Welcome to the June edition of the Faculty and Research Update. This publication contains an array of the latest research news stories and events from the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. Despite the academic year coming to an end for many, you will see that on the research front there is little respite and the four departments remain busy with their many ongoing projects.

Our main story relates the recent contribution of the Clinical Health Care (CHC) department to a newly established day care centre and maternity unit in Malawi, due to the dedication and tireless efforts of one Brookes alumna. In other news, we review two big events in the Oxford Brookes calendar; the bustling Science Bazaar and the Live Friday event at the Ashmolean Museum. Research staff from HLS who took part in both of these very successful events share their experiences on pages 4 and 5.

Our research stories show the vast range of the projects underway in the Faculty; from the latest midwifery research projects in CHC, to an ongoing study into Developmental Coordination Disorder by the department of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health. We also celebrate the recent launch of the Oxford Academic Health Science Centre, which we are delighted to be a part of. This new partnership will no doubt generate much future collaborative research between Oxford’s academic institutions and NHS Trusts.

To keep future editions of this Update interesting and relevant we require a constant supply of news stories so please keep sending them to: fhls-news@brookes.ac.uk

You can also keep up-to-date with the latest HLS news on our web page: www.hls.brookes.ac.uk/news

Linda King
Associate Dean, Research and Knowledge Exchange
Midwifery in Malawi

How one Brookes alumna provides healthcare overseas

Maaike Bruynooghe, an Oxford Brookes Midwifery alumna and socio-educational worker, set up the ‘Kunyumba’ project in 2008. This is a day care centre for vulnerable children in Malawi, which won an international award for best volunteer project in 2011. Malawi has the world’s highest maternal and neonatal morbidity rate, and highest rate of preterm births, according to Save the Children.

Maaike Bruynooghe with orphan

Kunyumba, meaning “our home”, has been running successfully and made a huge difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in the Senga Bay fishing village. This vulnerability can be due to a number of reasons: a disability, medical problems or coming from a difficult social background. Maaike’s work with the local community is a significant step to address these issues.

Ongoing support for Maaike’s project in Malawi is being given by Oxford Brookes University midwifery lecturers and graduating students, who donate their student hospital uniforms annually.

This year the uniforms will go to the newly built Pothawira maternity unit. Dr. Peter Maseko, the founder of the unit, has expressed how invaluable these will be. In a country where over the half the population live below the poverty line, such donations can make a great contribution.

Valuable support is offered by the Kunyumba project, from providing health care, education, nutrition, hygiene and a safe haven where children can explore and develop at their own pace in a peaceful environment. The daily running of the centre is in the professional hands of a carefully selected local team of kind and devoted co-workers. The aim is not only to empower the children but also their family members, staff members and the local community, as they provide care for some of the children outside of day care hours.

Maaike is now developing ‘Kudimba’, the follow on project of Kunyumba. The intention is to set up a day care centre for vulnerable teenagers and young adults in Salima, Malawi. The programme aims at offering a holistic care package to young people in the local area. They may be vulnerable due to their social background, their disability, a pregnancy at a young age, or any other reasons which marginalises them in the community. One of the highlighted areas for this is HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, a key point of the project.

The focus for Kudimba is on young people who could flourish with some extra support, offering sexual health education and empowerment. There will be tailored maternity care to support the reduction in maternal and neonatal morbidity or mortality. A teaching area that will be emphasised is organic gardening and sustainable living; Kudimba means “our garden” in the local language. Nutrition is an essential aspect of a healthy lifestyle. By teaching young people about organic gardening and at the same time growing healthy food for the project, people can develop indispensable skills, improve their health and at the same time learn about nutrition.

Another method of realising this change is by inviting midwives and other health care professionals from abroad to come and exchange experience and knowledge, and to assist in the Kudimba project, such as visiting the Pothawira maternity unit.

This intercultural exchange will mean that practitioners from all countries learn a great deal.

There are exciting times ahead, and Maaike hopes to find out more about the funding of her Kudimba project this summer.

Maaike Bruynooghe and Megan James
Wow the crowds

Outreach activities at Oxfordshire Science Festival (OSF) events

Two hundred tubes of sweets, a toy tea-set, myriad dolly pegs, safety scissors and glue aren’t my usual choice of essentials when I head off to engage others with my research. But on 8 and 22 March this year, I replaced my poster tube for some Smarties tubes, and my USB stick for a rubber hand. With some postgraduates I set out to try to get the public at the Oxfordshire Science Festival (OSF) excited about what we have been up to in the Department of Psychology, Social Work, and Public Health.

Outreach activities at Oxfordshire Science Festival (OSF) events

The Science in your World OSF launch event took place on 8 March at Bonn Square, Oxford. It had been a challenge over the past few months to think of activities in which we could successively and safely engage hundreds of families, in a 3 x 2 metre tent. In the end, we had too many activities for me to list here.

We had:
• vision goggles that turned the viewer’s world upside down (how easy is throwing a ball now...?),
• a demonstration of the rubber hand illusion,
• reading by touch, with wooden letters,
• brain-shaped cookies to tempt visitors, courtesy of Brookes catering,
• in a twist on an academic engagement favourite, lift-the-flap posters: how well do you know your brain?

All was quiet as we finished setting up, with Op-Trix, our 3-D illusion cardboard Tyrannosaurus Rex, on the lookout for a photo opportunity. Most of the activities we had were new this year: had we done enough to encourage visitors to explore? And then they arrived. Hundreds of families visited the tent in Bonn Square.

At the Science Bazaar at Oxford Brookes Headington Campus on 22 March, visitors tried out their hand against our rubber one, and tested their brain’s capacity for deceiving them. Some families wanted to stay long after the event had officially closed. I made well over 100 peg dolls, and we had no Smarties tubes left over.

As well as the reward of seeing others enthused by our research questions, tens of families signed up for studies at Brookes’ Babylab (dedicated to Developmental Psychology research), so it was a win-win event in practical terms, too. Dozens of activities were also run at the Science Bazaar by members of the HLS Faculty’s other departments, which also proved popular, such as hand-washing, bug handling, and gait analysis. Over 800 visitors attended and the response was overall positive.

Feedback from visitors included, “All of the staff were really friendly and helpful”, “Excellent explanations - very engaging, even for a 5 year old”, “Wonderful! Looking forward to next year!”

Other comments stated that “the great thing about the Science Bazaar is everyone can learn something from it”, and people liked seeing children smiling and having fun.

I couldn’t have done any of this without the support of others in my Department, namely, Nayeli Gonzalez-Gomez, Alice Helliwell, Kimberley Hill, Marcin Hutnik, Amanda Hyne, Rachel Instone, Holly Joseph, Annabel Molyneux, Jake Macey, and Konstantin Volkmann. Thanks also to Dr Anne Osterrieder for her work coordinating the Science Bazaar and other outreach activities.

It was such a good experience, I’d happily sit on the organising committee again next year: how would you like to engage families with your research?

Siân Jones

The next Science Bazaar will be Saturday 21 March 2015
Visitors flock to ‘Live Friday’

On Friday 14 March, more than 5,000 people visited ‘Wisdom, Wonder and Widgets’, a special Live Friday evening event held at the Ashmolean Museum, co-hosted by Oxford Brookes University. Students, staff and alumni from Brookes showcased their research with more than 20 fun and engaging activities, and the night also included live musical performances, quizzes and more.

June Girvin, Dean of the Faculty and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Development and Alumni Relations), said of the night: “The 150th anniversary launched with a tremendously successful and very special event at the Ashmolean. We are extremely proud of our roots in the city of Oxford. There was a real ‘buzz’ to the evening and a wide range of further celebrations will build on this success, starting in September with many public events taking place at our impressive new John Henry Brookes building in Headington.”

The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences was well-represented at Live Friday, with a variety of showcases from across departments. In the ‘Saving Lives’ workshop, healthcare professionals showed the public how they use simulation and technology to educate and train students. Visitors were able to watch nurses and paramedic students supporting a ‘patient’ with a life-threatening illness, then taught to perform life-saving skills using Sim Man. ‘Movement and Magic’ allowed visitors to learn magic tricks used to help children with disabilities, and offered the chance to find out more from researchers and therapists. Other researchers commented about their experiences:

**Under the Microscope**

“Our aim for Live Friday was to spread our enthusiasm for microscopy and imaging at Brookes to the public. We took a ‘proper’ microscope, but also used drops of water and homemade stands (many thanks to Richard Smith) with lenses reclaimed from CD drives, which both allow smart phones to act as microscopes; we also had a 3D printed microscope - so lots of things to play with! We were inundated with visitors throughout the event, and were rewarded with really positive responses to all our activities - which made the evening a fantastic experience. Thanks to everyone involved in making these activities happen.”

Dr Sarah Irons, Biological & Medical Sciences

**The secrets of paintings: What eye tracking reveals**

“Live Friday was both exhilarating and exhausting. The visitors, both old and young, loved taking part. They enjoyed seeing how their eyes moved as they viewed the paintings, and discussing these patterns in relation to what the artist had in mind. The queue was never-ending as were the questions, and it was great to demonstrate and explain our research to an enthusiastic and non-academic audience. My only regret was that I didn’t have the time to see anything else.”

Dr Giles Anderson, Psychology, Social Work & Public Health

**What makes your walk unique**

“During the Ashmolean Late Live Friday event earlier last month people were able to find out what makes their walk unique. The interest in this event was overwhelming. Between us we hoped to have around 20-odd interested people, however this turned out to be close to three times that figure and some visitors patiently waited for over an hour to get their gait assessed. All participants left very positive feedback throughout the night, not only on the gait assessments, but also on the overall event itself.”

Dr Patrick Esser, Sport and Health Sciences
Fundraising for the CLEAR

David Woodman, the husband of Oxford Brookes’ Vice Chancellor Professor Janet Beer, and Philip Skipp, Oxford Brookes University driver, joined forces to complete a 9-day challenge to raise £1,500 for the CLEAR Unit. This is part of the Brookes 150th Anniversary celebrations. To donate to their ‘Bike, Blade and Boot Challenge’, follow this link: www.justgiving.com/bbb-challenge/

EiE Highlights sustainable community buildings

On Thursday 27 March, the Environmental Information Exchange (EiE) and the Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment (TOE2) presented a showcase to celebrate the successful outcomes of the first two years of the Enrich project, highlighting energy efficiency improvements community buildings identified through EiE’s energy audits.

The Enrich Showcase, held at newly refurbished Kirtlington village hall, attracted over 50 guests from local communities, charities, and parish councils. EiE presented a wide number of case studies where halls reduced their need for energy whilst improving the comfort and function of community hire space. Over 300 tonnes of CO2e (Carbon Dioxide equivalent) savings have been identified during almost 70 energy audits of Oxfordshire community buildings since the Enrich project began in 2012. Over £120,000 has been spent on the project, funded by the Patsy Wood Trust. Patsy Wood was a co-founder of EiE who passed away in 2006.

On hand to demonstrate one use of community space were Smoke and Mirrors who performed a live reading of a new amateur dramatic comedy called, ‘Potterton Capers’. The play was adapted specifically for the showcase and featured a beleaguered village hall committee facing some common challenges, including how to provide adequate heating for the hall. Smoke and Mirrors are professional actors who present murder mystery evenings around Oxford (www.hauntedmysteryweekend.co.uk/index.html).

The positive reception of EiE’s Enrich showcase has coincided with a grant for a 3rd year of funding where EiE will continue to provide energy efficiency support to community buildings in Oxfordshire.

The Enrich project and case studies can be viewed at: www.brookes.ac.uk/eie/about-us/enrich-project-page.html

Michael Esvelt

Care, Education, Research

The CLEAR (Clinical Exercise and Rehabilitation) unit, belonging to the Movement Science Group, is continuing to capitalise on its groundbreaking research on long term neurological conditions, to inform clinical practitioners and health and fitness professionals of current rehabilitation techniques. The Unit works with hospitals, schools and communities nationwide to improve quality of life for people with movement disorders and disabilities.

In other CLEAR news: A recent research grant has been awarded to the CLEAR unit by the Oxfordshire Sports Partnership. This grant will fund a new project as part of the UK wide ‘Sportivate’ initiative. This will involve academics from the CLEAR unit transferring their techniques and methods in rehabilitation through exercise, to local school children with neurodevelopmental conditions and disengaged with sport. Children will have the chance to try a broad variety of activities from tennis to wakeboarding.

James Bateman

Michael Esvelt
Technology Opportunities for Ecology, Environment and Conservation Innovation Session
On the afternoon of the 22nd of January 2014 the Centre for Ecology, Environment and Conservation invited staff from across the faculties to a lunch and afternoon of discussion and innovation around the theme of applying technological solutions to environmental problems. Twenty-five representatives from across the faculties and directorates with interests relevant to the topic attended and discussed six potential areas for projects and research.

The aim of the session was to generate and explore ideas that could eventually be developed as collaborative projects and used to pursue opportunities for internal and external funding and commercialisation.

CEEC is aiming to continue the discussions and to build upon the ideas and themes developed during the session and future events are likely to include representatives from outside Brookes. If you feel that future events and being part of the network would be useful to you, your colleagues or your research email ceec@brookes.ac.uk

James Watkins

The FFC aims to undertake leading research focused on tackling obesity, improving glycaemic control and reducing inflammation, thereby helping to improve the health and well-being of the global population. The FFC develops and delivers a range of highly valued services underpinned by our research to support the food industry. The latest work involves developing products for the marketplace and understanding their impact on metabolic markers in humans.

Healthy Body, Healthy Mind
The Functional Food Centre (FFC) was invited to contribute to ‘Healthy Body, Healthy Mind’, a week of activities organised by the student support coordinators for the Faculty of Business. Our team of PhD students and research staff devised ‘Food for Thought’ workshops for this event. These sessions focused on promoting healthy eating during stressful times and coincided with the lead up to exams.

Our team discussed with students ways to replace unhealthy snacks with healthy snacks as well as quick healthy breakfast ideas and foods to eat to keep you fuller for longer. We also included tasting sessions where the students could try out our ‘quick’ breakfast bar and smoothies, all made on site at the event. And it wasn’t all about food, our recently qualified yoga teacher, Sarah Kennedy, ran a yoga session to demonstrate its power to de-stress and relax. It was a great opportunity for us to interact with students from another faculty and provide them with information on nutrition with recipes to take away. The workshop and yoga class were also very popular with the staff and the great news is that we have been invited back again in the summer.

Providing a Healthy Start!
Functional Food Centre staff organized various talks for Nutrition students in this semester. Helen Conn (Food Scientist and Visiting Research Fellow) spoke about her whole career and every student could pick out something which interested them. Brookes Alumni Hannah Corry, who is a dietetics student talked about her experiences in applying for Dietetics and placement in a clinical setting.

A further interesting talk was from “The Association for Nutrition” Chief Executive, Leonie Milliner about becoming an associate nutritionist upon graduation, and the pathway to becoming a full registered nutritionist.

She later wrote in the AfN newsletter that “It was satisfying to hear first-hand students’ enthusiasm for registration and the benefits of studying on a course accredited by AfN. With graduation looming, their concerns focused on gaining that all-important graduate post.”

Rebecca Lear
The Athena SWAN Charter evolved from work between the Athena Project and the Scientific Women's Academic Network (SWAN). It was set up to focus on the development of women at all career levels in STEMM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics) because there were and are institutions with a significant gender imbalance particularly in senior positions.

It still retains that remit, but is now also recognised as a tool to promote and monitor good working practices for everyone (recently emphasised in an independent report on the award scheme by Loughborough University).

Research funding - in particular from NIHR and possibly from Research Councils UK in the future - will demand that Faculties/Departments hold an Athena SWAN Silver Award, so this is very important to the Faculty. Now over half of all higher education institutions that are active in STEMM subject areas are members and in April 2013 there were 259 award holders.

With the University holding an Athena SWAN Bronze Award (awarded in April 2013), HLS is now preparing an application for an Athena SWAN Award at Faculty level for the November 2014 submission round. An HLS Athena SWAN team was formed, to ensure fair representation across our departments and with all career levels represented.

The team members are:
- Linda King (Chair)
- Simon Dowell
- David Evans
- Anna Barnett
- Ella Watson
- Tim Shreeve
- Will Roberts
- Susan Brooks
- Louise Stayt
- Kate Wilmut
- Ryan Pink
- Angela Robinson
- Verena Kriechbaumer
- Daan Paul Meester

With support from:
- Claire Morris (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, HR)
- Valerie Fawcett (Staff Development Consultant, OCSLD)

The first meeting in March introduced the team to Athena SWAN principles. The team has since reviewed data on male/female numbers at undergraduate, taught and research postgraduate, contract researcher and academic staff levels, with the gender-split cross-referenced to national averages. This shows that we are “gender fair” at all stages of the career cycle from ‘applying to an undergraduate programme’ through to senior staffing levels.

Knowing how people perceive working practices (in a completely confidential way) is a very important component of the work which goes into an Athena SWAN submission. The Faculty is trying to ensure equal opportunities for everyone in regard to career progression and staff development. A questionnaire has been circulated to academics and contract researchers to ask their opinions on career development, mentoring, promotion opportunities, organisation culture, work/life balance, and career breaks. From the questionnaire answers the findings, ideas for focus groups and any resulting action plan will be fed back to everyone. The Action Plan then forms a part of the Athena SWAN submission and is regularly reviewed.

Angela Robinson

Recent OxBUMP achievements

The academic year might be drawing to a close in most universities but the work of Oxford Brookes University Maternal and Women’s Public Health group “OxBUMP” continues a pace, with news of student initiatives, doctoral awards and continued community engagement.

First, news that brings us all immense pride and excitement; that of the funding awarded to two second year midwifery students, to help with the costs associated with research for their dissertations. Megan Beckhurst, a psychology graduate now in her second year of the Midwifery MSc programme, has been awarded a Santander Student Scholarship, allowing her to develop and evaluate a visual tool to help midwives estimate blood loss during childbirth in a birthing pool. Sarah Sharples, also on the MSc programme who was formerly part of the fundraising team for Oxford University has been awarded a bursary from the Anne Harrold Charitable Trust, aiding her research exploring pregnant women’s views and attitudes to physical activity and exercise during pregnancy.

Academic achievements abound at OxBUMP too; our own Ethel Burns will be awarded her PhD during the upcoming Oxford Brookes University’s graduation ceremonies, for her work on women’s experiences of labour and delivery in a birthing pool. As a result of her work to date, Ethel has received further funding from the University’s Central Research Funds to investigate the feasibility of conducting an RCT evaluating the benefits of pool birth.
As a leading voice in her field, Ethel continues to effect policy and change, by lending her expertise to an RCM-commissioned position paper on water birth.

Moving away from academia towards community engagement, details come of our recent Zumbathon which recently raised £550. This much-appreciated funding will help pay for weekly Zumba classes (held every Monday at the Oxford Brookes Centre for Sports) run as part of our Zumba 4BUMP initiative.

Zumba 4BUMP is a community based exercise, education and support group for women who are pregnant or who have recently had their baby. Since its inception, Zumba 4BUMP has had just under 100 zumbambinos and provided many students with the opportunity to experience community antenatal care and health promotions, both of which are vital aspects of the midwife’s role.

Lesley Smith

Challenged by Writing: Stumbling over words

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Lesley Smith

The Faculty’s most recent Professorial Lecture was given by Professor Vince Connelly from the department of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health on the evening of May 21st. The title of the lecture was Challenged by Writing: Stumbling over words, which aptly summarises the main theme of the talk. This was also the final event in the Open Lecture Series for the academic year.

Over the years Vince has studied how children learn to read and write. More recently, Vince has come to specialise in how the writing process itself can become a struggle for those with specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia. As a result of this work, Vince has forged relationships with many local teachers to further the developments of literacy education.

Amongst the Brookes staff and students in attendance, were a range of local teachers and educators, most of whom were already aware of the impact Vince has had in this area of research. The sheer scope of Vince’s work and knowledge in this field made for a very successful and informative lecture, which was greatly enjoyed by all. A recorded version of the talk is still available to view on the Oxford Brookes website: lecturecapture.brookes.ac.uk/

Milly Farrell

EU Funding Seminar

Want to find out more about the latest Horizon 2020 funding opportunities? Want to hear top tips from researchers who have secured EU funding and are successfully managing EU grants? Want to know more about the process of applying, who can help and where to find information?

Great news! The Faculty is running an EU funding seminar in June, to be held in Staff Development week at Gipsy Lane.

The seminar will be opened and chaired by Professor Linda King. Lorraine Williams from RBDO will talk through Horizon 2020 funding opportunities, the process of bidding for EU funding, how to locate partners and where to find information. Researchers from the Faculty will provide top tips from their experience of EU bidding, collaborating with partners and success in running an EU grant. Emma Webster will outline the support available in the Faculty and explain the procedures for applying for external grants. There will also be an opportunity to ask the panel questions.

Save the date! Wednesday 25th June - 11am to 12:30pm. C221, Clerici, Gipsy Lane.

To book a place, e-mail Jennie Cripps, jcripps@brookes.ac.uk.

Jennie Cripps
Research into Developmental Coordination Disorder

Dr Kate Wilmut is Reader in Psychology in the Department of Psychology, Social Work & Public Health. She works in the Perception and Motion Analysis (PuMA) lab and is interested in all aspects of human movement and motor coordination, with a particular focus on Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD).

It is at the University of Reading, working with Professor John Wann, that Kate developed her interest in human movement, specifically in children with DCD. Kate completed her doctoral research at Reading, during which time she focused on hand-eye coordination of ‘reach-to-grasp’ movements, and obtained her PhD in 2004. She joined Oxford Brookes in 2007 and her research interests now encompass larger-body movements in addition to the reach-to-grasp movements that she first studied.

There is anecdotal evidence that individuals with DCD frequently trip over or bump into obstacles while walking. However, at present there is little data to show how or why this might be the case.

To this end, Dr Wilmut has received generous funding of over £280,000 from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to run a project exploring how we learn to negotiate obstacles and why some people have more difficulty than others. The ESRC project started in March 2013 and will run until October 2015, with herself as the primary investigator and Prof Anna Barnett as co-investigator, and with one post-doctoral Research Assistant working on the project full-time.

The project consists of three phases, each one examining adults, teenagers, and children with and without DCD. These phases build from simple environments such as how people tackle static obstacles such as doorways or narrow gaps, to more complex environments such as how people manoeuvre around moving obstacles. This aims to mimic how people negotiate a crowded room or a pavement littered with ‘street furniture’. The project is exploratory in nature and will help to further our understanding of the problems of those with DCD. The more we understand now, the better we can develop effective interventions to support motor learning in children and adults.

This research project is being carried out at the Oxford Gait Laboratory based in the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre which houses a 16-camera VICON infrared motion capture system. This system allows the precise tracking of small reflective markers placed on the feet, hips, trunk and shoulders to enable Kate to precisely measure the length of a step or the twist of the trunk as the person goes through a doorway or negotiates a barrier, all of which feeds into a fuller understanding of how those with and without DCD tackle obstacles in their pathway. Kate also uses a similar, but smaller, system to track reach-to-grasp movements which is currently housed in the PuMA Lab at Oxford Brookes.

For further information about this project and on Kate Wilmut and Anna Barnett’s work, please visit: www.psychology.brookes.ac.uk/research/perception-and-motion-analysis

For further information on the ESRC, please visit: www.esrc.ac.uk

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Top Tip

Kate’s ‘top tip’ for successful research fundraising is to read other people’s proposals; the more the better! She is a member of the ESRC peer review college, which has given her an invaluable understanding of how the process works post-review – it has showed her how important it is to be upfront about selling the idea to other people to really show why the research is so important. She advises bid-writers never to be apologetic about their research and to use persuasive and positive language.
Magic Brings Confidence to Children’s Movement

Dr Dido Green’s innovative ‘magic camps’, which improve the lives of children with disabilities, received further publicity last month in a feature in the Oxford Mail.

Dido, from the department of Sport and Health Sciences, discussed her work which uses fun magic to help children with hemiplegia and other movement disorders. Following on from this project, Dido talked about her new Detective Club. This aims to improve movement co-ordination, mental health and confidence in children with Developmental Coordination Disorder, through the use of problem solving strategies.

Her research programme ‘Breathe Magic’, developed by Oxford Brookes University and Breathe Arts Health Research, was also featured as a case study in the Chief Medical Officer’s 2013 annual report. These magic camps, as featured in the Oxford Mail, have been running every year since 2010 and aim to improve the lives of disabled children with motor and psychosocial difficulties, by teaching them magic tricks. This year, Dido has been helped by 15 Oxford Brookes students studying occupational therapy and physiotherapy. Dido said, “Designing interventions that are fun as well as effective is crucial to achieve the best outcomes for children.”

Learning the specific movements necessary for the sleight-of-hand needed for magic tricks acts as therapeutic exercise. This improves motor learning and movement skills, leading to increased independence and lower support requirements. For the magic camp finale, the children put on a magic show in a professional theatre, reflecting both their new magical abilities and bimanual developments. A ‘Breathe Magic’ camp attendee said, “This is the first time I am going back to school and can show my friends something they can’t do, it is always the other way around.”

Child Sexual Exploitation Audit

A multi-disciplinary team from Oxford Brookes University led by Dr. Jane Appleton Reader in Primary and Community Care in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences has been commissioned by NHS Thames Valley Local Education and Training Board (LETB) to conduct an audit to review the child sexual exploitation (CSE) knowledge and training needs of staff whose role brings them into contact with children, young people and their families. The project is involving staff working in the nine Thames Valley Healthcare Trusts, as well as primary healthcare providers including GPs and pharmacists in the area.

There are a number of work-streams within this project; these include a review of national and local policy, consultation events with safeguarding leads and other key staff and the development of an ‘on-line’ survey that will provide practitioners with an opportunity to benchmark their knowledge of child sexual exploitation and to contribute to the development of future learning and development opportunities in this key area of practice.

The team which also includes Dr. Nick Pike Senior Lecturer in Social Work, Dr. Catherine Powell Safeguarding Children Consultant and researcher Sarah Howcutt welcome the opportunity to work with colleagues across the Thames Valley region to support better outcomes for some of our most vulnerable children and young people. For more details, please contact Jane Appleton at jvappleton@brookes.ac.uk. Tel. 01865-482606.

Jane Appleton

Oxford Academic Health Science Centre Launch Event

Following its designation at the end of last year, the Oxford Academic Health Science Centre, which combines Oxford’s world-leading NHS Trusts and academic institutions, recently held its launch event.

The Centre will combine the institutions’ individual strengths in world-class basic science, translational research, training and clinical expertise to address 21st century healthcare challenges. It will allow scientific discoveries to move rapidly from the laboratory to the ward, operating theatre and general practice, so patients benefit from innovative new treatments.

June Girvin, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences said of the Centre that it is “the first time formally we have an opportunity to come together and share our expertise and our resources in a way that has just not been possible before.”

Stephen Denton-Farnworth
Careers Event Inspires Undergraduates

The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences Annual Careers Event was held on Thursday 27 April at the Headington Campus. Over 40 employers and experts attended to discuss their careers and offer advice to students, with a large ‘speed-networking’ event as the focus. Other highlights included a mini careers fair, and keynote lecture for students, delivered enthusiastically by Dr Andrew Bottomley from the University of Cambridge. More than one hundred undergraduates participated, from the departments of Biological and Medical Sciences, Psychology, Social Work and Public Health, and Sport and Health Sciences.

Guests came from a range of organisations and career backgrounds, from international companies such as Oxford University Press and Jamie Oliver Ltd, to successful businesses based locally, including representatives from Science Parks and charities.

Dr Nanda Rodrigues, Head of Scientific Business and Administration at the Medical Research Council, Harwell said, “I was very impressed with the organisation and quality of students.”

Professor David Evans, Head of the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences, spoke at the event, and many students studying courses in this area attended.

“The Careers event provided an invaluable opportunity for students at all stages of their degrees to spend time with local and regional employers. The insights given into building a career will be used to shape CVs, prepare for interviews and plan opportunities to gain the extra experience needed in the competitive job market of today.”

Professor David Evans

Feedback from students has been positive, for example all students who responded said they were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘satisfied’ with the speed-networking, which was a popular part of the evening. One undergraduate commented after, “I just wanted to say a big thank you for last night. It was hugely helpful to get the opportunity to meet prospective employers and was excellent.”

Megan James

Annual Meeting of the Association of Advanced Nursing Practice Educators

On March 7th 2014, Oxford Brookes hosted the Annual Meeting of the Association of Advanced Nursing Practice Educators, which was attended by 50 other universities. As hosts we had a strong presence on the agenda for the day with Sue Schutz (Senior Lecturer in CHC department) presenting one of the plenary sessions relating to the use of reflection within Advanced Practice. Furthermore 4 Graduates of the Advanced Practice Programme presented work undertaken on their dissertation studies, demonstrating the strength of the programme to prepare and equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to evaluate and change current service provision in clinical practice. All 4 students were a credit to themselves and to Brookes and were the hub of discussion over lunch.

Dr Helen Walthall
In Other News....

Intentional Rounding: a review of the literature, C Forde-Johnston
This article has recently been published in Nursing Standard (28; 32, p. 37-42). Intentional rounding is a structured approach whereby nurses conduct checks on patients at set times to assess and manage their fundamental care needs. Concerns about poor standards of nursing care have refocused the attention on the need to ensure fundamental aspects of care are delivered reliably. A literature review was conducted to inform nurses planning to use this approach in their practice and to direct future research in this area.

Future International Talks
Dr Victor Bolanos-Garcia
Dr Bolanos-Garcia was invited to lecture on “Protein overproduction in yeast cells” at The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Protein Research in Copenhagen, Denmark in May.

A second talk will take place in June entitled “The importance of disorder-to-order transitions in mitotic checkpoint signalling” at the Centre de Recherche du CHU de Québec, Canada.

On this latter talk Victor explains: “My visit to the Centre de Recherche du CHU de Québec represents an opportunity to discuss ongoing collaboration with Dr Elowe and her group on the regulation of the mitotic checkpoint, the mechanism that ensures the equal sharing of the genetic material to daughter cells during cell division. During my visit to the Centre I will meet other Principal Investigators, opening the possibility of establishing new collaborations in areas of mutual interest.”

Key documents launched by the College of Social Work
The College of Social Work has recently launched several documents outlining the moral and financial case for investing in adult social work. With the current population of ten million older people in the UK set to rise to 16.4 million by 2033, these reports indicate the crucial role of social work in responding to the growing needs of a rapidly ageing population.

Dr Sally Richards from the department of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health at Oxford Brookes has co-authored two of the reports on “Social Work with Older People” and “Future Directions for Investment”.

Further information can be found on the College of Social Work’s website: www.tcsw.org.uk/

Oxford Brookes Social Entrepreneur Awards (OBSEA) Programme wins the UnLtd Lived It Supporter of Young Social Entrepreneurs Award 2014, Judge’s Choice.

Oxford Brookes was awarded funding from UnLtd via HEFCE in 2012 to help students, staff and recent graduates to find, fund and support social enterprises, which led to the establishment of the Oxford Brookes Social Entrepreneur Awards (OBSEA) Programme. Since then OBSEA have supported and funded over 40 projects and several have already grown beyond their original plans.

The achievements of this programme have since been recognised through winning the UnLtd Lived It Supporter of Young Social Entrepreneurs Award 2014. OBSEA will continue with their aim to make Oxford Brookes a hub for innovative thinking and action through social entrepreneurship across and beyond Oxfordshire.

Publication on female cancer in South America
Dr Yolanda Eraso of the department of Clinical Health Care at Oxford Brookes, has recently co-edited a special edition of the international journal Dynamis (volume 34, issue 1). This edition is exclusively dedicated to the control of female cancer in South America and is available to view online through the journal's website.

Dynamis is published by the University of Granada and the University of Barcelona.

Yeast: Saccharomyces cerevisiae and Pichia pastoris

Lynette Basha (OBSEA Faculty Champion for HLS) and Roberto Daniele (OBSEA Programme Lead)
**Prestigious Awards Ceremony**

Brookes Student Nurses attend prestigious awards ceremony

Four Brookes nursing students attended the inspiring Student Nursing Times Awards ceremony on 1 May, held at the London Hilton on Park Lane. A number of HLS staff also attended, including June Girvin, Dean of the Faculty, and Liz Westcott, Clinical Health Care Head of Department.

The annual awards are an opportunity to support student nurses and to celebrate their achievements during their studies and their contribution to shaping the future of nursing. A record breaking 670 talented student nurses, education providers, and mentors attended, with 127 finalists on the shortlist and 18 deserving winners.

Lowri Aldworth, David Moreton and Lyndsey Claricoats, all studying Mental Health, were shortlisted for the prestigious Student Nurse of the Year: Mental Health Award, which recognises students who work hard, show compassion and offer excellent care.

Adult Nursing student Rachel Sherwin was shortlisted for the Outstanding Contribution to Student Affairs Award, which celebrates dedication to improving the experience of colleagues and peers.

All four students were shortlisted on the positive difference they made during their clinical placements and for their exceptional engagement with their profession in every aspect of their studies.

Megan James

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**Research awards**

**Research Grant Awards February to April 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Award Value</th>
<th>Awarded Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Medical Sciences</td>
<td>Understanding the genetic causes of visual impairment in children</td>
<td>MACS (Micro and Anophthalmic Childrens Society)</td>
<td>RAGGE N</td>
<td>£18,760</td>
<td>07/02/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Medical Sciences</td>
<td>Miniature to massive: the micro-world in your hands</td>
<td>Biotechnology &amp; Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)</td>
<td>HAWES CR</td>
<td>£9,840</td>
<td>10/02/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Medical Sciences</td>
<td>Understanding the genetic causes of visual impairment in children</td>
<td>VICTA</td>
<td>RAGGE N</td>
<td>£45,000</td>
<td>07/03/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Medical Sciences</td>
<td>Analysis of cytochrome C oxidase in butterfly populations of the Tuscan archipelago</td>
<td>Ente Parco Nazionale Dell’Arcipelago Toscano</td>
<td>DAPPORTO L</td>
<td>£3,846</td>
<td>25/03/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport &amp; Health Sciences - Centre for Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Non-pharmacological treatment of Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders</td>
<td>Jacobs and Gloria Gostawer Foundation</td>
<td>DAWES NH</td>
<td>£19,110</td>
<td>25/03/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Medical Sciences</td>
<td>C1NET: Chemicals from C1 gas</td>
<td>Biotechnology &amp; Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)</td>
<td>FELL DA</td>
<td>£59,789</td>
<td>29/04/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Medical Sciences</td>
<td>Testing the role of exosomes in metastasis and drug resistance in ovarian cancer</td>
<td>Cancer and Polio Research Fund</td>
<td>CARTER DRF</td>
<td>£14,726</td>
<td>09/04/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Medical Sciences</td>
<td>Vortioxetine studies - stage 1</td>
<td>Lundbeck (H Lundbeck A/S)</td>
<td>BERMUDEZ DIAZ MIA</td>
<td>£76,230</td>
<td>07/04/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Awarded</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£247,301</strong></td>
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</table>
For a list of this Faculty's regular research seminars and open days please see:
www.hls.brookes.ac.uk/events
www.brookes.ac.uk/openday

**EU Funding Seminars: Horizon 2020 Funding Opportunities**
Weds 25 June, 11.00 to 12.30
C221, Clerici, Gipsy Lane, Headington
To book a place, email Jennie Cripps: jcripps@brookes.ac.uk

**Interpreting and Presenting Statistics for Health Research**
Thurs 26 June, 10.30-16.00
MRG/23, Marston Road
To request a booking form/ further information, email Lesley Smith: lesleysmith@brookes.ac.uk

**Annual Postgraduate Research Student Symposium**
Wed 14 January 2015, All day
JHBB
All full-time MPhil/PhD and MPhil students having completed or partly completed their first year and all second year part-time MPhil/PhD and MPhil students will give brief oral presentations. All third year full-time PhD students and part-time PhD students in their 3rd/4th/5th year as appropriate will present posters.

**Postgraduate Fair**
Weds 2 July,
16.00-18.00
John Henry
Brookes Building,
Headington
Campus

**Undergraduate Open Days**
Sat 4 October &
Sat 8 November
All campuses
(except Swindon)