau Kee Scholar
Think of the future. Achieve the vision.

We are fortunate that more than a fifth of our alumni support the College every year. Our thanks go out to everyone who has given to Wadham. Yet, in order to make Wadham a beacon of fair access and diversity, we are asking you once again to give your best gift. If you are already a donor, perhaps you would consider increasing your annual contribution to the Wadham Fund or making a significant one-off gift.

Whether your passion is for social mobility or for academic excellence, whether your interests lie in undergraduate or postgraduate education, whether your focus is the UK or the wider world, whether you simply love Wadham and want to give something back, your gift – large or small – will enable Access to Excellence.

You can read more about how you can help on www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/alumni

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Growing up on a farm in rural Devon, I didn’t know anybody other than my teachers who had been to university. I could not have come to Wadham without the grants I receive, and considering recent changes, I think it is more important than ever that Wadham is able to ensure that students are able to come here no matter their financial background.

Rebecca Rose (Law, 2014)