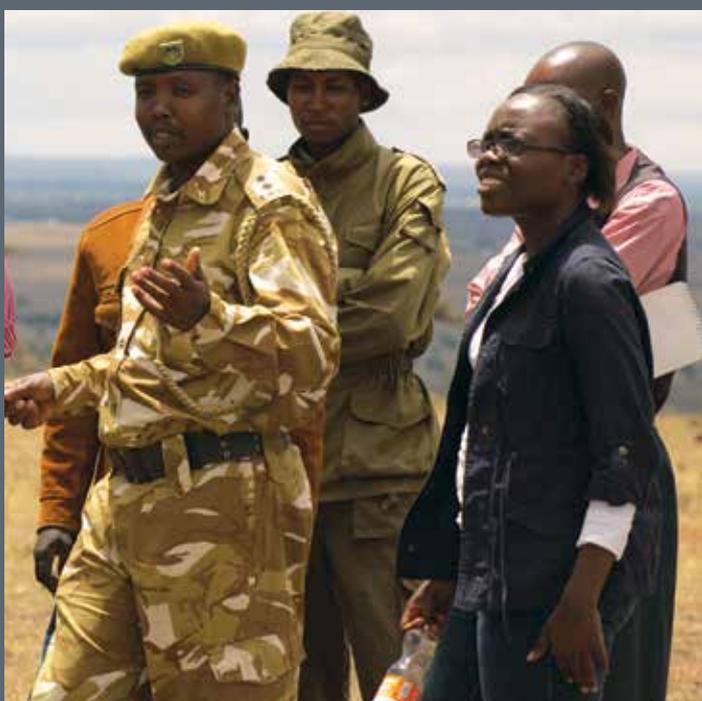


FACULTY AND RESEARCH UPDATE

Faculty of Health & Life Sciences September 2013



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Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the Faculty and Research Update. As the new academic year begins, we hope you enjoy reading about recent successes from across the departments.

Amongst the many pieces of good news, this edition features a taster of the January 2014 Faculty Annual Research Lecture from Professor Elaine Fox about optimism and pessimism, as well as a list of future events to add to your diaries.

We also highlight some of the prestigious awards that students and staff have collected over the past few months. Please get in contact if you know of any other prize winners, and we can feature their achievements in future newsletters. Our researchers have also been kept busy with visits to the House of Commons, training sessions in Kenya and international conferences.

To keep future editions of this update interesting and relevant we welcome 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.

Best wishes for the academic year ahead,

Newsletter team

FACULTY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The 2nd Faculty Research Conference was held on 25th June 2013 and was attended by over 100 delegates from all departments. The conference was opened by a keynote lecture given by Professor John Hall (Professor in the Faculty, and Clinical Psychologist by background). He gave an interesting and thought-provoking lecture concerning research in health care in developing countries, using his experiences in Tanzania, and particularly focusing on ethical issues.

There followed four concurrent paper sessions with a variety of themes – Education and Learning, Aspects of Practice, Support and Development and Biological Understandings. This was a day for Faculty staff to catch up with each other's research activity and to network. The afternoon sessions included a 'Pathways into Research' workshop which brought together researchers

at all stages of their careers to explore ways in which those who are just starting out ensure that they are able to build momentum towards a successful research career. The workshop included a short speed-networking session, which has already sown the seed of a new research collaboration within the Faculty – success!

Feedback from the conference delegates revealed that the paper sessions and the workshop were thoroughly enjoyed, with good engagement and debate from those attending. One delegate stated *"I have a better understanding of the diversity of the Faculty."*

In addition to the hard work of the conference, we also had the delight of a charity cake sale – delicious offerings of all kinds of cakes and buns were available for a donation to St Mungo's (a charity that supports people who are homeless). A total of £195 was raised.

Jenny Butler



John Hall with June Girvin;
Jane Appleton; John Hall and
Sangeetha Thondre at the conference

The workshop included a short speed-networking session, which has already sown the seed of a new research collaboration within the Faculty – **success!**

RAINY BRAIN SUNNY BRAIN:

From Pessimist to Optimist - Can we **Really Change?**

Elaine Fox presents the topic of the 2013/14 Faculty Annual Research Lecture, 29 January 2014

Glass half full or half empty? It often seems as if the way we deal with the world – optimism or pessimism – is hardwired into our nature. But is it? New research summarized by Professor Elaine Fox of Oxford University in *Rainy Brain Sunny Brain* shows that our personality may be far more malleable and open to change than we ever thought possible.

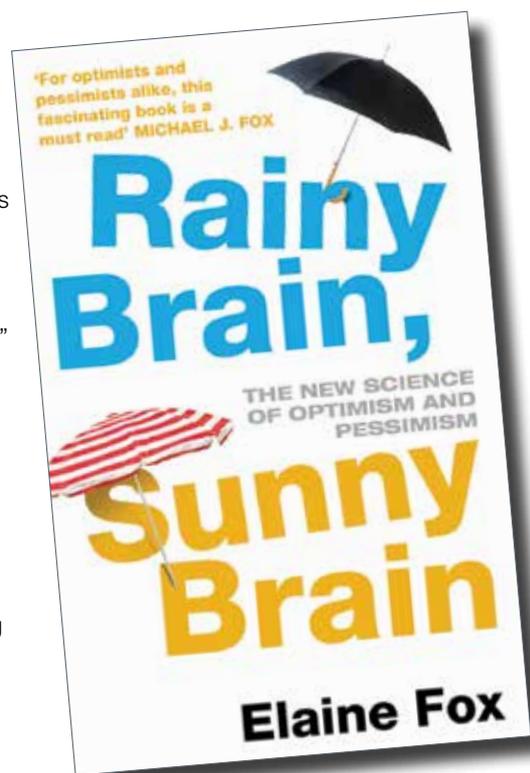
This conclusion is the result of years of scientific research by leading psychologist and neuroscientist Elaine Fox, who has been examining why some of us have a tendency to be optimistic or pessimistic and how these personality traits are put into operation in our brains. In an entertaining talk taking us from genes, to the brain, to the life experiences contributing to these tendencies, Elaine shows how we can brighten our lives and help ourselves flourish by retraining our brains.

Although she concludes that looking on the bright side of life may be down to, in part, our genes, she also highlights how the latest research now indicates that techniques such as mindfulness meditation and attention retraining exercises can alter our brains' circuitry, allowing lifelong pessimists to think more positively. What we now know based on good scientific grounds, is that some techniques do actually lead to changes, so we can overcome very pessimistic mindsets to turn into more optimistic mindsets.

Rainy Brain Sunny Brain has received support from Hollywood star Michael J. Fox who featured Elaine's research in his documentary *Adventures of an Incurable Optimist*. He said: "Professor Fox provides a mental map to the sunny side of the street. For optimists and pessimists alike, this fascinating book is a must read, (and I'm not just saying that because I'm in it!)"

Elaine Fox has researched widely on the science of emotions, and is the Director of the Oxford Centre for Emotions and Affective Neuroscience (OCEAN). She has always been fascinated by why some people are very resilient and can deal with whatever life throws at them, while others are fragile and at risk of developing anxiety and depression. Her work has been discussed in *Nature*, *Scientific American*, *New Scientist*, *The Economist* and the *New York Times*, and led to her appearance in a 2013 BBC Horizon documentary called *The Truth about Personality*.

Find out more about Elaine's work at the Annual Research Lecture, Location TBC.



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL SCIENCES Seminar Series

This academic year the Biological and Medical Sciences departmental seminar series has been organised and will be run by two PhD students, Laura Jacobs and Hanna Wickenden. The aim of the series is to provide cutting-edge talks from a variety of subject areas whilst giving our staff and PhD students the opportunity to invite, meet and network with speakers from their area of research.

A wide range of talks from our PhD students and Post Docs, as well as external speakers from a range of leading institutes will cover the research of all groups and labs in the BMS department. A full seminar schedule for semester one can be found here:

www.bms.brookes.ac.uk/research/seminars. Talks will take place at the new time of Wednesdays at 4pm in the Main Lecture Theatre at Gipsy Lane and will be followed by a reception in SG04. The first seminar takes place on 25th September.

For further information, to suggest speakers for next semester or to arrange to meet one of the speakers, please contact **Laura Jacobs** (laura.jacobs-2011@brookes.ac.uk) or **Hanna Wickenden** (12084495@brookes.ac.uk).

DNA WORKSHOP

delivered to pupils with Autism Spectrum Conditions **sparks interest in science**

In August, staff from UK Recruitment teamed up with staff from the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences to deliver a DNA extraction experiment to groups of pupils with Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism.

The participants, who visited Brookes as part of a summer scheme with Autism Family Support, took part in a climbing activity and short tour before undertaking the experiment. Twenty eight young people aged 8 - 18 joined in over two sessions, and each successfully extracted their DNA to take home in a vial. The session was designed to introduce the participants to genetic science in a fun and interactive way, hopefully sparking their interest in science whilst familiarising them with the idea of studying at university.

Feedback from participants was very positive, with everyone scoring the session 8, 9 or 10 out of 10, and the organisers from Autism Family Support are keen to continue working with Brookes. Members of the UK Recruitment team were trained by the Biology department to run the session and as a result they are now able to offer this experiment to other groups as part of their outreach work. In addition, those leading the session underwent training in how to work with pupils with autism, opening up possibilities for working in this area in the future.

Thank you to staff from the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences for all your support and guidance.

Charlie Field

EiE: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE UPDATE

EiE are an environmental consultancy unit in BMS specialising in supporting energy, waste, and water reduction in UK organisations.

SUMMER EiE NEWS

Working with community buildings
EiE have received a further £12,000 of funding to provide energy efficiency advice for community halls and centres in Oxfordshire. Of the very positive feedback we have collected from this support, 38% of energy saving actions have been implemented with another 32% planned to be implemented shortly.

WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

EiE delivered our second energy saving workshop for Academies at Lord William's in Thame, where we provided members with updates on funding, guidance for including efficiency in summer refurbishment, and how to switch off hot water units at night.

WORKING WITH BUSINESSES

In May EiE attended an innovation event at Ordnance Survey in Southampton to develop tools to help businesses reduce



their environmental impacts. While EiE's team were not awarded funding, we met many talented groups working with web-based tools and apps and are encouraged to keep developing our ideas.

WORKING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

EiE has been awarded £4100 to work with the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (made up of the County and all District Councils)

to provide waste audits at council premises. The audits will demonstrate improvements to councils' in-house recycling and waste reduction efforts (we last audited them in 2011) as well as highlighting any problems. With food waste collections more widely available, the outcomes are hoped to show good reductions.

Michael Esvelt

FROM PASSION TO ACTION: The Oxford Brookes Social Entrepreneur Awards (OBSEA)

National Award for Brookes' Social Entrepreneurs Programme

Brookes has been recognised for its outstanding work in supporting and developing social enterprise by winning the award of *Outstanding HEI Supporting Social Entrepreneurship – New to Social Enterprise*, at the UnLtd 'Lead the Change' national conference held in London in July. The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences made significant contributions.

UnLtd is the foundation for social entrepreneurs and in the past year, UnLtd and HEFCE (the Higher Education Funding Council for England) have supported 56 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in England to take up the challenge to find, fund and support social entrepreneurs within their institutions.

Health and Life Sciences awardees featured strongly in OBU's programme, with five Try It, one Do It and one Build It Awards going to staff and students from our Faculty: Lesley Smith and Ethel Burns for Zumba Bump, Ben Wilkins for The Student Vegetable Diaries (all pictured in the award acceptance photograph), Victoria Coathup for Wikihealth, Chris Burton for Banbury Young People's Sporting Enterprise, Jean-Michel Carter for MilkRound Forum and Mona Sakr for the Knowledge Project.

Jeff Willmore, Programme Co-ordinator for the Oxford Brookes Social Entrepreneur Awards (OBSEA) commented, "To come first out of 56 HEIs is a wonderful validation of our OBSEA programme and we're delighted! Feedback already suggests that OBSEA enriches the student experience, supports student employability through careers skills development and perhaps most importantly, encourages staff and students to live a *life of consequence*, engaging with communities to bring a positive social benefit."

Programme Lead, Roberto Daniele, added, "This programme has developed with a unique kind of teamwork which has been critical to our success. It's about staff, students, recent graduates and a whole network of inspirational people working

together as a force for good. We've drawn on the expertise of local, national and international social entrepreneurs, experts in innovation and business, and Olympic Gold Medallist, Katherine Grainger CBE, who was a Dragon at our Dragons' Den pitch event."

The 2012-13 OBSEA programme has funded 23 Try It Awards (up to £500), two Do It Awards (up to £5,000) and three Build It Awards (up to £15,000), to a total value of £37,285.

Your HLS Faculty Champion is Lynette Basha, who can be contacted on (01865) 482650 or lbasha@brookes.ac.uk.

www.brookes.ac.uk/obsea

Fee Chandler



CEEC NEWS

Centre for Ecology, Environment and Conservation

The Centre for Ecology, Environment and Conservation (CEEC) working with local partners (Kenya Wildlife Service, National Museums of Kenya, and Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association) have developed a field based training program to improve conservation skills and engagement with wildlife conservation, alongside enhancing employability amongst the population living and working in, and close to, the Tsavo National Park and other wildlife areas. The training, consisting of a mix of classroom and field based activities focuses on identification skills as well as conservation of mammals, birds, reptiles and plants. This training also equips participants with key communication, bush craft and guiding skills, and encourages discussions around human wildlife interactions.

In March we ran our first workshop on Human Wildlife Conflict at Nairobi Safari Walk. The five day training workshop on Human Wildlife conflict and management was held at the KWS (Kenya Wildlife Service) Nairobi Safari Walk and involved 14 participants from the wildlife and tourism industries.

Presentations were made by speakers who are closely involved in several aspects of human wildlife conflict management through work and research. The sessions were interactive with speakers using Power Point presentations (made available to all participants after the workshop), highlighting case studies and sharing their experiences. Two of the presenters (Patrick Omondi and Winnie Kiiru) were part of the Kenyan delegation to the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) 2013 in Bangkok and spoke to the participants about the role of CITES and what this year's conference means to Kenya in relation to the poaching problem.

James Watkins

CEEC are looking for funding to run future workshops. They would be keen to hear from anyone else working in the region or on similar projects:

j.watkins@brookes.ac.uk
01865 482891



INVERTEBRATE SITE ASSESSMENTS



CEEC have successfully tendered for a second year to deliver Invertebrate Site Assessments (ISIS) on behalf of Natural England as part of a four year rolling national scheme to assess the quality of all SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) in the British Isles, starting in 2012. This work involved sampling insects from a number of grassland and heathland sites in southern England using a series of specifically designed protocols and identifying, to species, sampled insects of particular groups. This work uses the expert skills and knowledge of Tim Shreeve and Becca Harker (completed PhD student) to make value judgements on site quality which is fed forward from Natural England to JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee) as part of their periodic reporting on the state of nature in the UK to the government. CEEC were in a good position to conduct this work because of the research expertise of Tim Shreeve.

The processes of the work and the outcomes to date are incorporated into the teaching of MSc Conservation Ecology and in undergraduate modules, embedding CEEC research based consultancy activities into teaching. CEEC also delivered a successful one day training event in May, teaching professional and amateur surveyors the processes involved in ISIS.

A FRIEND IN ME

Psychology Workshops Engage School Pupils

A Friend in Me is the name given to workshops that form part of a Public Engagement Initiative, sponsored by the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. These are run by Siân Jones, a Research and Teaching Fellow in the Department of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health. "The message that everyone has different views on some things" was what one ten-year-old who recently participated in *A Friend in Me* workshop took from it. Siân's research on friendship groups shows that children who don't simply follow along with their friends when it comes to interacting with classmates, but who think through how they and others are feeling, are more likely to act in positive ways to stop negative peer experiences. This becomes particularly important in potentially ambiguous situations, like teasing other children. The workshops introduce children and teachers to research on bystander intervention and friendship groups in a practical way, and are offered free of charge to primary schools and youth groups in Oxfordshire.



Each workshop consists of two parts. The first is an assembly that introduces children to thinking about the effect of nasty comments on children, and possible motivations for such comments, through a story about some classmates, and an interactive demonstration that friendships are easily broken, but take time to mend. After this, younger children take part in a class discussion and drama session, while older children's classroom discussion involves debate about whether a particular scenario is 'ok', 'not ok', or 'it depends'.

Siân says: "I would heartily recommend taking your research out to the public in this way. The children were brilliant; they were open to what I discussed with them, enthusiastic about the activities, and were very ready to give their own thoughts and opinions – which are useful for my future research, too."

Over 200 children at three schools have now taken part in the workshops. Feedback has shown that children liked the activities, saying that it was 'awesome' and that they 'liked it a lot 😊'. Older children valued the opportunity to express their own opinions; 'I liked that we could have our own opinion in the activities'. Teachers have commented that everyone was involved in the workshops.

Siân Jones

More information on the workshops is given at:

www.throughtheacademiclookingglass.wordpress.com/friendship-workshops



SWINDON'S ADULT NURSING STUDENT CONFERENCE welcomes distinguished guests

On 30th May 2013, Swindon site celebrated its 5th Adult Nursing Student Conference with a variety of students, staff and distinguished guests. This included Robert Nicholls, Deputy Chief Nurse at the Great Western Hospital, Vanessa Ongley, the Academy Training Manager at the Great Western Hospital, Jill Beckhelling from Prospect Hospice in Swindon and Alison Record from the Great Western Hospital. The conference was opened by Rachel Skittrall – Programme Lead for Adult Nursing, Swindon, and Dr. Sue McLaughlin, Nurse Consultant at Prospect Park Hospital in Reading was the keynote speaker who spoke about 'Conflict in Healthcare'.

At this conference, students disseminated their key findings either through an oral or a poster presentation. During the conference some students explored their overseas experiences and the richness that they gained by experiencing a different healthcare environment and its culture. Others spoke about the challenges of conducting a literature review and provided some top tips that future dissertation students could use.

Delegates and guests found the presentations to be insightful, enjoyable and thought provoking. Students commented on the high quality and standard of the conference and its presentations, and stated that they learnt a great deal by attending. The Deputy Chief Nurse, Robert Nicholls commented by saying, "It was an excellent morning and my attention was maintained throughout as the presentations were of a very high standard. The research questions were very relevant to issues today and the delivery of the findings and recommendations by presenters was extremely good – good presentation skills! I also enjoyed and learnt from the presentations on healthcare services in Gambia and Hungary."

In addition, the attendees stated in their feedback that thanks must be extended to Dr. Obrey Alexis for inviting them and to Rachel Skittrall – Programme Lead for Adult Nursing, Swindon. They also commented by saying that a big thank you must go to Chris Durant, David Body, Dennis Green, Paul Harris and Caroline Roberts - the support team for helping to organise the event and for making their experience a pleasant one – without them such a conference would not have been possible.

Obrey Alexis

The Deltatrac in use



FUNCTIONAL FOOD CENTRE STUDENT wins poster presentation prize

Sarah Kennedy, one of the Functional Food Centre PhD students, won the best overall poster presentation prize at the Irish Section Nutrition Summer Meeting held in Dublin in June. The title of her work was “A comparison of indirect calorimeters’ measures of resting metabolic rate.” The purpose of the study was to validate two new indirect calorimeters against the current ‘gold standard’ machine for the measurement of resting metabolic rate (RMR).

The current gold standard machine, the Deltatrac, is no longer being manufactured and is fast approaching obsolescence. The study findings show that the two new machines are reliable when compared to the gold standard and show good repeatability between tests. Whilst one of the indirect calorimeters, the GEM calorimeter, is now being used for research in many academic institutions, it had never before been validated against the gold standard. The validation of the second machine, the ECAL, is a really exciting outcome of the study. This is a mobile device enabling the measurement and collection of data out in the community which previously has been notoriously difficult to achieve.

Sarah, as part of her PhD research, will be taking this calorimeter into schools in Oxford to collect RMR information from adolescents to help determine a more accurate profile of their current lifestyle habits. A paper describing the finding of this current study is currently in preparation for publication in a peer reviewed journal.

Ann Fraser

RESEARCH INTO DEMENTIA CARE Conference paper presented

Rhonda Riachi, MSc student researching communication in dementia care, presented a short paper at the conference “The Second Person Perspective in Science and the Humanities” in July. Organised by the Ian Ramsey Centre at Oxford University, the conference brought together psychologists, philosophers, theologians and healthcare researchers to explore the implications of the second-person theories of Martin Buber, Emmanuel Levinas, Tom Kitwood and others. Work in autism was featured in two of the keynotes.



Society for Experimental Biology (SEB) international conference BRINGS AWARD SUCCESS

The annual Society for Experimental Biology (SEB) conference was this year held in Valencia. Members of the Plant Cell Biology Group took an active part in the meeting. Dr Anne Osterrieder co-organised a session entitled ‘Linking research and teaching with social media’ in the education and public affairs section. Anne also gave a talk during this session encouraging researchers to engage with various social media to enhance their research.

Two PhD students – Frances Tolmie and Vidya Pawar – were given the opportunity to present their research in the fields of plant cell wall biology and plant nuclear envelope biology at this international conference. In doing so, Vidya came runner up in the prestigious Young Scientist Award session. Vidya’s talk, entitled ‘A novel family of nuclear envelope-associated proteins in *Arabidopsis thaliana*’ was given in front of a large audience including nine judges. She is the fifth member of the Plant Cell Biology Research Group at Brookes to win a prize in the competition in recent years, reflecting the high standards of presentation achieved by the Group.

In addition, David Evans was invited to give a talk at the Nuclear and Cytoskeleton Linkers session, for which Katja Graumann also presented a poster. Further to the talk and poster presentations, the excellent scientific sessions offered great networking opportunities.

David Evans and Katja Graumann

Plant nuclear envelope researchers contribute to **INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON HOW CELLS DIVIDE**

Professor David Evans and Dr Katja Graumann attended a high-level Company of Biologists Workshop in June, 'Mitosis and Nuclear Structure', providing insights from their work on the plant nuclear envelope to inform research in yeast, flies and humans. Diseases of the nuclear envelope are surprisingly common and often lead to premature death, so better understanding of nuclear envelope biology has wide ranging applications.

The Wiston House workshops are in a country house setting normally used by the Foreign Office for high level meetings. They bring early career scientists together with world experts to discuss key topics. The meeting provided great discussion and networking opportunities for David and Katja, the only researchers representing the plant biology field. Katja was selected from an international field to be one of only eight early career researchers at the meeting. Among the senior panel was Sir Tim Hunt FRS, Nobel laureate for his work with Paul Nurse on the control of cell division.

Katja Graumann and David Evans



Return to Practice **CELEBRATION**

The department of Clinical Health Care is delighted to welcome 39 graduates back onto the nursing and midwifery register in 2012-13.

Celebration events have been held at both the Marston Road site and Ferndale Campus in Swindon with family and friends joining the graduates to celebrate their achievement. The Return to Practice course is either funded by the NHS or is self-funded and is an excellent framework for supporting nurses and midwives, who have had a lapse in their registration, to get back onto the register and back into practice. The Course Leader Mary Hopper supports students from Cornwall

to Yorkshire on the programme and it has grown in student numbers over the years and is much valued by the students who undertake it.

Hilary Walker, Director of Nursing for Great Western NHS Foundation Trust, joined Liz Westcott, Department Head for Clinical Health Care, at the Ferndale Campus to celebrate with the graduates and spoke of the importance of the fundamental nature of care in nursing and midwifery.

Clinical Health Care Department



Comments from previous students include:



The course gave me confidence and recent studying at degree level meant I was able to apply for roles where studying was part of the Job Spec; I was able to apply for a Nurse Specialist role within 6 months of re-registration, despite a 15 year break.



The course was extremely appropriate, very motivating and I would always recommend it to any prospective students. Due to the course I am in a post that I find rewarding and challenging. The course also motivated me to become a Mentor to Nursing students who join our team.

Student Nursing Times Awards '13



STUDENT SUCCESS at national awards ceremony

Charlotte and Martyn said:

This year's Nursing Times Student Nurse of the Year Awards was very exciting for us. Being nominated was honour enough, however to be shortlisted and to attend the ceremony was an exciting time. We are both immensely proud of being nominated for the mental health category. Although we are clearly recognised for our academic achievements by our grades, it sometimes feels that we are not always recognised for achievements when in placement. Therefore, we were both excited and honoured by the support of both our lecturers and mentors in nominating us for this award.

The Mental Health Nursing Team in the Department of Clinical Health Care are delighted that two of our third year mental health students nominated for the 'Student Nursing Times Awards 2013' were both shortlisted for their category, 'Student Nurse of the Year: Mental Health', at a London award ceremony in May. This followed on from our success at the inaugural event last year when another two of our mental health students were shortlisted and attended the presentation.

The Student Nurse of the Year: Mental Health Award is open to final year students on mental health nursing courses. It celebrates the skills these students need to develop in order to nurse this often hard-to-reach and excluded client group. The judges look for outstanding students who offer excellent care and support to this client group in treating or helping them to manage their mental health problems.

Our two nominees Charlotte Yeatman and Martyn Smith were both shortlisted for their category by clearly demonstrating the skills that the judges were looking for through face to face interviews and written testimonials. Being shortlisted for the event is an achievement in itself with strong competition from other university students.

The Mental Health Nursing lecturers are pleased that our students continue to be recognised for their excellent clinical skills and care, and that Charlotte and Martyn's achievements epitomise the best of mental health nursing practice. We look forward to 2014 where we will once again be nominating some of our excellent students.

Gerry Sheppard



MY STRONG FAMILY UNIT

Invited to Parliamentary Reception

The **My Strong Family Unit** (MSF) is based in the Department of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health. For the past ten years, the focus of the work in the unit has been developing and disseminating the Strengthening Families Programme 10-14 (UK) or SFP10-14 (UK).

The SFP 10-14 (UK) is a seven-week, evidence-based programme that seeks to help families with young people aged between 10 and 14 prepare for the teenage years. Research has shown that young people attending the programme are significantly less likely to have problems with drug and alcohol misuse and aggressive and hostile behaviour after the intervention compared to youth in the control group.

Realising Ambition is a UK-wide programme investing £25million in outstanding projects that have a strong track record or have already been proven to work in helping young people fulfil their potential and avoid the pathways into offending. Funded by the Big Lottery Fund and led by Catch-22, the programme is replicating the very best evidence-based practice so that more children and young people receive the highest quality of service.

The SFP 10-14 (UK) was one of the 25 successful applicants to the Realising Ambition programme, which received 274

applications. In recognition of its unique whole family approach, the sole UK adaptation of a whole-family programme, and its extensive evidence base, OBU were awarded £1.5m to continue its work by replicating the SFP10-14 (UK) in Muslim, substance-using and hard-to-reach families in rural areas. OBU is leading a consortium with partners Dorset Youth Association and Lifeline Project. OBU is focusing on Muslim families in Luton, Tower Hamlets and Newham. Lifeline is focusing on substance-using families in Manchester and Central Lancashire and Dorset Youth Association on hard-to-reach families in rural areas.

The first year of the Realising Ambition programme has surpassed expectations, with the OBU-led consortium reaching 90 young people in the UK and projected to reach 595 by the end of the three year project, well over its original target of 514 young people. This year has also seen a substantial increase in training consultancy income, further widening the SFP10-14 (UK)'s reach.

In July, the OBU-led consortium was invited to a parliamentary reception, which celebrated the first year of the Realising Ambition programme, entitled 'Preventing youth offending: Can we replicate success in early intervention?' A variety of speakers were present, including Graham Allen MP, who wrote the Allen report, a key publication on interventions for children and families, Dr Nick Axford from the Social Research Unit, Jim McKenna, Chairman of Catch-22, and Astrid Bonfield, board member of the Big Lottery Fund.

Early intervention is increasingly seen as a crucial component of effective prevention of the health and social issues that can affect vulnerable families and young people. Oxford Brookes University's research and practice-led work in this area is therefore of increasing national and international importance.

Lynette Basha

For further information on the SFP10-14 (UK) www.swph.brookes.ac.uk/research/my-strong-family

Or contact:
Lynette Basha
lbasha@brookes.ac.uk

Dr Debby Allen
dallen@brookes.ac.uk

or Lindsey Coombes
elcoombes@brookes.ac.uk

For further information on the Children and Families and Drugs and Alcohol research within the Department of Psychology, Public Health and Social Work.

www.swph.brookes.ac.uk/research



CLINICAL SKILLS SUITE OPENS AT SOLIHULL COLLEGE

With the state of the UK healthcare currently under the spotlight and in particular the provision of minimum standards of healthcare in hospitals and care homes, Solihull College have solidified their commitment to the healthcare profession by opening a state-of-the-art Health and Care Skills Suite.

The Suite will primarily support students through the Oxford Brookes Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care. Liz Westcott, Head of Clinical Health Care at the University who also spoke at the opening said: "We are really proud of the partnership that has occurred between the local NHS trusts, the healthcare economy and Oxford Brookes. The new suite is of great value to not only the students on the Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care, but to the wider healthcare community."

The facility will be used by further and higher education students, along with healthcare professionals to ensure the practise of expert, safe and compassionate care in the UK healthcare sector. This is particularly timely in light of the mid-Staffordshire NHS scandal and the ensuing Francis Report which highlights the need to promote a sound knowledge base and excellent leadership to guarantee the highest quality of care.

The new facility, at the College's Blossomfield Campus, was officially opened in May by Rt. Hon. Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, PC.OBE, Shadow Deputy Leader of the House of Lords and Chairman, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust; he described it as "a model which should be used for the rest of the country".

The new College resource will offer a three bedded clinical environment with hi-tech dummies, allowing learners and professionals to practise procedures including colostomies, eye care, wound-dressing and catheterising; the dummies are even able to simulate cardiac arrests.

Heather Butler, General Manager for Community Services said: "The opening of this excellent new facility is a further positive step in supporting the development of the future healthcare workforce and driving up standards of care. The Foundation Degree offers the opportunity to hone those skills through work-based learning, which will now be provided in state-of-the-art facilities."

Clinical Health Care Department



BROOKES SCIENTISTS VISIT HOUSE OF COMMONS



To celebrate 175 years of the Royal Microscopical Society, Brookes scientists Prof. Chris Hawes, and Drs. Susan Brooks and John Runions attended a special reception in the House of Commons. The event, entitled 'Innovation Under the Microscope' highlighted the workings of the RMS since its foundation in 1839. Oxford West and Abingdon MP Nicola Blackwood hosted the evening in the Churchill Room. Drinks and nibbles were the order of the evening as attendees chatted with some of those famous in science circles. In all, 120 representatives from industry, academia and government attended the reception and heard talks about the role of microscopes in science and innovation.

Prof. Peter Delpy, Chief Executive of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, was the main speaker and talked about the important job that the RMS does, particularly about how it inspires the next generation of microscopists. Vice-President of the society, Prof. Tony Wilson of Oxford University, spoke about the role of microscopes in research and innovation, and Nicola Blackwood talked about the importance of this sort of research and outreach for maintaining Oxfordshire as a centre of scientific excellence.

Prof. Hawes is Past-President of the society and now serves as Executive Honorary Secretary. Drs. Brooks and Runions sit as members of the Life Sciences Committee. Oxford Brookes maintains a suite of advanced microscopes and has a very good reputation in the field of high-resolution imaging of cells.

John Runions



News in Brief

Evolution of Animal Development and Morphology Research Group News

- One of this group's Biology Undergraduates, Rebecca Weir, has won a bursary from the Society of Biology to carry out a summer project in the research group's lab
- The research group leader, has been elected as a Fellow of the Society of Biology
- A paper was published in the journal *Current Biology* in March with PhD student Saad Arif as a first author
- Dr. Sebastian Kittelmann from Göttingen in Germany has won a two year postdoctoral fellowship from the DFG (German Research Foundation) to join the lab next year.

Nutrition Changes

Lisa Ryan left in March to go to Australia, and Andrew Rosenthal left 31st July. Jeya Henry took early retirement at end of June but will be working closely with the Functional Food Centre (FFC) for the next two years as a consultant. We will be holding a celebratory event for Jeya and Nutrition at Oxford Brookes (to be confirmed). We are now recruiting two new senior lecturers and a Reader in Nutrition, and Sally Davis took over as Programme Lead for Nutrition in May. These are exciting but changing times for this area, with the Functional Food Centre starting to see new consultancy work coming in despite the difficult economic climate, down to the hard work of the FFC team.



Successful Funding Awards for Dido Green

Doctor Dido Green, Reader in Rehabilitation, Department of Sport and Health Sciences, is part of a successful collaborative bid to the Waterloo Foundation led by Dr Frédérique Liégeois of UCL Institute of Child Health. The award in total is £50,000 for a three year project commencing January 2014.



This project aims to use brain scans to compare the connections in the brains of young people with Developmental Coordination Disorder with an age-matched sample of typical peers. This condition is thought to affect up to 4% of school aged children. Young people with DCD particularly struggle with learning coordinated movements, and may in addition have speech and language as well as attention difficulties. It is hoped that this study will identify a neural basis for DCD and help increase awareness of the condition, reducing frustration and isolation for affected families.

Dido Green has also been awarded £8,000 HEIF funding to set up a weekly activity club locally for children with movement disability, to be known as the 'detective club'. This funding will also support a conference to be held which will focus on children with movement disability in Oxford.

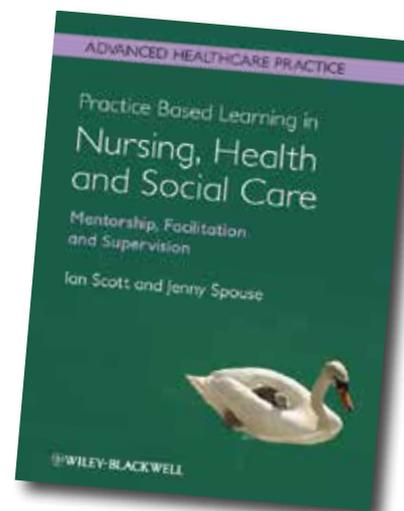
BBC Oxford Broadcasts Brookes Research

The Movement Science Group is conducting a study looking at longer-term exercise interventions in people with Parkinson's. In this study, funded by the NIHR, the group is investigating what the effects of twice weekly gym training or twice weekly handwriting training in people with Parkinson's have on their walking, arm and hand function, quality of life and other outcome measures. On the 16th of April BBC Oxford came into the Movement Science Lab to video a participant being tested, which was broadcasted that evening. The study was reported on BBC Oxford radio as well.

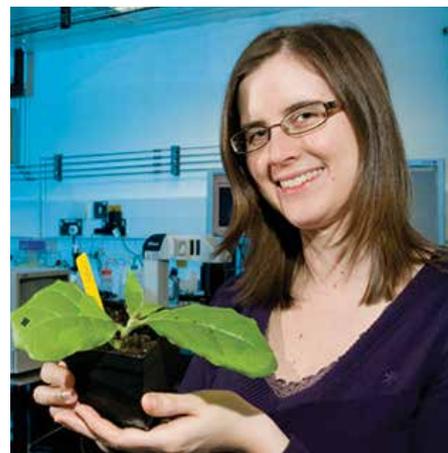
Professor Jenny Butler received a HEIF funding extension of £10,000 for the successful Hand Clinic, to see if it can be run in a commercially viable way.

A volunteer in the CLEAR Unit **Andrea Dennis**, raised £1,100 for the Unit by a sponsored cycling event.

The Sports team were given £5,000 from Oxfordshire Sports Partnership to help fund coaching awards for students.



Dr Ian Scott's new book, co-written with **Jenny Spouse**, has been published. *Practice Based Learning in Nursing, Health and Social Care: Mentorship, Facilitation and Supervision* is available as a paperback and e-book.



Dr Anne Osterrieder, Research and Science Communication Fellow, has been invited to the prestigious annual Women of the Year Lunch and Awards ceremony in London in October. It brings together many extraordinary women from all walks of life, all of whom have achieved something of significance.

Clair Merriman won the Most Inspirational Speaker award at the UK Simulation in Nursing Education Conference, held in June 2013.

Events Calendar | September 2013 – January 2014

Date	Event	Location
2013		
September 25	BMS Departmental Seminar Series	Main Lecture Theatre, Gipsy Lane, 16.00 on Wednesdays, see page 4 for further information
October 5	Undergraduate Open Day	Oxford campuses, 9.00-17.00
October 16	Postgraduate Fair	Gipsy Lane, venue TBC, 16.00-18.00
October 19	Swindon Open Day (Adult Nursing and ODP)	Ferndale Campus, Swindon, 9.30-12.30
November 9	Undergraduate Open Day	Oxford campuses, 9.00-17.00
2014		
January 15	Annual Postgraduate Research Student Symposium	Willow Building, Headington Hill Hall, from 9.00am
January 29	Faculty Annual Research Lecture, with Prof. Elaine Fox	Details TBC – see page 4 for further information

Visit www.hls.brookes.ac.uk/events-opensdays for more events listings.

Research & Consultancy Awards

Health & Life Sciences Research & Consultancy Awards 01 April to 31 July 2013									
Consultancy									
Project Status	Department	pFACT ID	Project Name	Funder	Principal Investigator	Award Value	FEC	Awarded Date	Submitted Date
Awarded	HLS Biological & Medical Sciences	4077	EiE extension to Luton Council project	Luton Borough Council	ESVELT M	£7,999	£7,997	16-Apr-2013	20-Mar-2012
	HLS Biological & Medical Sciences	4558	Enrich 2013	Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2)	ESVELT M	£30,460	£30,456	16-Apr-2013	28-Jan-2013
	HLS Biological & Medical Sciences	4578	EiE Blog	Low Carbon Hub	ESVELT M	£800	£800	12-Apr-2013	01-Nov-2012
	HLS Biological & Medical Sciences	4868	OCC estates environmental training	Oxfordshire County Council	ESVELT M	£1,550	£1,549	28-May-2013	15-Mar-2013
	HLS Functional Food	5013	Horizon Science - 4 Product GI Test	Horizon Science	LIGHTOWLER HJ	£9,100	£7,628	01-May-2013	29-Apr-2013
	HLS Biological & Medical Sciences	4994	Revision of 2013 Invertebrate site indicator species (ISIS)	Natural England	SHREEVE TG	£10,658	£10,599	09-Jul-2013	19-Apr-2013
	HLS Biological & Medical Sciences	5075	Council waste audits Summer 2013	Cherwell District Council	ESVELT M	£2,730	£2,727	17-Jul-2013	14-Jun-2013
	HLS Biological & Medical Sciences	5116	Enrich 2013 extension	Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2)	ESVELT M	£11,500	£11,500	22-Jul-2013	14-Jun-2013
Total award value						£74,797	£73,255		

Research									
Project Status	Department	pFACT ID	Project Name	Funder	Principal Investigator	Award Value	FEC	Awarded Date	Submitted Date
Awarded	HLS Sport & Health Sciences	5027	DeNDRoN Research Capability Funding - hand writing	National Institute for Health Research	COLLETT JC	£11,518	£24,708	29-May-2013	10-May-2013
Total awards*						£297,632	£404,424		

*Total award value includes awards yet to be announced



Kathy Malkin
at the 2013 Faculty
Research Conference

**The My Strong
Family Unit** at a
Parliamentary Reception



CEEC workshop on
Human Wildlife Conflict
in Kenya



Common Blue Butterfly
photographed by
Rien De Kieser for
an Invertebrate Site
Assessment on behalf of
Natural England

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