EAST OXFORD COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY WINS HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDING

‘East Oxford: One History or Many?’ will launch in autumn with dedicated staff, a heightened online presence and increased opportunities for the local community to be involved.

East Oxford has traces of Iron Age, Roman and Viking settlements, a medieval leper hospital (still with its original chapel), Civil War siege works dating to the time when Oxford was the Royalist capital, and a rich industrial and modern heritage.

Our understanding of the archaeology and local history of East Oxford will receive a giant boost, thanks to a significant award from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A new four-year education and research project will begin in autumn, led by Dr David Griffiths, Oxford University Reader in Archaeology and the Department’s coordinator of community archaeology efforts.

‘East Oxford: One History or Many?’ will undertake new investigations in this area of rich heritage which holds great potential for landscape-scale study. Local people, core volunteers, community and youth groups, and ethnic minority organisations will take part in fieldwork, and archaeologists and local historians will run training workshops. The project promises to be a vehicle for learning new skills and raising educational aspirations, in addition to inspiring appreciation of the area’s fascinating past.

At the heart of the project will be a community excavation, allowing increased numbers of people to become involved in digging, recording progress (in both quantitative and qualitative ways), site tours and on-site sessions.

The project will include several components for encouraging public involvement. An interactive website will allow people to access and contribute information. Creative arts groups will be encouraged to draw on the heritage stories to inspire interpretative dance, art, music, photography and film events.

As a result of this award, the Department has appointed two project-funded Community Archaeology Officers, who will support public participation. The project funding (including in-kind support) is of the order of £500k.

Want to be involved? http://www.archeox.net/

NEW MASTER’S IN LITERATURE AND THE ARTS

The Family in Victorian Literature; Visual Cultures of the World Wars; The Nobility in the later Middle-Ages: what’s the common thread between these three topics? They’re all potential options for study in an exciting new Master’s programme being offered by the Department.

The Master of Studies in Literature and the Arts is a two year, part-time interdisciplinary programme which draws on a range of subject areas—to include literature, history of art, history, philosophy and archaeology.

Core courses will give a critical understanding of current debates in literary, cultural, and aesthetic theory and historiography, while an array of options allows students to pursue subject areas or periods which are of special interest to them.

The programme is designed so that those with professional obligations or caring duties may take up the course. Four residential modules of five days each are spread over two years, and there are two online, distance-learning modules.

The Department welcomes enquiries and applications for the MST, which will begin in October 2011 with a cohort of 25 students. For information email mla@conted.ox.ac.uk.

UNIVERSITY OF READING COURSES TAKEN ON BY OXFORD

This autumn the Department is offering 78 evening classes at the University of Reading’s Whiteknights campus.

Subject areas include archaeology, art history, biological sciences, creative writing, film studies, history and politics, modern languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish), literature, local and social history, mathematics, music, philosophy, physical sciences, psychology and counselling, and religious studies.

You may view and enrol on the courses at Reading via the Department’s website at http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/pp14.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: VIGNESH ASHOK

Building on the analytical skills of an engineering background, this talented alumnus of our Foundations of Diplomacy course will pursue a Master’s degree and a future career in peace and conflict diplomacy.

‘Having been brought up in a protective and traditional Indian family, I did not get to choose what I studied at university. The silver lining was that I was given the freedom to choose where I studied, and I chose a Bachelor of Engineering programme at the National University of Singapore.

‘During the four years that I spent studying engineering, I explored my real passion: conflict diplomacy. I took up as many courses as I could in the Department of Political Science. It was there that I first learned of the ‘Foundations of Diplomacy’ Course at Oxford University’s Department for Continuing Education. I applied for this course after graduating and was delighted to be accepted.

‘The course in diplomacy was not an end in itself but rather a means for me to adapt the technical and analytical knowledge that I had gained from my B.Eng toward the pursuit of a Masters degree in Peace and Conflict Studies. The unending support that I received from tutors and course coordinators alike helped me successfully to apply for and gain a place on the M.Litt in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of St Andrews.

‘What made life in Oxford different was the unfettered access to knowledge and opportunity, both within the course and at the University. I capitalised on the “Oxford Experience” by joining as many student societies as possible. In the span of a single year I worked as deputy editor of a student newspaper, represented the University in several debating tournaments (both within and outside the UK), presented papers at various symposia and, most importantly, developed friendships that I’m certain will last a lifetime.

‘Throughout this process, my tutors never hesitated to help me overcome every hurdle, no matter how large. For this, I am truly indebted to the Department for Continuing Education.

‘My two biggest achievements in the past year? The honour of being awarded the Sir John Johnson Prize for outstanding academic achievement; and the degree to which my outlook on life and my career path has matured. I doubt I would have received the same degree of encouragement, support and attention from any other course at any other university.’

In July, Vignesh added to his growing list of achievements by winning the 2010 Tilbury House Summer British Parliamentary Open Debating Championship and receiving the Best Speaker Award. The Department wishes every future success to this talented and enthusiastic student!

CASCADE: Transforming curriculum delivery through technology
http://cascade.conted.ox.ac.uk
LANDMARK DPHIL IN EVIDENCE BASED HEALTH CARE

This year, Steve Edwards became the first person ever to earn a DPhil in Evidence Based Health Care at the University of Oxford.

Steve’s DPhil research is entitled *Indirect Comparison by Systematic Review as the Basis for Health Economic Evaluation*. The research focuses on methods for analysing the economic effectiveness of health care treatments.

‘I have been conducting traditional efficacy systematic review and meta-analysis for the past 10 years and had become increasingly frustrated with the lack of randomised controlled trials available comparing key treatments of interest’, Steve said. ‘I have always felt that in a funding-limited resource like the NHS, identifying a significant difference in treatment effects (such as efficacy and/or safety) is only the beginning—and any differences need to be formally assessed in an economic evaluation to demonstrate which treatment offers value for money.’

Steve had previously completed the Department’s MSc in Evidence Based Health Care where he showed so much promise that the programme directors invited him to research for the DPhil.

Professor Mike Clarke, one of Steve’s research supervisors, said ‘The part-time research programme in evidence based health care was ideally suited to someone like Steven. He was able to combine successfully a full time job with the work for his DPhil, and produced a thesis of high quality. He also led the work for several journal articles which have placed his research findings into the public domain over the last few years.’

Steve said ‘The most enjoyable part of the DPhil was being connected with a wider community. I have taken part in a couple of Cochrane Colloquia (Dublin 2006 and Freiburg 2008) where I felt a real sense of community with like-minded people. The biggest challenge was what I’ll call the “mental stamina” of working in isolation for four years where you have to be your own and only source of setting achievable deadlines and meeting them.’

On the 16th of August Steve begins a new role as the Head of Health Technology Assessment with the BMJ Group, a prestigious global medical publisher. At BMJ he will conduct research and appraise the research of others in his field. ‘Having the DPhil allowed me to demonstrate my ability to be successful in the role.’

‘The award of the University’s first ever DPhil in Evidence Based Health Care to Steven Edwards is a richly deserved new milestone in his career, and a credit to those who established this novel programme,’ said Professor Mike Clarke.

Thank you, donors

The Department received over £14,000 in donations from this year’s Annual Fund campaign, and a further £2000 from the Friends of Lifelong Learning. Donations are being put to good use, funding bursaries for students who would not otherwise be able to participate, and upgrading the seating in our much-used lecture theatre. The Department thanks our donors for their generosity!

Learn more about the Annual Fund at [www.giving.ox.ac.uk/academic_departments/continuing_education/continuing_education.html](http://www.giving.ox.ac.uk/academic_departments/continuing_education/continuing_education.html)

Become a Friend

Would you like the opportunity to meet new people, to take part in special events organised by the Department, and to enjoy some benefits at the University?

Please join The Friends of Lifelong Learning. Friends play an important part in supporting the Department’s activities, and enjoy many wonderful perks of membership. There is also an organisation for North American Friends. For more information, please click the links below to see our brochures:

- [Friends brochure](#)
- [American Friends brochure](#)

You may also email the secretary of the Friends of Lifelong Learning, Ana Pastega, at ana.pastega@kellogg.ox.ac.uk.

Future Tech 2010

*Forum Oxford: Future Technologies Conference – 15 October 2010*

The fourth Forum Oxford one-day conference will explore emerging technologies with an emphasis on Mobile/Web innovations. This conference promotes active discussion between audience and speakers. [http://cpd.conted.ox.ac.uk/electronics/courses/future_technologies10.asp](http://cpd.conted.ox.ac.uk/electronics/courses/future_technologies10.asp)

Open Evening: MSt in the History of Design

*Tuesday 5 October 2010 from 5–8pm, Rewley House*

The MSt in the History of Design is a brand new part-time Master’s programme. Come meet the course director, ask questions and learn about this exciting new offering.

Questions: [ppaward@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ppaward@conted.ox.ac.uk)

Thank you, donors

The Department received over £14,000 in donations from this year’s Annual Fund campaign, and a further £2000 from the Friends of Lifelong Learning. Donations are being put to good use, funding bursaries for students who would not otherwise be able to participate, and upgrading the seating in our much-used lecture theatre. The Department thanks our donors for their generosity!

Learn more about the Annual Fund at [www.giving.ox.ac.uk/academic_departments/continuing_education/continuing_education.html](http://www.giving.ox.ac.uk/academic_departments/continuing_education/continuing_education.html)

Become a Friend

Would you like the opportunity to meet new people, to take part in special events organised by the Department, and to enjoy some benefits at the University?

Please join The Friends of Lifelong Learning. Friends play an important part in supporting the Department’s activities, and enjoy many wonderful perks of membership. There is also an organisation for North American Friends. For more information, please click the links below to see our brochures:

- [Friends brochure](#)
- [American Friends brochure](#)

You may also email the secretary of the Friends of Lifelong Learning, Ana Pastega, at ana.pastega@kellogg.ox.ac.uk.

Future Tech 2010

*Forum Oxford: Future Technologies Conference – 15 October 2010*

The fourth Forum Oxford one-day conference will explore emerging technologies with an emphasis on Mobile/Web innovations. This conference promotes active discussion between audience and speakers. [http://cpd.conted.ox.ac.uk/electronics/courses/future_technologies10.asp](http://cpd.conted.ox.ac.uk/electronics/courses/future_technologies10.asp)

Open Evening: MSt in the History of Design

*Tuesday 5 October 2010 from 5–8pm, Rewley House*

The MSt in the History of Design is a brand new part-time Master’s programme. Come meet the course director, ask questions and learn about this exciting new offering.

Questions: [ppaward@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ppaward@conted.ox.ac.uk)

Visiting Oxford? Special Occasion?

We have three-star accommodation, events facilities and catering in central Oxford.

[http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/conference/photo_gallery.php](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/conference/photo_gallery.php)
TEACHING AWARDS 2010

Local History, Creative Writing and Evidence-Based Health Care win accolades and funding

Dr Mark Smith and colleagues, Dr Elizabeth Gemmill and Dr Adrienne Rosen, oversee a rich and varied programme in English Local and Social History, successfully leading the field in the use of online learning to extend the constituency of people who can study the subject at Oxford. Their teaching award of £4000 will enable them to develop a one-year Undergraduate Certificate in Local and Family History, thus enhancing the capacity of the Department to provide flexible and online learning opportunities.

The Master of Studies degree in Creative Writing developed by Dr Clare Morgan has an innovative and flexible course design that allows students from the UK and overseas to study together in residential periods in Oxford. The MSt is a prestigious award in the field, with impressively high student application rates and a growing cadre of graduates achieving prizes and distinctions for their published work. The Departmental teaching award of £1,000 will enable the further expansion of this outstanding programme.

Nia Roberts, the Health Information Specialist who teaches on the Oxford International Programme in EBHC was awarded a 2010 Award for teaching excellence.

CREATIVE WRITING NEWS

MSt in Creative Writing tutors recognised locally and internationally

Poetry tutor Jamie McKendrick’s translation of Valerio Magrelli’s poems, The Embrace, has won the Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize, awarded for translations into English from any living European language. The Prize honours the craft of translation and its cultural importance.

Tutor Abigail Docherty has won Tron Theatre’s Open Stage playwright competition with her play Sea and Land and Sky, which is about Scottish nurses on the eastern front during the First World War.

Alice Jolly has had a new play commissioned for the Fiesta in the Park and the Cheltenham Festival of Literature in 2010.

Jenny Lewis, poetry tutor, has been commissioned to write a verse play, About Gilgamesh, for the inaugural programme, Autumn 2010, of the Pegasus Theatre in east Oxford, following its £7 million Heritage Lottery funded revamp.

Dr Clare Morgan, Director of the MSt, was a guest speaker at the ‘Text in Context’ symposium ‘Views and Voices: Cross Genre Fiction and Writerly Development’ at this year’s London Literary Festival at the South Bank on 8 July.

PHILOSOPHY, ANYONE?

The Oxford Philosophical Society, based at Rewley House, promotes and encourages wider interest in philosophy. September 4th is Members’ Day, which attracts participants from around the globe for lectures, presentations, panel and open discussions, and meals. Non-members are most welcome. See http://oxfordphilsoc.org

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE: SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESSES

The Department decreased CO₂ emissions by 8.9% over the past year – surpassing all other divisions in the University – and the good work continues.

A room-by-room energy conservation survey of Rewley House, carried out by the University’s Estates Directorate earlier this year, has resulted in the replacement of an obsolete heating system with a new, energy efficient one. Draft sealing of all windows will take place before the onset of cold weather.

The Department recycles all the usual items (paper products, glass, toner cartridges), plus a more unusual item: postage stamps. These are collected on behalf of the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) who sell them on to dealers or collectors. (Read more at: http://www.rnib.org.uk/getinvolved/fundraising/recycle/Pages/used_stamps.aspx.)

Used but still viable computers are donated to schools in Oxfordshire and the Midlands. Equipment which can’t be reused or repurposed is recycled in accordance with Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations.

The University has a Green Transport Initiative under which staff may purchase bicycles via salary deduction. To encourage use of this scheme the Department schedules bike maintenance days, in which staff members’ bikes are repaired on site at reduced rates.

Sustainable operations help us to reduce costs and increase service; we look forward to further green efforts in the year ahead!