AWARD CEREMONY 2013

The Department’s annual Award Ceremony took place in the Sheldonian Theatre on Wednesday 27 March. 176 award recipients attended the event, along with their families and friends. Awards were presented for 31 programmes and recipients came from 27 countries: the United Kingdom, USA, Ireland, Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Qatar, Nepal, Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania, Bolivia, Laos, China, Germany, Greece, Portugal, India, France, Poland, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Romania and Malaysia. To view a slide show of the event, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/awards2013

One of this year’s attendees was Oriane Cannac (inset, above) who accepted a post-humous award, the Postgraduate Certificate in Evidence-Based Health Care, on behalf of her father, Dr Christian Cannac. For more information, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cannac

DEPARTMENTAL OPEN DAY 2013: SAVE THE DATE

Our 2nd annual Open Day will be held on 26 September 2013

Last year’s Open Day, held in November 2012 brought over 500 people to Rewley House to enjoy free lectures, seminars, workshops, food and more. This year’s event will take place on 26 September, which is a highly significant date in our history. It was on this date in 1878 – 135 years ago – that the first Oxford Extension Lecture was delivered, thus founding Oxford’s Department for Continuing Education. We’re marking our 135th anniversary in grand style, by throwing our doors open for you to come and enjoy another day of free learning.

Last year’s Open Day included over 30 events. We hope this year will be even bigger and better. Mark your calendars and plan ahead to join us on the day!
HUMAN RIGHTS LAW STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW SCHOLARSHIP

The Brunsfield Foundation will provide scholarships for our Master’s in International Human Rights Law

From 2014 we will be able to welcome more students to take part in our MST in International Human Rights Law programme, thanks to the generosity of The Brunsfield Foundation in Malaysia, which has provided funding for student scholarships. Run jointly by the Department for Continuing Education and the Faculty of Law, the Master’s programme is conducted on a part-time, distance learning basis over 22 months.

The part-time nature of the course means that students can take part without causing disruption to their full-time work in human rights, and the often fragile situations with which they are involved. The funding will provide a full scholarship for one student per year for five years from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region. Read more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/brunsfield

THE F H PASBY PRIZE

A friend of the Department’s Master’s in Creative Writing, Lisa Sargoed, has generously funded a new prize that will award £500 to the student on the course who receives the highest mark at the end of the first year.

The prize is to be named the F H Pasby Prize after Lisa’s grandfather who was passionate about literature and encouraged Lisa to take a positive interest in literature and writing.

Lisa was eager for the prize to be awarded at the end of the first year to reflect the encouragement that her grandfather gave her to study and strive to achieve her best. She hopes that the prize will encourage students at the end of their first year to achieve their full potential in their second year. Read more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/pasbyprize

SUBTITLES FOR PHILOSOPHY

The Oxford Philosophical Society has agreed to provide support for signing and subtitles for Marianne Talbot’s series of philosophy podcasts. This will make these excellent resources more accessible to students who are deaf or who have limited hearing. To learn more about Marianne’s podcasts, please see: www.podcasts.ox.ac.uk/people/marianne-talbot

FULFORD LECTURER

Following a donation from The Laces Trust, the University Lectureship in Philosophy of Mind at St Catherine’s College has been endowed in perpetuity under the University's Teaching Fund. The joint post will be known as the Fulford Clarendon University Lectureship in Philosophy of Mind and the Fulford Fellowship in Philosophy of Mind, and is named after Professor KWM (Bill) Fulford, a central figure in the development of the teaching and research infrastructure of philosophy of psychiatry and Course Director of the Department’s Philosophy and Psychiatry Summer School.

RECOMMENDED VIEWING

NEW GENERATION THINKERS: JONATHAN HEALEY

Dr Jonathan Healey, University Lecturer in Local and Social History, has been busy in recent weeks:

Considering how the English legal system has historically treated those suspected of witchcraft in a short video for BBC Arts and Culture. Please see: www.bbc.co.uk/arts/0/22042796

Examining how 17th Century Britain finally beat the spectre of famine once and for all. Please see: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01kw35 and scroll to 29 minutes on the iPlayer clock.

Explaining how land reforms brought in by Napoleon in the Spring of 1813 heralded a profound social change that still affects us today. Please see: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01rw3ym and scroll to 33.36 on the iPlayer clock.

Pi Day Live with Marcus du Sautoy

If you missed last month’s Pi Day Live with mathematician Marcus du Sautoy, it’s now available online. Watch the video, get involved with the activities ‘as live’ and contribute to the crowd-sourcing experiment by adding your results to the ‘pi’ machine. Please see: oxfordconnect.conted.ox.ac.uk

EVIDENCELIVE 2013

EvidenceLive, the world’s leading evidence-based medicine conference, was held in Oxford from 25–26 March at the Examination Schools. The event was attended by 400 researchers and clinicians from all over the world.

Oxford has always been at the leading edge in evidence-based Health Care (EBHC). The Department’s MSc and DPhil, plus our short course modules in EBHC, are offered in collaboration with the Department of Primary Healthcare Sciences. For more information on the conference and our programmes in EBHC please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/evidencelive2013
'The PGCert in Ecological Survey Techniques allows a postgraduate qualification to be gained in a field in which I have a fervent interest and will also help me accomplish my future aspirations. As the course is mainly online, studying has been easily tailored around my professional and personal commitments.'

'Many of the field sessions of the week long ‘face to face’ module took place at Wytham Woods – ‘Oxford’s Ecological Laboratory’ – which is always a pure delight to visit. Personal highlights of the sessions were the demonstrations of bird netting and ringing, which provided a fascinating insight into the long term studies of Blue and Great Tits. Other sessions included environmental monitoring, application of GIS (Geographical Information Systems), surveying of trees, bats, amphibians, invertebrates, etc.’ To read Simon’s complete story, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/students/studentspotlights/environmentalconservation3.php

A new book, The Nobility and Ecclesiastical Patronage in Thirteenth-Century England by Local Historian and Director of our Weekly Classes Programme Dr Elizabeth Gemmill, explores how medieval people harnessed the resources of the Church through their patronage rights, to serve their genuine needs – spiritual, social and material. For more information, please see the publisher’s website: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/patronage

The life of the medieval nobility seems a world away from our own, even here in Oxfordshire which is so rich in the material culture of the Middle Ages. But there are concerns that twenty-first century people share with their medieval predecessors – even if they deal with them in different ways. We all want to feel that what we do matters; we want to provide for friends and family; we need to protect our rights and property.

135 YEARS OF HISTORY

The first Oxford Extension Lecture was delivered in Birmingham in September 1878, by the Reverend Arthur Johnson. His topic: 'The History of England in the Seventeenth Century'. Johnson was a perfect choice to deliver the first lecture. He was a plain-speaking academic whose lectures were described as clear and solid, who was famed for his teaching, and whose approachable manner charmed his audience.

We like to think that The Reverend Johnson set the tone that has lasted for 135 years – that of solid Oxford scholarship, conveyed in an accessible manner. For more information, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/history/arthurjohnson.php

SWIFT CONSERVATION IN OXFORDSHIRE

Dr Jocelyne Hughes is working with support from the Cherwell District Council Swift Project to encourage Swift (Apus apus) populations to visit and nest at the Department’s facilities in Wellington Square.

Jocelyne has secured three specially designed nesting boxes that have been installed below the eaves of No. 11 Wellington Square, which houses our Continuing Professional Development offices.

According to the British Trust for Ornithology, Swift numbers have dropped sharply over the past 15 years. It is thought that this is due in part to a lack of suitable nesting sites as their usual choice of older buildings with accessible spaces through gaps under the roof are renovated or blocked up. To read the full story of the Swift conservation effort, and to download a PDF poster about the project, please visit: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/swiftsproject

NEW BOOK EXPLORES MEDIEVAL PATRONAGE

This full-length, integrated study of the ecclesiastical patronage rights of the nobility in medieval England is the first of its kind.

Help count swift nesting holes in Wellington Square

Keep a look out for swift activity when.....
you are in the park
while across the Square look out from an office window

Swift Project in Wellington Square

Oxford

Swift numbers are plummeting and they need all the help they can get
• They are sensitive to disturbance from April to September
• Once we know where nesting boxes can be added then the swifts can be provided with the nest boxes for free!

What to look for

Swifts are small, slate-blue birds with a pointed wing. Swifts have grey plumage and are usually seen in flocks of several birds. They have long tail feathers which they use to help them hover and fly. Swifts are very fast flyers and can reach speeds of up to 180 miles per hour. They are known to be migratory, often flying as far as South America or Africa.
CREATIVE WRITING

Diploma in Creative Writing alumna Margaret Keeping has had her first novel, A Conscious Englishman, published by local publisher StreetBooks – a publishing house founded by Frank Egerton, fiction tutor on the Diploma and Master's programmes. For more information, please see: streetbooks.co.uk

Diploma in Creative Writing alumna Davina Smith, who recently completed her MA at Bath Spa University, won a competition in which she has been awarded a publishing deal with Janklow & Nesbit Associates literary agency for her book, Tumbledown.

IN BRIEF

Dr Tom Buchanan took part in an event marking the 75th anniversary of Orwell's Homage to Catalonia in Manchester on 2 March. Photos and part of Tom's lecture can be found here: www.flickr.com/photos/ibmt/

Dr Gill Hey, who teaches on the MSc Applied Landscape Archaeology and co-supervises one of the Department's part-time DPhil students, was appointed as CEO of Oxford Archaeology. Oxford Archaeology has always had a very close relationship with Continuing Education, which continues, most prominently at present in a collaboration to deliver a professional training programme in the historic environment.

Our Philosophy and Psychiatry Summer School is hosting a book launch to celebrate the centenary of the 'Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Psychiatry'.

Staff of the Department hosted a lunchtime bake sale in March that raised over £285 for Comic Relief.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

Tau vs Pi: Fixing a 250-year-old Mistake
1 June 2013

Is pi (3.1415) or tau (6.2831) the 'true' circle constant? History gives it to pi but there are convincing reasons – mathematical, physical and pedagogical – why this choice was wrong. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/G100-29

History and Philosophy of Evidence-Based Health Care
17-21 June 2013

Recent studies suggest combining History and Philosophy of Science on the one hand, and health care on the other creates synergies for the mutual benefit of all disciplines. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/B900-77

Nanomedicine Summer School 2013
1-5 July 2013

This year's Nanotechnology Summer School will focus on applications of nanotechnologies in medicine and healthcare, reflecting growing interest in the subject and the University of Oxford's position at the cutting-edge of research and development. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/1990-22

The Female Body in the Sacred Art of Western Europe
3-10 August 2013

This week-long summer school course examines representations of women's bodies in sacred art from antiquity to the present day, asking how they are related to gender, motherhood, and female power in the cultures that produced them. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/Q220-58

Prevention Strategies for Non-Communicable Diseases
1-6 September 2013

Presented by the British Heart Foundation Health Promotion Research Group, University of Oxford Department of Public Health and the Department for Continuing Education. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/B900-74