NEW BOOK SERIES: ‘REWLEY HOUSE STUDIES’

May saw the launch of a new series of books – the ‘Rewley House Studies in the Historic Environment’ – based on the Department’s weekend schools in architectural history.

The first volume is The Medieval Great House, and completes the series of books on greater houses begun by Professor Malcolm Airs many years ago. The next volume, due in 2012, will be Country House Technology, and two volumes on places of worship in the British Isles are already in preparation.

The series, edited by Dr Paul Barnwell, Director of Studies in the Historic Environment, builds on a long tradition of publishing the proceedings of selected weekend schools. Each volume will provide an overview of a subject, and will make current scholarship available to a wider audience than can attend the weekends themselves.

The Medieval Great House is available to readers of this newsletter at the reduced price of £35 including p&p within the UK (normal price £40 + p&p). Please contact the publisher, Shaun Tyas, by email at pwatkins@pwatkinspublishing.fsnet.co.uk, or by telephone, on 01775 821542.

For information on our day and weekend events in architectural history, please see: http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/dayweekend and click on ‘Architectural History’.

MATHS IN THE CITY

The role of maths in our everyday world is the focus of a project headed by Marcus du Sautoy, Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science.

The ‘Maths in the City’ project launched in April with a competition in which entrants identified examples of maths in urban contexts and created web pages to share their findings. The five winners showcased their sites at an award event in Oxford on 18 June. Featured among the winning entries were the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, triangle-based children’s playground facilities, the Leeds Tiled Hall Café and friezes in Segovia, Spain.

Starting in 2012, Professor du Sautoy and a team of volunteer mathematicians from Oxford will develop walking tours of Oxford and London taking the public on mathematical adventures of the cities. The project is produced and managed by the Department’s Technology–Assisted Life–long Learning (TALL) unit.

See the winning sites on the ‘Maths in the City’ website at: https://www.mathsinthecity.com/info/maths-city-competition-winning-entries

THE WINNER IS: EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH CARE

A cross-departmental team has won a 2011 OxTALENT Award for creating a comprehensive online learning experience for three modular programmes in Evidence-Based Health Care. The team, comprising members of the Department’s Continuing Professional Development Centre and the Medical Sciences Division’s Department of Primary Health Care showed excellence in leveraging ‘WebLearn’ – the University’s virtual learning environment – in support of the programme. For course information, see http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/ebhc

OxTALENT is a University interest group for raising awareness, promoting interaction, and encouraging the use of technology in teaching and learning across the University.

See Professor du Sautoy’s introduction to ‘Maths in the City’ on the project website at: http://www.mathsinthecity.com/info/

See the Department’s courses in mathematics at: http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/maths
GET SET FOR AUTUMN
new courses and course highlights for autumn 2011

DAY & WEEKEND CLASSES

SACRED SPACE – SACRED IMAGE
24 September 2011
A Study Day at the Pitt Rivers Museum that explores the importance and significance of icons, images and relics, and the spiritual as well as physical space they occupy. http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/O11P931LHW

PONDS: NATURAL HISTORY, MANAGEMENT AND CREATION
8 October 2011
Ponds are biodiversity hotspots, are an important part of our culture and heritage, and provide a link between people and wildlife. Declines in the quantity and quality of these small bodies of water means they are now the focus of a number of initiatives to improve their numbers and protect them from pollution. http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/O11P216BJ

CRIME FICTION
15 October 2011
Examining detective fiction in general, and Oxford crime fiction in particular, this day school offers the opportunity of hearing and questioning three celebrated crime writers: Colin Dexter, Ruth Rendell and P.D. James. http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/O11P150LTJ

CHALLENGING COSMOLOGY
26 November 2011
There is now widespread agreement that the universe is expanding at an accelerating rate, driven by enigmatic dark energy. But is this correct? In this event Bob Lambourne and Matthew Malek examine challenges to this correct? In this event Bob Lambourne and Matthew Malek examine challenges to this.

WEEKLY CLASSES

WHAT IS LOCAL HISTORY?
5 - 22 September 2011
An introduction to the contents, methods, and sources of English Local History, with an emphasis on documentary evidence available for the study of the manor, the parish and the town. http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/O11P931LHW

INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS FOR NON-MATHEMATICIANS
6 October - 8 December 2011
An introductory course on basic statistics aimed at non-mathematicians: basic probability theory, moving on to probability distributions, the central limit theorem, curve-fitting and correlation, confidence intervals and sampling theory. http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/O11P807MAW

AN INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC
4 October - 6 December 2011
Nearly ten centuries of music in a bewildering variety of period styles and national traditions are now available both in performance and on recordings. This course introduces the basic concepts that underlie music. http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/O11P773MSW

FICTION WRITING: GOING THE DISTANCE
4 October - 6 December 2011
For every novel or story written, hundreds more lie unfinished. Through writing and discussion, this course will help you harness technique, craft and motivation to revitalise both untried ideas and unfinished work, and set them on the way to completion. http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/O11P708CRW

LECTURE SERIES

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF EMOTION
Mondays, 17 October - 21 November 2011
A new debate in the philosophy of emotion opposes thought to feeling. The problem turns on clarifying what is meant by these terms. We will consider historical and modern accounts of the emotions from Aristotle to Heidegger. http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/O11P231PHL

ONLINE CLASSES

NINETEENTH CENTURY EUROPEAN LITERATURE
28 September - 9 December 2011
Nineteenth century literature was diverse, exciting and mobile; literary movements were not restricted to single countries, but developed across linguistic and geographic boundaries. This course is for anyone who is interested in nineteenth century literature and society. http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/O11P423LTV

THE NUMBER MYSTERIES
5 October - 16 December 2011
It is hard to imagine a world without numbers, but how natural is mathematics? We explore this very question through numerous online activities and ‘at home’ experiments, which allow you to interact with mathematics. http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/O11P434MAY

AGE OF REVOLUTION
5 October - 16 December 2011
Revolution was a powerful dynamic in European politics and society from 1789 to 1848. All over Europe radical citizens and reforming governments changed laws and ruling structures in a way which has created the forms of the modern European state. This course will examine this tremendous era of change. http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/O11P432HI

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ONLINE INTRODUCTION TO ELECTRONICS
3 October - 9 December 2011
Based upon our popular two-day Overview of Electronics course, this online course will introduce you to the basic ideas behind electronic circuits. The course consists of ten units each of which will require around 5 - 10 hours of study depending on your level of knowledge. http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/O11C829H6J

SAVE THE DATE

HUMANITIES GRADUATE OPEN DAY
11 November 2011
Visit Rewley House to meet course directors and learn more about our graduate programmes in the humanities. Details to follow in our autumn newsletter.

These are just a few of over 800 courses on offer for the upcoming 2011-12 academic year. Please see our website: http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT: ANJA BRADLEY

Anja Bradley traded a desk job for a career working on behalf of wildlife, via our Undergraduate Advanced Diploma in Environmental Conservation.

'I was working as a local government officer, but had made a decision in 2003 to change my career to work in the conservation sector. I was not in a position to return to university on a full-time basis - but the Department’s Undergraduate Advanced Diploma in Environmental Conservation was accessible and fitted in around my current commitments.'

'By the time I had completed the course I had made the decision to continue into postgraduate education.'

'I took a part-time position with the Avon Wildlife Trust as a Conservation Officer and also worked for the Cheetah Conservation Fund, before returning to Reading University full-time to complete an MSc Wildlife Management and Conservation. I currently work for the RSPB as an Information Officer and am applying for academic research positions and PhD funding.'

'Without this qualification I would not have achieved this level of success and would still be dreaming about a career in conservation!' Read Anja's full story at: http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/students/alumni/spotlights/environmentalconservation.php

MEET DR JANINA RAMIREZ

We have a new course director for our Certificate in History of Art.

What doesn’t Janina Ramirez get up to? Alongside her teaching and research, she is writer and presenter for two recent BBC documentaries, Treasures of the Anglo-Saxons, and The Sagas of Iceland: Creating Terra Nova. And she’s currently filming a three-part series on the Medieval and Tudor manuscripts of the British Library’s Royal Collection – an exciting project which will grant access for the first time to the personal book collection of England’s Kings and Queens.

As Course Director, Janina brings great energy and imagination to the Certificate in History of Art. ‘It is the combination of developing ways of thinking about art, and examining specific examples, that sets this course apart’, says Dr Ramirez.

Applications for the Certificate will be accepted until 31 August. For more information please see: http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/certha


Read about the Icelandic Sagas on the History Today website: http://www.historytoday.com/janina-ramirez/sagas-iceland-creating-terra-nova

TUDOR SURVIVOR

Margaret Scard, a recent graduate of our Postgraduate Certificate in Historical Studies, has published her first book, Tudor Survivor: The Life and Times of Courtier William Paulet.

‘Paulet maintained his principles, was always loyal to the Crown while remaining a Catholic, and was accepted by monarchs and courtiers as reliable, a safe pair of hands. He lived in extraordinary times when it was possible to serve at the highest level holding appointments concurrently in both royal and government service...a career path today’s politicians can only dream of.’

Scard, whose earlier career was in military aviation research, looks forward to further historical investigations. ‘The course was designed thematically, rather than chronologically, which meant that each unit examined several periods of history and introduced us to a wide range of ideas. I especially enjoyed the medieval topics and look forward to delving deeper into this period.’ For course information please see: http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/historicalstudies, and for information on the book, please see: http://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/products/Tudor-Survivor.aspx

The first lectures of ‘Oxford Extension’ (as the Department was known then) were delivered in Birmingham in 1878, on ‘The History of England in the Seventeenth Century’. Just fifteen years later the Department’s Extension centres stretched from Penzance to Carlisle. We still teach in locations outside Oxford; for more information please see: http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/outsideoxford
AWARD CEREMONY... IN TOKYO

The Japanese tsunami kept four of our British and European Studies students from travelling to Oxford for the Award Ceremony last spring. However, the foursome received their certificates in style a few months later: Yukiko Handa, Noriko Sekido, Yukari Takahashi and Rei Funaba joined the British Ambassador David Warren at a special ceremony at the Embassy in Tokyo on 20 June. ‘The British Embassy reminded me of the British atmosphere’, said Yukiko Handa. ‘I really miss Britain – and of course, Oxford!’

The Advanced Diploma in British and European Studies offers pre-Master’s students a unique opportunity to prepare for graduate entry to leading British universities. For more information please see: http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/britisheuropeanstudies

FRONTLINE HUMAN RIGHTS

Dr Nazila Ghanea, lecturer on the MSt in International Human Rights Law, joined producers of the film ‘The Baha’is of Iran’ for a screening and discussion at London’s Frontline Club on 28 June.

The Baha’i faith is a monotheistic religion founded in 19th-century Persia. The film, produced by BBC Persian’s Kasra Naji and Ro- zita Riazati, aims to help Iranians understand the faith and to shed light on the extent of persecution suffered by its members in Iran.

Both the film and the discussion may be seen on the Frontline Club website at: http://www.frontlineclub.com/events/2011/06/private-event-the-bahais-of-iran.html - the discussion begins at minute 26 on the video player.

PSYCHODYNAMIC ASSOCIATION FORMED

Current and former students of the Psychodynamic Studies programme gathered for the first meeting of the Rewley House Psychodynamic Association (RHΨA) in June. The newly-formed association aims to offer ongoing support for students and alumni of the programme, with future plans for reading and research groups and speaker events.

For more information please email: psychodynamicstudies@conted.ox.ac.uk

GLOBALISATION

The Department’s Director Professor Jonathan Michie saw the publication in June of the 2nd Edition of his Handbook of Globalisation – on which our popular online course is based.

Looking at factors such as international trade, global inequalities and the impact of our carbon footprints, the course explores what ‘globalisation’ means in practice, and why it takes the form it does.

For more information please see: http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/L100-1

CREATIVE WRITING NEWS

Jane Draycott and Paul Bavister, tutors on the creative writing programme have just published new work in Reading Poetry: An Anthology (Two Rivers Press). For further information please see: http://www.tworiverspress.com/Reading-Poetry/Reading-Poetry.html

Dr Clare Morgan, Course Director for the MSt in Creative Writing, was interviewed about her new novel A Book For All and None in the Oxford Times: http://www.oxfordtimes.co.uk/leisure/music_and_books/books/9057580.Interview_with_Clare_Morgan/

MORE ROOM AT THE INN

Number 12 Wellington Square is being renovated by the Department into nine elegant new bedrooms, each of which will be named after a leading figure in the Department’s history.

In the early 20th century the houses on Wellington Square were largely small hotels and boarding houses, and as such have been used by our continuing education students for many decades. Full circle, then, for number 12.

The new facilities will be available in the new academic year.