

Gazette Supplement



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Oxford Teaching Awards 2009-10

This year's awards were announced at a reception in Rhodes House on Tuesday, 19 October, in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor who presented the winners with certificates. The citations below are extracts from the reports of the divisional or departmental bodies that judged the awards.

Humanities

This year, Humanities reserved the use of its awards to acknowledge excellence through the award of project grants.

Dr Alexandra da Costa

Faculty of English; St Hilda's

Dr da Costa is a Research Fellow and Tutor in Medieval Literature. Her project will trial a short immersion course in medieval language and literature.

Dr Diane Purkiss and Dr Alexandra da Costa

Faculty of English; Keble and St Hilda's

Dr Purkiss is Tutorial Fellow in English, and Dr da Costa is a Research Fellow and Tutor in Medieval Literature. Their project will run a series of seminars linking Middle English and Early Modern literature.

Dr Jan Fellerer

Faculty of Modern Languages (Sub-faculty of Russian); Wolfson

Dr Fellerer is a University Lecturer in Non-Russian Slavonic Languages. His project will further develop the course materials for the first year of the Russian *ab initio* course.

Dr Martyn Harry

Faculty of Music; St Anne's and St Hilda's

Dr Harry is University Lecturer in Music. His project will train students in the use of digital audio and music notation software.

Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences

Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences has used its awards to acknowledge excellence in teaching both in established staff and in new teachers, and also to acknowledge the support of teaching. In addition, there is one project grant.

Professor Gavin Lowe

Computing Laboratory; St Catherine's

Professor Lowe is a Professor of Computer Science. He is being recognised for the significant contribution he made to the department during his tenure as Director of Teaching, for designing and teaching a new course at undergraduate and Masters level, which has received excellent feedback; and for the development of the new degree in Computer Science and Philosophy.

Professor Stephen Pulman

Computing Laboratory; Somerville

Professor Pulman is Professor of Computational Linguistics. He is being recognised for his consistently excellent teaching as judged by student feedback and the popularity of his course, as well as his many valuable contributions to the department. These include the supervision of a large number of DPhil students and MSc student projects.

Dr Irena Voiculescu

Computing Laboratory

Dr Voiculescu is a Departmental Lecturer in the Computing Laboratory. She is being recognised for designing and teaching a new undergraduate course, which has received excellent feedback, as well as many other valuable contributions to the department such as consistent participation in access events and designing training material for class teaching.

Professor Michael Worthington

Department of Earth Sciences

Professor Worthington is a Senior Research Fellow. He is being recognised for his consistently excellent teaching, as judged by student feedback, and his many valuable contributions to the organisation of teaching and examining.

Dr Jane Frew

Department of Engineering

Dr Frew, the Deputy Administrator (Academic) in the Department, is being recognised for her support of teaching. For many years, she has played the lead role in the administration and smooth running of the Department's courses. Her dedication, efficiency and attention to detail are exemplary. She has established an excellent relationship with staff and students alike, based on her approachable personality and her willingness always to help.

Professor Alison Noble

Department of Engineering; Wolfson

There have been two very important developments in graduate teaching in the Department in recent years: the establishment of the MSc in Biomedical Engineering, and the creation of an RCUK Centre for Doctoral Training in Healthcare Innovation. Professor Noble has played an absolutely central role in both of these developments, which have not only involved a great deal of hard work, but have also required imagination and flair in developing new teaching programmes.

Dr David Watkin

Department of Inorganic Chemistry

Dr Watkin is the Head of the Chemical Crystallography Laboratory. He is being recognised for his superb teaching style coupled with a remarkable ability to teach complex subjects such as crystallographic mathematics and least-square refinement. All his students hold him in the highest regard.

Dr John Murphy*Department of Materials; St Anne's*

Dr Murphy is a Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellow, and all the teaching he does is wholly voluntary. In recent years, he has contributed substantially to the teaching of the Department's undergraduate programme covering a full range of duties more typical of a University Lecturer and Tutorial Fellow. His reflective approach to the development of his teaching skills is exemplary, and it is clear from a wide range of feedback that he is an excellent teacher whose approach is greatly appreciated by the students and much valued by his academic colleagues.

Mrs Lyn Richmond*Department of Materials*

Mrs Lyn Richmond, an outstanding member of the Department's clerical support staff, is being recognised for her support of teaching. She provides superb support to the academic staff and to our undergraduates and research students and is always willing to go the extra mile. Comments about her include the following: 'Lyn's support and help for students and members of the Department is unparalleled... She knows everyone's names, and exactly whom to contact if you need help.... She is incredibly friendly and very supportive of students at times of stress such as when they are about to give a talk or hand in a thesis.' She makes an exceptional contribution to the support, organisation and planning for undergraduates and graduate students and is an excellent example of a good citizen.

Dr Andrew Dancer*Department of Mathematics; Jesus*

Dr Dancer is nominated for the excellence of his undergraduate teaching, supported by evidence from lecture questionnaires from the whole year group, and for his significant contribution as coordinator of the Taught Course Centre.

Dr Richard Earl*Department of Mathematics; Worcester*

Dr Earl is nominated by the mathematics undergraduates at Worcester for the excellence of his teaching; this is supported by excellent lecture questionnaire returns and very positive feedback on outreach activities.

Dr Jan Obloj*Department of Mathematics*

Dr Obloj is nominated for the excellence of his graduate lectures on Mathematical Finance, in which he took on two hard courses at an early stage in his career; he is also nominated for his very positive input into graduate recruitment and training, including supervision and DPhil examining,

Dr Christoph Reisinger*Department of Mathematics; St Catherine's*

Dr Reisinger is nominated for the excellence of his graduate supervision at an early stage of his career, and for his substantial input into the curriculum redesign for the MSc in Mathematical Finance.

Mr Philippe Trinh*Department of Mathematics; Balliol*

Mr Trinh, a doctoral research student, is being acknowledged for the excellence of his class teaching in Viscous Flow, where his enthusiasm, energy and attention to detail were highly appreciated. He was nominated both by his supervisor and by the Mathematics Undergraduate Representative Committee via the Joint Consultative Committee with Undergraduates. He is commended also for having undertaken an educational development course and writing a project on mathematical education.

Dr Mark Moloney*Department of Organic Chemistry; St Peter's*

Dr Moloney is being recognised for his outstanding commitment to teaching, obtaining a Diploma in Teaching to further his lecturing and teaching abilities. Over the last ten years he has had a heavy examining load as well as making a valuable contribution to the general running of the undergraduate course which has been changed twice during this time.

Professor David Manolopoulos*Department of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry; St Edmund Hall*

Professor Manolopoulos is being recognised for his outstanding ability to teach and to explain clearly the difficult concepts of Maths and Physical Chemistry, as well as his ability to motivate his students.

Professor Stephen Blundell*Department of Physics; Mansfield*

Professor Blundell achieves the highest standard in lecturing. His ability to communicate and make students fully understand material is second to none. He makes sure students leave the lectures with a full understanding of the subject, and the consequences of any theory fully explored. Professor Blundell is extremely motivational, and is also easily approachable and will spend time giving students complete explanations for any questions. From the feedback, 97% of students found his thermodynamics lectures useful.

Dr Anthony Dyson*Department of Physics*

Dr Anthony Dyson is an outstanding demonstrator, taking time to help each student with their work and fully explaining

the theory behind each practical class. In doing so, he makes the practicals enjoyable and easy to complete. Typically, he uses a variety of models to explain the experiments, and will then test the students' understanding with a challenging question. He provides 'what feels like a tutorial' for each practical.

Professor Paul Ewart*Department of Physics; Worcester*

Professor Paul Ewart has produced an exceptional set of lectures. Full of information and entertaining with the occasional joke, Professor Ewart managed to make the course understandable at the same time as interesting. Professor Ewart is particularly able to present seemingly complicated topics at a clear and concise level. He is known for the quality of his lecture notes: clear and informative, they provide students with exactly the right amount of material for understanding the subject, while providing an insight into the consequences of the theory.

Professor Nick Jelley*Department of Physics; Lincoln*

This project was initiated through the accreditation of the BA and MPhys physics courses by the Institute of Physics. This grant will enable Professor Jelley and colleagues to undertake and develop two of the project ideas discussed with the accreditation panel. One project will be to develop 'essay' writing skills. Another project will be to develop a group project for the second-year cohort. It is envisaged that the group work will take the form of an intercollegiate competition where the second-year students will work (possibly in college groupings) on a presentation.

Dr Roosa Leimu*Department of Plant Sciences*

Dr Leimu is employed as a departmental demonstrator to assist with the delivery of our Ecology courses. She has far exceeded our expectations in all areas of teaching, giving of her time unstintingly with regard to lectures, tutorial provision and examining. We wish to recognise her outstanding contribution.

Dr Nicolai Meinshausen*Department of Statistics; Somerville*

Dr Meinshausen is being recognised for his teaching of Statistical Data Mining, a course taken both by fourth-year undergraduates and by MSc students. His well-structured presentation and interesting practical sessions, at an appropriate level for his varied audience, contributed to an excellent and very successful course.

Dr Matthias Winkel*Department of Statistics*

Dr Winkel has been made an award by the divisional committee for his excellent teaching, particularly in the course in Actuarial Science which spans a number of different departments and is extremely well received by the students.

Dr Thomas Kemp*Department of Zoology; St John's*

Dr Kemp retired from a University Lectureship in September 2009 but agreed to continue teaching both his FHS courses in 2009–10 so there would not be a gap in provision. In his 38 years of lecturing in Oxford in Biological Sciences he has made a huge contribution to the leadership and development of undergraduate teaching as well as being an effective lecturer and tutor as evidenced by student feedback. He has been Course Organiser for various modules, developed and designed new courses, served as Chair of the Examinations Subcommittee for a number of years and was also co-chair of a committee that reviewed and radically redeveloped the Biological Sciences course.

Medical Sciences

Medical Sciences has made a Major Educator Award and Excellent Teacher awards to acknowledge excellence in teaching and the design and organisation of teaching, and it has also acknowledged excellence in the support of teaching. In addition, there is an award for a young teacher and researcher for his exceptional contributions to the educational development of research students.

Dr Richard Boyd*Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics; Brasenose*

Dr Boyd is being recognised with a Major Educator Award for his outstanding leadership of educational activity in the Medical Sciences Division over a period of five years, between 2003 and 2008. He has raised the profile of education within the most research-intensive division of the University, defined the aims of the division's teaching, and put strategies in place to achieve those aims. Dr Boyd has always promoted an inclusive dialogue and a culture in which ideas about education are not limited by subject, departmental or divisional boundaries. This has encouraged joined-up thinking with regard to all aspects of education, bridging divides between pre-clinical and clinical medicine, promoting links with Psychology and Biochemistry, and sustaining relationships with NHS partners.

Dr Mark Wormald*Department of Biochemistry; Corpus Christi*

Dr Wormald is being recognised as an Excellent Teacher for a range of contributions he has made within his department. He has improved the Biochemistry admissions process to make it more transparent for both applicants and tutors, and is heavily involved in access initiatives and widening participation activities at departmental, college and university level. Dr Wormald also provides training and support for new teachers within the department, and plays a significant role in organising and teaching on the undergraduate Biochemistry course, receiving consistently high student feedback for the teaching he delivers.

Dr Tim Littlewood*Department of Clinical Haematology; Christ Church*

Dr Littlewood is being recognised with an Excellent Teacher Award for his sustained commitment and enthusiasm for teaching. He successfully addresses the communication and ethical aspects of medicine, and is frequently cited by students as a role model for developing an open, honest and caring manner in a specialty where there is a frequent need to communicate intellectually complex and emotionally difficult information to patients.

Dr Daniel Bulte*Department of Clinical Neurology; Wolfson*

Dr Bulte is being given an Excellent Teacher Award in recognition of his excellent teaching on, and development of, the Teaching Skills Stage 1 course 'Preparation for Learning and Teaching at Oxford'. The course is offered collaboratively by the Medical Sciences Division and the Oxford Learning Institute, its aim being to introduce senior graduate students and research staff to theories of teaching and learning within the context of tuition at Oxford. Every course has consistently been rated as excellent by attendees.

Professor Brian Rogers*Department of Experimental Psychology; Pembroke*

Professor Rogers is being recognised with an Excellent Teacher Award for the quality of his teaching and his commitment to students' individual needs. Professor Rogers successfully communicates his enthusiasm for Experimental Psychology to students, and receives consistently positive student feedback. He also played a major role in the design and implementation of the course format in use today, and introduced a system that fully integrates tutorial provision with

lecture courses, thereby ensuring equity of provision for undergraduates across the colleges.

Dr Simon Draper*The Jenner Institute, Nuffield Department of Medicine; Merton*

Dr Draper is being recognised as an Excellent Teacher for his supervision of DPhil students within the Jenner Institute of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine. Dr Draper gives students confidence in their abilities as researchers and consistently goes out of his way to make sure students receive the pastoral support they need as well as appropriate academic supervision. His scientific advice and feedback is consistently pragmatic and sound, but always delivered with encouragement.

Professor Herman Waldmann*Sir William Dunn School of Pathology; Lincoln*

Professor Waldmann is receiving an Excellent Teacher award for his strong advocacy of undergraduate teaching within the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology over the last 16 years. As Head of Department, Professor Waldmann has ensured that all principal investigators share in undergraduate teaching and examination duties. He maintains a close interest in pathology teaching through his regular attendance at the departmental teaching committee, his impromptu visits to pathology practical classes, and the close attention he pays to student feedback forms, as well as his own active contribution to teaching.

Dr Helen Christian*Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics; St Anne's*

Dr Christian is being recognised as an Excellent Teacher for her contributions to teaching Pre-clinical Medicine and Physiological Sciences students. In particular, she has demonstrated successful leadership in bringing about innovations and improvements to histology (microscopic anatomy) classes, which have been very well received by students. She has also been praised for the clarity and thoroughness of her lectures, and for producing model hand-outs.

Professor Zoltan Molnar*Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics; St John's*

Professor Molnar is being recognised as an Excellent Teacher for his contributions to lecturing and practical class teaching for Pre-clinical Medicine and Physiological Sciences students, for which feedback is extremely positive. He has developed extensive e-learning materials to

accompany his classes, and has also demonstrated successful leadership in relation to the Neuroscience teaching cluster within his department. This has led to improvements in the mentoring of newly appointed academics and in the better distribution of teaching loads.

Dr Jan Schnupp

Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics; St Peter's

Dr Schnupp is being recognised as an Excellent Teacher for the very positive feedback received on his teaching from both Physiological Sciences and Pre-clinical Medicine students, and for his overall contribution to the Physiological Sciences course. Dr Schnupp's teaching focuses on basic neurological physiological mechanisms and on his major subject—audition. His lectures are cited as being clear and concise, interesting and enjoyable.

Dr Robert Wilkins

Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics; St Edmund Hall

Dr Wilkins is being given an Excellent Teacher Award in recognition of his contributions to lecturing and practical class teaching for Pre-clinical Medicine and Physiological Sciences students, for which he regularly receives some of the highest student feedback scores. Dr Wilkins has also revised and developed areas of the syllabus for which he is responsible, and has improved the admissions process for Pre-clinical Medicine and Physiological Sciences to make it more robust and efficient. Additionally, he has been very active in the development of the Division's new Biomedical Sciences course.

Miss Carlyn Cook

Clinical Medical School

Miss Cook is receiving a Learning Support award in particular recognition of her work as Elective Coordinator for the Medical School. Electives involve students from other medical schools in the UK and around the world coming to Oxford on placement as part of their studies, for several weeks or months at a time. Miss Cook has consistently exceeded the requirements of her role by developing provision for Elective students and by actively supporting them during their time at Oxford: she helps them to integrate into the academic and social community and to make the most of their experience here; she has produced a handbook specifically tailored to the needs of Elective students, and arranged for feedback mechanisms to help improve the programme. The measure of Miss Cook's impact is that Elective students have such a positive experience at Oxford that they return to pursue further study and to work.

Mr Peter Ward

Department of Experimental Psychology

Mr Ward is receiving a Learning Support Award in recognition of his long-standing technical support of the undergraduate teaching laboratories within the Department of Experimental Psychology. He has exceeded the duties of his role in becoming a key member of the team organising and delivering the undergraduate Experimental Psychology course. In particular, through the many revolutions in digital technology that have occurred during his service, which spans several decades, Mr Ward has played a leading role in assimilating, implementing, and overseeing computer applications both in practical teaching and in course administration. He has always carried out his duties with energy, commitment and skill, and his unassuming but outstanding readiness to master new technologies and adapt them to the needs of the course has earned the respect and gratitude of both students and teachers alike.

Miss Nicola Gregg

Department of Paediatrics

Miss Gregg is receiving a Learning Support Award for her exceptional coordination of the Paediatrics course, which forms part of Year 5 of the medical programme. The Paediatrics course is held in high regard within the Medical School and this success is in no small part attributable to Miss Gregg's organisational skills: she demonstrates great flexibility in timetabling teaching to fit around consultants' busy schedules whilst minimising disruption to students' learning, and she goes the extra mile to ensure that students have a positive experience while on the course. She receives exceptional feedback from students and consultants alike and her enthusiasm and cheerfulness are personal attributes that allow her to carry out her duties so effectively. Miss Gregg is an invaluable and indispensable member of the Paediatrics teaching team.

Mrs Paula Savin

Department of Pharmacology

Mrs Savin is receiving a Learning Support Award in recognition of her long-standing and invaluable contribution to single-handedly supporting teaching activities within the Department of Pharmacology. Her role has expanded significantly during her tenure; however, Mrs Savin has remained exceptionally industrious throughout and always has the best interests of the department at heart. She also displays an outstanding balance of persuasion with diplomacy when interacting with academics and demonstrates continued commitment and dedication to student needs, particularly those from overseas.

Social Sciences

Social Sciences has acknowledged exceptional teaching by a DPhil student and used the remainder of its awards to acknowledge excellence through the award of project grants.

Mr Cavit Pakel

Department of Economics; University College

Mr Pakel is a DPhil student who teaches on the Year-1 Econometrics course of the MPhil in Economics. He is being recognised for his excellence in teaching as attested by student feedback and with the support of his department.

Professor James Edelman

Department of Law; Keble

Professor Edelman is Professor of the Law of Obligations and is the Faculty Mooting Officer. He is being recognised for his apposite and thoughtful project proposal to introduce moot court competitions as part of developing the Legal Research and Mooting Skills Programme. He is supported by the Faculty's IT Training and Development Officer.

Dr Rachel Murphy

School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies/Sociology; St Antony's

Dr Murphy is being recognised for her project proposal to introduce a two-day workshop to promote the intellectual development of the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies shared research methods course.

Dr Laura Rival

Queen Elizabeth House; Linacre

Dr Rival is being recognised for her team project to create a new option in 'Development, Environment, and Health', shared by Queen Elizabeth House, the Department of Public Health and the School of Geography and the Environment.

Department for Continuing Education

Continuing Education continues its practice of using the scheme to acknowledge excellence through the award of project grants.

Dr Clare Morgan

Kellogg

The Master of Studies degree in Creative Writing developed by Dr Morgan has an innovative and flexible course design that allows students from the UK and overseas to study together in residential periods in Oxford. Thanks to Dr Morgan's industry and the challenging standards she sets, the MSt has quickly become a prestigious award in

the field, with impressively high student application rates and a growing cadre of graduates achieving prizes and distinctions for their published work. Dr Morgan's project will increase the scope of the course by adding a focus on different genres of writing.

Dr Mark Smith, Dr Elizabeth Gemmill and Dr Adrienne Rosen

Kellogg

Dr Smith and his two colleagues, Dr Gemmill and Dr Rosen, oversee a rich and varied programme of courses in English Local and Social History, successfully leading the field in the use of online learning to extend the constituency of people who can study the subject at Oxford. Their project will build on this experience by developing a one-year undergraduate Certificate in Local and Family History, which will exploit to the full the Department for Continuing Education's flexible and online learning capacity.

Bodleian Libraries

For teaching support.

Ms Louise Clarke

Social Science Library

Ms Louise Clarke is Librarian in Charge of the Social Science Library. She is being recognised for her focus on interdisciplinary work, her dedicated effort providing a good example of what we hope all subject librarians aspire to.

Ms Nia Roberts

Health Care Libraries

Ms Nia Roberts is the Reader Services Librarian, Knowledge Centre, Health Care Libraries. She is being recognised for the wide range of activities undertaken in applying her teaching and learning skills.

Mr James Shaw with Mr Roger Mills, Mrs Juliet Ralph, Mr Matthew Searle, Mrs Ljilja Ristic, Mrs Karine Barker and Ms Isabel McMann

Radcliffe Science Library

Mr James Shaw is a Team Leader at the Radcliffe Science Library. Mr Shaw and his colleagues are sharing a Team Award for their group effort, for enabling good library public relations, and for learning from each other and working in a non-traditional way to support teaching and learning.

OUCS OxTALENT Awards

OxTALENT Awards are given annually to acknowledge excellence in the use of technology in teaching and research. OxTALENT winners whose use of IT represented outstanding teaching or

learning support are being recognised with Oxford Teaching Awards.

Dr Emma Smith

Faculty of English; Hertford

Dr Smith is being acknowledged for her use of podcasting. Last year, she released a series of six lectures, 'Not Shakespeare: Elizabethan and Jacobean popular theatre', introducing six plays from the Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre. She was completely self-sufficient in producing her podcasts: she records her lectures with her own equipment, creates her own mp3 files, and then uploads them to her WebLearn site. She provided a photograph to be used as an iTunes U album cover, and provided detailed descriptions of all her talks. This meant that the series could be added to iTunes U quickly, and it subsequently raced into the Oxford top ten, with 700 downloads a week at peak.

Mr Benjamin Spagnolo

Department of Law; Magdalen

Mr Spagnolo is a DPhil student who has recently started teaching. He is being acknowledged for his use of WebLearn to support a course or programme of study. To support undergraduate intercollegiate mooting competitions, he has developed an online system such as is used by many real courts. It enables students to receive and file information as 'counsel' and transmits the files appropriately between 'counsel' and 'judges'. The system has allowed him to organise sixty courts, each with four counsel and a judge, and to ensure that the right documents go to the right people at the right time.

Dr Barbara Gabrys

Department of Materials

Dr Gabrys is being acknowledged for her use of technology in learning spaces. She has introduced the use of hand-held 'clickers' to enable students to respond directly to questions posed by a lecturer or seminar leader. This technology is aimed at raising individual participation when students are being taught in a group. Evaluation forms returned by the students showed that they enjoyed this kind of involvement in teaching sessions, and the answers that they made using the clickers showed that they were engaged and had understood the material being taught.

Dr Elizabeth Frazer and Dr Scott Peterson

Department of Politics; New College and Balliol

Dr Fraser and Dr Peterson are being acknowledged for their use of WebLearn to support a course or programme of study. In developing 'WebLearn for teaching politics'

they have experimented with different tools to see what works best for communication, feedback and interaction. The chat room in particular proved very popular on the night of the recent general election and for the protracted discussions which followed.

Ms Victoria Brown and Miss Rachel Woodruff

Department of the History of Art

Ms Brown and Miss Woodruff are being acknowledged for their use of WebLearn to support a course or programme of study. They are using WebLearn as an interactive platform to engage students and enrich teaching both inside and outside the classroom. Their site allows for the creation of small communities of students within the History of Art to encourage communication, interaction and exchange in a 'safe' environment, whilst allowing space for cross-cohort communication and bringing the undergraduate and graduate communities together. As an image-orientated department, it was important for them to have a platform to utilise and promote the analogue and digital collections, which are an intrinsic part of the Department's activities.