



Presentation of the
SHELDON MEDAL
to
SIMON REUBEN
and
DAVID REUBEN

Thursday 27 October 2022
Oxford Martin School, Oxford



It has been a pleasure to observe the transformative impact of the Reubens' generosity, from scholarships for undergraduates to a wonderful new college for graduates. It has also been a pleasure to observe their evident delight in the results of their philanthropy. I know that Reuben College, now and in the years to come, will make them proud. 🙏

— Professor Dame Louise Richardson
Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford

PROGRAMME

- 6.00 pm Guests arrive for drinks and canapés at the Oxford Martin School
Music supplied by the Oxford University Jazz Orchestra
- 6.30 pm Speeches and presentation of the Sheldon Medal
- 7.00 pm Reception continues
- 7.30 pm Dinner guests invited to make their way to Divinity School
- 7.45 pm Dinner at Divinity School
- 9.15 pm–9.45 pm Guests depart

Facing page: Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor with Simon Reuben and David Reuben on the occasion of their admittance to the Chancellors Court of Benefactors 2021

I am delighted to welcome you all to the University of Oxford this evening for the presentation of the Sheldon Medal to Simon Reuben and David Reuben. The brothers' visionary support for Oxford's new 39th college – now known in their honour as *Reuben College* – follows their earlier establishment of an undergraduate scholarship programme at the University. In addition to putting Reuben College on a firm financial footing, the donation will also establish a major new graduate programme in the college. It marks a milestone in the work of the Reuben Foundation, and demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the worldwide advancement of education and healthcare.

Since the earliest days of its foundation, the University has been fortunate to be supported by benefactors who share our commitment to the essential importance of teaching and research. This tradition, which continues today, has a vital role to play in ensuring that Oxford maintains its position as a global academic powerhouse, an institution that helps solve some of the most pressing challenges facing the world today, and a place that educates the leaders of tomorrow.

The Sheldon Medal is the University's highest mark of distinction. It honours outstanding benefactors, and recognises the transformative impact that their donations have had upon the life and work of the University. My colleagues and I are delighted to have this opportunity to offer our deepest gratitude to the Reuben brothers for their support.

— The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes
Chancellor, University of Oxford

Today marks the presentation of the 10th Sheldon Medal, which is being awarded to Simon Reuben and David Reuben in recognition of one of the most generous benefactions to the University of Oxford.

Front cover illustration: The Divinity School's gothic vaulted ceiling, designed by William Orchard in the 1480s, is the inspiration behind the front cover design.



SIMON REUBEN AND DAVID REUBEN

Simon and David, sons of Nancy and David Sassoon Reuben were born in Bombay. Their parents were Iraqi Jews. Simon and David moved to London when they were teenagers and have been involved in business since the 1960s, with David starting in the metals business and Simon starting out in carpets, acquiring England's oldest carpet company, but going on to invest in property.

In 1977, they combined forces and started Trans-World Group which grew into a major global metals trading and production business dealing in aluminium, iron ore and steel. From around the year 2000, they turned their attention to other sectors and today their Reuben Brothers group of companies is a leader in real estate investment and development, private equity and venture capital.

Their real estate holdings are significant and broadly diversified, encompassing hotel, office, retail, residential and infrastructure properties across the world in a portfolio which includes Millbank Tower in London, the former 'In & Out Club' on Piccadilly, Burlington Arcade and Admiralty Arch. Other investments include London Oxford Airport and the London Heliport as well as ARC which owns and operates 16 racecourses in Great Britain, accounting for 40% of British racing fixtures. Other sporting investments include the recent takeover, with their partners, of Newcastle United Football Club. Also in Newcastle, the Reubens are developing the largest ever office scheme in the city centre which will bring more than 4,500 construction jobs and eventually will support over 10,500 new jobs in the city. One of Simon and David's main assets was Global Switch, the largest operator and developer of large scale, carrier-neutral data centres across Europe and Asia Pacific. This was eventually sold for a substantial sum.

● We are most appreciative of being awarded the Sheldon Medal, it is indeed a true honour for which we sincerely thank the Chancellor. ●

— Simon Reuben and David Reuben



● It is now ten years since the Reuben Foundation established the Reuben Scholarship Programme with the University of Oxford helping young people with the intelligence, talent and tenacity to study but whose financial circumstances may otherwise have prevented them from doing so.

I have spent time over the years personally meeting both current Reuben scholars and alumni and have seen these inspirational individuals thrive during their time at Oxford and go on to create successful careers positively impacting others around them.

The endowment to create Reuben College was a natural extension of the scholarship programme, which itself has continued to grow each year, and my family and I are so pleased to be able to be part of this continuing journey. ●

— Lisa Reuben
The Reuben Foundation

THE REUBEN FOUNDATION

In 2002, Simon and David established the Reuben Foundation, a UK charitable foundation focused on the advancement of healthcare and education both in the UK and globally. Aside from the recent gifts to the University of Oxford and the Reuben Scholarship Programme, other notable initiatives in the UK to which the Reuben Foundation played a vital role include the following, amongst many others:

- the creation of the largest centre for paediatric cancer treatment in Europe at Great Ormond Street Hospital (the Reuben Foundation Children's Cancer Centre)
- a world-leading treatment and research centre at The Royal Marsden Hospital (The Reuben Imaging Centre)
- a new maternity ward and neonatal intensive care unit at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital (The Reuben Maternity Centre) as well as a new young people's centre designed to provide immediate, specialist and integrated care to young people in mental health crisis
- the Reuben Business and Science Faculty at Oxford Spires Academy
- a scholarship programme with BAFTA to help talented young people start their careers in the creative industries
- close collaboration with Centrepoint; the opening of Reuben House in November 2022, will offer 33 young people independent self-contained accommodation whilst in apprenticeships or at work
- a new and extended film library at British Film Institute on Southbank (BFI Reuben Library)
- Nancy Reuben Primary School in Hendon, London; established in 2004, named in honour of Simon and David's mother. The Nancy Reuben Primary School has received outstanding reports by Ofsted.

 **REUBEN FOUNDATION**



REUBEN COLLEGE

Reuben College, formerly known as Parks College, has been renamed in honour of the generous gift from Simon Reuben and David Reuben, and is the University's first new college in 30 years. It is situated just north of the city centre on the historic Radcliffe Science Library site, in the heart of the University's science area.

The college's first intake of 136 graduate students, from 47 countries, studying for nearly 70 different degrees, was in autumn 2021. The college has already elected an impressive line-up of 29 Governing Body Fellows, three Global Research Fellows from developing countries, and seven Research Fellows. Its founding President is Lionel Tarassenko, Professor of Electrical Engineering, who was previously the Head of the Department of Engineering Science at the University.

The college aims to generate new insights into the biggest questions of our time by bringing academics from traditionally different disciplines together to work on challenging themes and share their knowledge with the college's graduate students. Their work is supported by an environment of innovation and enterprise, and a strong commitment to diversity, sustainability and public engagement which will cut across all interdisciplinary activities.

Initial core research themes are:

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Environmental Change
- Cellular Life - which includes ongoing work in understanding COVID-19 and the recent pandemic
- Ethics and Values

The college's building is due to open officially in spring 2023 and will offer accessible and modern facilities, with flexible spaces for quiet study, group meetings, seminars and workshops, public events and social occasions.



PER SCIENTIAM ILLUMINABIMUR

(Through knowledge we shall be enlightened)



Simon and David Reuben have been magnificent in their support of the college and its initial cohorts of students through the provision of Oxford-Reuben scholarships. Not only have they endowed the college, but their foundation has also taken an interest in the

renovation of our site and the building of student accommodation, providing financial support in both cases.

It is wonderful to work with donors who are so committed to the establishment and growth of a new graduate college in the University.

— **Professor Lionel Tarassenko, CBE FREng FMedSci**
President, Reuben College

Thanks to the generous support from the Reuben Foundation, I was able to pursue my passion for Public Health through the MSc of International Health and Tropical Medicine. I had the privilege of learning about multiple disciplines in a diverse environment which allowed me to further my education through a DPhil in Social Intervention and Policy.

— **Bothaina Eltigani**
MSc International Health and Tropical Medicine



The University is committed to ensuring that the best students are able to come and study here regardless of background or financial circumstances. Thanks to the generosity of the Reuben Foundation, many undergraduate and graduate UK and international students from less advantaged backgrounds have benefitted, and will benefit in the future, from financial support.

REUBEN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Reuben Foundation provided a multi-million pound endowment in 2012, establishing the *Reuben Scholarship Programme* for undergraduate students across multiple colleges. The programme assists hundreds of the most talented students from less advantaged backgrounds with financial support towards living costs and academic fees.

OXFORD-REUBEN GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

A further generous multi-million pound gift in 2019 created the new *Oxford-Reuben Graduate Scholarships* for students studying at Reuben College. The scholarship programme aims to attract the world's most talented students of all backgrounds and knowledge disciplines, and will support them to undertake cutting-edge interdisciplinary studies at Oxford. Many of these students are expected to form the next generation of outstanding Oxford University academics.

Bothaina Eltigani, MSc International Health and Tropical Medicine (Matric year)

Bothaina is a Sudanese doctor who realised that she gained greater satisfaction from preventing sickness, than from treating often avoidable illnesses. This recognition was the result of a trip to a medical residency in Alwawar village in Sudan, where she discovered a huge gap in healthcare services available in Khartoum compared with Sudanese rural areas. This trip cemented her decision to dedicate her career path to public health.

Upon completion of her MSc, Bothaina aims to work with the Mycetoma Research Centre in Khartoum, and the Centre of Tropical Medicine and Global Health in Oxford.



Danny Gold, DPhil Biochemistry

Danny is eager to continue his doctoral studies in Biochemistry, which will enable him to take advantage of Oxford's cutting-edge genome engineering (via CRISPR Cas9), and super resolution microscopies. He has previously gained experience of exploring biochemical and biophysical techniques through undertaking a master's project at the Francis Crick Institute in London during his time at UCL.

Danny is looking forward to contributing to the ground-breaking research produced by Oxford.

Zohar Katz, DPhil Interdisciplinary Bioscience Doctoral Training Programme

Zohar's academic interests are in the interconnected relationships between human health and the environment. She has aspirations to engage actively with the biotech industry, with the aim of harnessing the power of biotechnology to find solutions to some of health and environment's greatest challenges. She has worked on a project involving the manufacturing of biological drugs to create a sustainable and lower cost production method.

Her ultimate aim is to pursue a career in innovation in an internationally diverse environment.

I extend my deep gratitude to the Reuben Foundation for its inspirational gift in the founding of the college and its endowment for graduate scholarships. I am hugely looking forward to the programme ahead of me, and can't wait to start my research!

— **Danny Gold**
DPhil Biochemistry

I am excited to start a DPhil in Bioscience at Oxford and thrilled to be part of Reuben College's first cohort, as well as a scholar of the Reuben Foundation. I'm looking forward to collaborating with other Reuben students, shaping the traditions and atmosphere of the college, engaging in entrepreneurship initiatives, and acting together to decrease the impact of climate change.

— **Zohar Katz**
DPhil Interdisciplinary Bioscience Doctoral Training Programme





THE MEDAL ARTIST: EMMA LAVENDER

The Sheldon Medal design has been conceived and executed by Emma Lavender, a renowned sculptor and stone carver.

Emma has produced numerous high-profile commissions, including for the Royal Mint and the central House of Commons Members Lobby at the Palace of Westminster. She has been involved in over 25 public monument constructions and carvings, including the 2003 World Trade Center memorial in New York.

The crafting of the medal is a process that takes several months, moving from the use of photographs to the production of a light relief of the subject, and the subsequent meticulous sculpting and casting of the medal in silver and bronze.



THE SHELDON MEDAL

In 2002, the University of Oxford created its highest mark of distinction to honour extraordinary levels of support from individual benefactors – the Sheldon Medal.

The Sheldon Medal is named after one of Oxford's earliest benefactors, Gilbert Sheldon, who graduated from Trinity College in 1620 and rose high in the service of Charles II to become Archbishop of Canterbury. During his tenure as Chancellor of Oxford (1667–69), he made a substantial donation towards the construction of the Sheldonian Theatre. Designed by Christopher Wren, and situated in the centre of Oxford, the theatre has played a significant role in the life of the University since its opening in 1669.

Each academic year the University awards and presents a maximum of one Medal. Cast in silver and individually crafted, the obverse of the Medal consists of the benefactor's portrait (in this case two portraits), while the reverse depicts a traditional representation of the Sheldonian Theatre, with the emblazon lines around the theatre depicting light, as per the University's motto – *Dominus Illuminatio Mea* (*The Lord is my Light*). The University of Oxford's coat of arms is incorporated within the theatre design. The Medal is approximately 10cm in diameter. The depth of the rim is 4mm and, together with the front portrait and the back design, has a total depth of 8mm.

Only two versions of each Medal are produced: a silver presentation piece that is awarded to the recipients and a bronze copy that is deposited within the Heberden Coin Room of the Ashmolean Museum.



SHELDON MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Simon Reuben and David Reuben are the 10th awardees to join a select group of previous Medal recipients.

Since its inception, the University has awarded the Sheldon Medal to nine previous benefactors:

- The late Lord Wolfson of the Wolfson Foundation (2002)
- Mr Wafic Rida Saïd (2003)
- The late Dr James Martin (2006)
- Sir Michael Moritz and Ms Harriet Heyman (2010)
- The late Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover (2010) and Lady Sainsbury of Preston Candover (2010)
- Mr Leonard Blavatnik (2012)
- Mrs Mica Ertegun (2013)
- The Trustees of the Garfield Weston Foundation (2014)
- Mr John McCall MacBain OC (2017)



“ It is with great pride that our relationship with the University of Oxford has culminated in the creation of Reuben College. We are humbled to play a part in the history of this great university, and look to the future with hopeful anticipation for the great impact those studying at Reuben College will no doubt make.

The work and research that will be done at the college covers so many crucial areas and global challenges we face, from vaccine development to artificial intelligence to climate change, amongst others. We are thrilled to bestow the endowment in order for Reuben College and its graduates to thrive in the generations to come. ”

— Simon Reuben and David Reuben

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