



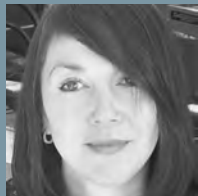
FRANK BELL



NOBEL PRIZE WINNER PAGES 18 AND 19

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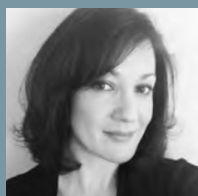
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Cover photo: John Cairns

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Please email your comments to blueprint@admin.ox.ac.uk

Read me online at
www.ox.ac.uk/blueprint

WELLBEING MATTERS

Earlier this year the University launched an ambitious Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy. We find out how our new approach will support our students in the future

Mental health is a growing challenge for the higher education sector. Demand for university mental health services has increased significantly in recent years, with analysis suggesting that the number has increased by more than 50% in five years.

Oxford has been looking at new ways to build on its welfare provision in light of this growing call for support; and a consultation took place in the last academic year, giving staff and students an opportunity to feed into a new strategy in this area.

The result was the Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy. Launched in October 2018, it outlines a strategic approach the University will take to supporting students during their time at Oxford.

Building on success

The University already invests heavily in student mental health and wellbeing. It spent £2.7m on welfare services in 2018–19, part-funded by the colleges, who also spend significant sums on their own welfare teams. The Counselling Service is highly regarded in the sector, and the Disability Advisory Service has a new mental health team focused on supporting students with a declared mental health disability.

The new strategy builds on this activity, outlining an institution-wide approach the University will adopt in the future to support students during their time at Oxford. It embeds wellbeing into all aspects of students' university life, from learning and life skills to community, inclusion and support.

Commitments of the strategy include taking mental health and wellbeing into account when designing courses; promoting supportive resources to help students build resilience; encouraging volunteering opportunities that promote

wellbeing; promoting inclusive sport and physical activities; and committing additional resources to the University Counselling and Disability Advisory Services.

Support for staff

The University has also made a commitment to the wellbeing of its staff in the Strategic Plan. Wellbeing services are already provided through the Occupational Health Service – including access to a variety of courses and resources. The University has also signed the Mindful Employer's Charter and is developing a Staff Mental Health Strategy.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Louise Richardson said: 'At Oxford, we are deeply committed to the mental health and wellbeing of everyone who works and studies here. We all have a responsibility for helping our students to thrive and we already provide excellent support through colleges and specialist services.'

'The Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy sets out the way we intend to expand this support, covering all aspects of students' university experience. It is a strategy that will help us to respond to a growing nationwide challenge, and we hope that over time it will make a real difference.'

Roisin McCallion, Vice-President, Welfare & Equal Opportunity at Oxford Student Union said: 'Too often student wellbeing and their academic study are seen as completely separate things. The institution-wide approach in the strategy recognises that this is not the case, ensuring that students' mental health and wellbeing are considered in all decisions.'

'The seriousness with which student voices have been taken in the development strategy means that it has been produced with lived-experience in mind, which we hope will make it all the more effective.'

The new strategy is being promoted through the Wellbeing at Oxford campaign at: www.ox.ac.uk/wellbeingatoxford

A new hub has launched on the Oxford Students website, outlining the available support alongside measures to build on the current provision

MY OXFORD

Tim Coulson, Professor of Zoology and Head of the Department of Zoology, member of Congregation and a member of Council (elected from members of the faculties in the MPLS and Medical Sciences Divisions), talks about his diverse University roles

Tim is one of the 25 members of the Council, the University's executive governing body. Chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Council's principal business impacts on every member of the University; it settles our annual budget, makes major strategic decisions, receives and makes decisions on reports from our committees and operations, and proposes amendments to Statutes and Regulations

ANNETTE CUNNINGHAM



Dave Fleming

What attracted you to Oxford?

In 2012, when working as Professor of Population Biology at Imperial College, I got a call inviting me to apply for a post at Oxford. After a visit I felt it lived up to its reputation and so I did apply. It was a good decision. It's a great place to work and the department is very friendly and welcoming.

Talking of welcomes – I enjoyed my enthusiastic greeting to the building from Woofler (Tim's dog). Is he a regular visitor?

Yes. The one place at the University I think you might perhaps expect to find a dog *in situ* is Zoology! Woofler's a popular member of the department and does wonders for students missing their own pets. He is much in demand as a lunchtime walk companion.

How did you become involved with Council?

It stems from when the decision was taken to vacate the Tinbergen building. Several committees said they could use someone on the ground, to provide them with expert advice about the implications, and I took this up. The opportunity to give something back and help make a difference to Oxford's future eventually led to me standing for Council.

What does your role with Council involve?

I feel we join up a lot of dots. We work to steer the strategic direction, prevent the University from making mistakes, and propose new ideas. We also always consider how Council might improve – we're currently exploring how we might broaden our membership. In practical terms the role demands reading many papers (up to a couple of hundred pages before a meeting) and digesting lots of detail to enable us to make informed decisions.

And your work with Zoology?

Along with my departmental responsibilities I'm a biologist. One of my specialities is investigating how our ecosystem responds to environmental change. At times this might involve me traipsing around in the snow at Yellowstone National Park tracking wolves or studying rodents in our own wonderful research woodland at Wytham.

You've received a number of prestigious awards for your work – how does that feel?

I'm actually particularly pleased with the prize from Oxford University Student



Dave Fleming

Tim and Woofler

Union for my graduate student supervision. Championing our early career researchers makes me really proud. They are the future and it's a privilege to be involved with helping build their strength and confidence.

And what has made you most proud being a member of Council?

The work on the major partnership between Oxford University and Legal & General. This great opportunity will lead to thousands of homes for students and staff, together with new world-class science and innovation districts.

How do you juggle all your different roles at Oxford?

It can be challenging. People definitely make the University – I couldn't do it without all the excellent support networks we have. The Secretariat is invaluable, keeping us all informed and organised with Council business. And I've got a great team around me in Zoology, ensuring the department is effective and efficient.

What do you think is important that people know about Council?

Council members work for the best interests of everyone. We aim to be as open as possible about Council procedures – the agendas and minutes of meetings are available on our website. We also strive to be visible, speaking to as many people as possible about their thoughts about the direction the University is taking.

Can people contact you directly about Council related matters?

Yes, please do get in touch with me – or any other member of Council – if you would like to raise a concern, ask a question or make a suggestion about University decisions or business. I can't promise we can resolve everything, but we are here to listen and your insight will be welcomed.

Find out more

- Information about Council, including the agendas, decision notes and minutes from meetings, are available at: www.council.ox.ac.uk
- A list of current Council members is available at: www.council.ox.ac.uk/people

UNDER THREAT:

ON THE TRAIL OF THE AFRICAN GOLDEN WOLF



Liz Campbell setting camera trap

Oxford's researchers strive to solve real-world problems through an extensive network of partnerships and collaborations. Liz Campbell, a DPhil student from Oxford's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), discusses her study of the newly discovered African golden wolf

RUTH ABRAHAMS

For Liz Campbell, Oxford is just a base. Her home for most of the year is 1,350 miles due south in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco. She lives in a remote town called Azrou from where she is studying the African golden wolf. Until 2015 this species was unknown and had been considered to be a kind of jackal; in actual fact the two species

have been separate for 1.2 million years.

The African golden wolf – as it is now correctly identified – is top predator in this region since the Barbary lions, leopards and hyenas have disappeared, mostly from human persecution, loss of habitat and loss of prey. But even these golden, misidentified survivors are under threat.

“

We need more research to understand the animals and what role they play in the ecosystem, understanding why they're attacking livestock and how we can prevent that

”

They are seen as a menace by local shepherds. Campbell says, 'Shepherds really dislike that a wolf might kill ten sheep and only eat one. They consider this vengeful and spiteful, but that isn't the animals' motivation at all.'

This sounds devastating, but Campbell explains, 'my data shows that the wolves don't attack sheep that often; only 15% of shepherds have had any kind of attack in the last year.'

But if the wolves are, in some ways, harmful to a group of people scratching a living from their land, does it matter whether the wolves survive or go the way of the lions, leopards and hyenas?

In simple terms: yes, it does. 'You need predators in an ecosystem to balance prey,' Campbell explains. 'In the Atlas Mountains there are a lot of wild boar and with nothing to eat the boars they rapidly increase. Wild boar root up the ground and destroy vegetation. It's the same with other herbivores: if they don't have a predator they become too many and destroy many crops.'

This is a pattern of predator-eradication that has occurred across the world. Wolves became almost extinct throughout North America and Europe because of human influence. They're now recovering and returning to a lot of places they were extirpated from. In Yellowstone National Park they reintroduced wolves and it has had 'massive cascading effects,' says Campbell.

Eventually the consequences of predator loss becomes damaging for humans but, as Campbell says: 'There's also the argument of biodiversity having its own intrinsic value. There is the argument that the wolves have a right to be alive. Who are humans to decide that these wolves are bad for their livestock and then wipe out a whole branch of evolution?'

The African golden wolves, key to maintaining biodiversity in the Atlas Mountains, are secretive animals and of no harm to humans. In years of studying them Campbell has only actually seen them twice. Her observations come through cameras and tracking.

After learning the basic essentials of this new species, the next stage of Campbell's research is to develop strategies to make sure that the humans aren't losing livestock and to protect the predators themselves.



African Golden Wolf

'Strategies will probably focus on husbandry practices, for example the common problem of losing your sheep in the forest. You can fairly easily improve this issue by having guard dogs and having the sheep locked up better at night, but this brings extra costs for farmers and shepherds.'

'We need more research to understand the animals and what role they play in the ecosystem, understanding why they're attacking livestock and how we can prevent that.'

Campbell's work involves outreach events with local communities and educational events with children to teach them about the value of predators and the balance of nature. She also trains students in Morocco to increase capacity of conservation within the country.

The Atlas Golden Wolf project is part of the WildCRU (Wildlife Conservation Research Unit) suite of projects based at the University of Oxford. Catapulted into the spotlight in 2015 when one of their study lions, Cecil, was shot dead by a trophy hunter, the research group has roots stretching back to the early pioneering days of environmental conservation. Founded in 1986 by David Macdonald, WildCRU was the first university-based conservation research unit in Europe. It has grown to be one of the largest conservation research institutes in the world.

Liz Campbell and many more conservation biologists at Oxford are collaborating around the world to create solutions which respect the balance of human need, the right to life on earth of animals and the intrinsic value of biodiversity.

Find out more at:
po.st/golden-wolf

For further information on how Oxford research is making a positive impact on our changing world visit:
ox.ac.uk/trueplanet



TAKE ACTION ON CLIM

As mentioned in the Vice-Chancellor's 2019 Oration, climate change is a threat that concerns us all. Oxford researchers are at the forefront of trying to better understand the reasons for the changes. A number of case studies which help illustrate this are available at ox.ac.uk/trueplanet

Everyone's environmental impact is different. Professor Susan Jebb and Dr Tina Fawcett discuss how our own travel, home energy and food consumption choices can help make a difference



Professor Susan Jebb

Professor Susan Jebb, of the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and Co-Director, Livestock, Environment and People (LEAP) programme, explains the impact of our choices on the environment.

Food choices

Food is a major contributor to climate change. What we eat (regardless of where it is produced) is responsible for approximately one-fifth of all the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions attributable to the UK. There is a close link between what we produce and what we eat, so action by individual people to change their diet can help to drive positive change across the food system and reduce environmental harms.

Reduce waste

The obvious place to start is to reduce food waste. In the UK where food is plentiful and relatively cheap, around 70% (5 million tonnes) of the food wasted at household level could have been eaten. Given we need to increase world food production to feed 10 billion people by 2050, we cannot continue to squander the food we produce.

Reduce meat consumption

Next is to reduce meat consumption. Livestock production is the single most important way that food production drives climate change. The GHG emissions from the diet of high meat eaters in the UK average 7.19 kgCO₂e/day compared to 3.81 kgCO₂e/day for vegetarians. Although meat is an important source of some nutrients, we could improve our health by eating less meat.

Food quality

Finally, it's time for us all to put the environmental – and nutritional – quality of our food ahead of sheer quantity. Reducing the amount of calories we eat will reduce the amount of food we need

The food industry is now competing to offer better choices. There's a huge rise in plant-based meals in supermarkets and restaurants. As vegetarian options become common or more prominent, more people choose them. The resulting decline in the number of meat meals amplifies the reduction in GHG emissions which can be achieved if just a single person makes a personal and conscious choice to switch.

Finally, by contributing their voices, individuals can help overcome national policy inertia. Once it is apparent that there is public demand, governments are far more likely to intervene to drive further change in the food system through harder policy measures. However, to be effective they need to be implemented – they usually need individuals to start the ball rolling.

System change

However, we need system change as well as individual change. Individuals cannot deliver all the changes necessary; businesses, government, the public sector

FIVE STEPS TO REDUCING YOUR EMISSIONS

Everyone's environmental impact is different. Dr Tina Fawcett, Senior Researcher and Acting Deputy Leader, Environmental Change Institute, discusses how travel, home energy use and food consumption are often the three biggest contributors to an individual's carbon footprint.

There are five steps we can all take to help reduce our personal carbon emissions:

1. Understand your consumption patterns and why they are as they are. This will help you identify priority areas for change.
2. Reduce waste – particularly energy and food. Nobody means to waste, but nearly all of us do. Actions can range from the immediate, money-saving and simple, such as controlling heating carefully, to more longer term plans, such as a low-energy home refurbishment.
3. Increase your active travel – walking and cycling. Drive less and reduce or avoid air travel.
4. Eat more plant-based meals and less meat and dairy.
5. Make plans for a low-carbon future. How could you become less car-dependent? How might you heat your home without fossil fuels?

Many of these changes will not only save money, they'll also deliver benefits for health, comfort and local air quality beyond 'just' reducing carbon emissions.

The University of Oxford's Futuremakers podcast is the 'fly on the wall' to the debates between our academics and leading experts from around the world around what, and how, climate action should be taken: <http://po.st/FUTUREMAKERS>

ATE CHANGE

to produce to feed the world's population and help prevent obesity – good for the environment and good for health too.

We can make a difference

We should never think that our individual actions are inconsequential. Big change often starts with small steps and over time can build into social trends and later become the norm. Reducing meat consumption is a good example. Growing numbers of people are becoming vegan or vegetarian or reducing their meat intake, and saying it doesn't feel unusual to be trying to eat less meat – it feels the socially responsible thing to do. Campaigns like Veganuary give social legitimacy to people to try out a new behaviour just as Stoptober or Dry January help people quit smoking or reduce alcohol consumption.

and civil society also need to act. Many choices rely on changes to infrastructures, for example, using public transport or taking up cycling relies on these options being available, accessible and attractive in our localities. We need a society and economy which enables and encourages low carbon choices.

To influence the wider system, there are many local and national organisations to join which are working for change. In addition, contacting your MP or local politicians and talking to friends and colleagues about your climate concerns helps generate change. We are all part of the solution – and as Greta Thunberg (Swedish teenage environmental activist on climate change) has said – 'no-one is too small to make a difference.'



Dave Fleming

TEAM WORK: ROOTING FOR SUCCESS

Phil Priest, Health, Safety and Facilities Manager at Oxford University Innovation, discusses the department's continuing success at the University's annual Sustainability Showcase – contributing to the University's commitment of minimising our environmental impact

Since 2013 more than 100 Green Impact teams have been formed across the University by staff and students eager to make changes to improve the sustainability of their building, department or college. This national scheme offers simple and effective ways to change behaviours – from minimising waste and increasing recycling through to adding sustainability objectives to job descriptions.

Oxford University Innovation (OUI), working steadily over the last six years to meet Green Impact requirements, were among the six teams awarded Gold+ at the University's 2019 Sustainability Showcase.

With 86 colleagues across nine teams, OUI manages the intellectual property of the University, working with researchers to take their vision from the ideas stage, acting as the stepping stone, into the business world. OUI identifies, protects and markets technologies through licensing, spinout company formation and material sales.

Last year the team set up their Roots to Success project – a key contributor to their Gold+ award. For every spinout launched, OUI pays for a tree to be planted at Wytham Woods. Having backdated this pledge, more than 200 trees are set to take root at the University's research woodland. 'It feels very rewarding to mark every new spinout with something as significant as a tree,' says Phil. 'We've chosen native broadleaf species to preserve the UK's environment and biodiversity and to provide our wildlife habitats.'

As an everyday reminder of their success, a glass cabinet displays corks from the celebratory bottle of bubbly popped at every spinout launch. 'They're arranged by year,' explains Gregg Bayes-Brown, Marketing and Communications Manager. 'Dating from 1957 the shelves for recent years are significantly fuller. We're experiencing what we call the Oxford Boom – generating more spinouts in the last five years at the University than in the previous 800!'

On average, OUI produce between 20 to 25 spinouts annually, making them



Left to right: Adam Stoten (COO), Matt Perkins (COE), Phil Priest and Adrian Coles. The other team members are Dawn Gordon and Chris Fellingham

top of the game in the UK, number two in Europe and in the top five globally. With the exponential growth of Oxford spinouts, hopefully Wytham Woods will continue to reap the benefits.

Phil, awarded Staff Member of the Year at this year's Sustainability Showcase for his contribution to Green Impact, joined OUI in 2013. Preparations were then underway to move the team from Ewert House to Buxton Court. Seeing the move as an opportunity to raise awareness about sustainability and biodiversity, Phil contacted the Environmental Sustainability team for advice: 'We started with food recycling caddies and automatic switching off for screens. However, our biggest success at OUI is our Environmental Group.'

Phil encouraged colleagues to get involved with the group and observed the department's progress. He now leads a group of six staff representatives, including the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Meeting twice a year they discuss future initiatives and monitor energy usage. Their triumphs include the installation of waterless

urinals, saving 300 litres of water a day, and LED lighting, delivering annual savings of around £10,000.

Having struck Gold+ what's next for OUI? 'We're looking at schemes that would bring even greater impact and particularly like the idea of planting trees in schools, bringing an additional educational benefit,' says Phil. 'We're also looking at our travel choices, investigating if we can practically do any of our travel to Europe by rail.'

With the purpose of OUI being to help staff and students bring the benefits of their research and expertise to create impact in wider society, branching out to share how they're reducing their carbon-reduced footprint comes naturally. Here are some Green Impacts tips from the team:

- work collaboratively – don't think you'll have to work alone to enable behaviour change; plenty of colleagues will be keen to get involved
- remove desk bins – it gets people moving and encourages recycling
- switch off – ensure lights, screens and PCs are off at the end of every day.

“
Green Impact is a great way to work with your colleagues to improve everyday behaviours to help the environment
”

Find out more

Green Impact:
<https://sustainability.admin.ox.ac.uk/green-impact>

Oxford University Innovation:
<https://innovation.ox.ac.uk>

Wytham Woods:
www.wythamwoods.ox.ac.uk/home

PARKS COLLEGE



Radcliffe Science Library

A NEW GRADUATE COLLEGE WITH A FOCUS ON 21ST-CENTURY INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

The President and some of the Founding Fellows of Parks College share their vision for this new college that will draw researchers from different disciplines together – exploring some of the big questions of our time

ALISON STIBBE

In May this year, the University of Oxford announced the creation of a new graduate society, to be known initially as Parks College. As only the 39th college established since scholarly teaching began here more than 800 years ago, its creation represents an historic moment for the University, opening new opportunities to advance our world-leading teaching and research.

Parks College will be the home of a new community of scholars focussed on interdisciplinary research addressing

21st-century challenges. The goal is to create a working environment that promotes intellectual curiosity, entrepreneurial thinking and cross-disciplinary collaboration. A further ambition is to be actively engaged with communities beyond academia to enhance opportunities for learning and exchange.

The college will be located on Parks Road, in the heart of the University Science Area, sharing its premises with the Radcliffe Science Library and a new Collections Teaching and Research Centre

(CTRC), led jointly by the University's museums. Its co-location with a library and museum collections centre opens exciting opportunities for partnership and collaboration that will see mutual benefits.

Many people from across our academic divisions and administrative departments are working hard to turn the Parks College vision into a reality. Here, the President of the college and some of the Founding Fellows share their views about why and how they are helping to establish this new graduate community.

Creating a home for Parks College

Construction works to refurbish the Radcliffe Science Library and create a new purpose-designed home for Parks College will take place from spring 2020 until summer 2021. By combining a college home with a specialist science library and a museum collections centre, the project delivers a new collaborative facility with the history of the world in its foundations and the future of the world in its sights.

Parks College will start accepting postgraduate applications in September 2020, with the first cohort of around 100 students expected to start in October 2021. As soon as possible thereafter, the college will accept up to 200 students per year. At maximum capacity, the college expects to have up to 500 Masters' and Doctorate level students, and 50–60 fellows.

Lionel Tarassenko, President
Professor of Electrical Engineering,
Department of Engineering Science



Parks College will enable us to recruit more graduate students in line with the University Strategic Plan, and provide a college home

for senior academics and postdoctoral researchers who currently don't have one. Our academic vision is to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, not just through serendipity, but by planning it, primarily through cross-cutting themes.

EJ Milner-Gulland, Official Fellow (Environmental Change Lead)



Tasso Leventis
Professor of Biodiversity,
Department of Zoology

To me, this is an opportunity to participate in

shaping a vision for a diverse, outward-looking, innovative and inclusive society. I hope we'll be able to inspire students and fellows to work together in new ways, and develop meaningful connections beyond academia, with local environmental groups, policymakers and other influencers to make a positive impact in the world.

Catriona Cannon, Official Fellow (Liaison for GLAM – Gardens, Libraries and Museums)
Deputy Librarian and Keeper of Collections, Bodleian Libraries



This is much more than creating a college home in a shared building. It is a completely new approach to embedding some of

the University's specialist expertise and historic cultural resources into the life of a college – and it puts public engagement, open science and collaboration at its heart.

Chris Paton, Official Fellow (IT and Innovation)

Group Head of the Global Health Informatics Group, Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health



One of the ambitions of Parks College is to be a place of innovation and creativity, where new technologies are used to augment teaching

and learning, and improve the ways we interact and engage with the world. We're developing plans for a digital innovation studio at the college, with state-of-the-art facilities that will help all members of our academic community understand, interpret, analyse and communicate the research they undertake.

Find out more at:
www.ox.ac.uk/parkscollege

Aim for Oxford was launched on Friday 3 May at St James's Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, with the support of Newcastle Central MP, Chi Onwurah. Aim for Oxford complements two new University programmes – Opportunity Oxford and Foundation Oxford – which aim to increase significantly the number of promising students from groups that are currently under-represented in Oxford.

- Opportunity Oxford, launching in 2020, is for students from under-represented backgrounds who may have narrowly missed out on a place in previous years.
- Foundation Oxford, a full year programme starting in 2022, will be offered to state school students from under-represented backgrounds who have experienced severe personal disadvantage or disrupted education.



St Anne's students enjoying the snow

AIM FOR OXFORD

The University is committed to recruiting and supporting students of outstanding potential at all levels from all backgrounds. Earlier this year the University unveiled Aim for Oxford, a new initiative intended to increase the number of successful applications to Oxford University from state school students in the North East

Helen King, Principal of St Anne's College, and Bronwyn Riani, a second year student studying English at St Anne's College and an Aim for Oxford ambassador, talk about why regional diversity is an important access consideration

LANISHA BUTTERFIELD

Keith Barnes



What is Aim for Oxford?

HK: A free two-year programme run by the University's North East Consortium (St Anne's College, Trinity

College and Christ Church). Open to pupils entering Year 12 in a state school in the North East of England, it includes mentoring, a four-night residential visit and support with applications.

Up to 40 students will be selected, based on contextualised educational achievement at GCSE and indicators of social and educational disadvantage. Currently we have 189 applications for the 2020 programme which is really encouraging. We'll be offering places shortly, offering support to those who are unsuccessful.

What inspired Aim for Oxford?

HK: St Anne's has always had Newcastle and Northumbria as a link area – the region of England which is most under-represented within the University. When I came to Oxford in 2017 I started thinking about why this was and how it could be addressed. Distance is a blindingly obvious reason. A return train ticket from Newcastle can cost around £300, with a journey of over four hours each way. For a 17-year-old in Newcastle there are huge barriers to even attend an Open Day.

We also know that a one-off intervention for disadvantaged students is not enough. More affluent applicants are exposed to educational opportunities that could help their applications. But if you are the only person in your school applying, or the first person in your family to go to university, it is that much harder and very lonely. We aim to introduce these sixth formers to university life, offering support with applications and interviews. We also introduce them to a peer group who they can draw from and be encouraged by.

Why is Aim for Oxford so important?

HK: Oxford is, and should be, a blend of people who enjoy each other's differences. Of course, students participating in Aim for Oxford may decide that Oxford isn't for them, but I feel that Oxford would be missing out. The programme won't just benefit students from the North East – we also want to benefit from the North East's talent.

Keith Barnes



What made you decide to apply to Oxford Bronwyn?

BR: When I was 16 my school organised a three-day residential at Mansfield

College. I decided to go along despite thinking 'it's not for me'. The programme included tutorials with academics who

were passionate about their subjects, really interesting and slightly eccentric and I found out about subjects I had never considered – I just loved it! By the time I left my thoughts had changed to 'okay, maybe I could go to Oxford.'

What are the challenges of being at Oxford for you?

BR: I struggled with my accent at first and caught myself talking with a mix of Geordie and southern. I made myself stop as I don't want to lose my accent, but I do feel that it can be a barrier. It can be difficult when private school students reminisce about memories of ski trips and other things that weren't an option for me. And I struggle with missing home – that never goes away.

What do you like most about Oxford?

BR: There's always something incredible happening both socially and academically – you just have to know where to look.

What do you think stops students from the North East applying to Oxford?

BR: I have thought about this a lot, and I think it is just that the culture of the North East is so different. To leave your dialect, landmarks, football and in-jokes is quite daunting. Especially since there is the issue of distance and class. People can apply to universities like Durham and Sunderland, which are so much closer and feel less of a risk. You have to get them to Oxford, to show them that they can be happy here too.

Find out more at: www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate/working-with-schools/aim-for-oxford

BIG CHANGE STARTS WITH SMALL STEPS



It's been a landmark year for progress on access at Oxford University. In May, two new initiatives – Opportunity Oxford and Foundation Oxford, were announced, alongside a steady increase in the number of students choosing the University from under-represented backgrounds. And, in December, the University unveiled the Oxford–Arlan Hamilton and Earline Butler Sims Scholarship – its first dedicated, fully funded scholarship at undergraduate level for black British students from disadvantaged backgrounds, provided by the international tech entrepreneur Arlan Hamilton

LANISHA BUTTERFIELD

Professor Martin Williams, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education reflects on and discusses what's next for the ever-changing face of Oxford.

It's been quite a year for the University – of all the developments made what are you most proud of?

Above all, I am incredibly proud of our team at Oxford. Thanks to the commitment of the people working towards and driving our access agenda, it's been a really productive year for the University. I value every individual's efforts in this area, and am very proud to work with you.

The latest UCAS admissions data review shows that more BAME students are choosing Oxford than ever before – 22% of the 2019 undergraduate intake compared to 18% in 2018. What do you think has triggered this impact?

I think there are a number of factors and programmes that are driving this change. Both our residential programmes, UNIQ and Target Oxbridge, have expanded, and college access officers work tirelessly to maintain relationships with regional link schools.

Making Oxford an attainable option for students of all backgrounds is something that has long been at the top of our priority list, but these things take time, planning and investment, and the pace of change can feel frustratingly slow sometimes.

I hope our commitment to ensuring

every academically talented student in the country knows that they have a fair chance at a place at Oxford has been clear to see. Of course, there is always more to do, but these gains help to remind others and ourselves that progress is being made.

When you say more to do, what further changes would you like to see?

We are working on initiatives that will increase our access offering and opportunities for students of Pakistani or Bangladeshi heritage. I look forward to being able to share more on this soon.

We have also publicly committed to increasing the proportion of students coming to Oxford from under-represented backgrounds from 15% of our annual undergraduate intake to 25% by 2023. It is a big ask, but I am very confident we can do it.

How did the Oxford–Arlan Hamilton and Earline Butler Sims Scholarship come together?

Arlan is a formidable and incredibly generous woman, who has been working with the Oxford Foundry for some time as a student mentor.

Earlier this year she visited us for their Demo Day, and based on everything she saw and learned about the University in that day, she decided – and announced that day – to fund a scholarship for black students at Oxford. The event was livestreamed on Youtube, so there is footage online of Arlan saying those exact words in her speech – quite incredible. (Visit

<https://we.tl/t-pssceentMG> to view the video – Arlan's speech starts at 47:15)

What kind of impact do you think the scholarship will have?

The scholarship's impact is beyond statistical change. Its existence is an improvement in itself that hopefully shows how serious we are about inclusion at Oxford. The programme will fully fund one undergraduate student per year, on any subject of their choice. But, the difference it will make to showing students of this background that they are as welcome as any other student at Oxford is immeasurable.

How was the University changed in your time here?

I joined the University 30 years ago, and it has changed a lot since then. The national focus on diversity was about school-type and gender then. This has evolved to be students' socio-economic background and ethnicity.

We were perhaps a little slow to see and react to this shift, but the message has been well and truly received and actioned now. Our annual admissions data release helped people internally and externally to understand the scale of the issue by exposing the numbers. The University has always cared about access; people just did not know the full story.

What are the biggest challenges to the access agenda?

Oxford is a historic institution, and for better or worse, our reputation precedes us. Breaking down long-held perceptions, getting people to see past salacious



"I visited Oxford for the first time earlier this year when I was a guest speaker at their incredible innovation space, the Oxford Foundry. I was given a private tour of the University grounds by a wonderful woman - I hope she hears this - because she is fantastic, and part of the reason that the scholarship exists."

ARLAN HAMILTON
FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER OF
BACKSTAGE CAPITAL

headlines, judging us for themselves and applying, is a constant challenge.

Our access and outreach teams work with students, schools, families and communities to address these challenges and bring our efforts in this area to life. We want them to see for themselves that we are actively working to widen access and build a university environment where students of all backgrounds feel welcome and would want to be here.

What is next for the University?

The new scholarship of course, but also the launch of our bridging programme Opportunity Oxford. Students who have applied to the University in this cycle will take part in the pilot programme in summer 2020. In addition to our consistent commitment to undergraduate access there will be a growing focus on postgraduate admissions, and also expanding our offering for students who have been through the care system. Ensuring that the University environment is as inclusive as it can be, from the curriculum studied to the behaviours observed.

What is your long-term goal for the University?

I would like to be able to put our hands on our hearts, and say that our admissions processes are transparent and consistent university-wide. For potential applicants to firstly follow through and apply, but also truly believe that when they do, they will be fairly judged, and not need to second guess our systems. I think we are closer to this goal than we have ever been.

The Oxford–Arlan Hamilton and Earline Butler Sims Scholarship

On 3 December 2019 the University announced its first scholarship scheme for UK undergraduates of Black African and Caribbean heritage who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. The scheme is funded by the generosity of Arlan Hamilton, the international entrepreneur and founder of Backstage Capital (the \$10 million fund for under-represented, underestimated entrepreneurial business founders), who has rapidly become one of the most influential women in innovation.

Named in part as a living tribute to Arlan’s mother, the scholarship will provide a full non-repayable scholarship covering fees and living costs for one undergraduate student per year, for three years beginning in 2020. Each beneficiary will also be provided with an internship grant of £3,000 to enhance their employability. In addition, they will have the opportunity to work closely with the Oxford Foundry, the University’s dedicated student and alumni entrepreneurship centre, and ventures on the L.E.V8 accelerator, to enhance their leadership skills and entrepreneurial mindset.



photo courtesy of Oxford Foundry

Read more at: www.ox.ac.uk/arlan

SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH

REWARDED BY NOBEL ASSEMBLY



John Cairns

We take a look at the pioneering and innovative work that led to Professor Peter J Ratcliffe's Nobel Prize accolade in this year's awards

CHRIS MCINTYRE

There are few awards in science so widely recognised as the Nobel Prizes, partly because of the secrecy that surrounds them and the high profiles of the researchers and breakthroughs to which they are attached.

In October, Professor Sir Peter J Ratcliffe, Director for the Target Discovery Institute within the Nuffield Department of Medicine at Oxford University and Director of Clinical Research at the

Francis Crick Institute, London, was announced as a joint winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. In typical Nobel Prize fashion, there was no advance warning.

‘The call came mid-morning while I was in a lab meeting,’ he recalls. ‘My secretary Catherine came through the door with an anxious look on her face and suggested I talk to someone on the phone from Stockholm as it sounded important.’

‘I was delighted, honoured and a little bit surprised, but I still wasn’t allowed to tell anyone else until the actual announcement had been made an hour later.’

In contrast with the sudden nature of the announcement, the research that led to the award spanned decades.

In 1978 Professor Ratcliffe moved to Oxford where he trained in renal medicine at Oxford University, with a particular focus on renal oxygenation, and where he is still a practicing clinician at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

In 1989 he founded a new laboratory in Oxford at the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, obtaining a Senior Fellowship from the Wellcome Trust to work on cellular oxygen sensing pathways. The lab explored the regulation of erythropoietin – a hormone responsible for stimulating the production of red blood cells, known to be turned on in kidney cells following oxygen deprivation.

It was this area of research that led to him winning the prize alongside William G Kaelin Jr of Harvard University and Gregg L Semenza of Johns Hopkins University. Together they discovered the key mechanisms that our cells use to detect and respond to low oxygen levels, known as ‘hypoxia.’

‘Every cell in the body needs the right amount of oxygen to function and survive,’ Professor Ratcliffe explains. ‘When our blood has too little oxygen, our kidneys send signals to boost red blood cell production to carry more oxygen.’ At his Oxford laboratory, he discovered a universal mechanism for detecting and responding to hypoxia that has since been found in all our cells.

‘What we didn’t realise at first was how ubiquitous the ability to sense oxygen was among cells,’ said Professor Ratcliffe.

Working separately, Semenza and Kaelin were on a similar research path to Professor Ratcliffe, who describes the three’s work as ‘a series of overlapping, interleaving and sometimes competitive contributions.’



Professor Ratcliffe’s team was designing experiments to transfer the oxygen-sensing property they thought to be unique to erythropoietin-producing cells to ones that they thought didn’t have it when they realised that the oxygen process operated so widely. ‘My immediate thought on seeing the result was “how frustrating to have selected the only non-erythropoietin producing cell that has the oxygen sensing property as the recipient”. A few minutes later I thought there might be a more interesting explanation, maybe all cells have got it and that could have really interesting implications.’

The Ratcliffe group helped to uncover a detailed molecular chain of events that cells use to sense oxygen. This same pathway is also disrupted in many tumours, allowing them to create new blood vessels to sustain their growth. Much of our current understanding of hypoxia has emerged from the Ratcliffe laboratory, and we now have a better understanding of how most human diseases are complicated by low oxygen, including heart disease and anaemia, as well as developing new treatments for these conditions.

Despite the focused media attention around the award, Professor Ratcliffe reflects on the enormous work behind scientific research. ‘It’s a tribute to the lab, to those who helped me set it up and worked with me on the project over the years, to many others in the field, and not least to my family for their forbearance of all the up and downs.’

Celebrating news of the prize

“
It’s a tribute to the lab, to those who helped me set it up and worked with me on the project over the years
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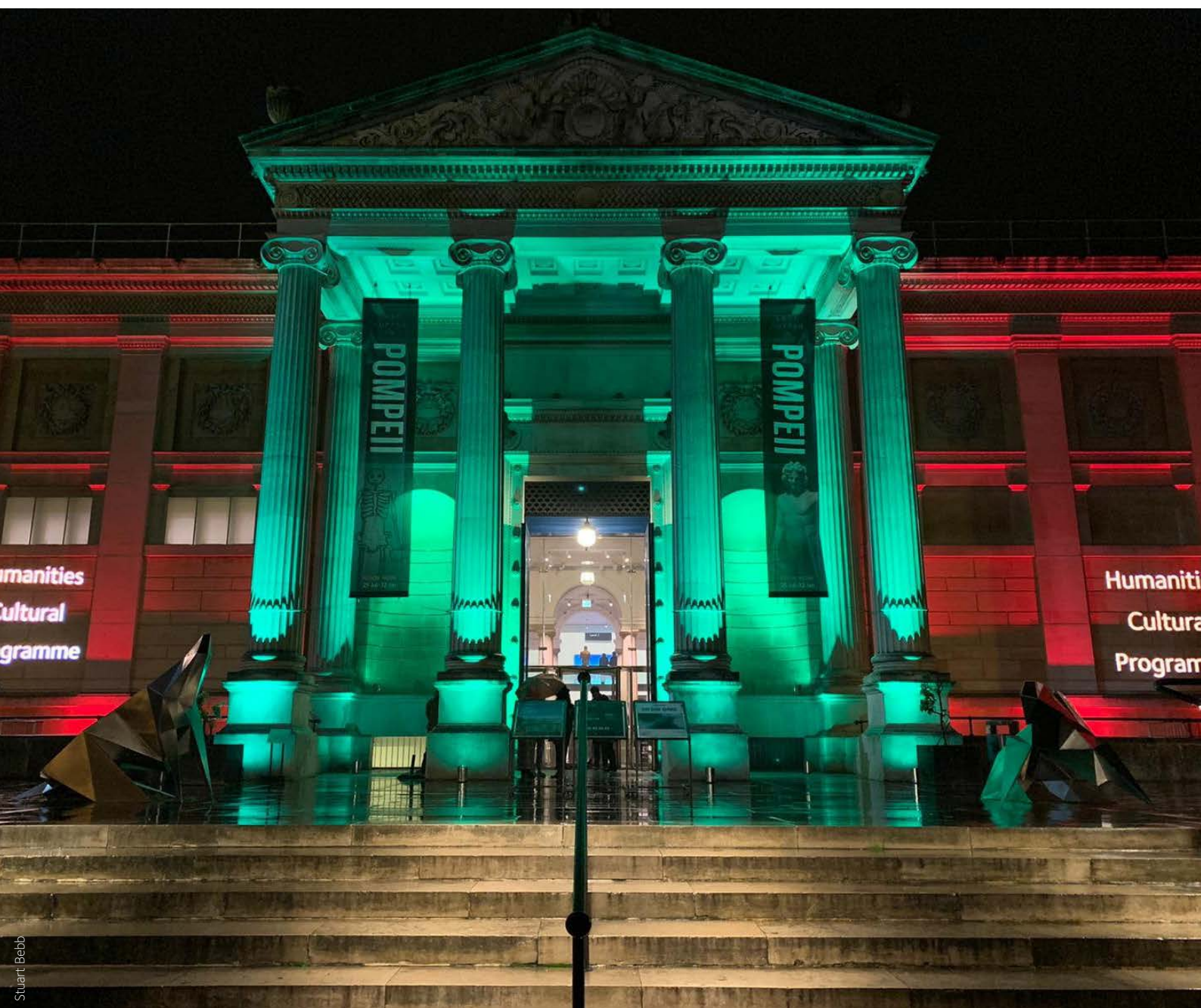
Read the news item at: www.ox.ac.uk/news/2019-10-07-sir-peter-j-ratcliffe-wins-nobel-prize-medicine-2019

Find out more about the Nobel Prize at: www.nobelprize.org

LIGHTING THE WAY

The University seeks to embed high-quality and innovative public engagement as an integral part of our research culture and practice. Members of the Humanities Division share details of recent events that invited the public to share their research findings

MATT PICKLES



As the dark nights drew in during October and November, Oxford Humanities raised spirits by lighting up some of Oxford's most iconic buildings with colourful projections.

In October the Ashmolean Museum's famous facade was illuminated at an event at the museum called 'Carpe diem', which was held to mark the eruption of Mount Vesuvius almost 2,000 ago. During the evening, researchers from The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) gave bite-sized talks. In one of the talks, Dr Llewelyn Morgan of the Classics Faculty explained the meaning and significance of the Latin phrase 'carpe diem', which comes from a love poem by Horace.

'The event was a great success, it exceeded all our expectations,' said TORCH's Head of Research Partnerships Dr Victoria McGuinness.

More than 1,200 people attended and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. '[It was] brilliant world-class research made accessible,' said one attendee. 'I enjoyed it very much ... and am considering an online course hosted by Reading University,' said another.

In November the Radcliffe Humanities building, formerly the Radcliffe Infirmary, was illuminated for Humanities Light Night. A striking video projection was mapped onto the three-storey Radcliffe Humanities building. The projection was based on the research of Professor Jacob Dahl of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, egyptologist Professor Richard Parkinson and classicist Professor Armand D'Angour.

This event also formed part of Oxford's Christmas Light Festival and the national Being Human festival of the arts. On the night, researchers and students led interactive activities for people of all ages. They explored questions like 'how do we decipher ancient languages?' and 'what role does maths play in AI?'

Even the soundtrack to the video projection was based on research. The audience heard music which came from Professor D'Angour's research into the sounds of ancient Greece. 'The Humanities Light Night showcased for

the public some of the sounds and sights that my research has uncovered along the way, so that people could hear the singing of music that may have enchanted the ears of the ancient Greeks,' he explained.

The poetry in the video was chosen by Professor Parkinson. 'I research ancient Egyptian poetry and explore the emotions it was intended to arouse in its ancient audiences,' he said. 'Having it performed by actors such as Barbara Ewing, and seeing how the modern public react to it, is essential to understanding the poems – they were meant to be experienced as intense living works of art and not simply studied in a library as dead texts.'

These events demonstrate the strength of public engagement with the humanities at Oxford. But one of the illuminations, which projected the words 'Humanities Cultural Programme' onto the Ashmolean, gave an exciting sign that there is much more to come in the future. In June, it was announced that Stephen A. Schwarzman will give £150 million to the University for a new Centre for the Humanities and one of the pillars of this Centre is the new Cultural Programme.

This will give Oxford a new 500-seat concert hall and a 250-seat auditorium, as well as flexible performance and exhibition spaces for music, dance and art. These venues will be used to welcome the community into the centre to enjoy programming from Oxford students and faculty, local community-based organisations, and leading international artists. They also will provide much-needed space for the public to gather at Oxford for festivals and other cultural celebrations.

The new Centre is not expected to open until 2024, pending planning permission. But the Cultural Programme has already begun and will continue to grow over the next year. A series of exciting outdoor events are already being planned on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter site for next summer. Watch this space.

TORCH: <https://torch.ox.ac.uk>

Read more about the new Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for Humanities at: www.schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk

FIT FOR PURPOSE



Dave Fleming

A commitment of the University's Strategic Plan is to continue to invest in our information technology capability to enhance the quality of our research and education and to streamline our administrative processes

Dr Michael Fraser, Director of Infrastructure Services, discusses the delivery of a technically complex and long-running project to deliver two inter-connected data centres. These provide greater resilience for critical IT systems – together with a developing data centre service for the growing needs of University departments, faculties and colleges

ANNETTE CUNNINGHAM

What was the drive behind the project?

Back in 2008 the University's central IT systems were located across a number of data centres, including within the Banbury Road offices and Begbroke Science Park. Recognising the importance of IT for the University we needed to consolidate services to two separate locations, providing resilience in case of a failure at either site. The Banbury Road Data Centre, in operation since the formation of a computing services department in 1978, was no longer fit for purpose. In 2012 we opened the University Shared Data Centre (USDC) as a key part of our data centres strategy. We still required a second data centre.

What were the project's main objectives?

Ultimately we needed to provide resilient and secure data centre facilities for the University. We were also tasked with simplifying our IT estate, and reducing carbon emissions to help achieve the University's target of halving our peak emissions by 2030. Another objective was to prioritise city centre space for people – the University's most valuable asset – rather than technology.

How did you find a new location?

This wasn't easy. First we investigated the options on our own University estate. Then we looked to use someone else's land. However the set-up and ongoing operating costs proved too expensive. Next we explored the benefits of a shared data centre. The facility that Jisc negotiated for the UK education and research sector, within the Virtus data centre in Slough (JDC), presented the best solution.

What were the biggest challenges?

The main priority was to migrate all the hardware whilst causing minimum disruption to users across the University – there's never going to be a good time to switch anything off. However, most people have been unaware of the work. This is due to the diligence of the teams involved. Their intricate technical planning, the consultation with users and

ensuring continuity of services, whilst undertaking the complex migration processes, has ensured success.

I certainly haven't noticed any issues with IT – what has been affected?

Everything from systems used to enable our teaching and research to the numerous services you rely on every day. This includes the card system that allows you into your building, and the technology that ensures you get paid every month. So it's great if you've not noticed any disruptions.

So what's changed?

Whilst the USDC remains in Oxford, our main University systems supported by IT Services are now also located at the JDC in Slough. Twenty-five of our key services are now provisioned from both the Oxford and Slough data centres – giving us back-up in the event of breakdowns. A new private fibre network now connects facilities in Oxford and Slough – overall a greatly improved data centre network. In addition, the increased city centre space will enable teams to relocate and work together more efficiently.

Any memorable moments?

Something particularly memorable was that just several hours after we had safely migrated kit from Begbroke to the USDC there was a major power failure at Begbroke – that did give the project a just-in-time sensation!

What are you most proud of?

That's definitely the professional way all our teams worked together. The project's success was dependent on people rather than technology – management, coordination, delivery and communication. Our staff brought all their expertise to technical and logistic problem-solving.

Is there anything we should all be doing?

IT across the University can be incredibly complex and unfortunately sometimes things do go wrong. Ideally, all areas of the University should have contingency plans for continuing critical activities in the event of an IT outage.



With IT no-one tends to notice the work being done unless something goes wrong – IT Services colleagues invest significant effort and skill in designing and running 'always on' IT



A few statistics of the project

- Over 200 pieces of hardware and more than 1,000 cables were carefully disconnected, packed away and transported
- Oxford's network extends over 300km of optical fibre
- Our network serves 40,000+ users in term time and carries enough data to stream 21,000 HD films every day

For more information about the project visit: <https://projects.it.ox.ac.uk/data-centre-projects>

AFOX VISITING FELLOWS PROGRAMME

One of the University's Strategic Plan priorities is to expand our strategic international research collaboration. The Africa Oxford (AfOx) initiative supports research and academic excellence by facilitating equitable partnerships between researchers based in African institutions and the University. This summer 19 researchers from 12 African countries visited Oxford via the AfOx Visiting Fellows Programme. Two of the Fellows share details of their work with us

Alemseged Beldados, Associate Professor of Archaeology at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. Interviewed by Imogen Holdstock, Larkmead School, on work experience with the University

While based at Oxford's School of Archaeology, Alem studied seed and plant remains dating back to 1960BC. He also worked on plans for next year's Society of Africanist Archaeologists Conference being hosted in Oxford, expected to attract more than 350 archaeologists from across the world.



“**I concentrate on the economic history of a given society, and try to understand what their environment was like. It's great to be spending time at Oxford, and working with Professor Mitchell, to further my work**

”

What are you hoping to achieve at Oxford?

I've brought over archaeological plant remains from Ethiopia. Studying them with Oxford's electron microscopes will help me to unravel the economic pre-history of a society that existed 4,000 years ago. I'm working with Professor Peter Mitchell, Professor of African Archaeology, to do this, and we'll also be exploring the proposal of a joint collaboration to take our research forward.

What attracted you to archaeology?

I was always curious about my background and my ancestry. I enjoyed History at school and chose it as my first degree. However, I wasn't satisfied with the time period covered; I wanted to go back much further. So I extended my speciality to pre-history – which is archaeology. I'm intrigued by the origins of human beings along with our evolution, culture and civilisation. So it's out of passion that I came to study archaeology specifically.

What excites you about your work?

Everybody asks the basic question 'Where do we come from?' Attempting to answer this question fascinates me.

Our methodological study and approach to archaeology involves going out to the field to survey an area looking for ancient remains, buildings, bones and tools – anything that will help us learn more about our beginning. Just that in itself is exciting. When there is no surface evidence we excavate. The digging process – using just brushes – can be tedious. But, at every stage of the process you are

searching for something unique, which also always makes it a great adventure.

What are the different stages of your research work?

Firstly there's the thrill of excavating, studying samples in the laboratory and then trying to compare or associate your findings. These are all really interesting stages. Then comes the process of presenting your findings to the scientific community followed by the reward of publishing them as an article or book. Publishing research findings and reaching the public is very significant – your work then becomes more than just an academic issue.

Are there any particular answers you are trying to find through your research?

My aim is to know about humanity. All the stages of my work reconstruct human cultural changes and how humans have evolved biologically. For both my Master's degree and for my PhD I concentrated on environmental archaeology. This is the science of reconstructing the relationships between past societies and the environments they lived in.

Archaeobotany is a sub-specialisation within environmental archaeology that studies human interactions with plants in the past. We try to identify plant remains recovered on excavation from settlements. Knowing what people ate helps us understand the economy and agriculture of a society. In addition, plants give information about the past environment.

“

I've been working with Professor John Coleman and his team at Oxford's phonetics laboratory to set up a wiki. Just like Wikipedia anyone can contribute their work, and I will be urging Kidawida speakers to contribute through various networks

”



Audrey Mbogho, Associate Professor of Computer Science at Pwani University in Kenya. Interviewed by Lucy Riddell, Headington School, on work experience with the University

This summer Audrey worked in collaboration with researchers at the Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics on a machine learning project. Her work will develop a web-based platform to preserve Kidawida – the language of the Wadawida of Taita Taveta County in south eastern Kenya.

How did you get involved with machine learning?

It's an area of study in computer science and it also relates to my PhD work. I investigated the use of machine learning in helping children to identify objects – such as rocks – by showing them to a computer which had been taught how to classify different objects. While that was image processing, machine learning can be applied to many different fields, and it is ideal for my work in human language processing.

Have you always been interested in language?

Yes, I've been interested since I was a young child. I think it comes from my upbringing and culture. Whether talking in English or in Kidawida, my native language, I had to say everything correctly. There was an obsession with exactness. So language as an area that I can study as a computer scientist is perfect for me.

Are there any specific goals you want to achieve while you are in Oxford?

I'm working on setting up a platform to collect a Kidawida corpus. It's a language that I refer to as under-resourced or under-developed as there's not a lot written in it, nor many recordings. And there are no technologies developed for it. So I'm taking this first step to gather examples to enable machine learning.

Exactly what kind of information are you hoping to capture?

For machine learning to be successful you need as much data as possible, so the more people who get involved and the more diverse the content the better. Everything is welcome, from stories to political arguments. I've already added a children's tale, and a true account about my mother's experience of colonial days, to help give others ideas. People can also comment on what's written or ask questions – hopefully that approach

will help gather more data. I also want to hold workshops in high schools where the students all contribute a story.

What excites you about your work?

Learning is exciting. In my field you have to do that constantly. You will never master it, so whatever problem you want to address, you have to go to books and the internet. You're constantly researching. Unlike some other fields of study, such as mathematics, computing is forever changing.

What are you enjoying about Oxford?

Being able to make use of the libraries and the networks to achieve things beyond my main project. I'm staying at Wadham College and there is a great library right next door to me. The space is very conducive to study and that's a benefit I definitely want to take advantage of while I am here.

Find out more at: www.afox.ox.ac.uk

SOCIAL SCIENCES IS TRANSFORMING FUTURES

The Social Sciences Division is contributing towards our Strategic Plan commitments to promote and enable ambitious research of exceptional quality – and to ensure that we fully equip our graduates to excel in whatever they choose to do

ESME WILKS



THE NEW SOCIAL SCIENCES POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Our students, researchers and academic staff are truly global in their make-up, bringing their diverse experiences to bear on tackling many of the key global challenges facing society. These diverse challenges include sustainable resource management, forced migration, human trafficking, improving democratic and corporate

governance, justice, poverty and development.

Research in the Social Sciences Division is strongly motivated by having real impacts on people's lives and enabling institutional reforms across the world. The division's teaching aims to support the development of the world-class social scientists of the future.



Transforming Futures



Angel Sharp

“

What my colleagues have agreed is that we're going to work in concert to transform the lives of some of the most talented young people in the world and bring them to Oxford

”

Head of the Social Sciences Division, Professor Sarah Whatmore

Supporting talented students to come to Oxford

The departments, faculties and schools that shape the Social Sciences Division have together pledged to invest £25 million over the next five years to support the new generation of thought leaders.

In partnership with new and existing benefactors, who share our commitment to creating a better world, we have launched an ambitious division-wide fundraising campaign. We're aiming to increase the postgraduate scholarship support we offer our Masters' and doctoral students, and give them the advanced analytical skills needed to address global challenges through government and policy agencies, business and non-governmental organisations.

As the division with the largest number and proportion of postgraduate students in its student body, we are committed to increasing the number of postgraduate scholarships. We want to transform futures by offering full scholarships to the best students in the world – at the point of application.

Supporting research in a new way

The Social Sciences Division introduced funding for incubators in 2015, specifically to help researchers and departments address changes in the funding landscape. We prioritised funding to multi-disciplinary collaborations to achieve sustainability through external funding.

Through this scheme we've awarded £219,000 (through our allocation of the John Fell Fund) to six incubators launching start-ups. Together these awardees have since successfully secured external funding totalling nearly £60 million.

Professor Mark Graham, from the Oxford Internet Institute, is someone who has enjoyed success following an award from the fund: 'The incubator fund allowed me to test new ideas that would otherwise not be fundable. It trusted in me to carry out research into new and uncharted areas – which ended up being extremely important as groundwork for larger externally funded projects.'

The division will continue to support blue-skies research from all social sciences disciplines with an emphasis on supporting early career researchers.

Supporting students in entrepreneurship and leadership

Social Sciences fully supports the mission of the Oxford Foundry, which is to enable ventures – built by students and alumni – to have social and economic impact in the world.

As Ana Bakshi, Director of the Oxford Foundry, explains: 'We have a unique opportunity – and also a responsibility – to build up the leaders of tomorrow.'

Social Sciences already offers a plethora of training opportunities for our postgraduate students and early career researchers through our Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) (which unites Brunel University London, the Open University and the University of Oxford) and our extensive Researcher Development programme.

However, we are looking to expand our service, especially as we prepare a bid to continue and grow our DTP from 2021. We're aiming to leverage the enormous expertise in areas such as student entrepreneurship and leadership training, and ensure that our students benefit from them. The Foundry is an excellent example of where we'll be looking to do this.

Alex Betts, Associate Head of the Division for Graduate and Research Training, says: 'The ultimate goal is for our next DTP: to serve as the launch pad for the social science change-makers of the future.'

'We want to equip our doctoral students with a full range of professional skills, not just academic but also in areas such as knowledge exchange, impact, innovation, and public engagement.'

Find out more about the Social Sciences Researcher Development Programme at: www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/welcome-to-researcher-development

NEWS



Queen's Anniversary Prize

Oxford University has been awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for the development of innovative poverty measurement for more effective policymaking. The prizes are the highest national honour awarded to UK colleges and universities. Granted every two years by the Queen, these prizes reward outstanding work by UK colleges and universities which show excellence and innovation and deliver real public benefit.

The University of Oxford is among 22 UK educational institutions announced as winners of Queen's Anniversary Prizes for research carried out by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). The OPHI research centre aims to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is grounded in people's experiences and values. The only research centre in the world that focuses on multidimensional poverty, it designed the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme – providing a more comprehensive view of poverty across over 100 developing countries. This gives policymakers the tools they need to make more effective, efficient and coordinated programs to combat poverty and improve the lives of the poor.

Find out more about the awards at:
www.queensanniversaryprizes.org.uk

2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Along with Sir Peter J Ratcliffe's success in this year's Nobel Prize awards (page 18) Professor John B Goodenough was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work at Oxford University. Professor Goodenough, now with the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, received the award jointly with Oxford DPhil graduate M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino. The trio's work identified the cathode material that enabled development of the rechargeable lithium-ion battery. This breakthrough ushered in the age of the portable electronic devices many of us rely on. Today we are continuing this work pioneered at Oxford with major programmes of research into lithium batteries and energy storage.

Find out more about the work of the world's oldest Nobel laureate, 97-year-old Professor John B Goodenough at: <https://medium.com/oxford-university/oxford-and-the-lithium-ion-battery-ac543599a642>

Focus on teaching, learning and developing

Two new units went live at the University this September, putting a greater focus on teaching and learning, and increasing support for our people. The Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and People and Organisational Development (POD) were formed as a result of a change programme involving the Oxford Learning Institute (OLI) and Academic IT. People and Organisational Development (POD) is the new name for the Professional Development Group at the OLI.

Visit the CTL website at: <http://wwwctl.ox.ac.uk>

Visit the POD website at: <https://pod.admin.ox.ac.uk>

True Planet update: publication now available

The Public Affairs Directorate (PAD) has worked with researchers across the University to bring together a diverse range of case studies and examples of the real-world impact of our research on sustainability issues. From pollinators to plastic waste, economic growth to extreme weather, the content spans all four divisions and highlights truly world-changing work.

The brochure is available on the True Planet website at: www.research.ox.ac.uk/Article/2019-11-05-true-planet-brochure-now-available.

Please email requests for hardcopies to internal.communications@admin.ox.ac.uk





Matthew Impey, Wired Photos

The Women's Blues team in action

150 Years of Oxford Rugby

The 2019/20 season marks the 150th anniversary of the Oxford University Rugby Football Club (OURFC) – one of the world's leading and most renowned amateur rugby clubs. Since its formation in 1869 OURFC has played a significant role in the development of the sport of rugby. William Webb Ellis, the alleged inventor of the game, was a student at Brasenose College in 1825. To commemorate and celebrate this important milestone a series of events culminates in a match on 16 May 2020 when the world-famous Barbarians will play against Oxford's Men's and Women's Blues teams at the Iffley Road Sports Centre.

Find out more at: <http://ourfc.org>

Teaching and events space catalogue

A catalogue containing details of bookable rooms, with a capacity of 100 seats or more, is now available on the Estates Services website under 'Teaching and Events Space Catalogue'. The catalogue is a key output of a FOCUS project aimed at helping departments use teaching space more efficiently by sharing with other parts of the University. The Facilities Management team within Estates Services helped identify potentially shareable teaching and event spaces in buildings under their management. They provided comprehensive information including capacity, layout options, accessibility and audio-visual facilities for each.

View the catalogue at: <https://estates.web.ox.ac.uk/space-catalogue>

Times Higher Education World University Rankings

Oxford University has been ranked as the world's best institution for medical and health teaching and research for the ninth consecutive year in the latest Times Higher Education World University Rankings. The subject-specific tables for clinical, pre-clinical and health studies follow on from the announcement that Oxford has been ranked the top university in the world by the same publication for the fourth year running. Oxford also came in third place for life sciences and seventh place for physical sciences.

Visit: timeshighereducation.com for more details about the rankings

Photography and GDPR – new online toolkit

Are you aware of how data protection legislation affects the use of photos and video? A new online photography and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) toolkit is now available to help you manage your images in a way that is compliant with the legislation.

The toolkit contains a range of resources and guidance, including a checklist to run through to ensure you are compliant, a consent form and a data-sharing agreement template for sharing images with an external organisation.

Find out more at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/photography-and-gdpr-toolkit>



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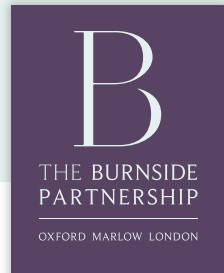
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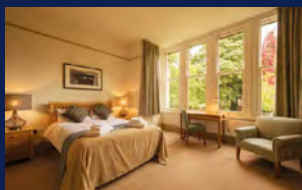
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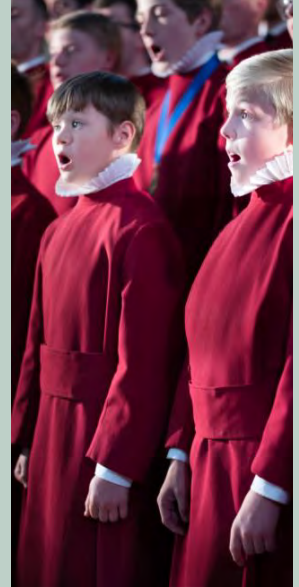
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New College Chorister Auditions



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New College Choir welcomes enthusiastic boys who love singing to audition for places as probationers starting in September 2020. Our choristers make a unique music journey, which takes them from singing choral services in Oxford's grandest medieval chapel to concerts across the world. They learn musical and educational skills which stay with them for life.



TUESDAY
14 JANUARY
2020
chorister
auditions
for boys in year 2

Would your son enjoy being part of this exciting musical journey? For more details please contact choir@new.ox.ac.uk 01865 279108

All choristers enjoy generous scholarships at New College School (day boys). www.newcollegeschool.org

for more details see www.newcollegechoir.com



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REUSE AND RECYCLE WITH WARPIT



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In this year's Oration the Vice-Chancellor encouraged us all to utilise every tool at our disposal to make ourselves more sustainable as an institution. WARPit (Waste Action Reuse Portal) is the University's web-based system that enables University staff to search for items being given away for free by other departments or find new homes for their own unwanted work items. It's simple to see what is on offer and transfer of ownership is quick.

WARPit is used for everything from useful but unwanted stationery to office furniture and lab equipment. If you can't find what you need, just add the item to your wish list and you'll be notified when it's added to the system.

Join the many University members already using WARPit and enjoy the savings benefits – currently totalling around £100,000 annually. In addition, this initiative is also enabling us to prevent around 100,000 kg being sent to waste each year.

So, how do I WARPit?

Take a few minutes to register on the University WARPit page. Once you have received confirmation from the Environmental Sustainability team you can start uploading your unwanted goods. Using WARPit can really help reduce purchasing and disposal costs. As well as helping the University reduce its environmental impact.

- Register at: www.warp-it.co.uk/company/oxforduniversity

Who can use WARPit?

The WARPit scheme is open to all departments and colleges and is administered by the Environmental Sustainability team. WARPit can only be used for collegiate University property and all items must stay the property of the collegiate University.

- Visit: <https://sustainability.admin.ox.ac.uk/warpit/reuse> for step-by-step instructions on how to use the portal.

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