WELCOME ADRIAN STOKES, NEW DIRECTOR OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr Adrian Stokes, currently Director of Master’s Programmes and Continuing Professional Development at the Institute of Clinical Education, Warwick Medical School, joins the Department as the new Director of Continuing Professional Development on 1st March 2010.

Tell us about your professional background.
I’m fascinated by the way different professional groups and academic disciplines develop and share their expertise. This was initially a research interest; it’s evolved into a very practical engagement in facilitating continuing professional development.

I’ve been at the University of Warwick since 2000. For the past five years I’ve led postgraduate and Continuing Professional Development programmes at the Medical School, covering a very wide range of fields – from philosophy and ethics to trauma and orthopaedics.

What has attracted you to the CPD Centre at Oxford?
Oxford University has a dynamic and ambitious vision for continuing professional development. The well-developed collaborations between the University’s academic departments, the Department for Continuing Education—where the CPD Centre resides—and Kellogg College provide a vibrant and supportive environment for learning – and especially for meeting the needs of busy professionals.

Your recent experience is in the health sciences. Will this be your focus at Oxford?
I see myself continuing to work with the health sector as a major area of activity but one attraction of the role is its breadth and the opportunity to foster links across disciplines and professions. The Department already has enormously successful Master’s and Doctoral programmes with an international reputation for excellence – the MSc and DPhil in Evidence-Based Health Care and the MSc in Experimental Therapeutics are clear examples. I hope to build on these and other established programmes. And I hope I’ll have the opportunity to explore how the innovative, interdisciplinary approaches which characterize Oxford’s James Martin 21st Century School and the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment can be related to needs and opportunities in professional development.

What’s involved in creating programmes for professional development?
Creating programmes for professionals has its challenges but is enormously rewarding. Oxford’s close ties with industry, from local to international levels, are crucial in identifying where the University’s wealth of expertise can work in partnership to help develop individuals and organisations.

At Warwick Medical School I have worked on the provision of flexible and highly responsive programmes, offering enhanced support for participants through online communication and resources. Meeting and conferring in person will remain a key aspect of most professional programmes but online networking is becoming part of many people’s day-to-day activity and has enormous potential for learning.

Anything else you’d like to add?
No doubt I’ve got a lot to learn about how best to do things in a new environment – but I can’t wait to get started.

NEW COMMISSION EXAMINES PUBLIC SECTOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

A major initiative to make public services more accountable to their users was launched last December: The Commission on Ownership. Professor Jonathan Michie, Director of the Department for Continuing Education and President of Kellogg College, is one of ten commissioners.

The commission will look at citizen and employee involvement in public services and will consider the lessons of the private sector failures of 2007–2009.

‘Dramatic corporate failures during the credit crunch highlighted shortcomings in the traditional business model, with its narrow focus on short term shareholder value’, said Professor Michie. Read the full story at http://www.ox.ac.uk/media/news_stories/2009/091215.html

YEAR OF SCIENCE 2010

This year marks the 350th anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Society.

Christopher Wren started the ball rolling on November 30th, 1660: he delivered a lecture on astronomy to a small London audience. From this beginning, a society for the study of a new and controversial ‘Experimental Philosophy’ was formed; two years later Charles II made it his Royal Society.

In the past 350 years science has come a long way. And yet how much does the average citizen know?

‘A mathematically and scientifically literate society is essential given the huge role science now plays in our world’, said Marcus du Sautoy, the Department’s Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science. Is 2010 your year to explore an area of science that interests you? See page two for a selection of exciting courses you can enrol on now.
BRUSH UP YOUR SCIENCE IN 2010

The 350th anniversary of the Royal Society could be your own personal ‘year of science’. The courses listed below are just a few of the science offerings at the Department. Day schools, weekly classes, online courses – there’s something to suit every schedule. For those viewing this newsletter online, please click any course title below to see the full course description and details on our website. Our full range of courses is available at http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk.

THE STRUCTURED BRAIN: THE SEVENTH OXFORD

Brain Day
Day School: Saturday 27 February
The annual Brain Day concerns the physical structure of the brain: what are its main anatomical structures? How do they relate to its function, its development and to one another?

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND THE INTERNET
Day School: Saturday 27 March
Facebook, YouTube and Second Life: applications like these give us unprecedented access to people and information. What impact is the Internet having on our social lives and identities? Our political and social engagement? Who and what we know?

THE HISTORY & CONSEQUENCES OF THE INVENTION OF THE CALCULUS
Weekend Event: 29 – 30 May
This course will look at the pivotal role that the calculus had in shaping the development of mathematics, and the controversy between Leibniz and Newton as to who had invented it. This weekend should appeal to a wide range of people and does not require any expertise in calculus.

HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS 2: FROM GAUSS TO WILES
Weekly: Wednesdays 7.00-9.30pm; Starts 14 April
This course will look at key developments and figures in the creation of mathematics, will trace the development of mathematics after Hilbert, and will address unsolved mathematical problems that still exist today. 10 meetings at Ewert House.

ICE AGES
Weekly: Wednesdays 7.00-9.00pm; Starts 14 April
What causes Ice Ages? This course, which contains a few surprises, focuses on ice ages in general and in the British Isles in particular. Our last Ice Age started 2.6 million years ago and continued until about 10,000 years ago. 8 meetings at Ewert House + Saturday field trip.

STARS, GALAXIES AND THE COSMOS
Weekly: Thursdays 7.00-9.00pm; Starts 15 April
Stars and planets, in our galaxy and beyond: how far away are they, how many are there and what are they like? 10 meetings at Ewert House.

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE
Online: 28 Apr – 9 July
This course introduces the core issues in the philosophy of science, in particular the debates about the nature of the scientific method, theories of confirmation, the demarcation of science from non-science, the rationality of theory change, and scientific realism. Participants will be introduced to the key thinkers in philosophy of science.

INTRODUCTION TO ELECTRONICS
Online: 12 April – 8 June
This online course will introduce you to the basic ideas behind electronic circuits – how they work and how they’re made. The course is designed to act both as an introductory course and as a refresher course.

MUSIC, LANGUAGE & THE BRAIN
One week summer school: 17 – 24 July
Humans have been making music for more than 30,000 years; we are less sure when language started developing. This course explores music and language and looks at how the brain and ears process these sounds. New research on fMRI imaging and birdsong sheds light on how our brains work.

NUMBERS MATTERS!
One week summer school: 17 – 24 July
Our subject is matters that relate to numbers: their representation, manipulation, surprises and limitations.

GRAVE CONCERNS: FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY
One-week summer school: 24 – 31 July
Forensic archaeology applies archaeological methods to the crime scene to aid the search and recovery of buried remains. Forensic archaeology increasingly assists police investigation in reconstructing a sequence of events and assesses links between deposition sites.

ONLINE VIEWING: THE ABC OF 123
Marcus du Sautoy, the Department’s Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science, introduced members of the general public to the wonders of mathematics at a sell-out event at Science Oxford Live on 14 October. Working with three of his student ‘Mathemagicians’, the audience were shown how maths can take us from the simplest of beginnings to the deepest mysteries of the universe. Watch the webcast at http://www.scienceoxfordlive.com/watch-us-archive/an-abc-of-123
NEW COURSES STARTING IN 2010:

**MSc in Sustainable Urban Development**
Offered in partnership with The Prince’s Foundation for the Built Environment, this part-time two-year MSc is aimed at professionals worldwide working in the property development sector. [http://cpd.conted.ox.ac.uk/msud/default.asp](http://cpd.conted.ox.ac.uk/msud/default.asp)

**Animal Welfare and Livestock Production**
Developed by leading animal welfare experts from the University’s highly respected Animal Behaviour Research Group and the food industry-sponsored Food Animal Initiative, this course is delivered using distance learning, direct teaching and commercially relevant project-based work. [http://cpd.conted.ox.ac.uk/vaccinology/default.asp](http://cpd.conted.ox.ac.uk/vaccinology/default.asp)

**The Oxford Vaccinology Programme**
State-of-the-art teaching in both veterinary and human vaccinology, this course draws on the experience of Oxford University, the world-renowned Jenner Institute, the Institute for Animal Health (IAH) and our partners in industry. [http://cpd.conted.ox.ac.uk/vaccinology/default.asp](http://cpd.conted.ox.ac.uk/vaccinology/default.asp)

**Three New Online Short Courses Starting in May:**

**Globalisation**
24 May – 7 Aug 2010
Gain an understanding of globalisation: in historical context, international trade, transnational corporations, economic development and deindustrialisation, globalisation of technology, and the low-carbon future. [http://onlinecourses.conted.ox.ac.uk/coursequeries.php?id=O09P410SOV](http://onlinecourses.conted.ox.ac.uk/coursequeries.php?id=O09P410SOV)

**Shakespeare**
5 May – 16 July
Get to know a range of Shakespeare’s plays in detail, along with their historical background, their theatrical history, and current critical debates. [http://onlinecourses.conted.ox.ac.uk/coursequeries.php?id=O09P409LTV](http://onlinecourses.conted.ox.ac.uk/coursequeries.php?id=O09P409LTV)

**Writing Drama**
10 May – 23 July
Learn the key elements of successful dramatic writing, and acquire a greater understanding of the four main media: stage; radio; television; and film. [http://onlinecourses.conted.ox.ac.uk/coursequeries.php?id=O09P411CRV](http://onlinecourses.conted.ox.ac.uk/coursequeries.php?id=O09P411CRV)

A NEW VOICE FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

In January, David Howard joined us as a University Lecturer in Sustainable Urban Development. He was previously a Senior Lecturer in the Institute of Geography at the University of Edinburgh, following postdoctoral research at the University of Oxford, the City University of New York and the University of Melbourne.

David’s principal research looks at the contemporary urban societies of the Caribbean and Latin America, with a specific focus on urban livelihoods, social sustainability and identity politics. His interests lie at the interface between social and urban geography, and postcolonial and development studies. Recent research projects have concentrated on empirical work in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, and on the theoretical links between urban territory, crime and discrimination. He is currently working with archaeologists and anthropologists from the City University of New York and the University of the West Indies as part of a National Science Foundation project to assess long-term environmental and land-use change in the Caribbean.

Outside University life, he is a CNRS Associate at the Centre d’Étude d’Afrique Noire, Université de Bordeaux IV, and the Co-ordinating Editor for the Bulletin of Latin American Research and an associated Wiley–Blackwell book series. As Chair of the Society for Caribbean Studies, he co-directs the Joint Initiative for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (JISLAC), which supports multidisciplinary seminar networks and seed grants for new research, and sits on the Latin America and Caribbean Panel at the British Academy.

‘I am delighted to be joining both the Department and College with the opportunity to develop the new MSc in Sustainable Urban Development with The Prince’s Foundation for the Built Environment... lots of excitement and work ahead!’

WHAT’S ON: DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

**The OED at 80+: 13 Mar**
The Oxford English Dictionary was first published in 1928. Eighty (two) years later word histories continue to fascinate, not least because of the connections they have with the world of language and with the history of culture and technology. [http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O09P193TEJ](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O09P193TEJ)

**Software Engineering Programme Open Day: 13 March**
The Software Engineering Programme teaches the principles of modern software engineering, together with the tools, methods, and techniques that support their application. The Programme will be holding an open day in Oxford on Saturday 13th March 2010. The event will be a taster for our part-time professional Master’s degree. [http://www.softeng.ox.ac.uk/openday/201003/](http://www.softeng.ox.ac.uk/openday/201003/)

**Open Evening: Foundation Certificate in English Language and Literature: 20 April, 6 – 8 pm**
Has studying English literature always interested you? Here’s your opportunity to formally engage with great writers from Shakespeare to the Modernists of the twentieth century. The foundation course is designed to be the equivalent of the first year of a full-time degree course. Join us to meet tutors and learn more. [http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/fcel](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/fcel)

**Forum Oxford: Future Technologies Conference: 21 May**
This one-day conference explores emerging technologies with an emphasis on Mobile / Web 2.0 innovations, and aims to facilitate discussion between the audience and speakers. [http://cpd.conted.ox.ac.uk/electronics/courses/future_technologies09.asp](http://cpd.conted.ox.ac.uk/electronics/courses/future_technologies09.asp)
CREATIVE WRITING NEWS

David Grylls, Director of Studies for Literature and Creative Writing, will be interviewing crime writer Ruth Rendell about her new edition of the Penguin Complete Sherlock Holmes at the Oxford Literary Festival at 10.00 am on Wednesday 24th March, at Christ Church College. The interview will focus on the importance of Conan Doyle to the detective story generally, and whether Ruth Rendell feels she has a different relationship with her own Inspector Wexford than the one Conan Doyle had with Holmes. To book a ticket for this event, please see the Festival website at http://www.oxfordliteraryfestival.com/index2.php

Bridget Arsenault, a second year student on the MST in Creative Writing has won the D L Chapman Memorial Prize for Fiction. Her short story, The Stair Method, explores loss and discovery, confusion and trepidation. The prize is £165 in books from Blackwells. Bridget, who is currently working on a comedic screenplay, says ‘I want to write; I want to enjoy it, and I aspire to be good at it.’ The D L Chapman Memorial Prize is awarded annually for an original composition in English verse or prose.

Creative Writing programme external Examiner Professor Philip Gross, of the University of Glamorgan, won the TS Eliot Prize for Poetry for his book Water Table. The Guardian described the poems as ‘detailed and lyrical meditations on the ever-changing waters of the Severn estuary’. http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/jan/18/philip-gross-ts-eliot-winner

THE DEPARTMENT IN BRIEF

Queen’s New Years Honours 2010 | Marcus du Sautoy, the Department’s Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science, was made an OBE for services to science. ‘I hope the award sends out a signal that we need more ambassadors from the world of science engaging with the public about the significance of science to society,’ said du Sautoy. http://www.ox.ac.uk/media/news_stories/2009/091231.html

Oxford Visit to Poundbury | University Lecturer in Sustainable Urban Development David Howard joined a contingent from Oxford which accompanied Prince Charles on a visit to Poundbury, Dorset, in connection with the Oxford Programme for the Future of Cities and the Department’s new Oxford MSc in Sustainable Urban Development. http://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/centres/insis/news/Pages/city-limits.aspx

Charles Boyle, Director of British and Cultural Studies, and co-author Ileana Chersan are recipients of the 2009 David Riley Award for Innovation for their book and CD set, ‘English for Law Enforcement’, published by Macmillan. A major English Language Training industry prize, the Riley award ‘recognises new talent, creativity and excellence in the field of Business and English for Specific Purposes publishing’. http://www.macmillanenglish.com/Course.aspx?id=42006

Advance Notice: ArtWeeks 2010 | This May, Rewley House will provide exhibition space for seven local artists during ArtWeeks, Oxfordshire’s annual visual arts festival. The exhibit will run from May 8-16. The artists are exhibiting as a group called the ‘Rewley House 7’, and their work includes painting, photography, print-making, glass, jewellery and mosaic. http://www.artweeks.org

GOING THE DISTANCE FOR A CAUSE

Departmental staff member Jo Grant will realize a dream on 25 April: she’s running the 2010 London Marathon. For Jo, getting to the 26.2 mile race has been a gradual process. ‘Like many people, I started running as a way to lose weight and get fit’, says Jo. ‘It then became a good way of getting home from work and, before I knew it, I was signing up for 10K races such as Oxford’s Town & Gown, half marathons and even my first full marathon in Abingdon last year. To run in the London Marathon, one of the biggest and most prestigious in the world, will be an ambition fulfilled for me... bring it on!’

Jo will run in aid of the charity Disability Sports Events, which creates participation opportunities for disabled people with all impairments. Founded in 1969, DSE creates high standard national and international championships in such sports as swimming, archery, and athletics, offering athletes a chance for achievement that might not be gained otherwise. Jo is one of 28 runners on DSE’s charity team. She hopes to complete the course in less than 4 hours and 20 minutes.

If you’d like to sponsor Jo’s run in support of DSE, you can donate online at http://www.justgiving.com/jogrant2010

University of Oxford Global Health Summer School 2010

Dates: 05–09 July 2010
Venue: Jesus College
Web: http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/globalhealth
Email: globalhealth@conted.ox.ac.uk
Phone: +44(0)1865 286960/45