

ANNUAL REVIEW
2008/9





IDDLE EAST
THE MIDDLE EAST

The Ashmolean's 39 new spacious and light-filled galleries present more of the Museum's rich collection than ever before

◀ *Front cover:* Apollo, god of music and the fine arts, sits atop the Ashmolean Museum's handsome neo-classical façade. Britain's oldest public museum reopened to great acclaim in November after a multi-million pound redevelopment

University of Oxford

ANNUAL REVIEW 2008/9



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The Vice-Chancellor's foreword

As the University's outgoing Vice-Chancellor, this year's foreword is my last in the Annual Review. The following pages illustrate the outstanding performance of colleagues this year, and I leave the University confident that its position as a world leader is secure.

As the University again scored such impressive results in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise, it is appropriate that the Review focuses on outstanding examples of the work of colleagues in very different academic fields. World-leading research on the genetic basis of autism and multiple sclerosis, and further significant contributions to the body of knowledge on the vital issue of climate changes are among the areas of excellence highlighted.

It has been a year that has again seen many colleagues receive public recognition for their inspirational achievements. In particular we profile Professor Vernon Bogdanor, recognised for a lifetime contribution to political studies. Our students too were widely recognised last year for their success in a broad range of activities. And the diversity of background and experience in Oxford's student population is reflected here in a feature on our innovative 'Wall of 100 Faces' video project. The attractiveness of Oxford to students continues to grow. Undergraduate applications in 2008–9 increased by 12.5 per cent year-on-year – an increase considerably greater than that of our major peer institutions. For the first time, the University had more applications for graduate than undergraduate places.

This has also been a challenging year; one in which the world economy has faced unprecedented turmoil, whose effects are still reverberating through the world of higher education. Yet public confidence in Oxford and its future remains high. For example, we are able to report major achievements in fundraising. Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our donors, well over £120 million was raised during the year, bringing the total of Oxford Thinking – The Campaign for the University of Oxford, begun in 2004 – to more than £770 million. There are notable success stories in each of the Campaign's three core priority areas, students, academic posts and programmes, and buildings. We have reflected on two of the major building developments: the reopening of the Ashmolean and the Pitt Rivers Museums. Most recently, the quality of our museums, in conjunction with the libraries and archives, has been honoured by the award of the prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize. This award has been given in recognition of their outstanding quality and their significant public benefit. It is the seventh time in eight awarding rounds that Oxford has been successful – a record unsurpassed by any other university.



◀ Portrait of John Hood, Vice-Chancellor from 2004 to 2009, by Paul Brason

The achievements of the Campaign are by no means the only impressive figures to report. In 2008–9 our research revenues exceeded £340 million, an increase of 19 per cent over 2007–8, and the new research grants and contracts won during the year totalled £467 million, up 21 per cent on the previous year. Oxford University Press has seen a growth in like-for-like sales by 4.8 per cent in the last year – a most creditable performance in a difficult economic climate.

On the issue of finance, these remain unpredictable times. With Government budgets under immense pressure, and economic recovery slow, we need to plan with skill and care. This outstanding and historic University does so from a position of strength and confidence. May it continue to thrive and prosper.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'John Hood'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

October

High notes for Oxford

► Oxford's first Choral Professor, Edward Higginbottom, leads the internationally acclaimed New College Choir in rehearsal

Oxford has always been alive with the sound of music, but this year has been particularly remarkable for the University's Faculty of Music.

In October, Professor Edward Higginbottom started the academic year by becoming the first Choral Professor in a UK university. 'It shows choral music to be a fully integrated part of the academic activity of the University, supported by our unique college structures for music in chapel, and particularly the provision made by the three choral foundations in Oxford (Christ Church, Magdalen and New College)', he said. 'One of my roles as Choral Professor is to highlight the "contemporary" nature of choral performance in the University. The pedagogy we adopt must be suited to our times, and effective in a contemporary context.'

Professor Higginbottom, who continues as Director of New College Choir alongside his new role, was also proud to announce that the choir had won a prestigious *Gramophone* award in the 'Early Music' category for its recording of music by Nicholas Ludford. Under Professor Higginbottom's direction, the choir has achieved international recognition and has brought choral music of high quality to an increasingly wide-ranging public through recordings and concerts worldwide. 'It says much about the potential and capacity of the choral tradition and practice in Oxford that this level of success can be achieved', he said.

And it was not just the New College Choir that has been in the spotlight. The Choir of The Queen's College recorded music for *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, the sixth film in the series based on J K Rowling's novels. After working on the music with BAFTA-winning composer Nicholas Hooper, the choir went to Abbey Road Studios, spending a morning in the famous Studio One, the world's largest purpose-built recording studio. The piece recorded by the choir is a 'simple but highly evocative' song, 'In Noctem'.

A further development for the Faculty of Music has been the announcement that the post of Visiting Professor of Opera Studies, which is thought to be the only post of its kind in the UK, is to be revived. The first postholder is to be named shortly.

Musical scholarship has also been in the headlines. Oxford's Faculty of Music topped the research rankings in its category following the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), with 50 per cent of its research rated as 'world-leading' and the largest number of research-active staff submitted by any higher education institution in the UK. Further, it was ranked the best UK music department by both *The Times* and the *Independent* in their most recent surveys. 'This has been a fantastic year for music', said Faculty Board Chair, Professor Eric Clarke. 'And the Faculty's outstanding RAE result has added to the incredible diversity of music-making that goes on within the University.' During the year Professor Clarke delivered the Royal Holloway/British Library Distinguished Lecture series in Musicology on the topic of 'Musical Subjectivities' at the British Library. He is the third current member of the faculty to be invited to deliver the series in its 10-year history.

Even the Bodleian celebrated this year's choral theme, with its winter exhibition entitled *Hallelujah: The British Choral Tradition*. It

explored the history of choral music in Britain and its contribution to our shared cultural heritage. The exhibition included a wide range of music masterpieces, plus manuscripts written by the composers' own hands. It also celebrated four composers with anniversaries in 2009 – Purcell, Handel, Haydn and Mendelssohn, all of whom made major contributions to the British choral scene.

Richard Ovenden, Keeper of Special Collections and Associate Director at the Bodleian Library, said: 'The library has been collecting music material for centuries. By supporting scholarship in Oxford's world-class Music Faculty and supporting the rich music performance scene in and around Oxford, the library has made a major impact on the British choral music scene. We were delighted to showcase that contribution.'

March saw the 100th anniversary of the founder and benefactor of Oxford's Bate Collection – Philip Bate. It is one of the finest collections of music instruments in the world, with more than 2,000 instruments from Western orchestral music traditions. Bate died 10 years ago at the age of 90. He was convinced there was a purpose in his musical instrument collection concerned with the interpretation of music, and that, if the instruments were properly maintained, they could be used. In 1970, he made a gift of

300 instruments to the Faculty of Music, on condition that it be used as a teaching collection and given a specialist curator to care for it and lecture.

The collection has expanded and today houses one of the most important music collections in the country. In this anniversary year, the Bate Collection chose to highlight the unique musical qualities of the least well-known instrument of the keyboard family, the clavichord, with a concert by one of Europe's leading performers, Carole Cerasi. 'It was a privilege to have a performer of Carole Cerasi's calibre to mark such an important date for us', said curator Andy Lamb.

With distinguished performers still in mind, the academic year came to an end with a masterclass given by internationally renowned pianist Mitsuko Uchida, who was in Oxford to receive an honorary degree. Dame Uchida, who was awarded a DBE 'for services to classical music', coached four fortunate graduate performers in a repertoire that included Bach, Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann. 'She entranced the audience with her combination of musical insight, boundless energy, warm appreciation of her students and tantalising glimpses of her wonderful playing', said Professor Clarke. 'In addition, we have had visits and residencies from the Palestinian musician Issa Boulos, Lawrence Dreyfus's viol consort 'Phantasm', the jazz pianist and composer Gwilym Simcock, the Allegri String Quartet, and the inaugural concert of the Faculty's new Steinway piano by the brilliant French pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet.'

He added: 'When you combine that with the world-class music of Oxford's chapel choirs and choral foundations, the international visitors at our seminar series and performances of Oxford composers' works – ranging from opera and symphony orchestra to computer and hand-cuffed pianist – it's not surprising that the Music Faculty is top of all the national league tables. We're already looking forward to the exciting year ahead.'

Music has been part of the intellectual and cultural life of Oxford for more than eight centuries



November

Remembering the Great War

A bullet-dented tea-can which saved the life of an engineer who repaired a bombing post while under heavy fire in Bullecourt in November 1917 is just one of the remarkable items that can be seen online as part of the Great War Archive project at the University.

Other fascinating, but often tragic, items which create a more in-depth understanding of the First World War include a letter to a mother by a soldier who had stumbled across the remains of her son and the diary of a stretcher-bearer in Gallipoli who recorded the deaths of his friends as, one by one, they were killed in action.

The University launched this groundbreaking digitisation project on Armistice Day 2008 to encourage members of the public to capture digitally, then submit, catalogue and assign usage rights to, material they owned originating from the First World War. The response was huge, with 6,500 items submitted and almost 2,000 feeds to an additional Flickr site set up to meet the continuing demand once the date for submissions had passed. Most of these items were previously unseen other than by their owners and, as the First World War moves further away, were at risk of being lost forever. This is the first time that crowd-sourcing has been used to create a digital archive in this area and it has become a model for other projects, with the Oxford team receiving requests for advice on setting up similar initiatives from around the world.

Linked to the Great War Archive is the First World War Poetry Digital Archive, which sees digitised manuscripts, photographs, letters and other memorabilia connected to major British war poets, including Wilfred

Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Isaac Rosenberg, Edmund Blunden, Robert Graves, Vera Brittain and Edward Thomas.

Dr Stuart Lee, Director of Computing Services, directed the project, with Kate Lindsay as project manager. 'The enthusiasm for this project amongst the public showed how the University benefits from reaching out to people not in academia and asking them to participate in our research projects', said Dr Lee. 'A great deal of unique material, and also knowledge, is not held in libraries and museums but by members of the public. Through engaging the wider community in digitisation, we can reveal new avenues for research and add to our understanding of key historical events.'

Items were submitted to the archive online via a purpose-built website. The team also visited libraries and museums around the UK, where members of the public brought in items for on-the-spot digitisation and advice. All submissions were then quality assured by two subject experts.

Included among the items is a souvenir matchbox made by a German POW for a British lance corporal after they had fought a fierce fire together in France, saving many lives. The matchbox is inscribed with the words 'Souvenir from France / St Omer / Otto Arndt'. There are also remarkable sketches of scenes and characters from military and civilian life by Private Percy Matthews, until now an unknown artist, and nurses' autograph books from the various military hospitals set up in the UK to treat the wounded. There are complete memoirs written by men who served on the Western Front and further afield in Iraq and Egypt, as well as audio recordings of veterans speaking about their experiences to their families.

Making available some of the untold histories and silent voices of the war – all of which are important to assisting our understanding of this historic event



The Great War Archive was highly commended in the Times Higher Education Awards in the 'outstanding ICT initiative of the year' category and was also highly commended in the UCISA (Universities and Colleges Information Systems Association) awards for excellence.

Both archives have been invaluable resources to teachers, academics and researchers, as well as to interested members of the public. In collaboration with the University's Learning Technologies Group, the project has run a series of workshops for lecturers and teachers. 'The workshops have supported participants across a wide range of subjects to create resources in the subject area, and also showcased how the online archive and other technologies can be used to enhance teaching and enrich the learning experience', said Ms Lindsay. 'They have been incredibly popular. While the archive is a valuable tool for research, by embedding it in school and university curricula, it also becomes a hook to First World War studies: it brings the subject alive.'

The website archive has a specially built educational area for lecturers, teachers, students and lifelong learners. Educators have been thrilled with the resource, some even finding that students are downloading manuscripts of war poets to take home and read for their own interest. Teacher Natalie Usher explained: 'I love the site and my students love using it – only today I had a Year 13 group using it to research particular forms of writing for our own war wiki on our VLE [Virtual Learning Environment]. A couple

of my students became totally engrossed in deciphering Vera Brittain's handwriting and finding out what was next in her letter to Leighton, and they downloaded the letter to take home.'

A key aspect of site usage that the team did not expect was how vital the archive would become in family and local history and genealogy. Since its launch, distant family members who have searched the archive for information on their ancestors have been united. 'We were inspired to see the response from the general public', said Ms Lindsay. 'We have had quite a few requests from people who have used the archive asking us to put them in touch with contributors of specific items. In the archive they have found something that relates to their own family or an aspect of their local community that they are researching. In effect, what the archive has done has made available some of the untold histories and silent voices of the war, all of which are important to understanding this historic event.'

The websites have been made possible through the JISC Digitisation Programme, which will see a wide range of heritage and scholarly resources of national importance shared with new audiences. As it reaches the end of its funding, the project has been given a small funding injection from JISC to train other groups to run community collections in a similar vein.

www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/gwa

Items from the Archive, clockwise from left: Wilfred Owen with Arthur Newbould, 1917; detail from a trench map, Ypres; Henry James Mercer and members of the Army Cyclist Corps; Vera Brittain in VAD uniform; British soldiers building a bridge, Gommecourt, 1917; a woman war worker fixes nose clips onto gas masks at a factory in Bermondsey; Active Service envelope, 1918; matchbox given by a German POW to Bernard Darley, RAF; army sergeant taking the measurements of a line of new recruits for uniform and kit; manuscript of Ivor Gurney's poem 'Annie Laurie', written while he was a patient at Bangour War Hospital



December

A 'global brains trust' is born

► Ethiopian farmer and his family in a field of sorghum, one of the country's staple crops. The International Growth Centre has contributed to high-level debate on the role of agriculture in Ethiopia's economic development

Understanding the complex economic, social and political processes of change in countries in the poorer parts of the world has long been an integral part of international development research at Oxford. In December, a new centre, the International Growth Centre (IGC), in which the University plays a pivotal role, was created.

The IGC seeks to provide practical help to promote economic growth in developing countries – giving governments a 'hotline' to advice from experts on such issues as finance, economic policy, agricultural yields and the energy sector. Funding – initially £37 million over three years – is from the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID), enabling researchers to respond rapidly to requests for help without waiting for grants to be approved.

The IGC is led jointly by Oxford University and the London School of Economics (LSE). Its co-directors are Paul Collier, Professor of Economics at Oxford, and Robin Burgess, Professor of Economics at the LSE. 'The rationale is to try to bring the world's best economic resources to bear on the growth problems facing countries in Africa and South Asia', says Professor Collier. 'In the past, there were not enough resources in relation to the scale of the problem, and what resources there were have often not been well translated into government policies.'

Oxford's particular expertise in Africa – Professor Collier also directs the renowned Centre for the Study of African Economies – together with the LSE's Asia-focused research means that the two are well placed to be the joint research hub of a worldwide network of academics who offer their services in this capacity. Oxford already has around 60 academic economists signed up to the IGC network, based mostly within the Department of Economics but also including political scientists and researchers in the Saïd Business School, and although the Centre offers no postgraduate teaching as such, many of the researchers involved draw in their postgraduate students to work on projects run by the IGC (see student profile overleaf).

'We work only where governments sign up and tell us the problems they want us to look at', stresses Professor Collier. 'Sometimes a government has a problem it may not be able to formulate into a research agenda, so we visit to discuss options with them. Part of my job is to form a bridge between governments and specialist academics. Once we have established the agenda, we feed that to the network and see what research projects members suggest. We then decide what to fund: the service is entirely free to governments.'

The real relevance of their research is a powerful attraction for many IGC members. 'Many individual researchers in development economics and other relevant disciplines here at Oxford have a long track record of interacting with policy-makers worldwide', says Stefan Dercon, Oxford's Professor of Development Economics and executive committee member of the IGC. 'The IGC allows us to build on this experience but also to make it more systematic by including an

explicit demand-driven dimension: we are choosing to work on topics directly identified by prime ministers, ministers or central bankers, without the usual intermediation of international aid agencies such as the World Bank, DFID or the IMF. We don't do this as short-term consultants, but are building long-term and coherent research programmes to provide the evidence base around key issues.'

An impressive number of countries is already consulting the IGC. Current participants are India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Ghana and Sierra Leone; Zambia is also gearing up to join, and Professor Collier estimates that, on average, two new countries are signing up each quarter.

The IGC sets up a local office in each participating country. 'We use permanent staff to establish a continuous presence, so we're not just academics flying in and out', says Professor Collier. 'Sometimes, for example, a local economist committed to policy work is hired; on other occasions we might have an academic on a year's sabbatical in the office, and there are also people on visiting scholarships.'

A major strength of the Centre is the way it enables academics to interact directly with government ministers and departments to develop policies. 'I've worked on Ethiopia for many years, but for most of the time the work has been on rather specific, well-defined research areas related to rural development and poverty', explains Professor Dercon. 'The IGC is now offering the opportunity to identify the real strategic issues for development policy, and even though we have only worked as IGC for less than a year, its impact is already very tangible. In Ethiopia, the local political economy and donor aid policy has meant that surprisingly little work is done on the overarching vision for achieving growth and poverty reduction. We have been instrumental in feeding a high-level policy debate on the role of agriculture in Ethiopian development, and on the scope and place for industrial development.'

Professor Collier highlights too the authoritative nature of the expertise the IGC provides. Sir Anthony Atkinson, former Warden of Nuffield College and a distinguished economist, is investigating the situation in Tanzania. This is one of the poorest countries in the world, with a third of the population living below the poverty line. In the mid-1990s Tanzania implemented wide-ranging macroeconomic reforms and turned itself into one of the most dynamic economies in Africa. Yet despite now having healthy national indicators of economic growth, household survey data indicate that living standards seem to be stagnant. 'It's a real enigma', says Professor Collier, 'and the explanation will have huge implications for economic policy. Tony Atkinson will engage with government and discuss the limitations and implications of his research, and his reputation means that not only will he probably get the right answer, he will also be seen as getting the right answer – and that's very important when it comes to formulating policy. Working directly with governments like this just wouldn't have happened without the IGC.'

Providing practical help to aid economic growth in developing countries



December

Student profile: Providing practical solutions to local healthcare

►► DPhil student Martina Kirchberger's research is aimed at improving the quality of health care in the tropics

Martina Kirchberger had already seen a fair bit of the world before she came to Oxford. Born in Austria, and speaking fluent German, French, Italian and English – as well as the basics of Spanish and Arabic – she was awarded a BSc in Economics and Management from the Free University of Bolzano, Italy, and an MA in International Relations at the Graduate Institute of Studies in Geneva, with work experience that included assignments in the health sector for the United Nations Children's Fund and the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Mali.

What drew Martina to Oxford in 2007 was the MSc in Economics for Development. 'It's an excellent programme for economists who want to work in developing countries, and the University's Centre for the Study of African Economies is one of the best places in the world to be working on issues related to development economics', she says. 'The mix of students is very international and unique; almost everybody is extremely well travelled and has gained work experience in a variety of countries; also the teaching faculty are heavily involved in policy work in developing countries and share valuable insights into real-life issues. And I chose St Antony's because it is the most international of the graduate colleges, and has a very active and lively student life.'

With the MSc under her belt, Martina is now studying for a DPhil under the supervision of Professor Stefan Dercon. Her research is exploring how links between weather patterns and medical needs can help us develop better financing models for health facilities in the tropics, especially sub-Saharan Africa.

'Climate change impacts mankind and our relationship with the environment both through climate-sensitive diseases and consequences such as the loss of harvests and livelihoods,' Martina explains. 'The poor, in particular, have few options to protect themselves and when catastrophe strikes, administrative processes, public information systems and leakage of funds can delay healthcare provision. I'm trying to build on established links between weather variability and the incidence and intensity of particular diseases to provide financial instruments that can establish and maintain high-quality local healthcare.'

Martina's DPhil is being funded by the AXA Research Fund. She was one of just 16 students from across Europe selected in the first round of doctoral grant allocations by the Fund, which seeks to 'uphold the emergence of the world's scientific leaders from the very beginning of their careers'. She is also currently enjoying giving tutorials to undergraduates in public economics and working as a teaching assistant for a graduate-level econometrics course.

And in her spare time? 'Running, yoga, photography, swimming, sailing, playing the guitar, hiking and skiing!'



Bridging the gap

January, and thousands of applications pour into Oxford's Graduate Admissions and Funding Office. However, this year, for the first time, the University had more applications for graduate than for undergraduate places for entry in 2009–10. More than 17,000 graduate applications resulted in some 6,500 offers designed to ensure some 4,000 new graduates arrived in Oxford in October 2009. The difference between the number of offers made and those able to take up their places is explained to a large extent by an issue which has made funding graduate study a vital element of one of the three key priorities of Oxford Thinking, the Campaign for the University of Oxford – namely, the funding gap.

Oxford is one of the world's strongest research universities and graduate students are recognised as making a major contribution to that status. As the fundraising message to potential donors and benefactors explains: 'High-quality graduate students help the University to attract and retain the best academics; they support academics in their work and inject new energy and perspectives into disciplinary debates.' It is a view supported by academics across the University. Professor Tony Monaco at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (see article on p. 12), says: 'My human genetics lab couldn't make new discoveries in autism and dyslexia without the excellent graduate students that Oxford attracts. It's one of the reasons I choose to be in a university, as opposed to a research institute.'

'Oxford's graduate students are the world's academic, business, political and professional leaders of tomorrow.'

In 2008, Oxford had more than 7,000 graduate students. In fact, graduate numbers at Oxford have grown by 45 per cent over the past 10 years, and today graduates make up almost 40 per cent of the University's students. Around two-thirds of these graduates join the University from more than 120 countries. They are attracted by Oxford's reputation for offering world-class graduate training, the opportunity to work with the very best academics and to draw on the rich resources of the University's libraries and museums and the cutting-edge facilities in its research laboratories. To this can be added the chance to benefit academically and socially from being part of the unique, multidisciplinary community of colleges.

Graduate students clearly enrich the academic and social life of the collegiate University. 'Graduate students are an important part of every college community', says Dr Frances Lannon, Principal of Lady Margaret Hall. 'They bring real international character to our college, a noticeable maturity, and the dynamism you associate with bright minds pursuing key areas of research.' As Gemma Wooden, studying for a DPhil in Physics at Jesus College, explains: 'I really like the way

► Oxford's international graduate community is made up of students from more than 120 countries





Bridging the gap *(cont.)*

the college system allows you to meet students from other academic backgrounds as I think this diversity complements my very focused research life’.

But attracting the best students is tough, and competition is intensifying, with universities in China, India and other emerging economies adding to the global challenge. ‘Oxford has to compete against private US universities and leading continental European universities where virtually all PhD students receive full funding’, explains Professor Ewan McKendrick, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education. ‘Currently, 60 per cent of doctoral students at Oxford are funded by full scholarships. Oxford’s 2007 survey analysed why 35 per cent of the international graduate students to whom the University made offers turned us down – insufficient funding was the single biggest reason.’

This is why, through the University’s fundraising campaign, Oxford has set itself a clear aim: to provide full funding packages covering all University and college fees, plus living costs, to the overwhelming majority of its doctoral students, as well as students taking Master’s courses as stepping stones to a doctorate. It is an ambitious objective, but one that the collegiate University recognises is vital if Oxford is to continue to attract the best. In today’s competitive job market, a graduate degree is increasingly needed to win the most sought-after positions. So it is crucial that the ability to study for a graduate degree should depend on academic merit alone, and not on a student’s background or financial circumstances.

Fortunately, many of the graduate students are successful in attracting funding. They may benefit from the University’s large share of UK Research Council studentships, although these are diminishing in number nationally. Significant benefactions have established prestigious funding programmes at Oxford, including the Rhodes, Weidenfeld and Clarendon Scholarships. Students who do benefit, like Mohammed Isaqzadeh, a current Clarendon scholar working on an MPhil in Development Studies, are clear about the difference it makes: ‘Being born into a poor family and having been raised in Afghanistan, studying in Oxford was something I did not even imagine in my dreams. I never thought that one day I would be pursuing my Master’s at the University of Oxford. It was the generosity of the donors of the Clarendon Scholarship which made this opportunity possible for me.’ His view is shared by Andrew di Battista, a current Clarendon scholar who also has funding from Wolfson College and is studying for a DPhil in Biomedical Engineering: ‘Postgraduate study is an expensive endeavour and adequate funding, in my experience, has always proven exceedingly difficult to find. I have always wanted to pursue PhD studies but, prior to the Clarendon Fund, this was a financial impossibility for me. I am well aware of how fortunate I am to be in my present position and what an enviable position that is.’

In making student support one of the three key fundraising priorities, the University will ensure the continued supply of top-quality graduate students to Oxford, which in turn will continue to contribute to the growth of the knowledge economy worldwide.

◀ Graduate numbers at Oxford have grown by 45 per cent over the past 10 years

Student profile: More than a source of funding



Kubo Mačák believes that without his scholarship he would not now be studying at Oxford. Kubo, an MPhil student in Law at Somerville College, was among the first cohort of Weidenfeld Scholars at Oxford. 'I did have other funding opportunities that I might have been able to patch together somehow, but the full scholarship has really made it possible.'

Kubo was born in Košice, Slovakia and completed his undergraduate studies in law at Charles University, Prague. He came up to Oxford in October 2007 and has made the fullest use of the opportunities that studying here has helped open up for him. This has included several months of work experience at both the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at The Hague in Holland, and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania. 'Both were very hard work and at times distressing', says Kubo, 'but invaluable experience.'

He has also continued to enjoy an interest he took up as an undergraduate – mooted. Building on his success in earlier competitions in Washington, DC, and Zagreb, Kubo paired up with a fellow law student for the Shearman & Sterling Oxford Moot Competition at the University. From an initial entry of 60 teams, they were placed second overall, having been the only non-native speakers in the final round. Kubo has also continued to make a contribution to creating opportunities for others, dedicating some of his holiday time to an innovative project in Belarus. He authored the course module and curriculum for the Voice of Svetlogorsk Debate Academy, and facilitates sessions during the one-week course which explains the art and skills of public speaking and advocacy to groups of Belarusian secondary school students. Along with a fellow Slovak debater and a friend of his, he also designed and secured funding for an extension to the project into a two-week training programme for teachers.

After completing a Taught MJur, with Distinction, at Oxford in July 2008, Kubo took a year away to build on his practical experience at the International Tribunals before returning to focus on his MPhil research into the Internationalisation of Armed Conflicts. He lived in college for part of his first year, but now shares a house with his brother Matej, who is studying neuroscience as an MRC scholarship-funded postgraduate student at Merton College.

Having experienced the teaching and practice of law outside Slovakia, Kubo feels strongly that he has much to offer the development of the subject in his own country. He expects to return there at some point in his future career, to combine teaching with a role in the public legal system. Reflecting on his time at Oxford, Kubo says: 'It has been intense and challenging but very enjoyable. The Weidenfeld Scholarship has made a huge difference. It made it possible for me to come to Oxford. It has also introduced me to talented people from many other countries, and enhanced the opportunities that being at the University has given me to engage in discussion and debate at a very high level. It has been very much more than a source of funding.'

◀ Slovakian student, Kubo Mačák, describes his Weidenfeld Scholarship as 'very much more than a source of funding'



February

Genes and disease:

The promise of the human genome project was that once we knew the sequence of 3 billion DNA 'letters' that encode a human being, we would be able to find the variant 'spellings' underlying a huge range of common and rare diseases. Recent years have seen a flourishing of technologies that enable researchers to interrogate the DNA of patients fast and accurately, and of databases that catalogue variation in human genes. Numerous variants have been found that map to particular conditions more often than not. Discovering how those variants lead to disease, and using that knowledge to develop treatments, has proved much more difficult. But scientists at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics (WTCHG) are making steps in the right direction.

It was a particular triumph for George Ebers, Action Research Professor in the Department of Clinical Neurology, when he and his colleagues published a paper in February showing how genes and environment might conspire to cause multiple sclerosis. MS is a relatively common disease of the nervous system that affects adults (women more often than men), particularly those of white Northern European descent. It develops when the body's immune system attacks the insulating layer that surrounds nerve fibres in the brain and spinal cord, eventually destroying their capacity to transmit signals. Those with an affected family member have a much higher risk of developing the disease, suggesting a genetic cause, but there are also clear links to the environment. It is more common the nearer you live to either pole: the rate in Scotland, for example, is three times the rate in England and Wales. The geographical distribution suggests that exposure to sunlight might be a factor. Without sunlight on the skin, the body cannot make vitamin D, an essential nutrient lacking in many people's diet.

Professor Ebers and his colleagues have been using a large database of DNA from thousands of families with MS, the Canadian Collaborative Study on Genetic Susceptibility to Multiple Sclerosis, to ask a variety of questions about its genetic and environmental causes. Like others, they have found that most of the genetic risk associated with MS is carried by a cluster of genetic variants in the region on chromosome 6 known as the major histocompatibility complex (MHC), which plays an important role in enabling the immune system to tell the tissues of its own body from foreign invaders. Professor Ebers set out to discover whether vitamin D might be influencing the activity of some of these variants. 'It was the obvious candidate, and no one had really looked before', he says. They found that vitamin D binds to a short DNA sequence that affects the activity of a gene variant common in Europe that carries a threefold increase in the risk of MS. People with variants of the same gene that were not associated with MS did not have the same switch sequence. 'We've shown that the main environmental risk candidate – vitamin D – and the main gene region are directly linked and interact', says Professor Ebers. Other findings suggest that vitamin D supplements might be an effective means of preventing MS, an effect that could be sustained through succeeding generations.

Professor Anthony Monaco of the Neurodevelopmental and Neurological Disorders Group at WTCHG is taking a similar approach

◀ Professor
George Ebers

www.well.ox.ac.uk/ebers

a molecular jigsaw puzzle

to a very different condition. Autism is a developmental disorder that occurs early in childhood and is strongly genetically determined: in 90 per cent of identical twin pairs where one twin is affected with autism, the other will also have an autistic spectrum disorder. Because it is so heritable, Professor Monaco initially believed that he would soon discover a small number of gene variants with large effects. But even with access to DNA from an international collection of 3,000 families with an autistic member, it has not turned out to be that easy. 'We now think there are multiple genes involved', he says. 'They won't all be involved in each individual, but overall there could be hundreds of genes.'

Genetics is slowly revealing the complex biological basis of conditions from multiple sclerosis to autism

Each one of these could supply a small piece of the puzzle of what has gone wrong in the brains of children with autism, and in April Professor Monaco and his colleagues fitted another piece. Taking a closer look at a region on chromosome 7 that had previously been linked to autism, they found a new set of variants in a gene called Dock4 that were associated with increased risk. Although variants in Dock4 have only a small overall effect on autism susceptibility, they contribute to a picture of autism as a problem in the formation of connections in the brain early in development. Like several other candidate genes, Dock4 plays a role in making the initial contacts that establish the brain's network of synapses. 'That does give us a focus for looking at the biological basis of the condition', says Monaco.

Other genes that have been linked to autism appear to play a similar developmental role. But the link between gene and disease may not be straightforward. 'The outcome may be influenced by other genetic or environmental factors', he says. 'It's complex to make a brain – if you make a perturbation early on, the outcome can be quite different.'

Many of the variants that have been discovered in children with autism are not simply variant spellings but editing errors known as copy number variations. These occur when chromosomes exchange material and leave the cell with one or three copies of a gene (or part of a gene) instead of the usual two. Professor Monaco and his colleagues are currently working to develop tests for copy number variations that might contribute to the clinical care of autistic children. 'If you found a copy number variation that was important in a child with some autistic traits, you'd know that there was a connection you could use in counselling', he says. 'It's never going to be an absolute genetic diagnosis. But you could put a risk figure on it for younger siblings, and watch them carefully in case there was a need for early intervention.'

Both Professor Monaco and Professor Ebers agree that international collaboration has been vital to their work. 'We could never have achieved the number of samples that we have unless a large group of individuals decided to work together', says Monaco. For this kind of jigsaw puzzle, the larger the table-top, the better.

► Professor Anthony Monaco

www.well.ox.ac.uk/monaco



March

Stories to tell

► The 'Wall of 100 Faces' gives prospective applicants a better idea of what life as an Oxford student is like

'It's impossible to introduce people to all 20,000 students at Oxford. But the "Wall of 100 Faces" aims to show, on one webpage, a mix of people and personalities at Oxford University.'

Who is a typical Oxford student? And what is it really like to study at Oxford? In March, the framework was put in place to help prospective students from around the world answer these questions. The 'Wall of 100 Faces' features 100 short videos of students talking about different aspects of studying at Oxford.

The Wall took eight months to create and is designed to support the University's aim of encouraging, selecting and supporting the very best candidates from any background. It presents a balance of students – male and female, undergraduate and postgraduate, international and home. They come from diverse educational backgrounds, are studying a broad range of different subjects and are based at different colleges.

'It's fine for the University to say that it supports diversity,' explains Mike Nicholson, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, 'but the statement becomes real if you actually see it. It's a way of showing, not telling. Hearing someone speak, hearing their accent, is reassuring to the majority of students who don't live in south-east England, and the project also recognises that significant numbers of Oxford students apply from outside the UK. They can see that the average Oxford student is just like them, so there's no reason not to apply.'

The Wall is made up of 100 'bricks', each one providing a link to a video of a student talking about what they like about their subject or their college, how they spend their free time, or the new things they have tried out at Oxford.

Sanjoy Bhattacharyya, a fourth-year clinical medicine student at St Catherine's College, is shown riding his motorbike to the John Radcliffe Hospital and talking about his excursions into the Oxfordshire countryside. Caroline Daly, studying law with legal studies at Pembroke College, explains how she unexpectedly became involved in student politics. And Olivier Jarda from Canada, a graduate student in international relations at Linacre College, relates his surprise at discovering how accessible his lecturers were.

The students are open and honest. Whether discussing their anxieties about playing the guitar in public, explaining what it was like to discover they were no longer top of the class, or talking about messing up in front of their tutor, they challenge some of the myths about Oxford students – for example, that they are highly confident public school boys, that they do nothing but study, that they are so bright they don't need to study, or that they are all English.

'There are so many myths about Oxford students, I would have found it really useful to have been able to look at the Wall of 100 Faces when I was thinking of applying', says Helen McCabe, a graduate student at Somerville College. Visitors to the Wall can see all 100 videos, or filter to see only undergraduate, graduate or international students, or people talking about their studies or their free time.

Christopher Eddie, Web Officer, who managed the project, says:

'It's impossible to introduce people to all 20,000 students at Oxford. But the "Wall of 100 Faces" aims to show, on one webpage, a mix of people and personalities at Oxford University.'

'We had to accept that we couldn't represent all 20,000 students at Oxford; the video producer spent a couple of hours with each interviewee hearing some really lovely stories – from genetics and fruit flies, to filming people doing yoga or boxing, to hearing about treks across China and the intricacies of the Oxford music scene, all in one day. The overriding impression is how welcoming, fun and friendly all the students are.'

Since its launch, the Wall of 100 Faces has had around 10,000 visitors each month, making it one of the top 20 most visited sections on the University's website, with users spending an average of more than three minutes on the page, much longer than any other page. For the future, the University plans to film around 30 new videos each year to keep the material current. Video interviews with staff at the University are also due to be released soon.

Further online recruitment initiatives designed to give prospective students a flavour of life at Oxford and widen participation include audio tours based around different subject areas for prospective students who are visiting the city, the inclusion of admissions material on the University's iTunes U channel, which is fast approaching two million downloads, and podcasts focusing on aspects of the admissions process, including writing personal statements, choosing a college and dealing with 'the dreaded interview'.

Oxford's efforts to widen participation have resulted in a rise in the proportion of state school applicants. These have risen by 44 per cent in 10 years, rising at around double the rate of applications from independent schools. The most recent figures show that Oxford has received more than 17,000 applications for undergraduate courses, an increase of 12 per cent on 2008, with the vast majority of the increase coming from state school students. 'We have worked hard to ensure that all students with the potential to succeed at Oxford apply, regardless of their background', commented Mr Nicholson. 'I believe we can now say that this work is beginning to bear fruit.'

At the same time, standards remain high. This year, Oxford has come top in all four of the main UK university league tables, with criteria including student satisfaction, the ratio of staff to students, spending on services and facilities, entry standards and graduate prospects.





April

Save the trillionth tonne

► Dr Myles Allen warns that releasing more than the 'trillionth tonne' of carbon into the atmosphere could lead to a critical rise in global temperatures

On 22 October 2009, a tonne of coal, designated the trillionth tonne of carbon that we will release into the atmosphere since pre-industrial days, was unveiled at the Science Museum in London. For Dr Myles Allen, lecturer in atmospheric physics, the trillionth tonne could be a very powerful symbol of our profligate use of energy and disregard for the environment. Or, depending on how long it survives before being consigned to the flames, it could embody our careful stewardship of resources and responsible use of them. A new website, trillionthtonne.org, hosted by the Oxford e-Research Centre, carries a ticking meter showing how fast carbon is being consumed. It currently predicts that the Science Museum's tonne of coal will go up in smoke in 2045.

The concept of the trillionth tonne was born in an important paper published by Dr Allen in the journal *Nature* in April 2009, together with colleagues from other Oxford departments, the Met Office and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. They argued that, given the evidence from climate modelling, it is difficult to support the current approach to framing targets for the control of carbon emissions. These targets are based either on reducing rates of emission – a 40 per cent reduction by 2020, for example – or on keeping the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere below a predetermined level, such as 350 parts per million (ppm). 'The difficulty is that [the emission rate] does not determine the risk of dangerous climate change', says Dr Allen. 'As for the 350 ppm target, we've already passed this.'

More or less everyone agrees that an increase of global temperatures of more than 2°C would lead to dangerous climate change, and emissions quotas have been proposed nationally and internationally in the hope of avoiding such an increase. Dr Allen and his colleagues argue that the relationship between a particular level of atmospheric CO₂ and the amount of warming – known as climate sensitivity – is still too uncertain to form the basis of such policy decisions.

Frustrated by this lack of scientific certainty, the team looked instead for a measure that would provide a more robust correlate of rising temperatures than either the concentration of CO₂ or the rate of emissions. Comparing a variety of climate models, they demonstrated that the *cumulative* total of carbon released into the atmosphere since the beginning of the industrial age could be linked more consistently to the peak rise in temperature than either emissions rate or CO₂ concentration. They predict that the most likely figure that will take us past the 2°C barrier is a trillion (1,000,000,000,000) tonnes. 'We've released just over half a trillion already', says Dr Allen. 'If we release the same again, we'll be committed to 2°C of warming,

unless we extract it again before the system begins to warm up.' In other words, we have a finite budget for carbon emissions, and the only way to avoid overspending – and triggering dangerous climate change – is to work towards eliminating emissions altogether. Hence the symbolic value of the trillionth tonne.

The preoccupation of policy-makers with percentage emission rate cuts stems from the wording of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, agreed at the Rio Conference in 1992 and made more binding at international conferences in Kyoto (1997). 'That set us off in the wrong direction', says Dr Allen. 'It committed the parties to "stabilise" atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at a "level" that would avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference in the climate systems. The wording of the convention specified the problem that scientists had to solve, and it turned out to be very difficult: predicting the response to a stable concentration over an unspecified length of time turns out to be virtually impossible.'

In Dr Allen's view, the focus on emission rates has already led to some bad policy decisions. 'Europe's favourite way of reducing emissions is to replace coal-fired power stations with natural gas', he points out. 'That leaves Europe feeling virtuous, but it has depleted gas reserves. Gas is a versatile fuel, and we should be conserving it to power transport in 50 years' time, not burning it in power stations now.' As for the drive towards increased energy efficiency, he concedes that it will buy us time, but argues that it does not go nearly far enough. This is depressing news for all those who have been virtuously replacing their boilers and double-glazing their homes. Instead, says Dr Allen, we should be badgering our energy suppliers to start capturing carbon and burying it, so that their net emissions are zero.

'There are 4.5 trillion tonnes of carbon sitting underground that are exploitable, depending on how much you are prepared to pay for it', he says. 'Are we going to leave it underground? Or are we going to find ways of using it without dumping it into the atmosphere? If burning carbon more slowly does not help, the only thing that *will* help is starting the process of carbon burial in a major way.'

'What I find worrying is the lack of debate. It's not at all clear that the Kyoto process will work. The track record of internationally negotiated quotas is not good. We did not save the ozone layer by rationing CFCs: we saved it by banning them. This paper and others that appeared over the past 12 months all say that eventually you are going to need a ban on the practice of dumping CO₂ in the atmosphere, and the sooner we recognise that the better.'

For more information, see Myles R. Allen et al., pp. 1163–6 in *Nature* 458, (30 April 2009).

'The only way to prevent catastrophic climate change is to reduce emissions to zero.'



May

Transformations all round

► View across the refurbished Pitt Rivers Museum towards the new entrance platform, the Clore Learning Balcony and the suspended African sailing boat 'Salama'

Two world-famous Oxford institutions. Different sites, different scale and a different focus. But on some common ground in this academic year. The Pitt Rivers Museum and the Ashmolean Museum. Both closed for major refurbishment work with improved public access as a key objective. Both had significant funding support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and generous benefactors; both reopened, both transformed.

The Pitt Rivers is an international centre for anthropology and world archaeology and displays objects from all over the world. It was founded in 1884 when General Pitt Rivers, an influential figure in the development of archaeology and evolutionary anthropology, gave his personal collection of 20,000 items to the University on the condition that a museum was built to house the material. It holds around half a million objects of which some 100,000 are on display or in open storage. The museum opened its doors on 1 May 2009 after a nine-month closure. The near £1.5 million project swept away a 1960s exhibition gallery that had obstructed the dramatic view which once more welcomes visitors. In its place, an elegant stone entrance platform and wide staircase, a new lift to make access easier for parents with pushchairs or those with mobility difficulties. There is a new information and orientation area, a shop, and – on the first floor – a dynamic new education space, the Clore Learning Balcony. There are also eight additional displays, focusing on painting, decorative techniques and recycled materials, and featuring many previously unseen artefacts from the Pitt Rivers' reserve collections.

Alongside the HLF, the largest single contributor, the project had exceptional support from a host of foundations, including the Clore Duffield Foundation, the DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund and the Monument Trust, as well as from generous private benefactors. 'We've transformed in the sense that we have restored the Museum's lost entrance panorama, enhanced access, installed environmental controls and created a wonderful teaching space so that people can learn in-gallery', explained Museum Director, Dr Michael O'Hanlon. 'But we've absolutely retained the distinctive principles on which displays are arranged, and kept displays "low text" and "artefact rich", to encourage people to begin with the thing itself, not with second-order information about it.'

Early signs are that the refurbishment is making an extraordinary difference. The number of visitors to the Museum since it opened has doubled in the year to date, with 180,000 recorded in the first five months. And the refurbishment still has a little way to go, with work on new displays for the Upper Gallery which will focus on collections of firearms and indigenous weaponry when it opens in spring 2010.

The museum is an active department of the University, supporting research and teaching in archaeology and anthropology. It is also a major resource for lifelong learning and schools, and an attraction for families and younger visitors who can take one of the specially provided torches and explore the museum for themselves.

'The Pitt Rivers Museum has reopened, having achieved the conjuring trick of being brilliantly transformed and staying just the same.'

'A breathtaking new building and a completely fresh approach to how the Ashmolean's rich collections are displayed.'

'The museum is at once nineteenth and twenty-first century', says Dr O'Hanlon. 'On the one hand, there is a distinctive Victorian feel to the densely packed displays and period atmosphere. But on the other, the museum resembles the internet, in that you can create an infinite number of paths through the tens of thousands of artefacts on display, following your own interests, moving at your own speed and never in danger of repeating yourself.'

The Ashmolean, Europe's first ever public museum, has also undergone a complete transformation. A £15 million grant from the HLF was the cornerstone of a £61 million redevelopment project, with additional major support from the Linbury Trust, along with numerous other trusts, foundations and individuals.

Throughout this academic year, the Ashmolean has, for the most part, been closed, but its staff have been engaged in an extraordinary and detailed planning phase. The reason? The innovative approach to displaying the collections that visitors can now enjoy. Called *Crossing Cultures Crossing Time*, the principle is that the story of each object is traced as part of a 'journey of ideas and influences across time and continents'. On the lower ground floor, themed galleries covering areas such as money, reading and writing, textiles and the representation of the human image explore connections between objects and activities from different cultures. The floors above provide fresh insights into the interaction of the cultures of East and West from ancient to modern times. The Ancient World floor plots the emergence of civilisations from Egypt and the Near East through Greece and Rome to India and China. The Making of the Modern World floors brings the story up to date. These galleries explore the art, religion, geography and ecology of cultures from Europe to the Far East. It is an approach that is also reflected in the design of the new Ashmolean building, which features a series of linking bridges as well as vantage points to allow visitors both a look back at where they have been and a glimpse ahead at further areas to explore.

The building is arranged over six floors and comprises 39 new galleries, including four that will host temporary exhibitions. It gives the Ashmolean twice as much display space as it had before, as well as a new education centre with its own entrance to welcome the 26,000 young people who visit each year. There are also new state-of-the-art conservation studios and Oxford's first rooftop restaurant.

The Ashmolean was founded in 1683. Its collections span the civilisations of East and West, charting the aspirations of mankind from the Neolithic era to the present day. As well as an attraction which, in its last full year before closing in March 2007, welcomed 360,000 visitors, it is a teaching and research department of the University, producing publications in the academic fields of art history, history and archaeology.

Following its reopening in November 2009, the museum's Director, Dr Christopher Brown, said: 'This has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create not just an improved and expanded version of one of the greatest university museums in the world, but something significantly different in kind: a radical new way of showcasing the Ashmolean's remarkable collections for the benefit of the widest possible audience.'



June

A lifetime contribution to constitutional history

► Professor
Vernon Bogdanor

'I like to say that I make my living from a subject that doesn't exist', says Vernon Bogdanor, Oxford's Professor of Politics and Government and Fellow of Brasenose College; 'namely, the British constitution. Of course, we are one of the very few democracies which don't have written or, as I prefer to say, codified constitutions.' Written or not, the subject has occupied Professor Bogdanor for much of his career. As he prepares to retire from his Oxford chair at the end of this academic year, his international reputation has been reflected in a brace of recent honours, including his appointment to the Légion d'honneur and, last year, the Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize for Lifetime Contribution to Political Studies, appropriately enough as the University prepared to celebrate Berlin's centenary this June. In 1998 he was awarded a CBE for contributions to constitutional history. His many books have been accompanied by work as an adviser to the Czech Republic, to Hungary, Israel, Romania, Slovakia and Trinidad; helping to draw up a constitution for Kosovo; and as an expert whose counsel has been sought by the British government and judiciary.

Characteristically, though, he is looking forward rather than back. 'I am fortunate enough to have a post at King's College London, a research professorship, which involves me giving a seminar a week on constitutional history, so it will be a soft landing', he explains.

What have been his Oxford highlights? 'Too many to list, really', he says. 'Stimulating pupils, most of all.' David Cameron, now leader of the Conservative Party, was a PPE undergraduate when the two men first met. 'He was enormously able. He got a distinction in Prelims and a very, very good First in Schools in PPE, so he's not at all like this media stereotype of a lightweight public school boy. And he wasn't a "hearty" type in any way; he was an old-fashioned, courteous undergraduate who was very popular.'

Media stereotyping of Oxford is something that concerns Professor Bogdanor. 'There are many misconceptions about Oxford, and the University has to do much more to counter them. There's a traditional attitude at the University which regards contact with the media with some distaste, and that's no longer acceptable. Oxford is a very great international university, but it has to keep saying that, loud and clear.'

Professor Bogdanor makes regular media appearances, and his experience of journalism is long-standing. After a First in PPE at The Queen's College in 1964, he began work as a financial journalist – 'a false start' – before returning to academic life. He became a fellow of Brasenose College in 1966 and Professor of Government and Politics in 1996. Speaking about his work, in particular the nature

of the British constitution, he says: 'The Queen once sat in on one of [the historian Professor] Peter Hennessy's seminars at Queen Mary, University of London, listened carefully, and, at the end, said: "The British constitution is a puzzle, and always will be." I've used that as an epigraph in one of my books, and I've tried to elucidate that puzzle.'

In his latest book, *The New British Constitution*, Professor Bogdanor reviews the changing relationship between citizen and state. 'It's been particularly fascinating in recent years. I think we have been doing something unique in the democratic world: moving from an uncodified system, based in part on unwritten conventions and codes, into a codified constitution. Not in one fell swoop, but in

a piecemeal, ad hoc, unplanned way, without anyone thinking what the destination is. You may say that is a particularly British way, but I think the reason is that there is not much consensus on what the final resting place should be.'

Not, he says, that academic research will always have a clear end in view; nor should it. It is one of his concerns over the current relationship between academics and government. 'I think it's one of the trends that we all find very worrying that governments sometimes demand that you show the immediate, practical importance of your research; academics should be allowed some degree of curiosity, and to follow that curiosity wherever it goes.'

Warming to his theme, he adds: 'Although a university is not a nationalised industry, the government is now telling the universities how many students they can take, what they are to charge, and is beginning to tell us how we ought to select students. There are great dangers of government control, and I think universities need to regain their independence.'

Oxford's system of self-government is another of its strengths, he argues. 'It may be slower, but it means that, in the end, academics are committed to the decisions that are made. That's one of the things that makes Oxford such an attractive university.'

In his *Who's Who* entry, Vernon Bogdanor lists 'music, walking and talking' as his recreations. If thinking, writing and – yes – talking about institutional and constitutional politics has shaped much of his career, what about another of those 'recreations', music? He is an accomplished pianist. 'I think everyone needs a hobby, and playing the piano is a very good one. If you're trying to play a piece of Bach or Schubert, it's anything but relaxing – it's really quite hard work. The important point is, it's hard work in a different way from one's academic work. So you're using your mind, you're reflecting, but in a very different sort of way, and that itself is greatly beneficial.'

The unanimous choice of the jurors for the Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize for Lifetime Contribution to Political Studies



July

Taking a place in history

► Three of the Bodleian's new gargoyles: Aslan the Lion, Sir Thomas Bodley and the Wild Boar

Below:
Tweedledum and Tweedledee

During July in a small studio in Oxfordshire, the final chips of stone were carved on nine new grotesques, commonly known as gargoyles, which today proudly adorn the north-west side of the Bodleian Library. These gargoyles were the result of the 'Design a Gargoyle' competition launched by the University in 2007 as part of the inaugural Oxford Open Doors heritage weekend.

The competition, which took as its theme 'Millennium Myths and Monsters', invited Oxfordshire schoolchildren aged 8–18 to design a gargoyle based on one of three themes – myths, monsters or people with a connection to Oxfordshire history. The nine winners, selected from more than 500 entries, had their designs interpreted by local stone carvers and transformed into real gargoyles, which now look out over Broad Street.

The idea came about after restoration work on the library's roof revealed a row of gargoyles whose faces had been completely eroded. With no records showing what the sculptures looked like originally, the University decided to draw on children's vivid imaginations to design their replacements. At the same time, the competition encouraged local children to find out more about the history of the county in which they live.

Gargoyles, which spout water, and grotesques, their non-spouting counterparts, are most commonly associated with the medieval church and were believed to scare away evil spirits. In Oxford, dragons, demons and dons are among those overlooking the city. But several of the new faces on the Bodleian are both funnier and friendlier than their predecessors.

Ben Bryant (aged 13) designed a wild boar with a book in its mouth. He got the idea from the legend that a student of The Queen's College was wandering in the forest reading Aristotle, when he was attacked by a wild boar. In order to save himself, he resourcefully rammed his book down the boar's throat, causing it to choke to death.

George O'Connor's (aged 11) design was of a dodo, ironically holding a copy of the *Origin of Species* in its beak. 'It will be great showing it to my own kids one day and knowing there is a piece of me in the Bodleian Library', he said. Eve Masmanian (aged 13) based her design on Tweedledum and Tweedledee. 'I'd really like people to walk by and see them there and maybe laugh', she said. Henry Chadwick (aged 12) designed 'three men in a boat', after the humorous story by Jerome K Jerome. 'Oxford wouldn't be here if the Thames wasn't', he pointed out.

Other winners included Alfie Turner (aged 13) for Sir Thomas Bodley, the founder of the library; Hannah Duckworth (aged 12) for Green Man; Hayley Williams (aged 14) for Aslan the Lion; Kerrie Chambers (aged 14) for General Pitt Rivers; and Alex Sermon (aged 14) for J R R Tolkien.

The winning designs were turned into finished grotesques by sculptors Alec and Fiona Peever from Ducklington, Oxfordshire. The winners spent a day working with the sculptors to see how the process

worked. They tried their hands at clay modelling, experimenting with different techniques and creating group artworks.

The project presented the sculptors with particular challenges. Fiona explained how she took the sketchy drawings, made them into models and then carved them into three-dimensional figures that could be easily interpreted from a distance. 'In particular, it's to do with the foreshortening and the perspective of the figures from a distance, and the way the shadows work, in order to make a strength of design that can be understood by viewers 30 feet below.'

'The nature of stone does not allow for error', she added. 'One must plan the design in advance and be confident to carve freely without any lapse of concentration. We are pleased that there were no mishaps!' Each grotesque took two to three weeks to make.

The finished works were unveiled by Philip Pullman, author of the *His Dark Materials* trilogy, in a special ceremony held on 12 September at the Bodleian Library. 'Gargoyles and grotesques are always a cause of great delight, and the Oxford ones are best of all', he said. 'Oxford gargoyles have a long and proud tradition of rudeness, mischief and disobedience.'

The unveiling marked the start of the annual Oxford Open Doors weekend organised by the Oxford Preservation Trust. Director, Debbie Dance, and one of the judges of the competi-

tion, said: 'The grotesques project is a tangible demonstration of the University's commitment to the wider Oxford community, as is their support for the open weekend. Oxford Open Doors offers free access to many buildings and places across town and gown which are not usually open to the public.'

The competition was organised by Oxford University in conjunction with the Oxford Preservation Trust. The other judges were Dr Sarah Thomas, Bodley's Librarian; Martin Jennings, sculptor, whose statue of John Betjeman was recently unveiled at St Pancras Station, London; and Isobel Hughes, Head of Building Conservation within the University's Estates Directorate.

'The grotesques will stare out over Oxford for hundreds of years', commented Ms Hughes 'I hope the winners will be able to revisit their stone carvings many times, bringing their children and their grandchildren to see them too.'

'Gargoyles and grotesques are always a cause of great delight, and the Oxford ones are best of all.'
Philip Pullman





Exceeding expectations

On the first anniversary of the launch of 'Oxford Thinking: The Campaign for the University of Oxford', it was announced that more than half of the Campaign's minimum target had already been raised and this in a period that had seen considerable global financial uncertainty and a world economy facing some of its toughest ever challenges. By 6 October 2009, total Campaign income had surpassed £770 million. For the collegiate University and for its friends and benefactors, this was a clear signal that 'Oxford Thinking' has real momentum.

The figures are impressive and the stories behind them a powerful tribute to the support and commitment of the many friends and benefactors of the collegiate University who have so generously supported the Campaign. Says Director of Development, Sue Cunningham: 'The University and colleges have worked much more closely together than before on raising support for our academic priorities, and we are committed to providing a clear and unified message to potential benefactors. Donations for an academic department, a college, the libraries, museums and sport all directly support the Oxford Thinking Campaign. A number of generous donors have chosen to support multiple priorities.' Brian Wilson, a donor to Pembroke College, the Bodleian Library and the Ashmolean Museum, said: 'I regard it as a special privilege to be able to participate in the current programmes of development for the University and my own college.' Michael Moritz and Harriet Heyman donated more than £25 million to Christ Church – the largest financial gift in the college's history – saying: 'This is an expression of our gratitude for the compass to life that Christ Church and the University provided many years ago.'

A list of those contributing more than £5,000 to the Campaign over the past year is featured in the 'Giving to Oxford' section of this review. All our supporters have the warmest thanks of the colleges and the University for their generosity.

On buildings and infrastructure, the 2008–9 academic year has seen the finishing touches put to the £61 million redevelopment of the Ashmolean Museum. Further gifts have come from Geneva-based philanthropists John and Marcy McCall MacBain towards a new graduate centre at Wadham College and two gifts to St Hugh's College from Hong Kong-based donors for the new University of Oxford China Centre building.

There has also been wide-ranging investment in academic posts and programmes, from funding for an artist-in-residence project at the Botanic Garden to the endowment of a new Chair of Contemporary Islamic Studies, and Oak Foundation's benefaction towards the new Institute of Cancer Medicine. The entrepreneur Dr James Martin wanted to inspire others to support the Campaign through the global financial downturn. He offered to match donations up to a total of US\$50 million for gifts pledged in the year to 11 March 2010. The challenge applies to donations for the 21st Century School, which tackles the toughest global challenges facing the world. Dr Martin said: 'My view is that while we may be distracted by today's credit crunch, we must not forget the bigger picture – that we need to safeguard a future for the generations that follow us.'

On supporting students, the University is committed to a strategic aim: that no one with the potential to succeed at Oxford should be prevented from studying here on financial grounds. This is why

Left and right: The Campaign continues to seek funding to invest in academic posts and to attract and support the best students. *Centre:* plans for the Humanities Building and Library that will form the centrepiece of the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, one of the biggest development projects that the University has undertaken for more than a century



'A remarkable and successful first year'

fundraising for scholarships, particularly for graduates, is a Campaign priority. The Clore Duffield Foundation's generous and wide-ranging gift of £5.1 million includes £1.5 million to endow three graduate scholarships in Humanities. The Helsington Foundation has given the University £3.25 million over six years, to fund the UNIQ Summer Schools. This enables Oxford to significantly expand on previous summer school provision, offering 500 places in 2009, gradually increasing to 1000 places in 2014. The Foundation has also given money to fund the work the University is undertaking with teachers. Its founder, Oxford alumnus Graham Sharp, says he hopes that the gift will encourage more young people to aspire to a university education: 'I want to help with initiatives that reach out to pupils who have ability and aspirations that they aren't able to fulfil.'

Other distinguished former students have supported the Campaign in different ways. Author and playwright Alan Bennett donated his entire archive of papers to the Bodleian Library, saying: 'I was educated at Oxford at Exeter College and I was fortunate in my time because my education was entirely free. I see this gift, such as it is, as some small recompense both to the University and also, though it is unfashionable to say this to the state.'

Oxford alumni are also playing a huge part in raising awareness of the Campaign around the world. 'Oxford Thinking' has been the focus of more than 20 international events and in each case alumni have been involved in the organisation, as guest speakers, as ambassadors and ultimately as supporters. The University's Annual Fund has worked on telephone fundraising campaigns with student callers from Exeter, Wolfson, Oriel, Hertford, Corpus and Mansfield Colleges in the past year, resulting in more than £700,000 being pledged.

As a response to the generosity of benefactors on so many different levels, the University launched a new donor recognition society – The

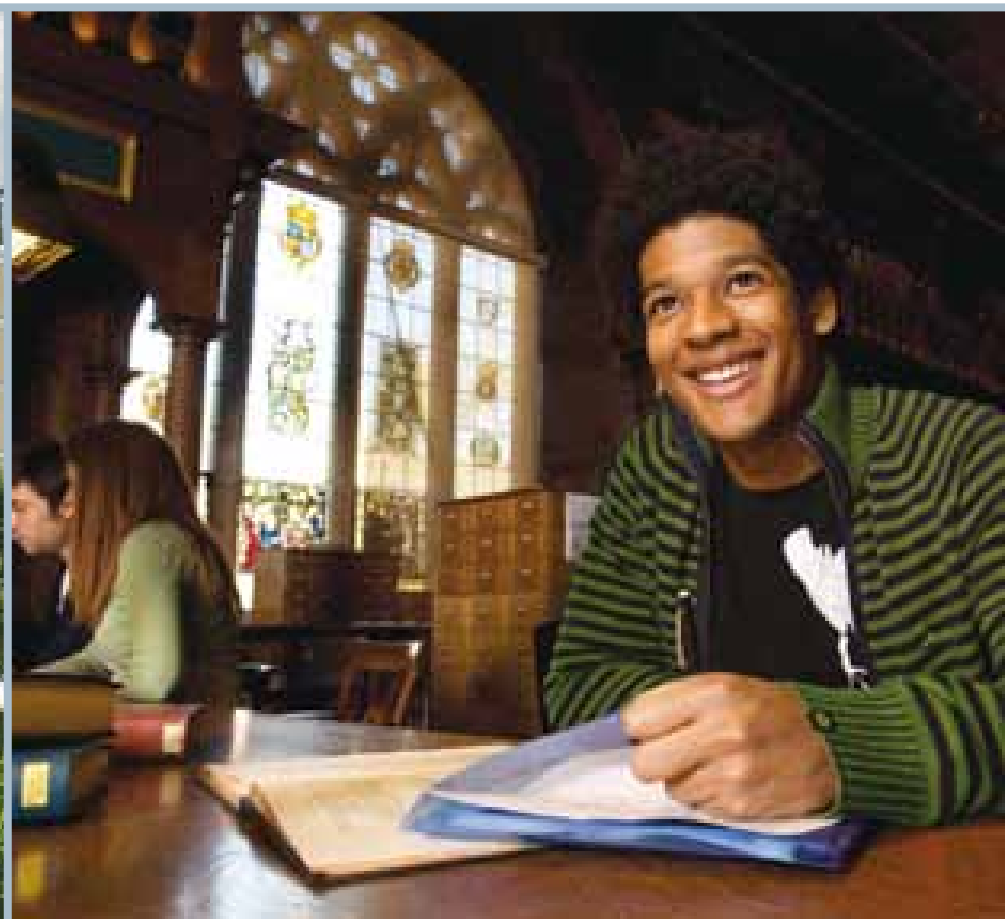
Vice-Chancellor's Circle. It has nearly 100 founding members including a broad mix of donors, alumni and non-alumni, individuals, trusts and foundations, and corporate organisations. Speaking at the inaugural meeting, the then Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Hood, said: 'We are delighted to recognise our donors' generous support in this way. It helps to strengthen our colleges, divisions, libraries, laboratories, and every centre, society, club and institution that sustains the intellectual life of the University and carries Oxford's vital mission into the future.'

And so the Campaign continues to reach out to potential donors and benefactors and highlight the many and varied opportunities to give and be part of an endeavour which promises so much for Oxford, for scholarship, and for the common good. Professor Michael Earl, Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Development and External Affairs, adds: 'Fundraising by the University and its colleges has been excellent in the last somewhat difficult year. We aim even higher as economies start to recover – helped not least by the sustained support and commitment of our Campaign Chairman, Dame Vivien Duffield, our several development boards and our patrons. We are most grateful to them all and to our many donors.'

The largest fundraising campaign in European university history, the target is to raise a minimum of £1.25 billion to support delivery in three key academic areas:

- ▶ supporting students;
- ▶ investing in academic posts and programmes; and
- ▶ providing buildings and infrastructure for some of the world's most advanced research and teaching facilities.

www.campaign.ox.ac.uk



Honorary degrees

▶ Left to right:

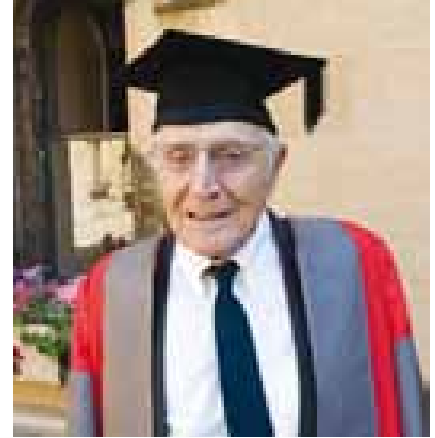
Mr Fazle Hasan Abed

Dr Santiago
Calatrava Valls

Professor Erwin Hahn

Below:

Mr Philip Pullman



The following honorary degrees were conferred at Encaenia on 24 June 2009, the Chancellor, the Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes presiding:

Degree of Doctor of Letters

Mr Fazle Hasan Abed

Chairperson and founder, BRAC (formerly Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee); Commissioner, UN Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor

'A tireless defender of the needy, a citizen of Bangladesh and of the whole world.'

Mr Abed was born in Sylhet, East Pakistan and read accountancy at the universities of Dhaka and Glasgow. He worked for Shell Oil as a senior corporate executive but left the company following the outbreak of the 1971 Bangladeshi war, moving to London to help initiate the 'Help Bangladesh' campaign to raise awareness of the conflict. On returning to the newly independent Bangladesh, he established BRAC (formerly Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee), and his work led to tackling the long-term task of improving the living conditions of the rural poor. Today, BRAC is the largest non-governmental organisation in the world. Mr Abed has received many awards, including the Inaugural Clinton Global Citizen Award and the Gates Award for Global Health. BRAC has also been awarded the Conrad N Hilton Humanitarian Prize – the world's largest humanitarian prize.

Dr Santiago Calatrava Valls, Dipl Architect, Dipl Engineer, Hon. Fellow, RIBA

Architect and structural engineer

'Superlative architect, in whose works function and beauty are conjoined.'

Dr Valls holds a degree in architecture from Valencia's Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura and a PhD in civil engineering from ETH Zurich. His reputation as one of the world's most innovative architects was established early in his career with a series of bridges and other transportation projects. His current major projects include the World Trade Center Transportation Hub in New York and Liège Station, which will be Europe's largest railway station. Dr Valls is also a sculptor and his work has been exhibited at various institutions, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. He has won numerous awards, including the Gold Medal of the American Institution of Architects and the Gold Medal of the Institute of Structural Engineers, London.

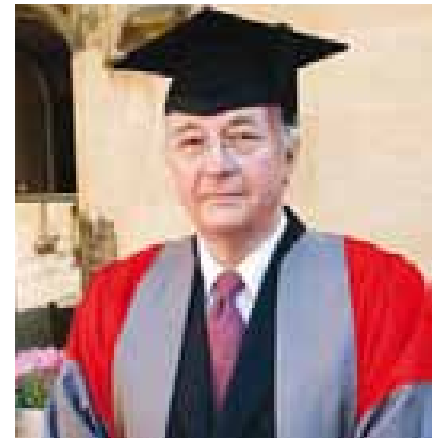
Mr Philip Pullman, CBE, FRSL

Prize-winning author

'A most skilful weaver of tales ... for whose imagination one world has not sufficed.'

Mr Pullman read English at Exeter College, of which he is now an Honorary Fellow. After completing a postgraduate teaching qualification, he taught in middle schools and then lectured part time at Westminster College, which is now part

of Oxford Brookes University. Mr Pullman has been a full-time writer since 1995 and has written 25 books of various kinds. These are intended to attract young readers, but many also reach an older audience. The trilogy *His Dark Materials* has been translated into 40 languages and been adapted into a successful stage play at the National Theatre, as well as a film. He has won numerous literary awards, including the Guardian Children's Fiction Award, the British Book Award and the Whitbread Book of the Year Award.



Degree of Doctor of Science

Professor Erwin Hahn, BSc, PhD, DSc, FRS

Physicist, Professor Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley

'Wise investigator of the nature of things, whose fame the world re-echoes.'

Honorary degrees



◀ Left to right:
Professor Barry Marshall
Dame Mitsuko Uchida
Mr Roger Boning

Professor Hahn read chemistry at Juniata College and studied for a doctorate in physics at the University of Illinois, where he began his academic career as a postdoctoral researcher. He undertook research at Stanford University and at the IBM Watson Scientific Computing Laboratory, before becoming Professor of Physics at the University of California, Berkeley in 1955. He has spent three significant periods at Oxford, including time as a Guggenheim Fellow (1961–2) and as George Eastman Visiting Professor at Balliol College (1988–9). He is an Honorary Fellow of Brasenose College. Professor Hahn is best known for his discovery of the spin echo and his achievements have been recognised through numerous prizes, including the Wolf Foundation Prize in Physics. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Foreign Fellow of the Royal Society.

Professor Barry Marshall, AC, MB BS, FRS, FRACP

Professor of Clinical Microbiology, University of Western Australia

'An exceptional physician in whom sense and courage have been uniquely combined.'

Professor Marshall studied medicine at the University of Western Australia, specialising in gastroenterology. He has held academic posts at the University of Virginia and the University of Western Australia, where he has been Clinical Professor of Medicine since 1997, and

is also Co-Director of the Marshall Centre for Infectious Diseases Research and Training. He has held appointments at a number of hospitals, including the Royal Perth Hospital, where he began his collaboration with Dr Robin Warren on the study of a spiral-shaped bacterium frequently found in tissue samples of gastritis and peptic ulcer. He was the first to culture the bacteria now known as *Helicobacter pylori*. With Dr Warren, he identified new ways of treating and curing gastritis and peptic ulceration with antibiotics, and *H.pylori* has since been recognised as a major risk factor for stomach cancer. In 2005 he and Dr Warren were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine.

Degree of Doctor of Music

Dame Mitsuko Uchida, DBE

Classical pianist

'Enchanting mistress of the keyboard, whose fingers reveal both the beauty and the profundity of musical compositions.'

Dame Mitsuko was born in Japan and was educated at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, giving her first piano recital at the age of 14. She is currently artist-in-residence at the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Konzerthaus Vienna and at the Salzburg Mozartwoche. She is renowned for her interpretations both in the concert hall and on CD, and she performs regularly with orchestras worldwide. She has a long-standing commitment to supporting the development of young musicians and is a founder

member of the Borletti-Buitoni Trust, which helps young artists to develop their international careers. Dame Mitsuko is also Artistic Director, with Richard Goode, of the Marlboro Music Festival, which gives young musicians the opportunity to work with master artists. In the 2009 Queen's Birthday honours, she was made a DBE in recognition of her services to classical music.

The following honorary degrees were conferred on 9 May 2009, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Hood, presiding:

Doctor of Letters

Mr Roger Boning

Formerly Group Finance Director, Oxford University Press

'An honourable and admirable businessman, a great friend and bulwark of the University.'

Mr Boning read Greats at Pembroke College and has been a professional fellow of the college since 1966. He joined OUP in 1979 and was Managing Director in the International Division from 1985 to 1995. In 1996 he was appointed Group Finance Director and played a central role in turning the Press into an organisation capable of generating the funds that underpinned the transfers totalling £300 million that have been made to the University. His commitment to the Press's traditions has been whole-hearted; he has been a great servant to both the Press and the University.

Honorary degrees

► Left to right:

Ms Susan Reece

Darcey Andrea Bussell

Professor Natalie
Zemon Davis

Below:

Mr Antony Willis



Mr Antony Willis

Research technician in the Department of Biochemistry, latterly in the MRC Immunochemistry Unit.

'An expert collaborator, a devoted scientific investigator.'

Mr Willis joined the University's Department of Biochemistry more than 40 years ago and became expert in the sequencing of proteins; at a later date he brought the developing science of mass-spectrometry into his laboratory. He has collaborated in the authorship of more than 130 papers and supported the research of other scientists worldwide. After an absence contracted to the Medical Research Council, Mr Willis returned to the University to continue his service in protein characterisation and sequencing.



The following honorary degree was conferred on 23 May 2009, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Hood, presiding:

Doctor of Letters

Ms Susan Reece

Formerly Managing Director, International Division, Oxford University Press

'A masterly publisher, a great friend and support to this University.'

Ms Reece studied English and History at Trent University and Education at the University of Toronto and joined OUP in 1979. She rose through a variety of sales and marketing positions to become President of OUP Canada in 1993 and Managing Director of the Press's International Division in 1999. She oversaw the establishment of the Press's first company in mainland China and the growth of the Press's presence in India. Under her leadership, the Press has made a shift in its operations to become a local publisher in international markets.

The following honorary degrees were conferred on 18 July 2009, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Hood, presiding:

Doctor of Letters

Darcey Andrea Bussell, CBE

Formerly Principal Ballerina with the Royal Ballet

'Mistress of lovely movement, who have wordlessly touched the hearts of those who have watched you.'

Darcey Bussell joined the Royal Ballet's Upper School in 1985, aged 16, and in 1988 the late Kenneth MacMillan gave her the leading role in his ballet *The Prince of the Pagodas*, causing her to move to the Royal Ballet. On the

opening night in 1989 she was promoted to Principal, becoming at that time the youngest ever ballerina to be given this honour. Her many roles include Masha in *Winter Dreams* and Princess Rose in *The Prince of the Pagodas*, both choreographed by MacMillan. In 2006 she retired as Principal Dancer, although she stayed with the company as 'guest principal artist'. She retired from ballet in 2007 with a final performance of MacMillan's *Song of the Earth* at the Royal Opera House.

Professor Natalie Zemon Davis, PhD, FBA, FRHS, FAAAS

Professor Emerita, Princeton University

'Learned and perspicacious historian, who have described the lives of ordinary people with a pen as keen as it is elegant.'

Professor Davis was educated at Smith College, Radcliffe College and the University of Michigan, from where she received her PhD in 1959. She has taught at many universities including the University of Toronto and the University of California. From 1978 to 1996 she taught at Princeton University, where she was Henry Charles Lea Professor of History and Director of the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies. She was George Eastman Visiting Professor at Balliol College in 1994–5. In addition to courses in the history of early modern France, she has taught or co-taught courses in history and anthropology, early modern Jewish social history and history and film. She acted as an adviser on the set of the film *The Return of Martin Guerre* (1982) and followed this a year later with her own account of the story.

Honours and awards

New Year's Honours

CBE

Professor Duncan Gallie, Professor of Sociology and Official Fellow of Nuffield College, for services to social science.

Professor Tony Venables, BP Professor of Economics, Director of the Oxford Centre for the Analysis of Resource Rich Economies and Fellow of New College, for services as the former Chief Economist at the Department for International Development.

Rosemary Thorp, Reader Emeritus in the Economics of Latin America, Emeritus Fellow of St Antony's College and Director of Queen Elizabeth House, the University's Department of International Development, in 2003–4, for services to education and to international development.

OBE

Professor Arthur Stockwin, founding Director of the Nissan Institute for Japanese Studies and Emeritus Fellow of St Antony's College, for services to academic excellence and the promotion of UK–Japanese understanding.

Queen's Birthday Honours

Knight Bachelor

Ian Brownlie, Chichele Professor Emeritus of Public International Law, Fellow of All Souls College and former member and Chairman of the UN International Law Commission, for services to public international law.

Knighthood

David Hendry, Professor of Economics and Fellow of Nuffield College, for services to social science.

Christopher Ricks, Professor of Poetry 2004–9 and Professor of the Humanities, Boston University, for services to scholarship.

CBE

Andrew Ashworth, QC, Vinerian Professor of English Law, Fellow of All Souls and Chairman of the Sentencing Advisory Panel, for services to the administration of justice.

OBE

Alan Milner, Emeritus Fellow of Trinity College and a member of the Faculty of Law, for his contribution to good governance in Africa, the Overseas Territories and the Crown Dependencies.

British Academy Fellows

William Beinart, Rhodes Professor of Race Relations and Professorial Fellow, St Antony's College.

Robin Briggs, Senior Research Fellow, All Souls College.

Jean Dunbabin, Senior Research Fellow, St Anne's College.

Malcolm Godden, Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon and Fellow of Pembroke College.

Roger Pearson, Professor of French and Fellow and Praelector, The Queen's College.

Christopher Pelling, Regius Professor of Greek and Fellow of Christ Church.



◀ Professor Tony Venables, CBE

David Womersley, Thomas Warton Professor of English Literature and Fellow of St Catherine's College.

In addition, **Professor Sir Adam Roberts**, Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for International Studies and Emeritus Fellow of Balliol College, took up the position of British Academy President.

Royal Society Fellows

Nicholas Harberd, Sibthorpe Professor of Plant Sciences and Fellow of St John's College.

Angela McLean, Professor of Mathematical Biology and Fellow of All Souls' College.

Richard Passingham, Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience and Fellow of Wadham College.

Chancellor's Court of Benefactors

On 2 October 2008, 14 members were admitted in recognition of their outstanding acts of generosity to the collegiate University:

Professor Brian Bellhouse, Professor Emeritus of Engineering Science and co-founder of PowderJect Pharmaceuticals; **Mr Julian Blackwell**, President of Blackwell Ltd; **The Hon Mr Andrew Fraser**, investment professional and Chief Executive of Andrew Fraser Management; **Sir Michael Kadoorie**, Chairman of The Hongkong and Shanghai

Hotels Ltd, of CLP Holdings Ltd and of the CLP Research Institute; **Mr George von Mallinckrodt**, President of Schroders, plc; **Mr Zvi Meitar**, Lawyer and Director of Aurum London Ventures Ltd; **Mr David Richards**, investment professional; **Dr John Spalding**, Retired Consultant Neurologist; **Mr Peter Clarke**, Group Chief Executive and Chairman at Man Investments, as the representative for Man Group; **Mr Harry Leventis**, Trustee of the A G Leventis Foundation, as the representative for the A G Leventis Foundation; **The Rt Hon the Viscount**

Chandos, Chairman of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, as the representative of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation; **Mr Ian Davis**, Managing Director of McKinsey & Co, as the representative of McKinsey & Co; **Dr Andreas Hoeschen**, Director of the London Office of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), as the representative of DAAD; and **Mr Paul Ramsbottom**, Executive Secretary of the Wolfson Foundation, as the representative of the Wolfson Foundation and Wolfson Family Charitable Trust.

New Heads of House

▶ *Left to right:*

Professor Keith Gull

Professor Sir Curtis Price



St Edmund Hall

Keith Gull, CBE, FRS, FMedSci, Professor of Molecular Biology at the William Dunn School of Pathology, took up office as Principal of St Edmund Hall on 1 October 2009. Professor Gull trained as a microbiologist at the University of London and moved on completion of his PhD to a lectureship at the University of Kent. He held a personal chair at Kent before moving to the University of Manchester where, as Head of Biochemistry and Research Dean, he was involved with the development of the School of Biological Sciences. Professor Gull is an eminent microbiologist whose work on Trypanosomes has been ground-breaking and has led to new approaches in understanding sleeping sickness. He has served on numerous committees of research councils and charities, including as a Trustee of Cancer Research UK. In 2004 he was awarded a CBE for services to microbiology.

New College

Professor Sir Curtis Price, formerly Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, took up office as Warden of New College in September 2009, following the retirement of Professor Alan Ryan. Professor Price studied as an undergraduate at Southern Illinois University and then went on to take a PhD at Harvard University. He moved to the UK in 1981 to take up a post at King's College London, where he became King Edward VII Professor of Music in 1988. He took up the post at the Royal Academy of Music in 1995. He has an international reputation as a historian of music and drama, and has published extensively on the music of Henry Purcell and on historical performance practice. He was awarded the Einstein Award of the American Musicological Society in 1976 and the Royal Musical Association's Dent Medal in 1984. Professor Price was President of the Royal Musical Association from 1999 to 2002 and was knighted in 2007.

New appointments

Administrative and academic



Vice-Chancellor

On 6 October, **Professor Andrew Hamilton, BSc, MA, MSc, PhD, FRS**, took up the post of Vice-Chancellor at a ceremony of admission at Congregation in the Sheldonian Theatre. Professor Hamilton read Chemistry at the University of Exeter before studying for a Master's degree at the University of British Columbia. He received his PhD from Cambridge University in 1980 and then spent a postdoctoral period at the Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg. In 1981 he was appointed Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Princeton University, then in 1988 he served as departmental chair and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh. He joined the Chemistry Department at Yale University in 1997, and in 2004 became the Benjamin Silliman Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. Between 2004 and 2008 he was also Provost of Yale, combining a wide range of administrative duties with teaching and research. Achievements during this time included the acquisition of the West Campus, the re-establishment of the Yale School of Engineering and Applied Science after a 40-year hiatus, a reform of the tenure process and the significant enhancement of the Yale undergraduate curriculum. Professor Hamilton's research interests lie at the interface of organic and biological chemistry, with particular focus on the use of synthetic design for the understanding, mimicry and potential disruption of biological processes. His academic achievements have been widely recognised internationally. In 1999 he received the Arthur C Cope Scholar Award from the American Chemical Society, and in 2004 he was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the Royal Society.

Pro-Vice-Chancellors

Personnel and Equality

Sally Mapstone, Reader in Older Scots Literature, was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Personnel and Equality) with effect from 13 October 2009. She remains a fellow of St Hilda's College.

Research

Ian Walmsley, Hooke Professor of Experimental Physics and Head of the Sub-Department of Atomic and Laser Physics, took up the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) with effect from 1 April 2009. He remains a fellow of St Hugh's College.

Oxford University Press

Nigel Portwood, Executive Vice-President, Global Operations, for the Penguin Group, based in New York, was appointed Chief Executive of OUP with effect from 17 August 2009.

Rhodes House

Professor Don Markwell, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) of the University of Western Australia, was appointed Warden of Rhodes House with effect from 1 July 2009.



◀ Sally Mapstone

New appointments

Professors

► Left to right:

Professor Jordan Raff

Professor Graeme
Dinwoodie

Professor Liam Dolan



December

Public Understanding of Science

Marcus du Sautoy, Professor of Mathematics and a fellow of Wadham College, was appointed Charles Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science and became a fellow of New College.

January

Strategy and Organisation

Andrew Pettigrew, OBE, FBA, Dean of the School of Management at the University of Bath, was appointed Professor of Strategy and Organisation at the Saïd Business School and became a fellow of Brasenose College.

Cancer Cell Biology

Jordan Raff, Cancer Research UK-funded Senior Group Leader at the Gurdon Institute, Cambridge, was appointed César Milstein Professor of Cancer Cell Biology and became a fellow of Lincoln College.

April

Major Programme Management

Bent Flyvbjerg, Professor of Planning at Aalborg University, Denmark and Professor and Chair in Infrastructure Policy and Planning at Delft University, The Netherlands, was appointed BT Professor of Major Programme Management and became a fellow of St Anne's College.

June

Law

Graeme Dinwoodie, Professor of Law and Associate Dean at Chicago-Kent College

of Law, Chicago, was appointed Professor of Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law and became a fellow of St Peter's College.

July

Economics

Paul Beaudry, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Macroeconomics at the University of British Columbia and Fellow of the Bank of Canada and Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, was appointed Professor of Economics and became a fellow of All Souls College.

Musculoskeletal Sciences

Udo Oppermann, Professor in Molecular Biology, Principal Investigator: Dehydrogenases and Metabolism, Structural Genomics Consortium, Botnar Research Centre and University Research Lecturer at Oxford, was appointed Professor of Musculoskeletal Sciences and became a fellow of St Catherine's College.

August

Differential Equations

Gui-Qiang Chen, Professor of Mathematics at Northwestern University, USA, Visiting Chair Professor of Mathematics at Fudan University, PRC, and Visiting Professor at the Centre for Advanced Study, Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, was appointed Professor in the Analysis of Partial Differential Equations and became a fellow of Keble College.

September

Botany

Liam Dolan, Project Leader, Cell Patterning Morphogenesis and Evolution in Plant, Department of Cell and Developmental Biology at the John Innes Centre, Norwich, and Honorary Professor of Biology at the University of East Anglia, was appointed Professor of Botany and a fellow of Magdalen College. On the retirement of Professor Hugh Dickinson, he will assume the Sherardian Professorship of Botany.

Quantitative Finance

Thaleia Zariphopoulou, V F Neuhaus Centennial Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, was appointed Man Professor of Quantitative Finance and became a fellow of Christ Church.

October

Slade Professor of Fine Art

(Josephine) Dawn Ades, Professor of Art History and Theory at the University of Essex, was appointed Slade Professor of Fine Art for the academic year 2009–10. The post is associated with All Souls College.

European Comparative Literature

Roger Chartier, Professeur d'écrit et cultures dans l'Europe moderne at the Collège de France, was appointed Weidenfeld Visiting Professor in European Comparative Literature for the academic year 2009–10. The post is associated with St Anne's College.

New appointments



◀ Left to right:
Professor Fiona Powrie
Professor Guy Stroumsa
Professor Carol Robinson

Corporate Law

Paul Davies, Cassel Professor of Commercial Law at the London School of Economics, was appointed Allen and Overy Professor of Corporate Law and became a fellow of Jesus College.

Contemporary Theatre

The playwright **Michael Frayn** was appointed Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre for the academic year 2009–10. The post is associated with Catherine's College.

Broadcast Media

Stephen Garrett, Joint Managing Director of Kudos Film and Television, the makers of *Spooks*, *Hustle* and *Life on Mars*, was appointed News International Visiting Professor of Broadcast Media and a fellow of Green College for the academic year 2009–10.

George Eastman Visiting Professorship

Gretchen Gerzina, Kathe Tappe Vernon Professor in Biography and Chair in the Department of English, Dartmouth College, Hanover, USA, was appointed George Eastman Visiting Professor and a fellow of Balliol College for the academic year 2009–10.

American History

Robin Kelley, Professor of History and American Studies at the University of Southern California, was appointed the Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth Professor of American History and a fellow of The Queen's College for the academic year 2009–10.

Control Engineering

David Limebeer, Professor in Control Engineering and Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Imperial College London, was appointed Professor of Control Engineering and became a fellow of New College.

Gastroenterology

Fiona Powrie, Professor of Immunology and Wellcome Trust-funded Senior Research Fellow in Basic Biomedical Science at Oxford, was appointed Sidney Truelove Professor of Gastroenterology in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine and became a fellow of Green Templeton College.

Islamic Studies

Tariq Ramadan, Research Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford, the Lokahi Foundation, London, and Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan, and Visiting Professor at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, was appointed His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies. The post is associated with St Antony's College.

American Literature

Robert Reid-Pharr, Professor in the PhD Program in English, City University of New York Graduate Center, was appointed Drue Heinz Visiting Professor of American Literature for the academic year 2009–10. The post is associated with St John's College.

Chemistry

Carol Robinson, FRS, Professor of Mass Spectrometry at the University of Cambridge and Royal Society Research Professor, was appointed Royal Society Professor in the Department of Chemistry and became a fellow of Exeter College. She will assume the Dr Lee's Professorship of Chemistry upon expiry of the Royal Society Professorship.

History of Ideas

Michael Rosen, Professor of Government at Harvard University, was appointed Isaiah Berlin Visiting Professor in the History of Ideas for the academic year 2009–10. The post is associated with a visiting fellowship at Corpus Christi College.

Abrahamic Religions

Guy Stroumsa, Martin Buber Professor of Comparative Religion at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, was appointed Professor of the Study of Abrahamic Religions and became a fellow of Lady Margaret Hall.

Molecular and Population Genetics

Ian Tomlinson, Professor of Molecular and Population Genetics at Oxford, Honorary Consultant in Clinical Genetics, Oxford Regional Genetics Service and Visiting Professor in Cancer Genetics at Barts and the London, Medical School, Queen Mary College, London, was appointed Professor of Molecular and Population Genetics in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine and became a Fellow of The Queen's College.

The year in review

While income has continued to grow, particularly research income, the upward pressure on costs continues to be significant, resulting in a small deficit on continuing operations of £4 million (2007/8 £15 million surplus). After the donation of heritage assets and a transfer of £4 million from endowment returns accumulated in previous years, the surplus for the year is £1 million (2007/8 £24 million).

	2008/9	2007/8
	£'m	Restated £'m
Income	863	764
Expenditure	(852)	(749)
Impairment of Icelandic bank deposits	(15)	-
Surplus on continuing operations	(4)	15
Donation of heritage assets & minority interests	1	4
Transfer from endowment income	4	5
Transfer to reserves	1	24

Income

Compared with the previous year, income to the University rose by 13.0%, from £764 million to £863 million, as follows:

	2008/9		2007/8	
	£m	%	£m	%
Funding body grants	195	23	186	24
Academic fees and support grants	123	14	111	15
Research grants and contracts	341	40	285	37
Other income	167	19	139	18
Endowment and investment income	37	4	43	6
Total income	863	100	764	100

Research grants and contracts continue to be the largest single source of income to the University and increased by 19.6% to £341 million, most of which is matched by related expenditure.

Grants from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) represent the second largest source of University income and amounted to £195 million, up by 4.8%.

Academic fees and support grants amounted to £123 million, up by 10.8%, with growth in executive education fees and a further cohort of UK/EU undergraduate fees based on the new higher level.

The 20.1% increase in other operating income to £167 million was driven principally by increased donations, foreign exchange gains and by other services rendered, including expansion in educational and medical services.

Endowment and investment income, at £37 million, decreased by 13.9% compared to the previous year. This reduction was due to interest receivable falling over the period as a result of lower bank interest rates and lower profits from the realisation of investments in spinout companies. These falls were partly offset by additional income from the introduction of total return accounting for endowments.

Expenditure

	2008/9		2007/8	
	£m	%	£m	%
Staff costs including research staff	438	51	403	54
Other research costs	116	14	97	13
Premises	59	7	45	6
College JRAM payment	49	6	46	6
Depreciation	44	5	42	6
Other operating costs	146	17	116	15
Total expenditure	852	100	749	100

The University's expenditure of £852 million rose by 13.8%, and includes staff costs of £438 million which increased 8.7% compared to 2007/8. This resulted from the annual negotiated pay settlement, extra staff for research activities, which were matched by related income, and the expansion of academic activities and related support.

Other operating expenses amounted to £146 million, an increase of 25.9%. Major factors explaining the increase include increased bursary and scholarship costs and non-capital costs relating to the refurbishment of the Ashmolean Museum and initial feasibility studies for the Mathematics Building and Radcliffe Observatory Quarter.

Impairment of Icelandic bank deposits

In the autumn of 2008, a number of Icelandic banks went into administration, including three with which the University held deposits. The University has £29 million of fixed-term deposits with these banks, and debtors include a further £3.6 million of accrued interest in relation to these deposits. The University is working together with other affected public bodies and with HEFCE to recover these amounts. The current situation regarding recovery of the sums deposited varies between institutions. The University has included an impairment provision of £15 million in the 2008/9 financial statements.

Cashflow

The net cash outflow, before use of liquid resources and financing for the year, was £52.4 million and compares with an inflow of £39 million in the previous year. The net cash outflow is largely due to higher capital expenditure and a switch from current asset investments to fixed asset investments.

Balance sheet

	31/07/09	31/07/08
	£m	Restated £m
Fixed assets	1,129	844
Endowment assets	585	653
Net current assets	(100)	81
Net assets	1,614	1,578

The balance sheet shows a small increase in net assets of 2.3%, from £1,578 million to £1,614 million. Tangible fixed asset cost (including heritage assets) increased by £285 million, reflecting the continued building programme to support the University's expanding research base. Significant capital expenditure was incurred on a number of projects in 2008/9, including the new Earth Sciences Building, the Ashmolean Museum, the new book storage facility at Swindon and the completion of the Biomedical Sciences Building.

Endowment funds decreased in total value from £653 million to £585 million due to weak equity markets. New funds invested during the year amounted to £22 million.

Prior year figures have been restated to reflect the introduction of total return accounting for endowments

External research funding

For the range, intensity and quality of its research and the scale of its cross-disciplinary work and collaboration, the University of Oxford has few peers anywhere in the world. Much of this activity – and its impact in intellectual, social, cultural and economic terms – depends on external funding. During 2007/8 (the most recent reporting period for which the Higher Education Statistics Agency has published financial results across the UK sector) Oxford secured more external funding than any other UK university. In 2008/9, its external research income grew very strongly and was 19 per cent up on the previous year to stand at more than £340 million.

In addition to this £340 million funding from external sources, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) provides an additional block grant to support research infrastructure, including the salaries of permanent academic staff, premises, libraries and central computing costs. The largest component of this was allocated by HEFCE on the basis of Oxford's outstanding results in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

The UK Charity sector and the UK Research Councils are the largest sources of competitive research funding to Oxford. The scale and diversity of charity funding for research not only at Oxford but at many other UK universities are very special features of the national landscape. Support comes from across the UK charity sector, from the largest funders, such as the Wellcome Trust, Cancer Research UK, British Heart Foundation and the Leverhulme Trust, to a large number of smaller charities whose support is equally important and valued. The University greatly appreciates this aspect of the charities' work and the generous support provided by their donors, volunteers and staff.

Research funding from overseas, especially from the European Commission and various public and charitable agencies in the USA, is significant at more than 21 per cent of total research income, and is growing more rapidly than from domestic sources (though from a smaller base).

Oxford also receives significant research funding from business and from government departments (often to support collaborative research).

It is this external funding for research, major programmes, projects, fellowships, studentships, travel, equipment and more which is so important in facilitating world-class research at Oxford and its application for public benefit.

The University would like warmly to acknowledge not only these organisations, but also all those external parties that provide research funding to the University.

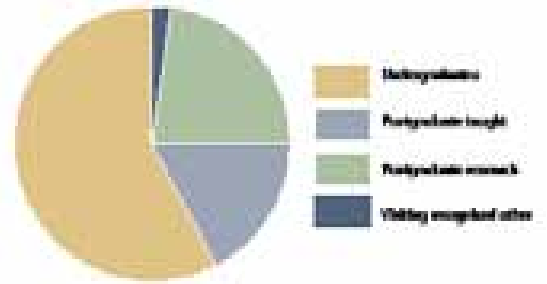
	Oxford's research funding 2008/9 (£millions)	
	2008/9	2007/8
Research Councils	£106.1	£96.1
UK charity	£113.3	£94.7
UK industry	£13.5	£14.2
EU government	£19.8	£14.9
UK government/NHS	£34.7	£26.8
Other UK and overseas sources	£53.1	£38.6
Total External Research Funding	£340.5	£285.3
HEFCE research funding	£110.1	£104.2
Total funding for research	£450.6	£389.5

Appendices

Student numbers 2008/9

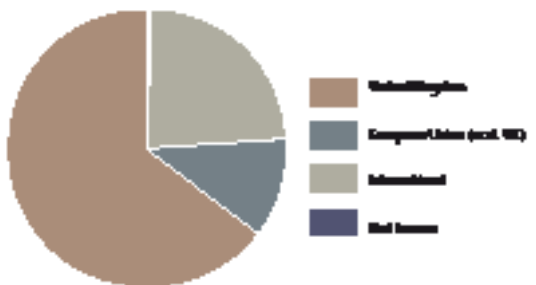
1. Total students

	UNDER-GRADUATES	POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT	POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH	VISITING RECOGNISED OTHER	TOTAL
Men	6,174	1,953	2,684	225	11,036
Women	5,560	1,511	1,953	270	9,294
Total	11,734	3,464	4,637	495	20,330



2. Students by nationality

	UNDER-GRADUATES	POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT	POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH	VISITING RECOGNISED OTHER	TOTAL
United Kingdom	10,049	1,288	1,821	7	13,165
European Union (excl. UK)	690	620	905	54	2,269
International	971	1,497	1,908	422	4,798
Not known	24	59	3	12	98
Total	11,734	3,464	4,637	495	20,330



Students come to Oxford from 143 countries and territories, creating a vibrant and diverse student community. The largest groups of international students come from:

	UNDER-GRADUATES	POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT	POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH	VISITING RECOGNISED OTHER	TOTAL
USA	130	479	451	361	1,421
China and Hong Kong	310	146	235	14	705
Germany	192	171	248	21	632
Canada	37	129	184	5	355
India	45	150	110	3	308
Australia	33	78	139	3	253
France	75	56	56	11	198
Ireland	73	47	67	1	188
Italy	34	53	82	9	178
Greece	23	36	82	-	141
Malaysia	55	19	52	4	130
Poland	66	29	33	2	130
South Korea	39	31	49	6	125
Singapore	69	25	18	6	118
Japan	29	34	47	3	113

Appendices

3. Undergraduates

1.	Ancient and Modern History	54
2.	Archaeology and Anthropology	60
3.	Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular	343
4.	Biological Sciences	317
5.	Chemistry	704
6.	Classical Archaeology and Ancient History	59
7.	Classics and English	24
8.	Classics and Modern Languages	41
9.	Classics and Oriental Studies	9
10.	Computer Science	77
11.	Economics and Management	259
12.	Engineering and Computer Science	9
13.	Engineering, Economics and Management	79
14.	Engineering Science	527
15.	English	736
16.	English and Modern Languages	90
17.	European and Middle Eastern Languages	33
18.	Experimental Psychology	153
19.	Fine Art	62
20.	Geography	243
21.	Geology/Earth Sciences	117
22.	History/Modern History	721
23.	History/Modern History and Economics	30
24.	History/Modern History and English	32
25.	History/Modern History and Modern Languages	73
26.	History/Modern History and Politics	148
27.	History of Art	31
28.	Human Sciences	106
29.	Jurisprudence	592
30.	Jurisprudence with Law in Europe	119
31.	Literae Humaniores	455
32.	Materials, Economics and Management	16
33.	Materials Science	97
34.	Mathematics	604
35.	Mathematics and Computer Science	69
36.	Mathematics and Philosophy	84
37.	Mathematics and Statistics	112
38.	Medicine (Pre-clinical, Clinical & Graduate Entry)	955
39.	Modern Languages	697
40.	Modern Languages and Linguistics	85
41.	Music	193
42.	Oriental Studies	163
43.	Philosophy and Modern Languages	73
44.	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	717
45.	Philosophy and Theology	71
46.	Physics	596
47.	Physics and Philosophy	50
48.	Physiological Sciences	71
49.	Psychology, Philosophy and Physiology	98
50.	Theology	159
51.	Continuing Education Certificates and Diplomas	404
52.	Diploma in Legal Studies	17
53.	Certificate in Theology/Bachelor in Theology	100
	Total	11,734

4. Postgraduates

	POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT	POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH	TOTAL
Medical Sciences	200	920	1,120
Social Sciences	1,903	1,140	3,043
Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences	180	1,595	1,775
Humanities	575	944	1,519
Continuing Education	606	38	644
Total	3,464	4,637	8,101



The striking new entrance to the Pitt Rivers Museum

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