SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARDED

Dr David Griffiths, Director of Studies in Archaeology, has been awarded a Senior Research Fellowship by the British Academy in conjunction with the Leverhulme Trust.

The award will enable Dr Griffiths’ duties in the Department to be covered by a replacement lecturer for the next academic year, allowing David to write up the Birsay-Skaill Landscape Archaeology Project, which he has led since its inception in 2003.

The Birsay-Skaill Landscape Archaeology project covers a wide stretch of coastal territory in Orkney, northern Scotland. A variety of investigative methods were used to chart the history of human settlement in the area, throughout many centuries of coastal and environmental change. Read more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/leverhulme

WELCOME DR MASHAIL ALI

Mashail is our new Director of Studies for Languages and Cultural Studies

‘Languages have always been associated with lifelong learning. Learning a language is fun and challenging, and nurtures a global outlook, while more specific benefits include employability, personal and professional development and networking. Such a wide range of needs and interests continues to shape the thriving languages and cultural studies programme at the Department for Continuing Education.’ Read an interview in which Dr Ali discusses her plans for the Department’s language programme at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mashail

2014 AWARD CEREMONY

Over 200 students (representing 28 programmes of study) and 350 guests attended our 2014 Award Ceremony at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford on 2 April, travelling from the UK, Ireland, Continental Europe, Japan, Australia, USA, India and China. The guest speaker was RSC actress Joanne Pearce (pictured right) an alumna of our Foundation Certificate in History, who urged award recipients to ‘mark the moment… go on, climb higher, do more.’ To see photos of this year’s ceremony, please visit: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/awards2014

EVENTS

Open evenings for part-time Oxford award programmes

Open evenings offer a chance to meet course directors and to have your questions answered. All events are held at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford

Undergraduate Certificate in Archaeology (www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V400-60)
Undergraduate Diploma in British Archaeology (www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V400-61)
22 May 6.30-8.30pm

Undergraduate Certificate in Theological and Religious Studies (www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V600-25)
22 May 6-8pm

LEARNING RESOURCES

Free learning to enjoy online

Neuromania
Neuroscientists point to fMRI scans claiming they’ve discovered the seats of love & wisdom – but should they? Professor Raymond Tallis and Dr Iain McGilchrist come down on opposite sides of the divide in this popular day school:
www.conted.ox.ac.uk/neuromania

The Truth About Art
Join Patrick Doorly to challenge the assumption that art is an ineffable mystery: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/truth

Vides 2014
The online journal of the MSt in Literature and Arts – a collection of 24 eclectic essays:
www.conted.ox.ac.uk/vides2014
ALFRED’S CASTLE REPORT PUBLISHED
Between the years of 1998 and 2000 the prehistoric and Roman site of Alfred’s Castle served as the Department’s archaeology training excavation. The site produced a wealth of finds, not least a collection of Iron Age pottery that is of national importance. After a long period of post-excavation analysis, the report is now published. Read about it on our website at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/alfredscastle

TRAINING FOR MYANMAR UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS
The Department’s Leadership and Public Policy (LaPP) team ran an intensive leadership programme for Pro-Rectors, department heads and the Chief Librarian from the University of Yangon in Myanmar. The programme was designed to help delegates write a strategic development plan for their university, which will also provide a model for other educational institutions in Myanmar. Visits included a behind the scenes tour of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History (pictured) and a specialist visit to the Oxford Botanic Garden to discuss research into medicinal plants. Full details can be found at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/yangon

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS
Therapeutic Gardens
15 June 2014
Explore historical and contemporary debates on the use of the garden as a therapeutic space, looking at landscapes associated with psychiatric, general and specialist medical institutions over the past two centuries. What did they look like? How were they used and how did this relate to medical concepts? www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V350-143

Nanotechnology Summer School
30 June – 4 July 2014
This five-day intensive course provides a thorough introduction to the exciting and emerging field of biotechnology. Each day has a dedicated theme and is led by key researchers in the field. The course will be valuable to those seeking an introduction to current research and applications in the subject. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/J990-25

Advanced Diploma in Local History
Application deadline 1 July 2014
This one-year part-time course is delivered entirely over the Internet and aims to train students in key concepts and methods of historical studies. It is ideal for those who wish to learn how to use original sources and databases for their own research, and those preparing for a higher degree in the subject. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V321-14

NEW EWERT RESOURCE ROOM
An electronic resource room for students has been opened at Ewert House. This will enable weekly class students to use the University’s large online collections of journals, databases and e-books, in addition to the Bodleian Library catalogue. Please email the weekly classes office: weeklyclasses@conted.ox.ac.uk, or visit: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/srr for information.
TAMIFLU UNDER SCRUTINY

Professor Carl Heneghan was part of a team of researchers investigating the effectiveness of Tamiflu to curb influenza outbreaks. The drugs were found to be ineffective for preventing pandemics, and may cause more harm in some patients than good.

Professor Heneghan is Director of Oxford’s Centre for Evidence-based Medicine and Director of the Department’s award bearing courses in Evidence-Based Health Care.

‘There is no credible way these drugs could prevent a pandemic,’ said Professor Heneghan, one of the authors of the Cochrane report. The Cochrane Collaboration is a not-for-profit UK research organization that investigates the effectiveness of medicines. Dr Heneghan’s interview with the BBC is available online at: www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-26967089

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS:

Sustainable Urban Development spotlight: Megan O’Hara

‘Prior to taking the MSc in Sustainable Urban Development, I had been involved in international urban development projects in the US, UK, India, Canada, and Russia. My particular interests centered around affordable housing, strategic growth, and transit-oriented development. The MSc provided me with a unique opportunity to continue pursuing my professional work (which I am very passionate about) while providing an outlet for critical analysis of the urban issues facing cities today. The ability to work during the MSc was an attractive option because it not only made pursuing an advanced degree financially feasible, but also provided an invigorating balance between practice and theory. To read Megan’s full story, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/meganohara

Data and Systems Analysis student spotlight: Len Puhm

‘After completing a management degree at the University of Manchester in 2010 I was offered a role in an IT function at a large financial services organisation. Starting a career in technology was something I had not planned for – therefore I was aware there were some gaps in my knowledge. I soon became determined to expand my skills and knowledge in the field of computing and started looking for the most appropriate training course.

‘I was attracted to the Advanced Diploma in Data and Systems Analysis due to its highly relevant content. I was able to apply the knowledge (like system development life-cycles, unified modelling language, the importance of well-defined requirements, etc.) at the workplace instantly and therefore deliver changes to the company’s IT systems more effectively.’

To read more about Len’s experience, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/lenpuhm

ACADEMIC LITERACY

Oxford University Press (OUP) has recently published Oxford EAP (a course in English for Academic Purposes) which features video extracts from Departmental academic staff on subjects including history, human rights, philosophy, political economy, research methodology and urbanism. The Department and OUP hope to feature additional clips from the lectures in a number of jointly-produced online courses in academic literacy currently in production. To learn more, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/oupeap

NEW ONLINE COURSES

Psychology: an introduction

How do we think? How do we learn languages? How do we remember, and why do we forget? www.conted.ox.ac.uk/C800-93

Western Architecture: The Modern Era

Exploring the architectural genesis of the modern world, beginning with the vital structural innovations of the late Victorian era through to Modernism in European and American architecture. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V350-254

GERO THOMAS MEDAL RECIPIENT

Dr Bob Lambourne, Director of Studies for Physical Sciences, has been awarded the 2014 Gero Thomas Commemorative Medal by the European Physical Society, in recognition of his contributions to physics education within the Society. The European Physical Society is the umbrella organisation for national physical societies across Europe, and represents about 100,000 professional physicists.

Said Dr Lambourne, ‘I’m deeply honoured to receive the European Physical Society’s Gero Thomas Medal. Though, in accepting the award I am also aware that the EPS is nothing if not a collaboration and that I could have achieved very little without the support of colleagues across Europe and even beyond. I am very glad to have been able to contribute in any way to this great international effort.’
CREATIVE WRITING

Diploma in Creative Writing alumna Cathy Dreyer came third in the 2014 Wenlock Poetry Competition for her poem What we can see, and alumna Honor Somerset’s poem, Exmoor, a villanelle, was published in the Lightship Anthology 3, and also won fourth prize (this time in sonnet form) in the Writer’s Bureau Poetry Competition. Alumna Megan Palmer’s story Behold will appear in the July issue of literary magazine Struclo. Current Diploma student Emily Beecher won £41k for her play The Good Enough Mum’s Club; and Jan Thomas, current student on the Diploma course, is working with Chris Goode and Company on an episode to be featured in the Oxford Playhouse’s world premiere of STAND, part of the ‘Playhouse Plays Out’ series.

Master’s in Creative Writing alumnus James Benmore’s second novel, Dodger of the Dials, is due out on 5 June. James’ first novel, Dodger, tells the continuing story of Jack Dawkins from Oliver Twist. Alumna Maya Popa’s Gregory O’Donoghue Prize-winning poem, Hummingbird, is now available to read online.

Current Master’s student Kiran Millwood Hargrave’s first novel The Cartographer’s Daughter will be represented by Janklow and Nesbit Literary Agency. Student Eva Hibbs’ theatre company, Portmanteau, has been selected by the Pleasance Theatre to go to the Edinburgh fringe. Alumni Pat Toland and Elizabeth Thompson have both been shortlisted for the Forward Prize. MST student Shahla Haque’s short story, The Snake, won StorySLAM at the Royal Festival Hall. Programme director Clare Morgan’s short story Charity has been anthologized by the Library of Wales.

Read more, and follow links to books and poems, at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cwtrinity14

IN BRIEF

The Department’s work and students were featured in both the Oxford Mail and the Oxford Times Online, as part of the coverage of our award ceremony. Read the Oxford Times story at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/oxfordtimes

Dr Claire O’Mahony, University Lecturer and Course Director of the Department’s MST in History of Design, has been awarded a John Fell Fund grant to pay for the filming of sessions at the 2014 Annual Design History Society Conference. The conference, with the theme Design for War and Peace, will be held at Rewley House in September. For further information see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/warpeace2014dhs

The East Oxford Archaeology project has new radiocarbon data that provides a much clearer picture of the burials at Bartlemas Chapel. For more information, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/radiocarbon-bartlemas

BOOKS

Dr Sandie Byrne, University Lecturer in English Literature and Creative Writing, has just published Jane Austen’s Possessions and Dispossession: the Significance of Objects.

Sandie says, ‘Jane Austen knew all about dispossession. She was dispossessed of her much-loved Hampshire home when her father retired. That the living and rectory went to a family member, her brother James, seems not to have been much consolation. Austen’s novels are as much about women gaining and losing things, and thus security, as they are about finding and losing partners’. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/possessions

Gajendra Singh, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow working with Yasmin Khan on the Arts & Humanities Research Council funded project ‘Home Fronts of the British Empire’, has published The Testimonies of Indian Soldiers and the Two World Wars: Between Self and Sepoy. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/singh

Friends of Oxford Lifelong Learning: Lecture & Lunch

‘Who Cared about the Early Modern State’ by Dr Jonathan Healey
29 May 11.30am

This event is part of the annual programme for the Friends of Oxford Lifelong Learning. For more information about the lecture and the benefits of becoming a Friend, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/foll