

CAMPAIGN FOR OXFORD

Transcript of an interview with Professor Nick Rawlins, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Development & External Affairs, with some of the first intake of Ertegun and Moritz-Heyman Scholars

Professor Nick Rawlins, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Development & External Affairs

'It's been our best ever year for student support. We had an extraordinary gift from Mica Ertegun, who is the widow of Ahmet Ertegun, founder of Atlantic Records. Mica Ertegun has given us \$40 million to endow, in perpetuity, a graduate scholarship scheme in the arts and humanities. That's an extraordinary thing to have done.'

Joe Snape, graduate student, studying Musicology, Ertegun Scholar

'To support youngsters in their journey towards finding some kind of truth, or finding some kind of real intellectual development, is one of the most beautiful things you can do. I submitted my application like everybody else, and then I got an email from the Humanities division announcing a new scholarship.'

Ezgi Ulusoy Aranyosi, graduate student, studying Oriental Studies, Ertegun Scholar

'I would not have made it to Oxford at all without the scholarship. So it was quite a surprise for me hearing that it's an all-inclusive scholarship for the study of humanities, which is very rare nowadays. I'm studying Turkish literature, which is thought to be not so useful in the empirical sense, but somebody cared about it.'

Joe Snape

'I couldn't stop grinning, you know, it's just unreal! To have all of that space, and tucked down in the basement where we're not going to disturb anybody, soldering wires and making music, is fantastic. To meet Mica was more than interesting, it was an opportunity to say thank you to the person who made the whole thing happen. And that is something that I really had wanted to do ever since I got the email. I mean, it's such an amazing place, and such an incredible opportunity.'

Professor Nick Rawlins

'The Moritz-Heyman Scholarship arises from rather a different basis. Roughly 10 per cent of undergraduates in Oxford are in the financial category of people who are entitled to free school meals. Those people are really the target of the Moritz-Heyman donation. And Michael Moritz summed up the whole of his gift in the following way. He said, "Three generations of my family – myself and my father and my grandfather – have got where we've got to through the generosity of strangers, in many cases through the generosity of people we never met, and I want to pay it back." And he has, big time.'

Nikita Hayward, undergraduate student, studying History, Moritz-Heyman Scholar

'I think that being on a scholarship programme makes you aware of how much difference you can make to someone else's life, despite not knowing them. And I would hope that in whatever way possible I will be able to give back to somebody what they have given to me.'



Student support is an important element of the Oxford Thinking campaign

Andrew Selby, undergraduate student, studying Economics and Management, Moritz-Heyman Scholar

'There were so many people in my year group who did not apply to university, purely on the basis of the fees going up and worrying about having to pay back that money. And I think when people are applying, or looking at applying to Oxford they will see the scholarship and realise that there is no reason to worry whatsoever about the money. I don't have £100 million to donate to somebody, but I can go back into my school. So I think not only is it encouraging people to apply to university, it is also encouraging a mentality of, "How can I help others?" If you've been given help, you should therefore pass that on.'

Nikita Hayward

'No one from my family has been to university. The reason we're here in the first place is because something encouraged us to apply beyond the stereotypes, and something has allowed us to be here – some encouragement, and event, it could be a single individual.'

Andrew Selby

Hopefully, eventually there will be people coming here who said, "When I was in Year 11, or when I started college, I had somebody who was a Moritz-Heyman Scholar who came in and spoke to me, and that was the thing that made me apply to Oxford."

Professor Nick Rawlins

'If you look at the Campaign generally, we've got an extraordinary range of people who have committed to students here, and in some cases you can really see them, they are well recognised, they are well known. In other cases they may be anonymous, or they may be people giving gifts which are effective by being cumulated with others. And in every case, when it makes it possible for a student to do something they couldn't do, there is a real pleasure to be had. It's the enthusiasm and the dedication and the connection of the people who do these things that makes my job fun.'

To view the interview visit: www.ox.ac.uk/annual-review

