

The author John le Carré has offered his literary archive to the Bodleian Library, with the intention that it should become its permanent home. Le Carré’s archive was delivered to the Bodleian in late summer 2010 in approximately 85 archive boxes. Additional materials are still to be received, including correspondence relating to his literary career. It is expected that other personal and family papers, photographs and correspondence will be made available to researchers in due course.

The Bodleian Libraries are implementing a new Integrated Library System – designed to improve catalogue, circulation and acquisitions functionality for users and staff – from Thursday 7 July at 5pm to Monday 18 July at 9am. During this period, it will not be possible to order material kept in most closed stacks, so readers planning to visit then are advised to order material by Friday 1 July. For more information, visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk or contact reader.services@bodleian.ox.ac.uk.

The University’s Environmental Sustainability team has produced a business travel toolkit to promote sustainable business travel. The toolkit aims to help reduce carbon emissions from work-related travel: air travel alone accounts for 7% of the University’s total carbon emissions. Available at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/travel, the toolkit provides advice about choosing the most appropriate mode of transport for business trips and includes information about what non-travel arrangements are available across the University, such as video-conferencing facilities.

Professor Andrew Hamilton will be holding a 90-minute Question Time session in the Blue Boar Lecture Theatre in Christ Church on Thursday 26 May. The event is open to all members of staff, who are invited to discuss University issues with the Vice-Chancellor. The session starts at 4pm (refreshments available from 3.15pm). To reserve a place or submit a question in advance, please email internal.communications@admin.ox.ac.uk. An audio recording will be available after the event at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/vc/news.

The Bate Collection of Musical Instruments celebrated its 40th anniversary with a special concert on 12 March featuring instruments from the collection including the Beale trumpet and the Smith harpsichord. The Museum also received its oldest object this month – a 13th-century deer-bone whistle (left) which was bequeathed to the Bate from the estate of Peter Henderson. The whistle is now on display in the upper gallery of the collection, located on St Aldate’s.

Oxford Fashion Week gave the Oxford Thinking Campaign a healthy injection of glamour this year, with proceeds from the Couture Show going towards student support at the University. The show, which was produced by Leverhulme Fellow Dr Ling Ge and DPhil student Irina Higgins, was held at the Examination Schools on 5 March and featured the work of designers such as Matthew Williamson and Nicole Farhi. A silent auction, which included an Alexander McQueen bag, resulted in pledges of over £1,500.

Do you pay for childcare? If so, did you know that you can save money on tax and national insurance by using the University’s Childcare Voucher Scheme? Basic rate taxpayers can save up to £933 per annum, while higher rate tax payers can currently save up to £1,225 per year. However, changes in tax and national insurance mean that higher rate tax payers must register for the scheme before 6 April 2011 to take advantage of these greater savings. For details, visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/childcare/voucherscheme.
Research round-up

Children are no worse off in socio-economic terms if they go to comprehensives rather than to schools in the selective system, according to research published in the British Journal of Sociology. Dr Adam Swift of the Department of Politics and International Relations found that when the total cohort of children was taken into account, those who went to comprehensive schools were not disadvantaged in terms of social mobility compared with those who attended grammar schools and secondary moderns. Academics from Oxford and Bath Spa University analysed data from the National Child Development Survey, which tracks all children born in Britain in a particular week in 1958. Some of these children were among the first comprehensive school pupils, during the transition away from a selective system.

Greenhouse gas emissions from human activity substantially increased the odds of damaging floods occurring in England and Wales in Autumn 2000, research by Dr Pardeep Pall and Professor Myles Allen from the Department of Physics has found. The researchers found a two-in-three chance that the odds were increased by about a factor of two or more. The study suggests that, although these floods could have occurred in the absence of human influence on climate, greenhouse gas emissions can now be blamed for increasing the odds of floods occurring at that time. The researchers used a computer-based detailed climate model developed at the Met Office Hadley Centre to simulate the weather as it was and as it might have been had there been no greenhouse gas emissions since the beginning of the 20th century. This was then repeated thousands of times using a network of personal computers participating in the climateprediction.net project to pin down the impact of emissions on extreme weather.

The influence of Chinese tourists and consumers will be so great that in the next few years it will become normal for leading shops in the UK and US to stock and accept Chinese currency, an academic has predicted in a new book. Dr Karl Gerth of the Faculty of History has studied the growing worldwide influence of Chinese consumers in difficult economic times, and has predicted that more major UK and US brands will soon come under Chinese ownership. He explains: ‘Already shops on Bond Street are accepting renminbi from Chinese tourists and in years to come the tastes and desires of Chinese consumers will have to be at the forefront of every successful shop owner’s commercial considerations.’

An Oxford academic has applied digital image analysis to intimate letters sent simultaneously by Jonathan Swift to two women, with some surprising results. Assisted by an FBI forensic document analyst, Dr Abigail Williams of the Faculty of English has found that the Anglican clergyman famous for writing sophisticated satires such as Gulliver’s Travels and A Modest Proposal used a peculiar form of deletion to disguise his intimacies. Some of Swift’s most intimate lines have been crossed out and it has previously been thought that this was done by someone else – perhaps a censor – at a later date. But Dr Williams believes that it was Swift himself who scored through these lines. Swift’s letters to Esther Johnson and Rebecca Dingley formed The Journal to Stella and Dr Williams has retranscribed and edited the letters for a book published by Cambridge University Press.

Poor expectations of treatment can override all the effect of a potent pain-relieving drug, a brain imaging study led by Professor Irene Tracey of the Oxford Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain has shown. In contrast, positive expectations of treatment doubled the natural physiological or biochemical effect of the opioid drug among the healthy volunteers in the study. The study of the placebo effect – and its opposite, the nocebo effect – is published in Science Translational Medicine. The findings suggest that doctors may need to consider dealing with patients’ beliefs about the effectiveness of any treatment, as well as determining which drug might be the best for that patient. ‘Doctors shouldn’t underestimate the significant influence that patients’ negative expectations can have on outcome,’ says Professor Tracey. ‘For example, people with chronic pain will often have seen many doctors and tried many drugs that haven’t worked for them. They come to see the clinician with all this negative experience, not expecting to receive anything that will work for them. Doctors have almost got to work on that first before any drug will have an effect on their pain.’

For more University news, visit www.ox.ac.uk/news and www.ox.ac.uk/staffnews
People & prizes

Richard Compton, Professor of Chemistry, has been appointed as the Aldrichian Praelector in Chemistry in recognition of his outstanding academic achievements.

Marian Dawkins, Professor of Animal Behaviour, has been awarded the 2011 Gordon Medal for distinguished contributions to poultry science.

Alan Grafen, Professor of Theoretical Biology, has won the 2011 Medal of the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour for his contributions to the science of animal behaviour.

Jonathan Hodgkin, Professor of Genetics in the Department of Biochemistry, has been awarded the 2011 Genetics Society Medal for outstanding research contributions, particularly his use of the nematode worm to study genetics, immunity and development.

Alex Kacelnik, Professor of Behavioural Ecology, has been awarded the 2011 Research Award of the Comparative Cognition Society, a scientific society dedicated to gaining a broad scientific understanding of the nature and evolution of cognition in human and nonhuman animals.

Dr Nicolai Meinhausen of the Department of Statistics has been awarded the Guy Medal in Bronze by the Royal Statistical Society.

Carol Robinson, Royal Society Research Professor and Dr Lee’s Professor of Chemistry, has won the 2011 FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award. The award, made by the Federation of European Biochemical Societies and the European Molecular Biology Organization, recognises her pioneering work in the development of mass spectrometry as a tool used for investigating the structure and dynamics of protein complexes, as well as her mentoring of women pursuing careers in science.

Nick Trefethen, Professor of Numerical Analysis, has been awarded the 2010 IMA Gold Medal by the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications in recognition of his outstanding contributions.

Dr Richard Walker of the Department of Earth Sciences has been awarded the Oman–Thesiger Fellowship from the Royal Geographical Society to research the deserts of Eastern Iran.

Andrew Wilkinson, Professor of Paediatrics and consultant paediatrician at the John Radcliffe Hospital, has been awarded the 2011 James Spence Medal, the highest honour of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. The award recognises his outstanding work on neonatal intensive care.

Global accolade

Dr David Rodin, Co-Director and senior research fellow at the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict, has been named as a Young Global Leader 2011 by the World Economic Forum. The honour acknowledges outstanding young leaders from around the world for their professional accomplishments, commitment to society and potential to contribute to shaping our global future.

Dr Rodin’s research interests include war and international conflict; terrorism and asymmetric war; torture; business ethics and international justice. He is a frequent advisor to the government, military and private sector in the UK and abroad, and provides ethics training for senior officers at the UK Joint Services Command and Staff College.

Innovation applauded

The University’s Undergraduate Admissions team, along with University College, won two out of three awards for innovation and best practice at the recent Higher Education Liaison Officers’ Association (HELOA) National Conference. The University’s admissions team won an award for its series of self-guided audio tours, and University College was recognised for its student-produced Alternative Prospectus.

Award for Mobile Oxford

The 2010 UCISA (Universities and Colleges Information Systems Association) Higher Education Award for Excellence has been won by the University of Oxford, in recognition of Mobile Oxford (http://m.ox.ac.uk), the service that gives staff, students and the public in Oxford real-time information on their mobile phones. Features include material-specific library searching, points of interest and mapping across Oxford city, access to both the University’s virtual learning environment and its iTunes U podcasts, as well as traffic and transport information. The site had over a million visitors in its first year of operation.

New Proctors and Assessor

The University’s new Proctors and Assessor for 2011–12 have taken office. The Senior Proctor (left) is Laurence Whitehead (Nuffield College, Department of Politics and International Relations), the Junior Proctor is Professor Brian Rogers (Pembroke College, Department of Experimental Psychology) and the Assessor is Dr Teresa Morgan (Oriel College, Faculty of Classics).

These three senior officers of the University are elected annually by the colleges. The Proctors ensure that the University operates according to its statutes, and they are also members of key decision-making committees. They deal with University (as opposed to college) student discipline, complaints about University matters, and the running of University examinations, and also have ceremonial duties. The Assessor is responsible particularly for student welfare and finance.
Government roles

Three Oxford academics have recently been appointed to government bodies.

**James Malcomson**, Professor of Economics, is to chair an Office of Health Economics Commission on Competition in the NHS. The Office of Health Economics provides independent research, advisory and consultancy services on policy implications and economic issues within the healthcare sector. The new Commission will investigate for which healthcare services and in what circumstances competition or contest is likely to be beneficial overall, and for which it is likely to be harmful.

**Colin Mayer**, Peter Moores Dean of the Said Business School, is among 14 new members of the Competition Appeal Tribunal, the body that hears and decides appeals and other applications or claims under UK law involving competition or economic regulatory issues. The appointment is part-time and Professor Mayer will continue as Peter Moores Dean until 1 July 2011 and Peter Moores Professor of Management Studies when his term as Dean ends.

**Judith Freedman**, KPMG Professor of Taxation Law, has joined a government committee exploring the possibility of introducing a general anti-avoidance tax provision into UK tax law.

Chancellor to chair BBC

Lord Patten of Barnes, the University’s Chancellor, is to become Chairman of the BBC Trust from 1 May. He will continue in his role as Chancellor.

Arrivals board

**Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine**

**Shoumo Bhattacharya**, Honorary Consultant Cardiologist at the John Radcliffe Hospital, British Heart Foundation Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine in the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, and Governing Body Fellow of Green Templeton College, took up this post on 1 December 2010. He remains a fellow of Green Templeton College.

After reading medicine at the All India Institute for Medical Sciences in New Delhi, Shoumo Bhattacharya undertook clinical training at Northwick Park Hospital in Harrow before working at Harvard Medical School, where he researched the genes involved in heart development. On moving to Oxford in 1998 he and his colleagues developed high-throughput magnetic resonance microscopy for large-scale genetic studies of cardiac development. His current research investigates the genetic mechanisms in congenital heart disease and heart failure, and the applications of genetic research in drug target discovery.

Professor Bhattacharya is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, the Academy of Medical Sciences and the European Society of Cardiology.

**Donald Schultz Professor of Turbomachinery**

**Peter Ireland**, Rolls-Royce Associate Fellow in Heat Transfer, Rolls-Royce, Derby, took up this post in the Department of Engineering Science on 1 January. He also became a fellow of St Catherine’s College.

Professor Ireland, who was a member of academic staff in the Department of Engineering Science from 1989 to 2007 and tutorial fellow in engineering science at St Anne’s College over the same period, was appointed to this chair following a post as Corporate Specialist in Heat Transfer at Rolls-Royce.

His research centres on the development and launch of new heat-transfer-related technologies, and in particular the way in which these can be integrated into aircraft engines. Recently, he has developed high-temperature technology in other areas such as fuel cells, nuclear power, combustion, fire protection and high-temperature instrumentation. He holds over 20 patents in these fields.

**Director of Alumni Relations**

**Christine Fairchild**, formerly Executive Director of External Relations at Harvard Business School (HBS), became Oxford’s Director of Alumni Relations on 7 March.

Ms Fairchild graduated from Connecticut College in 1979 with a BA in Asian Studies and joined the Harvard Art Museums, where she spent 10 years working in membership, development, special events and public education. In 1988 she moved to Alumni Relations at HBS, rising to become Director of the Department. In 2003 she was appointed Executive Director of External Relations and led a staff of 80 people raising over $50m annually in new gifts and pledges and completing a $600m capital campaign.

**Professor, School of Geography and the Environment**

**Myles Allen**, University Lecturer in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics and group leader of the Climate Dynamics Group, has been appointed to a statutory professorship in the School of Geography and the Environment with effect from 4 April. The Chair is associated with Linacre College and, through continued associations with both the Department of Physics and the Smith School for Enterprise and the Environment, Professor Allen will aim to build up links in climate research across the University’s Divisions.

Myles Allen’s own research focuses on how human and natural influences on climate contribute to observed climate change and risks of extreme weather, and on quantifying their implications for long-range weather forecasts. He has served on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and leads the climateprediction.net project, which uses distributed computing to run the world’s largest ensemble climate modelling experiments.
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What’s on

Sport
The Boat Race
Saturday 26 March, 5pm
www.theboatrace.org
The 4.5 mile course runs between Putney Bridge and Chiswick Bridge.

Music
Oxford May Music
27 April–2 May
Holywell Music Room
www.oxfordmaymusic.co.uk
A festival combining concerts and lectures that explore music, science and literature. Performers include the festival’s Artistic Director, Jack Liebeck, winner of the 2010 ‘Classical Brit’ for best young British performer or group, and TV science presenter Professor Brian Cox. Also features a family day and an afternoon concert to celebrate the royal wedding.

May Morning celebrations
Sunday 1 May, 6am
Magdalen Bridge
www.magd.ox.ac.uk/chapel-and-choir/choir
Magdalen College choir sings the Hymnus Eucharisticus, an invitation to summer, from the top of Magdalen College Great Tower.

Training & Benefits

Springboard for women
Springboard, the personal and professional development programme for women, is entering its 10th year at Oxford. Originally developed as in-house training at the BBC, the programme is now run across organisations worldwide and over 180,000 women have taken part. Oxford introduced Springboard in 2002 as one of its initiatives to address women’s under-representation in senior roles, and now counts over 700 graduates, ranging from DPhil students to Principal Investigators and from support to senior administrative staff. ‘One of the main aims of Springboard is to remove barriers,’ explains Hannah Boschen, Professional Development Officer at the Oxford Learning Institute. ‘It allows women from different backgrounds and roles to share experiences in a non-hierarchical environment.’

Exhibitions
Neapolitan and Spanish Drawings from the Baroque
Until 15 May
Ashmolean Museum
www.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/exhibitions
The exhibition introduces the least known group of Old Master drawings from Christ Church. The 29 drawings on display offer a glimpse into the wide range of Neapolitan draughtsmanship, including works by Jusepe de Ribera, Salvador Rosa and Luca Giordano.

Images and the State: Graphics in China in the 1960s and 1970s
Until 3 July
Ashmolean Museum
www.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/exhibitions
Visual imagery in China during the Cultural Revolution was limited to officially sanctioned subject matter and styles. Simple graphics and bold colour prevailed in designs that were often accompanied by political slogans.

Family fun
Easter trail: Eggstraordinary Eggventure
11 – 25 April
University Museum of Natural History and the Pitt Rivers Museum
www prm.ox.ac.uk/events.html
Eggsplore the museums with an eggciting egg-hunter’s trail.

Talks and seminars
Science and the Future: The Future of Life
Sunday 3 April, 2 – 7pm
Corpus Christi College
www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/event/980
An afternoon of panel discussions on synthetic life, the diversity of life, and life in space, organised as part of the Oxford Literary Festival. Introduced by Dr Ian Goldin, Director of the Oxford Martin School, and chaired by science writer Georgina Ferry. Book tickets via the website.

Sir Tom Stoppard: the Richard Hillary Memorial Lecture
Friday 13 May, 5pm
Sheldonian Theatre
www.trinity.ox.ac.uk
The playwright gives the 2011 lecture. Admission free, tickets not required.

Professor Sir Andrew Motion: The Bonfire of the Humanities
Thursday 2 June, 5pm
Sheldonian Theatre
The former Poet Laureate discusses the case for supporting the arts and humanities in this year’s Romanes Lecture. Entry is free, with places available on a first-come first-served basis (doors open 4.30pm).

For more events, visit www.ox.ac.uk/staff/events

The programme aims to enable women to achieve their full potential both at work and in their personal lives. Through a series of workshops, participants are encouraged to set goals and learn new skills, as well as to consider the challenges they already have. ‘Many women use Springboard to get results at work, such as gaining new qualifications or a promotion, while others focus on issues in their personal life, such as dealing with stress or achieving a better work/life balance,’ Hannah says. Programme graduates are offered support via a mentoring scheme, and reunion evenings – which are part professional development and part social event – also take place each term.

The experience stays with many graduates throughout their careers. ‘Springboard offers a rare chance to take time out of daily life and reflect on how to make that life better,’ comments Deb Sanders in Student Administration. It’s a view echoed by Kate McCall–McCowan in Cardiovascular Medicine: ‘It enables you to look at the various aspects of your life from a different perspective. Life’s challenges are not always easy, but I can honestly say that I feel better prepared to deal with them now.’

The Oxford Learning Institute runs four programmes per year. Registration is free, but places are limited and book up quickly. If you would like to find out whether Springboard is for you, a 90-minute taster session is taking place in Trinity Term.

For further information, visit www.learning.ox.ac.uk/oli.php?page=51 or contact Hannah Boschen and Liisa Worrall in the Learning Institute
Seventy years ago, on 12 February 1941, penicillin was used for the first time in a patient, thanks to the pioneering work of Howard Florey, Ernst Chain and Norman Heatley at the University’s Sir William Dunn School of Pathology. Their efforts ushered in the modern age of antibiotics. It’s hard to conceive what this discovery meant in the 1940s. Penicillin then seemed nothing short of miraculous, banishing many infectious diseases that were some of the leading killers of the time.

The Dunn School is indelibly linked to that great discovery, but what does a department with that tremendous legacy do to move on and look forward to the 21st century? Well, it has just completed a new £30m institute to expand its work researching the molecular basis of human disease. The Oxford Molecular Pathology Institute (OMPI), located next to the original 1920s Dunn School building on the site of obsolete 1960s laboratories, has just opened its doors and research groups are moving in.

The situation is similar to when Howard Florey came to Oxford in 1935 as the newly appointed Professor of Pathology. He arrived to state-of-the-art but largely empty labs in the new Dunn School and set about recruiting a research team. By the early war years, Florey, Ernst Chain and others had turned over the Department to making penicillin.

Everyone associates Alexander Fleming with penicillin. It was Fleming, after all, who noticed stray mould growing on a plate of bacteria at St Mary’s Hospital Medical School in 1928, with a surrounding clear area where the bacteria had been killed. He recognised the significance of the observation, but never went on to purify the substance responsible, which he had named ‘penicillin’.

The giant steps required to turn penicillin into a treatment for patients needed the vision, diligence and dedication of Florey’s team in Oxford. Florey and Chain began work on penicillin in 1939, but in trying to purify the substance the contributions of another member of the team, Norman Heatley, were crucial. ‘Heatley had the technical vision necessary to purify penicillin,’ says Dr Eric Sidebottom, who has become the unofficial historian of the Department.

Heatley devised a method for extracting and purifying penicillin from cultures of mould grown in hundreds of vessels throughout the Dunn School labs. The automated process he came up with made use of bedpans, milk churns and baths all rigged together, yet it worked very well.

At the height of the blitz in May 1940, the team carried out a crucial experiment in mice. Eight mice were infected with streptococci bacteria and four of them given injections of penicillin. In the morning, the untreated mice were...
dead while those that had received penicillin survived for days to weeks, showing for the first time that penicillin could be an effective antibacterial drug.

So in February 1941, after turning the Dunn School into a factory to produce enough penicillin with production running 24 hours a day, Florey felt they could begin trials in humans. With the help of medical doctor Charles Fletcher at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Albert Alexander, a 43-year-old policeman, became the first person to be treated with penicillin. Alexander was injected with penicillin regularly over four days and within 24 hours he was greatly improved. But even though the team went as far as extracting the precious penicillin from his urine and reinjecting it, supplies ran out before his cure was complete. He relapsed at the beginning of March, and died a month later.

But most of the next patients to be given penicillin made full recoveries and penicillin was revealed as a ‘miracle drug’: infections that had been killing people were cured. As companies in the US and UK began to take up manufacture of penicillin, supplies accompanied the troops in the D-Day landings and the death toll from infected wounds during the campaign was dramatically reduced.

So how did penicillin come to be linked solely to the name of Alexander Fleming in most people’s minds? Dr Sidebottom has the answer: ‘When the potential of penicillin became clear in 1941 and 1942, St Mary’s Hospital realised what a coup it was going to be. The dean of St Mary’s, Charles Wilson, was also Churchill’s physician and President of the Royal College of Physicians. When he said, “We [St Mary’s] discovered it,” people listened. More than that, Lord Beaverbrook – the powerful press baron – was a patron of the hospital and was instrumental in setting the agenda in the press. In contrast to all the media attention Fleming was getting, Florey refused to speak to the press at all.’

Penicillin has had a lasting effect on the Dunn School. The team continued to work in the area and another important family of antibiotics, the cephalosporins, were developed by Edward Abraham and Guy Newton. Proceeds from these patents continue to fund research around the University and are paying for most of the cost of the new OMPI building.

OMPI will house over 200 researchers and doubles the available space in the Dunn School of Pathology. Designed jointly by Nightingale Associates and Make Architects, the new laboratories will house research programmes in immunology, developmental biology, microbiology and cancer cell biology.

Professor Herman Waldmann, Head of the Dunn School, says, ‘It’s been exciting to see the building go up knowing the first-class environment for science it will provide.’ He reflects: ‘There are some differences from Florey’s time. Science has become more and more specialised, and more dependent on technology and funding. The scientific problems we’re addressing require teams of people and it all needs to go more rapidly because of worldwide competition.’

Some things haven’t changed, however. ‘It’s always been a very collegial place,’ says Professor Waldmann. ‘People interested in different areas are in close proximity, and that stops compartmentalisation of thinking. Even the architecture of the place is conducive to people bumping into each other. That’s been understood in the design of the new building. As long as I can remember, the common theme has been the premium put on good ideas and good people. If you have both ingredients, then it works: you create an environment where good ideas are cherished.’

For further information, see:
Sir William Dunn School of Pathology
www.path.ox.ac.uk
Oxford Molecular Pathology Institute
www.path.ox.ac.uk/Facilities/OMPI
History of the Dunn School
www.path.ox.ac.uk/contact/history2

Inside OMPI. ‘The new labs are beautiful. The open, shared space makes it really easy to do experiments and it’s exciting for my group to interact with other research groups too,’ says Dr Fumiko Esashi (see box, right)
Nestling in the tranquil Oxfordshire countryside, this Jacobean retreat is easily accessible without the stress of city traffic and offers ample free parking. Yet it is only 5 miles from the city centre with easy access from the M40 and the Oxford ring road.

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Arunabha Ghosh was, as he puts it, ‘on my way to becoming an investment banker’ when he was offered a Clarendon Fund scholarship to pursue an MPhil in International Relations at Oxford in 2001 – a degree he wanted to pursue but never thought he would be able to fund. The opportunity, he says, changed his life: after completing both his Master’s and doctoral degrees at Oxford, he went on to work for the United Nations Development Programme and the World Trade Organization before setting up an environmental research and policy institution in his native India that built on the skills and interests he honed while at Oxford.

Ghosh was part of the first group of students to benefit from the Clarendon Fund scholarships, which were set up in 2000 after Council agreed to use £2m each year from the annual transfer from Oxford University Press (OUP) to fund overseas graduate students from outside the EU. Since the first students arrived in 2001 the Clarendon has become the largest University-run scholarship scheme for international graduate students, providing £7.5m in full funding for fees and living expenses of scholars each year.

‘Our connection with the Clarendon Fund is something we value greatly,’ says Nigel Portwood, Chief Executive of Oxford University Press. ‘Since its beginnings a decade ago, we’ve provided £52m to enable more than 900 remarkable scholars from across the globe to continue their studies at Oxford. For me, Clarendon embodies many of the values that make OUP a success. It has a clear focus on excellence, excels in a broad range of academic areas, and is truly global in nature. It is a world-class programme for a world-class university and we are immensely proud to be a part of it.’

Clarendon Scholars are selected solely on the basis of their academic excellence and potential. Many of them go on to careers in academia – and some even stay at Oxford once their studies are finished. Dr Afifi al-Akiti started as a graduate student at Oxford in 2001 and is now a fellow of Worcester College and a lecturer in the Faculty of Theology. His Clarendon-funded doctoral work focused on a series of philosophical writings attributed to the celebrated Islamic theologian, al-Ghazali, and will shortly be published by OUP.

He will be one of the Clarendon alums on hand to celebrate the Fund’s first decade when the 10th class of Scholars matriculate in October. Jenny Roberts, Head of Graduate Funding, has been planning commemorative events, especially over the Alumni Weekend in September. ‘The celebrations will showcase the exceptional quality and diversity of Clarendon scholars past and present,’ she says. ‘And, as we go on to award our 1000th Clarendon scholarship in April this year, the future looks very bright for this unique scheme. We’re particularly pleased that over £1m in contributions from colleges each year has allowed us to award even more scholarships.’

The celebrations will highlight the diversity of backgrounds and research interests that continues to characterise the Clarendon scholars. First-year Clarendon scholar Roberta Gregoli is from Brazil, but had studied in France, Portugal and New Zealand before arriving at Oxford to start a DPhil looking at representation of gender and sexuality in the Brazilian cinema of the 1950s, 1970s and 2000s. In the process, she says, the scholarship has brought her into regular and lively contact with colleagues across several departments. ‘Despite the fact that we have very different backgrounds and areas of expertise, there is always a lot of exchange as we share the same curiosity towards the world,’ she explains. ‘I feel that the Clarendon community reflects what is best in any academic environment: inquisitiveness and passion for learning.’

More information at www.clarendon.ox.ac.uk
The rich collections of the Bodleian are more commonly associated with scholarly research than with the bestseller market, but for the publishing arm of the Bodleian Libraries, the collections represent a fertile hunting ground for hidden treasures waiting to be unearthed for the wider public as part of the Libraries’ outreach effort.

The Bodleian’s current publishing programme includes both scholarly and trade titles, and ranges from facsimiles of medieval manuscripts to authored books about items in the collections. The list features about a dozen new titles each year and includes bestsellers such as the Instructions series – reproductions of handbooks issued to British and American servicemen during the Second World War, advising them on appropriate behaviour in their host countries. Produced in a style reminiscent of the era, including a period typeface and a utilitarian–style cover, the series has netted sales of over £0.6m and generated extensive publicity for the Bodleian and its collections.

The First English Dictionary of Slang also earned enthusiastic reviews and wide international press coverage on publication last September. The dictionary, dating from 1699 and originally entitled A New Dictionary of Terms, Ancient and Modern, of the Canting Crew, was designed to educate polite London society in ‘canting’ – the language of thieves and ruffians – should they wander into the less salubrious parts of the city. Republished three centuries later with an introduction by the Chief Editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, John Simpson, it is a prime example of how the Bodleian takes forgotten treasures from its collections and reconstitutes them.

So how does the Bodleian select which titles to publish? Part of the work of hunting out interesting and unusual titles falls to Dr Samuel Fanous, Head of Publishing, who commissions titles, while others are suggested by academics, authors and curators. An element of serendipity comes into play for others. A radio programme featuring PD James led to a request from the former Librarian for James to write a book, Talking about Detective Fiction, her first book published outside Faber. The Postcards from… series was inspired by a donation from John Fraser, an Old Member of Trinity College, who had collected over 20,000 postcards of political propaganda over six decades. With the obsession of a collector, he drove to Berlin days after the Wall fell in 1989 and purchased every relevant card, creating a rare and unusual collection. This led to a series featuring iconic political events, people and places of the 20th century, from the Russian Revolution to Checkpoint Charlie.

While the Bodleian’s current publishing programme is relatively new, publishing is a well-established activity for the Library, dating from 1605 when it published its first catalogue. Even then, there was a commercial edge to the operation as the Bodleian required all its readers to purchase a copy. But it was not until the early 20th century that a formal publishing programme began. One of the most important publications of this era was the Bodleian Quarterly Record, the scholarly journal which began life in 1914 and which still exists today as the Bodleian Library Record.

Exhibition-related publications were introduced in the 1960s and remain a key part of the list, as can be seen in the recently published Shelley’s Ghost by Stephen Hebron and Elizabeth C Denlinger, which accompanies the Bodleian exhibition of the same name. It is this ability to promote the collections to a worldwide audience that lies at the heart of the Bodleian’s publishing programme. As Dr Fanous explains: ‘The Libraries’ flourishing outreach programme includes exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and many other activities. Publications about the Libraries’ collections make a substantial contribution to this effort, taking a bit of the Bodleian to readers worldwide.’ Bodleian Publishing is thus helping fulfil Thomas Bodley’s original vision of the library as a ‘Republic of the Learned’, a library serving not only Oxford but the whole world of learning.

For more information about Bodleian Library Publishing, email publishing@bodleian.ox.ac.uk for your free publications catalogue or visit www.bodleianbookshop.co.uk. University staff receive 10% off Bodleian titles, plus other books and merchandise, at the Bodleian Shop.

Bestsellers from the Bodleian

Bodleian Library Publishing is expert at hunting out hidden gems from the Libraries’ collections and refashioning them for a new audience, as Susannah Wintersgill discovers
Not being allowed to forget is an affliction of the digital age, says Viktor Mayer-Schönberger, Professor of Internet Governance and Regulation at the Oxford Internet Institute. Photos, emails and research papers in their various drafts can all today be summoned at the click of a mouse – but should we be keeping them all? In his award-winning book Delete (2009, Princeton University Press) Professor Mayer-Schönberger argues we should not.

‘We’ve become “packrats”, compulsive hoarders of online content,’ he says. ‘I remember weeping when I lost eight years’ worth of archived emails. I never retrieved them but three days later I was fine. I survived.’ A former software developer and lawyer, Austrian-born Professor Mayer-Schönberger thought his own packrat behaviour was an interesting research topic. His research paper developed into Delete.

Internet companies around the world including Facebook have recently started to show an interest in expiration dates for personal information. Numerous companies now offer software designed to delete material according to our self-imposed time limits – an idea Professor Mayer-Schönberger first proposed in 2007 and has continued to nurture.

The amount of digital information about us available to others online should concern us as a matter of information privacy, he believes. He cites the case of a US academic who mentioned taking a recreational drug in his youth in a research paper for an obscure academic printed journal. The same academic was banned from America for life when years later, without his prior knowledge, the print article was found through Google by a US border guard.

Professor Mayer-Schönberger’s research also raises the possibility that by hoarding online information we are overloading our brains, as in the long term this learned behaviour makes us indecisive. In keeping information that we might otherwise forget, we are overriding a default mechanism in our brain which, significantly, enables us to function properly, he argues.

‘Our memories always seem to get rosier as time passes,’ he says. ‘That is actually a good thing. It helps us to deal with things that have happened in our past.’ He adds: ‘Unlike digital files, human brains remember what is important or significant. But if all the memories, good or bad, can be summoned up from our archive files, the digital age makes it harder to apply the adage that time is a healer.’

He will continue to explore the challenges of the digital age, with the ease with which online content can be manipulated and the sinister societal implications being of particular interest. While retouching photographs may be a useful tool for individuals wanting to smooth out their own wrinkles, a technical tool that can erase and add to the original online content is a disturbing development, he says. Being able to verify what images and narratives are true and which are doctored is getting more difficult, given the sophistication of technology today. The possible consequences are a research area that he wants to explore further. For example, will the agencies that control this information serve their own purposes rather than the public good?

Professor Mayer-Schönberger’s advice to the Facebook generation is ‘regard technology as a tool you control, rather than leave yourself open to being used by it’. He himself has a Facebook page, which he says is a means of self-promotion rather than a confession booth. ‘Put it this way,’ he warns, ‘I wouldn’t put anything on my page that I wouldn’t want to see as a headline in the International Herald Tribune.’

For more information, see Professor Mayer-Schönberger’s webpage at www.vmsweb.net. His February 2011 webcast ‘The virtue of forgetting’ is at http://webcast.ouo.ox.ac.uk/?view=Webcast&ID=20110207_343
More than 250 PCs and other pieces of IT equipment that once sat on Oxford University or college desks have found new homes in developing countries. Beneficiaries include disadvantaged schools in Ecuador, Ethiopia, Kenya and Zimbabwe, British Council supported libraries across Eritrea, and university departments in Ethiopia and Mozambique.

Oxford is participating in an informal pilot scheme organised by University Finance Project Manager Peter Molduano-Przychodzki, who in October 2010 instigated collaboration with Computer Aid International, a London-based registered charity that refurbishes unwanted computers and delivers them to educational and community organisations in developing countries.

So far, 14 University departments and three colleges – Wadham, Merton and Christ Church – are participating in the scheme. Equipment is collected free of charge by Computer Aid, which subjects donated PCs to a range of tests, wipes their hard disks and upgrades them to extend their life by three to four years. Donations which cannot be used directly have any valuable parts retrieved for re-use or fundraising, and are then recycled.

‘It’s wonderful that our old computers are able to make such a difference to people’s lives, but there are also advantages for the University’, says Peter. ‘Participating in this pilot reduces the University’s carbon footprint by extending the life of its equipment and also ensures that our e-waste is disposed of responsibly.’ Geoff Calvert, IT manager of the Oxford University Centre for the Environment, is a fan of the scheme: ‘Not only can we make equipment we no longer want available to others at no cost to ourselves, but the assurance that data will be securely erased also means that we don’t need to spend a lot of time preparing old equipment before collection.’

All kinds of working IT equipment is valuable to Computer Aid, which can, for instance, supply trailers with solar batteries to run maybe 10 monitors off one computer. Cables, switches and hubs are all useful, as are laptops and printers. Computer Aid regularly collects donations from the University. Departments with only a few items for disposal and individuals with their own equipment to donate can take their offerings to the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics (DPAG). ‘We’re very happy to act as a conduit for small amounts of equipment being donated to Computer Aid,’ confirms Peter Belk, DPAG’s ICT manager.

Computer Aid ensures that equipment goes to locations where it can make a real difference to local education and future employment opportunities, and where technical support and training is available to optimise use. Some Oxford equipment has, for example, gone to libraries in Eritrea. ‘Most students in Eritrea graduate from formal education without any IT skills, so through this programme people get a chance to see and touch computers for the first time in the remote areas,’ says Thomas Barigaber, IT consultant for the British Council in Eritrea. Other beneficiaries include schools in Manabi in Ecuador, where computer labs have been set up alongside a government training programme, and the Physics Department at Mekelle University in Ethiopia.

From the Engineering Faculty of the Catholic University of Mozambique, Dr João Luis Ferrão sends this message: ‘The faculty started in 2009 with 34 students and one old computer. In 2011 we are starting our classes with around 90 students and a donation of 10 computers from Computer Aid… The motivation of our staff and students has increased and we are proud of our small computer lab since it is the most updated in our town. Thanks to Computer Aid and Oxford University.’

‘We have around 32,000 computers in use in the collegiate University, with an average life of about four years,’ says Peter Molduano-Przychodzki. ‘Just imagine what doubling or tripling the current donation levels could do! I’d like to think that in maybe a few years’ time Oxford will be getting successful online applications from students in developing countries that have benefitted from the IT equipment we donated.’

For more information about the pilot scheme, including details of how to donate equipment, please contact peter.molduano@admin.ox.ac.uk

From Oxford, with love

Refurbished IT equipment is now finding its way to developing countries, thanks to the University’s pilot collaboration with Computer Aid International, reports Sally Croft

Above: Graduate engineer Naomi Griggs installs a computer network in a rural girls’ school in Liberia. Bottom: Children in Kenya using PCs supplied by Computer Aid
Our association with the University of Oxford is now in its 18th year.

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Why am I here?

Dr Linda Irving-Bell
Home Bursar, The Queen’s College

What do you do?
I oversee the non-academic operations of the College, through a number of specialist heads of section – accommodation, catering, conferences, general building works, major building projects and security. It’s an interesting job and we’ve just completed an extremely complex project that involved building a new underground kitchen, a ground-floor servery, and two new first-floor dining rooms. This has involved a phenomenal amount of additional work – it was like having two full-time jobs running alongside each other for two years – but it’s very satisfying to have played such a part in the College’s history. This is the most significant building work since the College was rebuilt in the early 1700s. We are also halfway through building a beautiful new auditorium, which will be stunning.

Weren’t you a mature student at Oxford yourself?
Yes, I came to Oxford as an undergraduate at the age of 40 to study PPP (Physiology and Psychology) at St Hilda’s in 1990 – quite daunting as I had not been to school since I was 16. I stayed on and took a DPhil in experimental brain research. My supervisor, Professor Alan Cowey, once said to me: ‘You are the only person I know who began a DPhil in hard science at this age.’ I liked that.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
My father, who died quite young, used to ask me this and I always replied ‘something in science’. He thought it funny to reply: ‘Then you can grow up to be a test tube!’ When I received my DPhil, I told this story at the graduation lunch in St Hilda’s, adding that I was happy to report that I had ‘eventually become a test tube’.

And what jobs did you actually do?
During school holidays I picked fruit, potatoes and worked in cafés, but my first real job was working as a secretary in an engineering company, having attended their secretarial training school for eight months. I carried on with mostly secretarial and admin work, and eventually ran my own business employing hand-knitters, designing and selling knitwear, alongside a full-time post as a director of a company owning and operating golf courses and driving ranges around the country.

So what made you decide to become a mature student?
As a child I’d never heard of university and we moved around a lot as my father was in the RAF, so it was only as an adult that I began to learn what was out there in the world. By this time I had three young children but had begun to feel there was something missing. I was determined to go to university but did not know when it would be possible.

My circumstances then changed and I decided to go to Oxford despite the obvious difficulties, as Oxford had won various funds for brain research. I approached the matter strategically, went to open days and approached colleges with tutors in the subject I was interested in. Jane Mellanby at St Hilda’s encouraged me and I studied for O-levels and A-levels every night between 10pm and 2am over a year to obtain what I needed.

How did you find life as a mature student?
I loved studying, but I was lonely and financially strapped, and had to juggle being a single parent with the work I had to do.

How did that lead to your current job?
When I finished the DPhil I had a really exciting research project I had devised, looking into the mechanisms underlying recovery after brain damage. I had a team eager to accept me and ethical permission in place, but was well outside the then age limits for biomedical funding and could not find the funding I needed. I decided to look for a lectureship (I had been tutoring for two colleges during the DPhil) or a job like the one I now have, as I felt I would understand the business side of the College operation and also the academic side from all points of view. This came up trumps first.

And finally, what’s the most unexpected thing you’ve found yourself doing?
We needed a short piece of film of the College flag flying, but the day was very still and the flag hung limply. I sent the staff out to buy fine fishing line, which they tied to the corners of the flag, retreated to the highest point on the far building, and gently tugged the line back and forth to achieve the necessary result.

Viewfinder
Where’s this little lamb? Answer on p5.