

GIRTON COLLEGE

A Radical Vision

A Great Campaign
The impact of your gifts
between 2010 and 2021



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We are very grateful to all our donors, but we have taken the decision not to mention donors by name in this publication. All donors to A Great Campaign who have told us they are happy to be named are listed on A Great Campaign Donor Board (please see www.girton.cam.ac.uk/AGC-donor-board)

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In November 1867, author George Eliot (signing herself as M. E. Lewes) wrote to Emily Davies, Founder of the College for Women: a beginning made on a small scale, she urged, would be a hindrance rather than a furtherance of the vision that would become Girton. An institution capable of transforming lives and changing the world needs 'A Great Campaign'.

Making a difference

Girton College, the UK's first residential institution for the higher education of women, was founded for inclusion. In 1869, the object was to allow women, irrespective of their background, to study on the same terms, to the same level, as men: the same subjects, the same ambition, the same exams (though women could not collect their degrees until 1948, only 15 years before I came up). Today, Girton has been enriched by the admission of men, but the principle of inclusion is still what drives us on. The aim is to enable a diverse mix of young people from all walks of life to take up their place at Girton, regardless of background, identity, or financial means.

Now, as in the past, some students need more financial support than others. Fortunately, just as the principle of inclusive excellence threads through Girton's history, so too does the power of philanthropy.

The success of A Great Campaign is testimony to the generosity of Girtonians like you. As the Mistress



often notes, quoting Emily Davies, 'It has taken all of us to get so far.' However, it is also true that the Mistress herself has made it rather difficult for all of us not to join in. Saying 'no' to Susan is well-nigh impossible. So let us all thank her too for her leadership of both our Campaign and our College, and wish her an equally successful future when she steps down in September.

The Rt Hon the Baroness Hale of Richmond, DBE, PC
Visitor of Girton College
(Law, 1963)



“It has taken all of us to get so far. And it wants us all still.”

Emily Davies, writing to Barbara Bodichon.
(Letter to Barbara Bodichon 2.7.75, Collected Letters p. 465).

A Great Campaign

The first words that came to mind when I saw the bottom line were ‘Girton, you’ve got this!’ Over 50 million pounds split between cash gifts and legacy pledges is a game-changing amount, that will help re-endow our College and propel it into a new era.

Barely 150 years ago Girton was founded on a shoestring: long on determination, but short, very short, on cash. It was a precarious existence, spending down, hand to mouth, from myriad small gifts – a spirited approach with tremendous buy-in, but a far cry from the firm financial fortunes of the long-established men’s Colleges. In fact, Girton had no permanent endowment at all until 1913. Nearly a century later, we were still nowhere in the investments league, and still struggling to recover from the global financial crisis.

It was clear what we had to do. Grow the permanent endowment! A Great Campaign was the central plank. But could we persuade our supporters to buy into an enduring solution rather than a quick fix? Could

we hold our own nerve as reserves took a hit while the endowment expanded? The answer, thanks to you, is ‘yes’. Indeed, because of your vision, generosity, and unwavering good faith, we have exceeded our wildest dreams.

Today the permanent endowment stands at over £71 million, there is a healthy reserve of just over £32 million, and we are finally on course for the budget to break even. A Great Campaign is not the only driver: our diverse well-managed (nearly fully divested) portfolio has been well stewarded to yield good returns, and the Council has made some wise decisions to restructure the estate. But A Great Campaign – your Campaign – was the inspiration, the momentum, and the catalyst for it all.

The best thing about this? To quote the remarkable Emily Davies: ‘It has taken all of us to get so far’. And as we look to the next horizon, may I encourage you to remember, too, what she said next: ‘it’ – our College – ‘wants us all, still!’

Professor Susan J. Smith, MA, DPhil, FBA, FAcSS, FRSE
Mistress of Girton College



A Great Campaign aimed to raise £50 million through a combination of donations and legacy pledges to secure the long-term financial sustainability of Girton College

£57 million raised from donations and legacy pledges

£28 million received in donations

£29 million pledged in future legacies

With your support Girton has been able to ensure that:

- excellence thrives, by growing the College's unrestricted permanent endowment capital to secure the future;
- diversity thrives, by endowing 32 full undergraduate bursaries, and 40 student hardship grants so that excellence is truly inclusive;
- originality thrives, by endowing 10 partial postgraduate scholarships to encourage cutting edge research;
- inspiration thrives, by completing the endowment of 13 Fellowships of different kinds, enabling teaching, learning and research in Girton to flourish in perpetuity;
- our Founders' vision thrives, by improving the estate and gardens and ensuring an all-round residential higher educational experience.



Where excellence thrives – your visionary donations to our endowment campaign have paved the way to a financially sustainable future



Securing a financially sustainable future for the College was the overarching aim of A Great Campaign, and it is thanks to your generous support that the College's finances have been transformed for the better.

Over 78% of the £28.4 million received during A Great Campaign has been donated to the College's permanent endowment capital, which grew from £22 million to £71 million. Our restricted endowment (the funds which have a designated purpose, such as those that support our bursaries or our Fellowships) grew from £18 million to £49 million; unrestricted permanent endowment capital rose from under £4 million to £22 million.



Why are we raising funds for the endowment?

Most of our priority funds are endowment funds. This means that the capital of the fund is not spent. Instead, part of the investment return generated by the capital in the fund is spent on the area of College life supported by the fund. The other part is re-invested to protect the capital, helping to ensure that the original funds keep pace with inflation. Once a specific fund (e.g. a bursary, or a postgraduate scholarship) is endowed, then that fund will always be there to help future generations of Girton students and Fellows.

By completing our Great Campaign you have helped boost Girton's annual income from £880,000 to £2.84 million (using the 2010–2021 spending rule): a game-changing uplift.

This has moved us from the position from 'living hand to mouth'– having to fundraise for that year's needs– to having an investment income that allows us to plan for the future.

With the real cost of a Cambridge education estimated to be double the income from student fees, this uplift is vital. It will continue to improve our academic excellence. And of course, the capital of your generous gifts remains unspent, ensuring that this support will continue to help the College respond to whatever the future might bring.

Compared to other Cambridge Colleges the size of our endowment has moved from the bottom third to the middle.

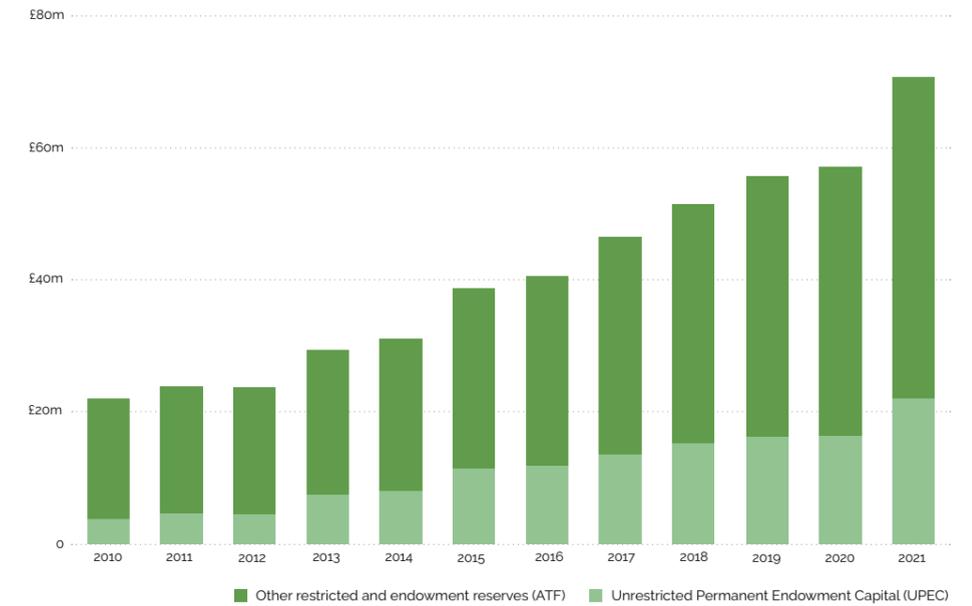


Gifts in Wills have had a vital role to play in transforming the College's finances, contributing over £13 million to the £28 million received during A Great Campaign. In many cases these gifts have been left without restrictions, allowing Girton to support whatever needs arise.

How the growth of the unrestricted permanent endowment capital has helped.

- It supports all aspects of College life, including those Fellowships and bursaries that are not supported by their own designated funds, and the maintenance of our Grade II listed buildings, including a wing refurbishment most years, the running costs of our buildings, and the maintenance of our extensive gardens and grounds.
- The growth in our unrestricted endowment helped us to stay afloat during the Covid-19 pandemic, despite a considerable loss in financial income from summer programmes, conferences, and rent. We were able to run essential services for students and protect staff from redundancies.
- Income from our unrestricted endowment helps to run the social hub, our new café bar and study space, at the heart of the College, much beloved by students, staff, Fellows and visitors.

Growth of endowment (restricted and unrestricted) during A Great Campaign



“The support of our alumni has been nothing short of transformational in strengthening the College's financial resilience.”

James Anderson, Bursar

“The financial hardships imposed by the current restrictions are being comfortably managed thanks to the donation income and the changes and decisions made ten years ago that have helped to increase the endowment capital. The commitment to this inventive strategy and the subsequent growth in donation income means College is firmly in charge of its financial destiny, a very real change from the position the College was in ten years ago.”

Leif Høegh (Economics, 1983), Campaign Board Member and Donor

Where diversity thrives – your unprecedented generosity has endowed 32 undergraduate bursaries during A Great Campaign

Since its Foundation, Girton has opened its doors to people with exceptional academic talent, from all backgrounds and circumstances, to give them a remarkable and rare educational opportunity. This is our College's founding principle. For Girton to remain truly diverse and offer a transformational educational opportunity to all those who qualify for a place here, the College must be able to provide financial assistance to

those who need it. On average one in four of our undergraduates would be unable to afford university without the support that a cost-of-living bursary provides, though not all receive a full bursary. This is why it is so fantastic that 32 bursaries of up to £3,500 each year have been fully funded in perpetuity, enabling a succession of students to accept their place at Girton and take full advantage of everything a Cambridge education has to offer.

Those eligible for full bursaries come from households with an income of £25,000 or below.

The number of Girton students receiving a full bursary has grown from 25 to 35 since 2014.

Class Gifts

During the second half of A Great Campaign a fantastic new initiative began – the Class Bursary Gift. So far 10 year-groups have come together to start funding their own undergraduate bursary, and seven bursaries have been completed. Class Champion Wendy Holden explains why she got involved:

"I'm delighted to be a Class Champion because without Girton my life would have been completely different. I feel very grateful and want to give something back."

Wendy Holden (English, 1983)



Hardship and Wellbeing Grants

40 additional grants endowed, which have helped students in a variety of circumstances, including support for travel for family emergencies, to cover unexpected, significant expenses (such as replacing a stolen bike or repairing a broken laptop), to help meet the costs of joining College societies and activities or the costs of short-term mental health counselling.



"Having a bursary at Cambridge has been of immense help. Whilst learning to manage money is a key skill you learn at university, no one should have to worry that they don't have enough money to take up certain opportunities or afford resources like textbooks. Donors like yourselves ensure students don't have those worries. Therefore, I'd like to say thank you because your donations make such a difference to those who benefit from them."

Hasan Lone (Law, 2021)



"Receiving a bursary was such a relief to me; I had heard that you weren't allowed to work at Cambridge and so was wondering how it would all work out. Having support like this took an enormous amount of the financial pressure off and meant that I could focus well on my studies. Thank you so much to all the donors who have made this possible for me and for so many other students, it makes such a difference and really can't be overstated!"

Jemimah Hawkes (Modern and Medieval Languages, 2018)



"Coming into university, I was always at a disadvantage compared to most other students, in that while they only had to focus on their academic studies, already a difficult task, I had to worry about money, and how I would make it through to the end of term. I don't have affluent parents, who I could ask for money whenever I need it, so I tutored young people, sometimes up to 10 different students per week. The bursaries that you, and others, have helped fund have allowed me to spend more time on my studies, and on myself, and have given me more freedom to do what I want, without the thought of how much it's costing me, and the strain it's putting on my parents. Thank you so much for giving me that opportunity."

Success Anyanwu (Medical Sciences, 2019)



Where originality thrives – your enlightened support has endowed 10 partial postgraduate scholarships

Girton is committed to extending our foundational values of inclusion and equality, together with academic excellence, to our postgraduate students. The opportunity to study for a postgraduate degree at Cambridge needs to be available to the most talented students in order for original, ground-breaking research to take place. There is a global demand from businesses to academia for talented scholars with higher degrees which is one of the reasons why we have decided to grow our postgraduate numbers. Yet funding for postgraduate

education for both UK and International students is limited so it was a key aim of A Great Campaign to offer more funding in the way of scholarships.

We are delighted that, thanks to the generosity of alumni, 10 partial postgraduate scholarships have been endowed. This will enable more talented scholars (including some of our own undergraduates) to embrace the challenge of completing a higher degree in Cambridge and at Girton, further their careers and create a better world.

"I am extraordinarily grateful for these awards. Without this funding I would not be able to conduct research, be a part of this extraordinary academic community, or be able to embark on an academic career. I have never been happier in my life than I currently am doing this research at this university and wish to thank the donors most sincerely for their generosity."

Rhona Jamieson (English, 2015), holder of the M M Dunlop and Doris Russell Scholarships, and former holder of the Stribling Award, PhD student researching conspiracy theories in contemporary British fiction.

The 10 partial postgraduate scholarships funded during A Great Campaign more than double the number of full and partial postgraduate scholarships that the College is able to award.



"Thanks to the Chan and Mok Graduate Scholarship, I was able to study at Girton for a Master of Law degree in the year of 2020–21. I would not have pursued this opportunity to study abroad amidst the pandemic, but for this scholarship. I learned a lot about the history of English law, law of restitution, and international law during my year in Cambridge, and was also involved in the College as a member of the MCR Committee. I am extremely grateful for the generous donations from Girton alumni which made these scholarships possible - studying at Girton is a life-changing experience for a lot of overseas students."

Chris Lau (Law, 2020), holder of the Chan and Mok Graduate Scholarship 2020–21.



74%

of our postgraduate student intake are funded by themselves or through student loans.



287

postgraduates studied at Girton in 2020–21, an increase from 188 students in 2010–11.



Where inspiration thrives – your game-changing philanthropy has completed the endowment of 13 Teaching and Research Fellowships

Small group teaching, by researchers at the cutting edge, is at the very heart of what we do. Our Fellows nurture, and inspire our students to explore, and question, their subject to the full, encouraging them to bring their own ideas to the discussion. Thanks to your generous support we have been able to complete the endowment of 13 Teaching and Research Fellowships, many of which have been named to celebrate some of the most inspirational teachers and researchers in Girton's recent past and some of our most generous donors. These endowed Fellowships

will ensure that there will be teaching in all key subjects at Girton, both for today's students and also for generations of students to come.

So many of you have given to support our Fellowships, responding to the challenge of an incredible gift of £2.5 million of matched funding that galvanised this campaign. Well over £8 million has been received in A Great Campaign to support our Fellowships, from major gifts to smaller monthly donations, to Gifts in Wills, including an exceptional bequest.



Thank you for helping us to endow the following 13 Fellowships:

Janet Harker Fellowship in Biological Sciences, Frank Wilkinson Fellowship in Economics, Jane Martin Fellowship in English, Brenda Stacey Fellowship in French, Margaret Tyler Research Fellowship in Geography, Marilyn Strathern Fellowship in History, Juliet Campbell Fellowship in International Relations, Lady Hale Fellowship in Law, Bertha Jeffreys Fellowship in Mathematics (Applied), Olga Taussky Fellowship in Mathematics (Pure), John Marks Fellowship in Medicine, Joanna Dannatt Fellowship in Medieval and Modern Languages and Christine McKie Fellowship in Physical Sciences.



"Being a Fellow at Girton is a huge privilege, and it's a particular pleasure to hold a named Fellowship that reminds us of the enormous contribution that Dr John Marks made during his time at Girton. It is really fantastic to see his legacy continue in this way – this gift has enabled us to continue to provide the world-class supervision system that makes Cambridge what it is, and also provide a link to a very significant person in the history of the College. I am always delighted to discuss with students and others who John Marks was, and I am very proud to include this link with Girton's history whenever I publish or promote the College in my clinical or research work."

Rev Dr Charlie Bell, John Marks Fellow in Medicine, who in 2020 served as part of the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee, helping to shape the UK's Covid-19 Policy at the height of the pandemic.



"The Janet Harker Fellowship in Biological Sciences has given me the opportunity to strengthen the link between Girton College and NIAB, as well as the Crop Science Centre (which is an alliance between NIAB and the University of Cambridge)."

Dr Stéphanie Swarbreck, Janet Harker Fellow in Biological Sciences, whose research at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany focuses on global food security.

Where our Founders' vision thrives

– your imaginative gifts provide an all-round residential educational experience

An inspiring living and learning environment, with flourishing gardens, extensive grounds, and opportunities to take part in the arts, music, and sport, were very much part of the vision Emily Davies had for Girton over 150 years ago. Thanks to your generous support, the estate has been transformed and the principles of an all-round residential education hugely enhanced. There are now 375 en-suite study bedrooms for students (in Ash Court and at Swirles Court) including more disabled access rooms, and we have re-landscaped Campbell Court into an oasis of calm beside the Library, Archive and Chapel. The heritage Orchard has been revitalised, the much-loved Honeysuckle and Nut walk replanted, and our comprehensive on-site sports facilities greatly improved. A new Artist-in-Residence Scheme, together with a Science-into-Arts-Residency,

has enhanced the College collections and thoroughly engaged our students in the creation and appreciation of artworks both in person and online. The same is true of prizes that celebrate poetry, awards that support music performance, and gifts that enable the choir to travel internationally and within the UK, while singing regularly in College. You also helped fund the science and humanities communication prizes, travel, and sports awards, and created a host of other opportunities to enable all students, regardless of their financial circumstances, to take advantage of the unique all-round education that Girton offers. You have helped us create a home and a caring community for our students while expanding their experiences and horizons; you have enabled us truly to deliver everything that is good for body, soul, and spirit.

"I am very glad you like the idea of the College – people take to it so kindly that I have great hopes of seeing it done some day...with gardens and grounds and everything that is good for body, soul, and spirit."

Emily Davies, writing to her friend Miss Anna Richardson, 25 October 1866.



We were able to respond to students' wishes for more group-based and interactive studying spaces by creating three new study rooms complete with digital screens and a relaxed outdoor study space in Campbell Court.



"I want to thank you for the donations received through the Girton sports award. Through this award, I was able to purchase Cambridge blues cricket clothing. This allowed me to participate in blues matches and represent Cambridge and Girton. I was involved in various games, with my highlight taking 6 wickets against Free Forester's XI. The award supported me throughout the season and delivered performances for the team."

Uday Modhwadia (Geography, 2020)



"A very generous donation to the Choir allowed us to give seven of our singers lessons with our resident teacher, Charbel Mattar, a member of Covent Garden chorus as well as a distinguished soloist. It also allowed us to have Charbel attend choir rehearsals and offer vocal coaching to the whole group, and he attended the recording sessions we had in June and July. Both of these sets of sessions have resulted in CD recordings which are now being distributed worldwide. The difference he made to our performance during these sessions is immeasurable. We are extremely grateful to our donor for making this happen."

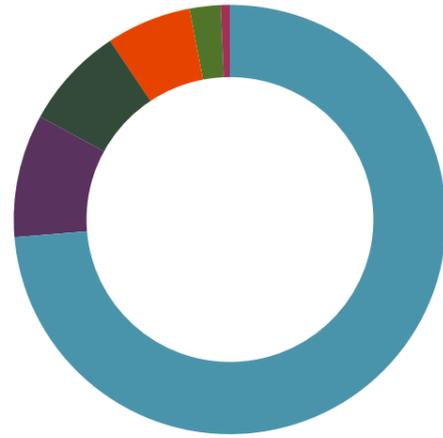
Gareth Wilson
Director of Chapel Music



"I was thrilled to receive a sports award from Girton College in both my first and second year. I devote much of my time to ice hockey, cycling a 10-mile round trip several times a week to attend the late-night training sessions at Cambridge Ice Arena. My Sports Award covered the subscription and registration fees and even paid for my Blues jersey. Before I joined the Women's Blues, I played for Team England under 16s as well as the Oxford Junior Stars. In my first year, I was awarded my half-blue after Varsity and received Girton's sports award in recognition of my ice hockey achievements. I'm very grateful for the financial support Girton has given me, and I'm very proud to represent my college as the only Girton student in the Women's Blues Ice Hockey Team."

Sophia Kennedy (Modern and Medieval Languages, 2019)

Girton's alumni community across the world



● UK ● Rest of Europe ● North America
● Asia ● Australasia ● South America



2,026

Members of A Great Campaign.



468

alumni and supporters let us know that they were remembering Girton in their will (becoming Members of the 1869 Society).

Celebrating our international community – your enthusiastic engagement has completed A Great Campaign

An incredible **3,895** people made a donation to Girton during A Great Campaign, with an amazing **36%** of all contactable Girtonians making a gift. Donations were received from every continent of the world, except Antarctica! Alumni across the world also volunteered their time and expertise, on our regional and international committees (such as the Hong Kong Committee), setting up tax-efficient giving in Singapore (with our IPC Board), running our alumni associations, and co-ordinating alumni sports activities. They serve on

some internal College committees, they volunteer in the Archive and the Lawrence Room, and, of course, served on the Campaign Board and gave valuable support at the Girton150 Festival. Alumni have also supported us by attending our events, which have taken place in cities as diverse as New York and Cardiff, Singapore and Birmingham, Hong Kong and Leeds, San Francisco and Edinburgh, Los Angeles and Tokyo, Dublin and Shanghai, and Geneva and London. It was fantastic to see so many of you engage with our events.



4,783

alumni attended an event over the course of A Great Campaign.



Over 1,300

alumni and contributors attended the Girton150 Festival.





Photographs celebrating the Girton150 Festival

Get in Touch

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