IN THIS PUBLICATION WE ARE PLEASED TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR MANY GENEROUS DONORS AND SUPPORTERS. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE A GIFT TO THE COLLEGE IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1 JULY 2017 TO 30 JUNE 2018: YOUR NAME WILL BE LISTED AT THE BACK OF THIS REPORT UNLESS YOU HAVE REQUESTED ANONYMITY.
The past financial year saw funds raised of £1.3m and cash received of just under £1m. These funds are used to support students, enable academic work in teaching and research and help with specific needs, such as hardship. We are, as always, immensely grateful to all those who have made a gift in this financial year. Your names are listed (unless otherwise requested) further on in this publication, by matriculation year and fund. If your gift arrived after July 1st you will be listed in next year’s Donor Report. We also explain how we invest our funds and how the College manages its budgets.

The University of Cambridge has highlighted the narrative of the student experience as part of the overall campaign and Corpus has long supported this with our own efforts. Widening participation means that we reach out and encourage bright students from all backgrounds to consider Cambridge, and we assure those on low incomes that help will be available. Assistance ranges from the Cambridge Bursary Scheme to hardship grants given by the College, and largely raised by donations from alumni. There are targeted funds for specific activities; money is always used according to the donor’s wishes. Some funds are named after the donor or in honour of someone and where possible and in agreement with the family, we tell the student about the donor. In this edition of the Donor Report we tell the stories behind some recent gifts to create funds which have been named after much loved family members.
TOP PARTICIPATION RATE:
1964 & 1968

£20k
WAS DISTRIBUTED IN HARDSHIP FUNDS

CORPUS SUBSIDISES EACH UNDERGRADUATE BY
£4,925 PER YEAR

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2017/18
£1.3M

53 UNDERGRADUATES RECEIVED MEANS TESTED AWARDS TOTALLING £181K

GRANTS TOTALLING £125K WERE AWARDED TO POSTGRADUATES
AT THE UNRESTRICTED LEVEL THE COLLEGE RECORDED A SURPLUS OF £662K IN THE YEAR TO JUNE 2018 VERSUS A DEFICIT OF £80K IN THE PRIOR YEAR. INCLUDING RESTRICTED AND ENDOWMENT ITEMS, THE COLLEGE RECORDED A SURPLUS BEFORE OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES OF £611K AGAINST AN EQUIVALENT SURPLUS OF £1,004K IN THE PRIOR YEAR. THE RETURN TO AN UNRESTRICTED SURPLUS IS PARTICULARLY WELCOME GIVEN THE LEVELS OF EXPENDITURE ON THE SPINE PROJECT IN OLD HOUSE DURING THE YEAR. IT REFLECTS STRONG INCOME GROWTH (+5.5% VS 2016/17), DISCIPLINED EXPENSE CONTROL (-2.4% VERSUS 2016/2017) AND BETTER DEPLOYMENT OF INCOME FROM RESTRICTED FUNDS WHERE OUR ALLOCATION IS BECOMING MORE ADEPT.

The College raised £1.3m in new funds in the year to June 2018. We are exceptionally grateful to all our benefactors. We are reliant on income from donations, our endowment and the conference and events business to ensure continued financial stability because the annual cost of an undergraduate education at Corpus exceeds our income from fees, rent and catering charges by over £4,900. During the year the College registered with the Fundraising Regulator and agreed to abide by its code of practice. The College also invested significant time preparing its alumni relations and fundraising activities for full compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) upon their implementation.

The College’s conference and catering business enjoyed another exceptionally strong year. Revenue grew by 4.0% to £1.3m. Since this is the first of two years where we expected business volumes to be adversely affected by the impact of building works in Old House and the consequent disruption and unavailability of certain spaces, this level of growth represents an extremely satisfactory result.
Endowment and investment performance

The capital value of the College’s Endowment grew during the year by 4.3% from £104.9m to £109.4m. The return on investment for the year (i.e. total return less new donations) was 7.3%. This compares to our benchmark composite (compiled in association with Cambridge Associates) which returned 6.3%, the FTSE All share which returned 9% and the ARC Balanced Asset Charity index which returned 3.7%. Returns were fairly evenly split between the securities and property portfolio. A number of retail/leisure properties saw satisfactory lease renewals for longer terms at improved rents (showing the relative strength of the Cambridge market). Within the securities portfolio, Japanese and global active equities performed strongly. Approximately 90% of our endowment continues to be invested in a globally diversified portfolio of equity funds (active and passive) and property as we seek long term returns at least 3.75% (our withdrawal rate) above inflation.

Capital expenditure and building works

This period has been dominated by the execution of the Spine Project which is now completed, on time and under budget. Managing this, our biggest construction project for a considerable time, has required close attention and the Fellowship, students and staff have shown great resilience in the face of considerable disruption.

As a reminder, the project involved:

- The necessary replacement of the ground floor kitchens after over 35 years of use.
- The restoration of the medieval hall (with its original vaulted ceiling and corbels) and the creation of an upper level refectory.
- Consequent improved access from the refectory to the Parker suite of rooms which will be refurbished.
- Improving the interrelation of the Oriel Window to Old Court and the kitchens.
- The restoration of Wilkins’ stairhall (the most heavily used area of College) in line with the architect’s original intentions.
- The restoration of the dining hall ceiling (completed over summer 2018 and transformational).
- The creation of tutorial, graduate and student social spaces on the ground floor of D staircase which have been previously under used. This part of the project was completed satisfactorily over the summer of 2017. The College’s own maintenance team did much of the work.

The catering team operated out of temporary kitchens for a year and coped magnificently. The project team cohered well to deal with the inevitable challenges that arise when undertaking such fundamental structural work on a medieval building. We have tracked well to time and budget. There have been certain project costs that cannot be capitalized (e.g. temporary kitchens) as well as temporary losses in conference income. However the overall benefit to the College from restoring and revitalizing our kitchens and central range should be enormous and sustained over many years. I hope very much that Members will visit the College and enjoy these splendid new facilities.

The Beldam building and D staircase were also refurbished over summer 2018 and we are completing some works to the Master’s Lodge as is customary upon a magisterial transition.

We will be continuing the programme of refurbishment and improvement of student accommodation in 2019/20, Y and F staircases are earmarked to be next. We will also be looking to modernize Botolph hostel in the near future and have taken the opportunity of a low rental commercial lease expiry to create two new student rooms there.
The College’s efforts in respect of sustainable energy consumption were recognised by a second successive Platinum award in the 2017/18 Green Impact awards, organised by the Environment and Energy department of the University. We are the only College to receive this level of award in both years of its existence. Further, the Conservation Studio, based in the elephant pen, received a Bronze Lab Award. The College is committed to reducing its carbon emissions, water consumption and waste footprint. The move to electric induction cooking in the new kitchens both in Old House and at Leckhampton is further evidence of this commitment. Over the coming year we will develop a template for measuring our emissions and setting reduction targets for the future.

Financial outlook and plans for the future

Last year I commented on important external uncertainties facing the College, namely Brexit outcomes, the public debate over the costs and funding of higher education and the issues for USS of balancing good pension provision with long term financial sustainability. One year on, the planning to absorb a variety of outcomes from these challenges continues; we can sense progress only in some of these areas, but derive comfort from the resilience the College demonstrates. The economic cycle continues to advance and the hunt for assets in which we can invest above inflationary returns becomes ever harder.

In respect of those matters within our control, things are rosier. The progress to completion of the Spine Project has been pleasing. Most importantly this has been a very strong year of academic achievement, whether viewed through the prism of exam results, promotions within the University or national and international accolades to Fellows of the College. As we embark on an exciting new phase under the Mastership of Professor Christopher Kelly this gives us a strong launch pad from which to face the future with confidence.
Telephone Campaign

Alumni and friends reached 485
Number of callers 12
Campaign duration 12 days

Percentage who made a gift 58%
Amount raised £146,000
Average gift £301
Pledged over the next three years

My Experience as a Telephone Campaign

David Horvath-Franco
(m2016, Law)

My second year working on the telephone campaign proved just as enjoyable and rewarding as the first. Hot on the heels of my first campaign, I eagerly signed up for my second, excited at the prospect of being able to carry out the two very important tasks of reaching out to alumni and fundraising for very important College funds, all while being able to talk with Corpuscles of all ages and extremely varied life experiences. Nothing was off the table when it came to what alumni wanted to talk about- and I absolutely loved it.

Working on the telephone campaign these past two years has been an absolute pleasure, and I cannot begin to thank College for providing me with this unique opportunity to give back in such a fulfilling way.

Sam Brown
(m2016, English)

It was a true pleasure to be involved in the 2018 Telephone Campaign.

I greatly appreciated this opportunity to develop valuable communication skills and engage with the vast life experiences of Corpus alumni. There are not many working environments in which you can listen to a heart surgeon recount a tricky bypass and, a minute later, debate foreign policy with a top civil servant. Speaking to alumni from such varied walks of life gave me a fruitful insight into the ‘real’ world beyond graduation and the exciting opportunities it presents. Not only were the alumni incredibly generous with their donations, but they also imparted great words of wisdom to all of us.
THANKS TO A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC FUNDS GENTLY SET UP BY DONORS, CORPUS IS ABLE TO OFFER TRAVEL AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES TO ITS STUDENTS DURING THE LONG VACATION. WITH THE SUPPORT OF THEIR DIRECTORS OF STUDIES, STUDENTS CAN SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR HELP WITH THE COST OF TRAVEL OR STUDY CONSIDERED TO BE OF ACADEMIC VALUE. IN 2017/18, 64 STUDENTS WERE AWARDED TRAVEL GRANTS. HERE IS A SELECTION OF REPORTS FROM SOME OF THOSE WHO RECEIVED SUPPORT IN THE SUMMER.
Benjamin Thoma (m2015, Natural Sciences)

THIS SUMMER I SPENT A TOTAL OF 13 WEEKS IN AMERICA – 10 OF WHICH WERE SPENT CONDUCTING RESEARCH AT CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (CALTECH) AND THE FINAL 3 SPENT TRAVELLING AROUND AMERICA, STOPPING AT STANFORD, MIT AND HARVARD ALONG THE WAY.

My research at Caltech was in the area of medicinal chemistry in Professor Brian Stoltz’s group, synthesising a compound library of potential drugs to combat Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD). NAFLD is a disease characterised by the build-up of excess fat in liver cells and ranges from simple fatty liver to the more dangerous inflammation of the liver, which can subsequently lead to scarring (Non-alcoholic Steatohepatitis, NASH) and subsequently cause liver cancer. Amazingly, despite being one of the leading causes of chronic liver disease worldwide, there are currently no FDA approved drugs that target the early causative events present in NASH. It was both incredibly exciting and challenging to be working on the frontier of drug-discovery in a world-class research group.

In the Stoltz group, I learnt the practical skills of advanced organic synthesis at the bench guided by Dr Donna Yu and also learnt about molecular modelling and in-silico docking studies, as I was using these
tools as a guide to synthesise the compound library. Caltech’s chemistry department had state-of-the-art NMR and Mass Spectrometry facilities, along with high-throughput screening equipment readily at hand.

My work at Caltech culminated in a provisional patent for my class of molecules, and it is hoped that in the coming year another group will be found to collaborate with, so that cell-based studies can be performed. Pending these cell-based studies, there is a potential publication in the works in a medicinal chemistry journal.

During the weekends when I was not in the lab, I explored Los Angeles and the surrounding area with other international students who were undertaking a research project at Caltech. A particularly memorable experience was driving out into Joshua Tree National Park, a dark-sky preserve, to camp and see the Perseid meteor shower above us.

Following my 10-week research project at Caltech, I drove from Los Angeles up Pacific Coast Highway to San Francisco and Palo Alto. Here, I was able to visit Stanford’s campus and arranged to meet up with Professor Keith Devlin, a professor of Mathematics at Stanford. We discussed admissions at Stanford and how postgraduate study differed in the UK compared to the US. I then caught a flight to Boston and visited Harvard and MIT’s campus.

I am extremely grateful for the financial support provided by Corpus that allowed me to both experience research at Caltech and explore graduate opportunities at top-tier American universities. The whole experience has enormously benefitted my studies in Chemistry at Cambridge and allowed me to become more familiar with how postgraduate research is undertaken.
Florence Brown (m2016, Natural Sciences)

HAVING SPENT 6 HOURS A WEEK LOOKING AT IGNEOUS ROCK FRAGMENTS DOWN A MICROSCOPE FOR MY SECOND YEAR EARTH SCIENCES MODULE, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EXCITING TO VISIT AN ACTUAL VOLCANO AND SEE HOW THESE SAMPLES EXISTED IN SITU. I TRAVELLED TO THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS IN SICILY; AN ARCHIPELAGO OF 7 ISLANDS, WHICH WERE ALL FORMED BY VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS.

My first stop was the still-active volcano on the island Vulcano. The island was formed from 5 distinct eruptions creating 5 areas of different magma composition. I would spend two weeks taking samples and observations to build a picture of the eruption history. The most geologically interesting area was called Lentia. It was a more recent eruption and the magma had had to push through a thick layer from previous eruptions, melting and assimilating this crustal material in the process. This meant the magma was slowed and the composition was changed. When it had finally erupted it was gas-rich and thick, solidifying to form obsidian layers with exsolved gas bubbles. The layers were formed by successive eruptions and trapped within them were blocks and bombs – large rock fragments ejected from the volcano.

The site of current activity was a caldera, formed by eruption then collapse of the volcanic cone. Around the crater perimeter, fumaroles of up to 700 degrees released water vapour, sulfur and acid gases. Contact with the fumarole steam would blacken metal, damage the lungs and corrode the skin due to the high concentrations of the gases. By the time I had climbed to the top, I was already surrounded by jets of steam, the smell of sulfur was unbearable and left a burning sensation in the back of my throat. It was spectacular. Yellow streaks of crystallised sulfur and large blocks of rock, spat out during eruption, adorned a barren mountain of volcanic rubble.

After my time on Vulcano, I spent a week travelling around the other islands in a kayak. This was stunningly beautiful and very tiring. We travelled miles and miles each day, following the coastlines of the islands Vulcano, Lipari and Salina to see parts of the islands only accessible by boat close up. We entered caves heated to sauna temperatures by geothermal activity, passed through arches created through erosion, and paddled under the shadow of great sea stacks. Among these stacks was Strombolicchio, the remnants of a magma conduit. This means that the original material that was erupted has all eroded away leaving just the central pipe that had supplied the magma for the eruptions. This part is less susceptible to erosion because it was never exposed to the external environment; it cooled slowly, forming large, close-packed crystals. During the night, our group of kayakers would set up tents on the beaches we landed on.
and look up at the stars. There are so few inhabitants that light pollution is low and the entire milky way can be seen.

Our final stop was Stromboli, another active volcano. We began the ascent of the crater at 5pm and by 9pm the sun had set, and we were at the top. We turned on headtorches and gathered around the edge of the volcano mouth. At first, we saw only a red glow with a few sparks. Then it came alive. A tremendous hiss/roar escaped from the mouth of the volcano, so loud and unexpected it left our faces paralysed, mouths agape, for the couple of minutes it went on for. And then a jet of lava was released into the air and collapsed. We stayed for an hour and became familiar with the four distinct eruption types. There was the noisy jet, a large dome of sparks, a small one that left an array of red molten fragments on the ground and the continually bubbling glow.

For my final week, I returned to Salina, since it had been so beautiful to kayak around. This island was a famous nature reserve due to the high mineral content produced by the volcanic soil. The sea held an extraordinary ecosystem of fish and seaweed and the large-scale geology was worth observing. Within the horizontal layers of lava flows, dykes (magma intrusions of a different composition) had pushed their way through vertically creating fascinating patterns with large minerals easily identifiable without a microscope.

I'd stayed for a month but I was still sad to leave. I can't exaggerate how incredible the experience was. I have always had plans to go into environmental and climate chemistry as a career, but now I know I want to incorporate travel into this. It is utterly incredible to visit such beautiful places and be able to understand how and why they formed. I loved feeling like I belonged on the islands because I knew their geology so well. I loved explaining to the locals why some parts were 'so red' and how pumice formed. I loved feeling like a researcher as I learnt through my own observations and used the knowledge I've gained over the last two years at Cambridge.
RECEIVING A TRAVEL GRANT FROM CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE HELPED FUND MY TWO-WEEK TRIP AROUND JAPAN VISITING TOKYO, KYOTO, OSAKA AND HIROSHIMA. AS A STUDENT OF ECONOMICS, VISITING THE WORLD’S MOST POPULOUS METROPOLITAN AREA AND THE WORLD’S LARGEST URBAN AGGLOMERATION ECONOMY WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING.
I started my two-week adventure in Tokyo where I visited the ‘Tsukiji Fish Market’. Here I got to see the biggest wholesale fish and seafood market in the world in action. The market opens at a staggering 3:00am and the famous tuna auction begins at around 5:20am which regularly sees fish being sold for over $300,000 (the record was a Bluefin tuna sold for $1.7 million). The sheer volume of fish was what shocked me and talking to some of the workers at the fish market I was told that there are around 430 different types of fish sold at the market with over 60,000 employed workers.

Whilst in Tokyo I also got to experience first-hand the infrastructure system which allowed Japan to become one of the most developed nations in the world. This was of particular interest to me as I had chosen to take the International Trade & Development paper in my second year. The trains in Japan are second to none with delays being unheard of and food being provided on trolleys in something which reminded me of Harry Potter. In the days leading up to my trip to Japan there were talks about earthquake tremors and the possibility of further after-shocks. Having lived in the UK for my whole life this was a foreign concept to me and one which concerned me. This worry was somewhat relieved however upon arriving in Japan and seeing every modern building and skyscraper was earthquake proof and built to withstand tremors. My visit to Tokyo reiterated to me just how important the infrastructure in a country is to development – not just in terms of the economic effects but also social impacts such as responses to a natural disaster.

Visiting the Atomic Bomb Museum in Hiroshima was one of the most overwhelming parts of my trip to Japan. Learning about the sheer scale of death and destruction which occurred on August 6th 1945 caught me by surprise. Reading in a history textbook about what happened simply could not prepare me for the emotional journey which the museum takes you through. Not only did the atrocities shock me but the redevelopment and recovery process which occurred in Hiroshima was astonishing. Walking around Hiroshima you would have never thought that just over 70 years ago it had been almost completely wiped out by an atomic bomb.

On my trip to Japan I also got to immerse myself in the culture through experiencing a traditional tea ceremony in Kyoto and visiting an Onsen (traditional public hot spring bath). As amazing as the places I got to visit on my trip were, it was undoubtedly the people I met that made this trip so unforgettable. Thanks to the generous travel grant system of Corpus, I was able to take this once in a lifetime opportunity.
Hiu-Kwan Law (m2016, Engineering)

THIS SUMMER, I WAS VERY FORTUNATE TO RECEIVE A TRAVEL GRANT FROM CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, WHICH FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED ME DURING MY TIME AS AN INTERN WORKING IN LONDON.

I spent two months working as a product R&D engineer at a startup company called KwickScreen. It is a small-medium sized enterprise which designs and manufactures portable and retractable screens mainly for medical uses. As a Manufacturing Engineering student, I have always wanted to work in a startup environment and gain experience in product design and development, so the opportunity to work with this company is a dream come true for me.

During my time at KwickScreen, I worked closely with three other engineers in the R&D Team, who focused on the technical aspects of the products, such as refining current designs and developing new product ideas. The most memorable part of my internship was helping the team in launching two new products; a non-ferrous screen for the MRI scanning room and a 6-feet tall rigid screen for a chain of convenience stores in the US. I was fully involved in the developmental stages, from the initial ideas, design, and prototyping right through to production. Through this process I gained useful hands-on skills, as well as an all-around understanding of how an innovative product is developed and produced.

Besides working with the R&D team, I also assisted the sales and operations team in analysing clients’ order records, which helped me to develop my data analysis skills and an appreciation of how a startup business operates.

In addition to my internship, I enjoyed my time greatly outside of work. I took part in volunteering at FoodCycle. This is a charity which uses surplus food to cook for people at risk of food poverty and social isolation. Every weekend, the volunteers gathered in a charitable kitchen, where we used surplus food collected from local supermarkets to cook three course meals for people in need. It was a fun time working with FoodCycle. I got to make new friends with the volunteers, low income families and elderly. I am truly grateful to Corpus and all donors for this incredible opportunity.
At Shree Bhotenamlang Secondary School, there are 624 children aged 3-17. Following the devastating earthquakes of 2015, the school suffered major damage which destroyed most of its infrastructure. As a result, many of the children are being taught in temporary classrooms consisting of a basic tin roof and walls, the floor often flooding during periods of heavy rain. HELP have recently funded the construction of a new secure building, containing a staff room, library and nursery. They are currently overseeing the construction of a two-storey building which will be invaluable in creating a new safe learning space for the children. It will be exciting to track the school’s progress in the years to come.

I taught five classes each day, three of which were English and two Maths. The teaching style engrained in Nepali schools consists simply of rote learning from textbooks without full understanding of the material. The textbooks were extremely poor, often containing spelling and grammatical errors and the material was far too complex for the children’s low standard of English. We subsequently decided not to teach from the textbooks but to create our own lesson plans with fun topics. We aimed to make our teaching as interactive as possible, often getting children to write on the whiteboard, running games at the end of every lesson (board races are a favourite!) and teaching songs with actions. When we began introducing games into our lessons and asking for volunteers, the children were initially shy to raise their hand and join in. Through rewarding the children with stickers, clapping and guiding them when they made a mistake, their confidence rapidly grew and they were enthusiastic to get involved at every new opportunity.

As most classes were extremely overcrowded, we tried to utilise the outdoor space as much as possible during our lessons. One of our favourite topics was teaching the children how to tell the time, since the children loved playing the classic ‘What’s the time, Mr Wolf?’ and being chased around the playground! We brought some resources from home which helped to make the lessons
fun, such as throwing bean bags to the children when they answered questions and getting them to wear animal masks to help learn the names of animals. Most importantly, local teachers were able to observe our lessons and therefore adopt our interactive teaching style in order to make their lessons engaging.

The teaching placement was certainly not without its challenges, the most difficult aspect being the language barrier. We discovered that many of the children only spoke their local language, Tamang, rather than Nepali, making it difficult even for the local teachers to communicate. As a result, we learnt to speak slowly and clearly, often using actions and pictures to help the children to understand words. We learnt that teaching younger children required us to be extremely flexible and able to adapt lessons, since it was difficult to predict exactly how easily the children would understand each topic. Often classes would contain children of a range of ages and with varying standards of English, meaning that each lesson would have to strike a balance between challenging the more advanced students and ensuring the other students could learn at their own pace. Overall, the children were enthusiastic to learn and it was incredible to track their progress over the course of the placement.

Outside of teaching, we hosted a variety of extra-curricular activities for the children. We ran a range of outside games using the limited equipment that the school had, such as relay races, bean bag games, skipping, and- their absolute favourite- ‘Duck, Duck, Goose’. We loved teaching dance classes (the Macarena was a big hit) and even learnt some Nepali dancing ourselves. For older children, we ran an arts and crafts club, where the more confident children would use this opportunity to converse with us and practise their English. When we had a free period, we would love to spend time singing and dancing with the children in the nursery. We also ran after-school classes for the teachers to improve their English, including conversation skills and hosting debates between the teachers. Although the teachers were initially shy to speak English, their confidence gradually grew and they became increasingly eager to learn and participate.

Although the school has a library, it contained no English books and had no space where the children could read independently. One of our proudest achievements was setting up a paired reading scheme using books we had brought from home, in which older children would read with younger children to improve their English reading and speaking skills. As a member of the CU HELP committee, one of my goals next year is to organise a book collection to send to the school in order for this scheme to develop. It was incredibly rewarding to watch the children build enthusiasm for reading and to work with other children to improve their English.

The teaching placement has greatly facilitated my personal development and increased my confidence by being immersed in an entirely new culture. I am extremely thankful to Jimmy Lama and everyone else at HELP for organising the scheme and supporting me during my placement. Their continued effort in revitalising education in rural Nepal will undoubtedly enhance the lives of countless children. I am also immensely grateful for the generous financial support granted by the donors of Corpus Christi College which made this opportunity possible. It provided me with the means to make a small difference to the lives of many children and equipped me with invaluable skills and unforgettable memories that have shaped me as a person.
My academic interest in Iceland derives from my interest in Old Norse Literature, specifically the Íslendingasögur (Icelandic Sagas). These are vast works, almost epic in scale, describing the lives of the first settlers in Iceland. First composed via the oral tradition, they were written down in the thirteenth century. My visit to Iceland built on the work I did in Michaelmas 2017 in the Old Norse Paper of the ASNaC Faculty.

My main motivation for going to Iceland for academic purposes was to enhance my understanding of the language. Old Norse and modern Icelandic are very similar, so I felt it would be helpful to absorb some of the modern day dialect in order to better appreciate the original. It was immersive to spend time living on an Icelandic farm hearing the language, considering the oral tradition of the sagas.

Another engaging feature of the sagas that I wished to experience was the appreciation of Icelandic nature. The countryside of Iceland plays a key role across the literature, and indeed the wider culture of the country. Moreover, the area of Iceland I was based in is very close to Breiðafjörður, which is the area in which the saga that interests me most—the Laxdæla saga— took place in. The sagas place immense value on the localised aspect of their narrative, so being able to explore the surroundings described in the text really enhanced my understanding of it. Moreover, Laxdæla saga is thought to be based on historical fact, meaning I was able to visit some exact sites described. One of these was Guðrúnarlaug (Guðrun’s Pool), where the heroine of the saga supposedly bathed whilst receiving news from her kinsman Gest, in which he interpreted her dreams as a prophecy for the future. I also was able to visit the monument at Helgafell where Guðrun is supposedly buried. Along with this being useful to my studies of Old Norse literature, this...
was enlightening for my work in weeks one and two of Michaelmas 2018, in which I explored the Victorian author William Morris’ depiction of nature in conjunction with politics in his retelling of Laxdaela saga (the 1869 poem ‘The Lovers of Gudrun’).

Being based near Borgarnes, I was also able to make numerous visits to the Settlement Centre located there. At the time of my visit, there were two exhibitions taking place: one was on the settlement of Iceland by Norwegians in the ninth century, and the other on the famous Viking skald (poet) Egill Skallagrímsson, who is also the protagonist of the one of most famous Íslendingasögur, Egill’s saga.

However, aside from academic concerns, my trip to Iceland was immensely enjoyable and allowed me to experience things I had never experienced before. Working on a farm is a way of life I had not previously experienced, being born and bred in the city, but I found it to be incredibly fulfilling. My main responsibilities were with the dairy cows; I took part in the daily milking and feeding of them, along with cleaning the barn. I also worked with herding sheep and with the pigs and horses, along with performing general duties around the farm such as collecting waste plastic from the surrounding rivers. Along with helping on the farm, I also babysat the children of my hosts, aged six and three. This was a lot of fun, as well as being rewarding. The elder child was able to speak some English, so it was helpful for us both to try and communicate in both English and Icelandic and improve our respective language skills. I also learnt some Finnish, as I was staying with another volunteer on the farm from Finland, named Riikka.

One of my favourite experiences from the trip was going on a road trip around the south coast of Iceland with Riikka. We travelled the ‘ring road’ of Iceland, a popular tourist route taking in many significant cultural and natural sights. We stayed in Reykjavík for part of this, and visited the National Museum of Iceland and the National Gallery of Iceland. I had no prior knowledge of Icelandic artwork, so I very much enjoyed widening my knowledge on this subject. We also visited Seljavallalaug, which is the oldest outdoor swimming pool in Iceland and was first used for swimming lessons for local children in 1927. The highlight of the road trip for me was visiting Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon, on the fringe of Vatnajökull, which is the largest ice cap in Iceland. This was a truly magical place, a world away from anywhere I had ever experienced before.

All in all, I would go so far as to say that my trip to Iceland was a life changing experience. I learnt an immense amount about Iceland and its culture, but also about myself. I made friends for life, and learnt new skills, as well as becoming very fit from the farm work! Iceland and the farm became another home for me, and I will certainly return in the future. I would like to thank the College for making this incredible experience possible.
My first stop was to the famous Haggia Sophia (Ayasofya), a former Eastern Roman church, built in the 6th century under the orders of Justinian. It’s quite the realisation when it hits you that you are putting your life in the hands of a structure nearly 1,500 years old. After the successful Ottoman invasion of Constantinople in 1453, this pivotal edifice was converted to the first mosque in the city. The clash of Christian and Islamic culture within this one building is breath-taking, with small elements still surviving. Probably the starkest feature of this conversion is the slanted mihrab located on top of where the old altar would have been.

Following this I visited one of the other major mosques, Suleymaniye. Built by the prodigious Mimar Sinan in the 1560s, it commemorated the Sultan Suleiman, known commonly by his epithet as ‘The Magnificent’. It sits on one of the four main hills in the Old Fatih region of the city. This structure was truly breath-taking to walk in to. Having been used to English cathedrals, I had never experienced a religious building with such open space. This mosque was key to my thesis, as it proved similarities in design between old East Roman churches and Ottoman mosques. Equally, this was a major mosque complex; it housed shops, baths, a hospital and a school for all.
members of the city, not just devout Muslims.

I continued to pop into other mosques of interest to my essay, including the Sehzade, Fatih, Beyazit, Mihrimah Sultan and Yavuz Selim. All of these were built specifically as mosques and were all dedicated to Sultans or family relations of the monarchs.

However, what interested me most were former churches that were converted into mosques. Most of these were not large and regular parish churches of Constantinople before the Ottoman conquest. My first taste was when I was simply walking along the old Roman viaduct and spotted a modest looking mosque with a single minaret. The Kalenderhane mosque was actually a 9th century orthodox church with a stunning interior. I continued this trend when I stopped by the Gul mosque in the northern part of the peninsula. This was stunning due to its multiple niches and large balcony. On the final day I visited Little Hagia Sophia, a model church Justinian commissioned before building the larger cathedral. What was of great interest here were the Greek inscriptions around the divide between the lower floor and the balcony.

Most impressive was a former church, then mosque and now museum named the Chora Church. Due to Islamic law, no idols can be displayed in a mosque. Therefore, the Ottomans plastered over the intricate mosaics of the church when they converted it. However, when the mosque was adapted to a museum, a group of American experts uncovered and restored the old East Roman artwork.

I tried to complete some of the main touristic activities too. I briefly walked through the Grand Bazaar but was not really in the business of getting myself a new carpet. I spent one afternoon taking the ferry to the Princes’ Islands and back. The sunset and view over Istanbul on the way back made the hour and a half journey worth it. Most disappointing was my visit to the Sultanahmed (Blue) Mosque. After queuing for half an hour I was presented with a large screen and scaffolding over the main dome and most of the other niches. Unfortunately, there were no signs warning tourists of this before they entered.

Nonetheless, I had a thoroughly enjoyable trip. The weather was stunning for the whole week and the food was perfect at filling you up in good time. Being immersed in a city of Islamic culture made me aware of the community and welfare of that religion. A most spectacular moment was standing outside Suleymaniy mosque listening to the Adhan (call to prayer) ring out over the city as all the minarets were erupting in song. I would love to explore more of the region and spend more time looking at the remnants of the Roman Empire which I didn’t manage to do on this trip.
Reflections on my internship at the Court of Justice of the European Union
by Giuseppe Jafari (m2015, Law)

“Show me your friends and I’ll show you your future” (Dan Pena, 50 billion-dollar man)

The best translation, in legal language, of Pena’s summary of the principle of environmental exposure is: “show me which lawyers you learn from and spend time with and I’ll show you your legal future.” Personal development literature argues, correctly from many points of view, that environment is destiny, that we are the average of the people we frequent the most. During the month of September 2018, I completed a two-week internship in Luxembourg at the Chambers of Judge Christopher Vajda (Corpus Law alumnus, m 1974), current British representative on the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). This opportunity for work experience was made possible by the College’s Development Office and the generous travel bursary Corpus kindly awarded me. My 14-day stint at the Court proved to be one of the strongest examples of my life of the potency of the law of environmental exposure. In no uncertain terms, it was one of the most formative human activities I have ever had the good fortune of engaging in. Why?

Before I answer that question: a very brief summary on what the CJEU is and what it does. The CJEU acts as the judicial arm of the European Union, ensuring that both the political institutions of the Union and the Member States honour and respect the law of the European Union. One might say that the CJEU is the enforcer and guarantor of a European Union Rule of Law. All 28 Member States of the Union appoint one lawyer to act as judge on the Court of Justice. Ergo, there are 28 judges on the Court of Justice. The Court has its home in Luxembourg City, which I would describe as a micro-London, given the number of languages, cultures and peoples therein represented. The building itself, which hosts the CJEU, is a melting pot of different persons, legal educations, countries and juridical ways of thought and the people I met there, almost without exception, were inspiring, motivated, gifted and passionate like rarely anything I had witnessed before.

On day one, the first thing that happened was that I was introduced to everyone in Judge Vajda’s Chambers or cabinet. Every judge has a cabinet and the teams which are generated by them are some of the most formidable juristic formations I have come across. The judges need a team of very well-versed EU lawyers and experts in Court administration and mechanics to assist them in deciding cases efficiently, thoroughly and (hopefully) correctly! Judge Vajda has a real stellar line-up, with at least five nationalities represented. Indeed, it is interesting to note how it is by no means unusual for a judge to be surrounded by lawyers and administrators who are not from his native country. In Judge Vajda’s current Chambers only one out of seven trained as an English lawyer.

All the judicial assistants I met had extremely diverse backgrounds and thought-provoking personalities and interests. To give one example, drawn from the curriculum of one of the members of the Italian judge’s Chambers: this particular gentleman had done his undergraduate in Law in Italy, his masters in Belgium, reached the semi-final of the Jessup International
the Court. It is precisely for this reason that the internship left an indelible mark on me. By exposing me, day in day out, to the achievements, skills and rigour of so many talented individuals, it redefined my entire conception of what was possible and the extent of human potential.

We’ve seen, then, that the Court has various personnel, which includes the judges and their judicial assistants. It should be noted, at this point, that the Court of Justice of the European Union is in fact composed of two separate jurisdictions, the first being the Court of Justice (where Judge Vajda is the British representative) and the second is the General Court (which undertakes slightly different, but equally compelling work).

Time for another story: in the first week of my internship, I was sitting in the Court’s coffee shop, for breakfast, alongside the martial-arts-guru-cum-judicial-assistant for the Italian judge at the Court of Justice. We were approached by a smiling and excited lady who proclaimed “siete italiani” (you’re Italian)! This fine young individual turned out to be the one currently serving Italian magistrate who had been chosen from all of Italy to spend six months at the Court assisting one of the judges. We struck up a conversation and arranged a lunch the same day, at the Court’s excellent cafeteria. At this rendez-vous, I met more magistrates from across the Member States, again present at the Court to complete their internships, before returning to judging in their home countries. I had the absolute pleasure and good luck to meet the German, Estonian, Romanian, French and Spanish magistrates and my main contact within this international squad of brilliant legal minds – the Italian magistrate (Ersilia) – added me to the WhatsApp group “Magistrats à la Cour de L’Union Européenne” of which I remain an extremely proud member!!!

In the afternoon, Ersilia and I decided to pop over to the Chambers of the Italian judge at the General Court, where our Spanish magistrate (Mariano) was working. We were received very graciously indeed by our compatriot Ezio Perillo, the General Court’s Italian judge (the “other place” if you work at the Court of Justice). For well over two hours, Ersilia, Mariano and I were privileged to be entertained in conversation by Judge Perillo, whom I could not resist criticising for some of his views on British constitutional law. In essence, I treated our meeting as a Cambridge supervision, questioning and probing the arguments propounded by the Judge, one of the many skills one learns as a Corpus lawyer.

On the weekend, I had dinner with the infamous team “Magistrats à la Cour de l’Union Européenne”, in a delicious Luxembourg pizzeria. What I have said already should give a flavour (if you’ll pardon the pun), of the sort of environment one works in within the Court. The judges of the Court of the Justice (the “fantastic 28”) all inhabit either the sixth or seventh floor of the labyrinthine corridors of the “anneau” (Ring), one of the Court building’s constituent towers. The office I was given for the internship was on the 6th floor, right next to the Chambers of the Court’s Vice-President (who happened to be the Italian Judge), so I would often see this pinnacle of legal mastery stroll past my office late at night, likely contemplating his latest big case.

If all that has been said so far is not enough to convince one of just how stimulating, formative and inspiring the institution of the Court of Justice of the European Union is, then allow me to discuss the small matter of Google Spain Part II. In 2014, the CJEU held that the Union’s data protection rules contained a “right to be forgotten”. In concrete terms, this means that, under certain circumstances, an individual can ask Google, to de-list results generated by the insertion of the individual’s name on the search engine. For instance, someone may have been subject to trial for fraud in 2003 and been acquitted. He could ask Google to remove all links to online newspaper articles discussing the trial which might be generated by typing the individual’s name on Google. On the second day of my internship in Luxembourg, the second episode of the Google Spain saga began.

In essence, the Court has been asked to elucidate further the meaning of the “right to be forgotten”, with potentially enormous consequences on freedom of speech, the right to information and international relations. In the current litigation pending before the Court, Google is arguing that a fine imposed on Google France by a French administrative authority, is unlawful as contrary to the proper interpretation of the EU data protection provisions. The French agency has sanctioned Google France for failing to apply at a global level a de-listing order made by the French authorities. Let me be perfectly clear as to what this means. A global de-listing order means that the results which an individual, relying on their “right to be forgotten”, wants hidden from searches made of their name on Google, is to extend to all Google domains (Google UK, Google France, Google US, Google
China etc etc) and wheresoever one happens to be on the planet.

Example: imagine that in 2000, The Times wrote an article detailing the sexual peccadillos of a famous politician. This article is accessible by searching the politician’s name on Google, where a link taking one to the article is thereby generated. In 2018, the politician no longer wants this link to be generated by searching his name on Google. His “right to be forgotten” could base such a claim. But what is the extent of this right? Does it mean that Google is required to de-list the search result on all of its domains all across the world, meaning that it would be impossible, on any Google domain and anywhere on the planet to access The Times’ article by typing the politician’s name onto Google? Answer: for the CJEU to decide and in relation to which it heard oral arguments when I was at the Court.

On the Tuesday morning, just minutes before the oral hearing began, Judge Vajda informed me that he wanted me to write him an opinion on how I would decide the case. These past few months, I have been grappling with the issues raised by the litigation and have reached the following conclusion: the “right to be forgotten” should apply on all EU Google domains and within the entire territory of the Union but not outside. In other words, The Times Article should not be accessible on all EU-based Google domains and in addition someone within the territory of the Union should not be able to access The Times article by insertion of the politician’s name on a non-EU Google domain e.g. Google US (this is known as geo-localisation). I should like to underscore just how momentously consequential the Court’s decision could be.

Imagine, for argument’s sake, that the CJEU holds that the “right to be forgotten” is of global reach. That could be a very dangerous precedent to set indeed. China, for instance, might pass a law requiring Google China to de-list, globally, all search results which lead to newspaper articles critical of the Chinese government. This means that China wants to render it impossible, anywhere across the world, to access online newspaper articles critical of the Chinese government. Imagine Google China refuses to comply. China might then fine Google China, which it can do compatibly with public international law, $100 billion, unless it de-lists on all Google domains and renders access to the articles anywhere in the world unfeasible. At Google headquarters, Google may decide that, instead of paying the fine, or simply removing its presence from China, it should do what the Chinese government says. If the CJEU decides to adopt the maximalist “right to be forgotten” approach, it could then be mobilised by regimes keen to reduce dissent and opposition.

If I may say so, the oral hearing, which lasted an entire day, was the greatest legal spectacle I have ever witnessed. Almost half the Court of Justice heard the case, lawyers from almost every continent were present, the arguments could be listened to in more languages than one could imagine (given the efforts of the Court’s ingenious translators), all in the context of one of the genuinely most interesting cases any intern could have hoped for. Indeed, Judge Vajda confessed that this was the most intellectually engaging issue he has dealt with since his arrival at the Court in 2014.

Whatever one’s views on Brexit, the European Union and all that, it seems to me undeniably true that the Court of Justice of the European Union is a magnificently rich and exciting legal environment. The range of juridical cultures, backgrounds and languages alone is simply mind-blowing.

The camaraderie amongst the interns was also notable. Each judge within the institution tends to have an intern who works at the Court for 3-6 months. I was visiting for two weeks, but in that time, I was introduced to the internship crowd, made up of mostly law students who had done or were doing their Masters. The interns would almost daily organise after-work events in bars and pubs and on the weekends, things would go on well into the night. Again, it widened one’s horizons to meet all these law students from across Europe, to hear about their legal educations and their plans for the future.

The number of people I met at the Court and who offered such enduring inspiration and motivation is too large to list here, so I limit myself to extending my warmest thanks and gratitude to Judge Vajda and to Liz Winter in the Development Office for having made this entire experience possible and the opportunities which it has created.
Don Hanson Bursary

THE DON HANSON BURSARY WAS CREATED IN 2017 WITH A GENEROUS PLEDGE OF £15,000 A YEAR FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS FROM THE DON HANSON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION. THE FOUNDATION WAS ESTABLISHED BY DON HANSON IN 2007 TO SUPPORT CAUSES CLOSE TO HIS HEART AND AROUND GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS THAT HAD BEEN A PART OF HIS LIFE.

The money is to be spent each year on bursaries for students from Don’s home county Yorkshire (he was born in Bradford in 1935) and the North East of England. The Fund has also received support from the Deloitte Foundation. The idea of setting up the bursary at Corpus came from Dr Richard Lee (m1969), who worked with Don Hanson for 15 years.

“The Don Hanson bursaries came about because I wanted to give something back to the College for which I have the greatest affection. I knew that my own resources could not contribute much - so I needed to find another approach to help the College and its scholars.

One such opportunity that occurred to me concerned a work colleague and friend, Don Hanson, who left in his will in 2014 a charitable foundation aimed at supporting young people as students and young entrepreneurs. As I mused upon how to move forward one specific conversation with a talented young person around a lunch table in our home in the north east acted as a catalyst to create the new bursary. His disquieting observation was that “people like us don’t go to Cambridge.” He meant low income north east families. And it is true that the take-up of places in Cambridge from this background is lamentably low. So here was a worthwhile target to focus support.

By coincidence, Don Hanson was from a lower income background in the north and did not benefit from a university education. And so I guessed that his Trustees would reflect upon some similarities between Don’s own background and the scholars we were now trying to help. Several characteristics of Don Hanson as a person also gel with the aims of the new Corpus bursaries. He was a brilliant coach of young people in the professional services firm, now called Deloitte, which he led. He was also an academic with a prodigious work ethic – researching the complexities of insurance and pensions.

After I approached the Trustees of Don’s foundation they offered an initial advance of £15,000 a year for five years. These funds are being used to support a number of scholars. And now I am wondering how we can raise further funds as well as promoting the bursaries in sixth forms in our north east schools.”

Donor Report 2017-2018 • 25
Don Hanson (January 1935 – October 2014) was an eminent chartered accountant. Most of his career was with the global accounting firm Arthur Andersen (which at that time also included Andersen Consulting, now Accenture and in 2001 merged with Deloitte). Don first joined Andersen’s Manchester office and became managing partner there. Then he became managing partner for the UK practice and then for the EMEA region, Moscow and India. Later he took a global role in Andersen Worldwide as Deputy Chief Executive based in New York and Chicago.

Other roles taken by Don included a council member of the CBI and of Lloyds of London and Chair of the Manchester University Staff Superannuation Fund (receiving an Honorary Companionship of the University and the University’s Medal of Honor).

Following his formal retirement from Andersen, Don Hanson set up Aida Capital (now a subsidiary of Standard Life) and was actively involved in providing venture capital to businesses in many parts of the developed and less developed world.

Don was an insightful and much admired coach to many young professionals and a generous benefactor to many charities. He set up his charitable foundation to help young entrepreneurs start their businesses and to help young people with their education (hence the Corpus bursaries).
Jack Hodkinson (2015, Mathematics) West Yorkshire

I am very grateful to have received money to help pay for accommodation over the Easter break last year. At the time, I was struggling to juggle many responsibilities within College, including positions on the May Ball Committee, the JCR, and being the Organ Scholar. The bursary enabled me to stay over Easter and make sure that I could keep on top of my degree at the same time. Thank you!

Santiago Dubov (2017, Engineering) County Durham

The funds that have been provided to me as a result of this bursary have been invaluable to not just my university education, but also my personal career development. The book grant I received both as part of a bursary and due to my First class in my first year allowed me to buy my laptop which I have used almost every day since. The money that was given to me this summer helped me to carry out an internship in an engineering company located in the centre of Cambridge. Not only is this a requirement for our course, it also significantly broadened my engineering studies by providing practical experience in my chosen field. Consequently I am very grateful to the Trustees as without their generous donations, none of this would have been possible.

Caiban E. Butcher (2015, HSPS) North Lincolnshire

I am writing to send a warm note of thanks to your institution. As an undergraduate student at Corpus Christi College, I received financial support from the Don Hanson Fund in the academic year of 2017-18 - support I am very grateful for. I am now happily pursuing graduate study at the University of Oxford; and the financial support provided by the Fund helps students like me develop as they pursue their career of choice. Most importantly, as a proud Northerner (hailing from Humberside), it is great to receive assistance from a Fund established specifically to assist scholars from my home region. I hope your institution will continue to help aspiring young scholars.

Joseph Krol (2016, Mathematics) West Yorkshire

I am immensely grateful to the Fund for providing me with such a large grant over the summer of 2018. I spent two months in the University’s Maths Faculty, working on a project with Dr Maurice Chiodo which aimed to produce a set of teaching materials in mathematical ethics, a remarkably underexplored field given its increasing importance. As part of this, we researched countless areas in which mathematics is intertwined with ethical decision-making, from the actions of Cambridge Analytica to developments in cryptography. The experience proved eye-opening, shedding light on fresh perspectives which I had hardly noticed existed; this will, I am sure, stick with me as I progress through my career. It has given me an excellent first-hand experience of active research and more open-ended academic inquiry, and will no doubt prove very useful in the future.

Esmé O’Keeffe (2015, HSPS) North Yorkshire

The financial assistance I received from the Don Hanson Bursary Fund was indispensable during the previous academic year, while on my year abroad. During this year I carried out an internship at a law firm and at the United Nations World Food Programme Headquarters in Rome. While these experiences were hugely enjoyable and beneficial both personally and professionally, living in Rome on an intern’s salary would have been very challenging and would have prevented me from making the most of the experience. However, the generosity of the Fund made it all possible, contributing to all aspects of life, including the cost of accommodation in the city, travel to and from work, reading materials for my year abroad project research and the compulsory year abroad insurance, to name but a few. I am at a loss as to how students like myself would cope financially without the sort of assistance you provide. Your assistance has taken a weight off my mind and enabled me to take up an internship at the World Food Programme, where I hope to forge a career one day; an opportunity that would not otherwise have been possible.
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