

GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for our postgraduate research student community

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NEWS



PSTT RECOGNITION

Funding from the Primary Science Teaching Trust (PSTT) for **School of Education** student

Sarah Frodsham, research student from the School of Education is currently working on a PhD that is jointly funded by the Primary Science Teaching Trust (PSTT) and Oxford Brookes 150th Anniversary studentship.

Sarah's research project, entitled 'Assessment of Creativity within Primary School Science Teaching', has two main strands. The first is how teachers develop creativity in their primary science lessons, and the second is whether current Assessment for Learning (AfL) strategies can augment creative development.

Part of Sarah's research scrutinises the various ways teachers ensure children construct scientific knowledge and understanding through varying pedagogical approaches. She has gone on to develop a framework that captures the essential features of these approaches, which has been recognised by the PSTT as a potential professional development tool.

The tool could enable teachers to reflectively understand how their pedagogy and practice can influence the development of the pupil's creativity. It is to this end that the PSTT have recommended it be disseminated as such and have consequently provided Sarah with funding to do just that.

Sarah is also developing a similar schema that considers how AfL through dialogue could augment the development of creativity.

Journal of Cancer Survivorship PUBLICATION

PhD student Lauren Matheson, who was awarded a PhD Studentship with the Cancer Care Research Group at Brookes in 2011, has had a paper accepted for publication in the *Journal of Cancer Survivorship*.

The paper 'Dismantling the current and future threats of testicular cancer: A Grounded Theory of positive and negative adjustment trajectories' was published in July and is co-authored by Professor Mary Boulton, Dr Verna Lavender, Dr Andrew Protheroe, Sue Brand, Marta Wanat and Dr Eila Watson

Testicular cancer commonly affects men in the prime of their lives. While survival rates are excellent, little previous research has examined men's experiences of adjustment to survivorship. This issue, in specific relation to younger testicular cancer survivors, is explored within the paper.





Wellcome Trust AWARD

Research student Jane Freebody, has recently begun working on her PhD in the History of Medicine, following the prestigious award of a Wellcome Trust Doctoral Studentship in Medical Humanities. The award will allow Jane to continue to pursue her interest in the history of psychiatry under the expert supervision of Professor Waltraud Ernst.

The title of her research project, "What did they do all day?" Patient work, psychiatry and society in France and England, 1900-1940' will build on research into moral treatment and occupational therapy Jane conducted during her MA studies at Oxford Brookes. Her Masters dissertation was based on the history of Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy and involved interviewing former members of staff and students who were at the school between 1956 and 1980. The school became part of Oxford Brookes in 1992.

Her PhD project will involve comparing daily regimes of work and occupation in three French and three English mental hospitals and examining the influences of socio-economic, political and cultural factors upon the types of activities in which patients were engaged.

Jane acknowledged the incredible support she received from Professor Ernst, Dr Tom Crook, Dr Carol Beadle, Dr Viviane Quirke and Professor Glen O'Hara, and developed her successful application to the Wellcome Trust. The studentship provides full-time funding for three years and covers the cost of the extensive overseas fieldwork necessary in order to complete the project.

VALETTA 2018 FOUNDATION

Dianne Regisford, PhD student from the School of Arts, had the fortunate experience back in October of taking part in the 'Cultural Mapping: Debating Spaces & Places' Conference.

The conference was organised by the Valetta 2018 Foundation, who over the last few years have been carrying out a Cultural Mapping project that seeks to generate information and analysis on the use of spaces for cultural purposes across the Maltese islands. The central objective of the conference was to bring together academics and practitioners to share knowledge about and debate cultural mapping and its implications within a Euro-Mediterranean context.

Dianne's paper was entitled 'One Bowl: Ubuntu Encounters: Evoking Belonging: Participatory performance as cultural mapping in urban sustainable development practice', and was the only paper that was presented as a performance.



SYMPOSIUM in Applying Psychology and Neuroscience to BUSINESS

The Applying Psychology and Neuroscience to Business Symposium was an idea conceived earlier in the year by PhD student Indroneel Chatterjee.

The idea, which later became a symposium, was identified as a defining opportunity to bring together the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, specifically the Department of Psychology, and the Department of Marketing within the Faculty of Business.

Generously sponsored by the respective Faculties, the event was jointly organised by Oxford Brookes University, the Psychology and Neuroscience Application Society (Psynapps) of Oxford University and the International Research Institute for Applied Neuroscience (IRIANS).

Taking place on a Sunday in November, the symposium consisted of six talks, an open panel discussion involving all six speakers and an informal 'break-out' session where potential ventures and collaborations were discussed.

The event, which involved over eighty attendees, was a huge success receiving a great deal of positive feedback via email and social media. It was also actively discussed at a similarly themed industrial event called 'Brainy Bar' in London the following day.

The success of the event has now encouraged the organisers to annually run such a symposium.

RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILES



Sarah Kennedy
Department of Sport and
Health Sciences

The title of my PhD is 'The potential of a breakfast based on multiple functional food ingredients to improve blood glucose and insulin response, cognitive performance, mood and satiety, in adolescents'.

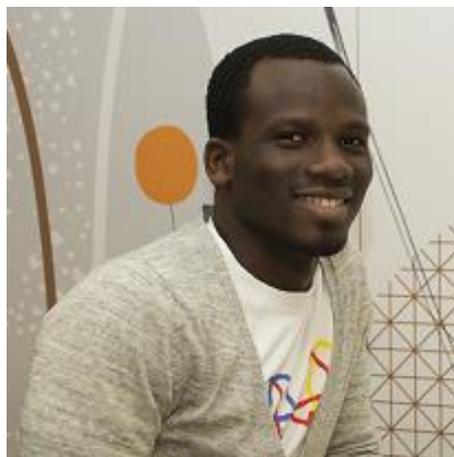
I came to Brookes in 2008 to study for a BSc in Nutrition after hearing about their excellent reputation for nutrition research and have been here ever since.

Following my BSc I was fortunate enough to work as a research assistant in the Functional Food Centre alongside some well-established academics, where I was able to assist on a number of different projects. The training I received during this time helped me to identify the research areas I was interested in. I had always aspired towards working in a discipline that would have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the local community.

The focus of my research is to compare the effect of breakfasts varying in nutritional composition on health outcome. Specifically, I am interested in the short term effects of these breakfasts on blood sugar regulation, memory, mood and satiety in adolescents. Additionally, using a theory based model I am investigating some of the personal

factors underpinning the consumption of breakfast in young people; the psychological influences driving breakfast eating behaviours. Identifying these influences will contribute valuable information towards breakfast interventions targeting this age group.

Having a poor diet and being physically inactive are among the leading causes of chronic disease worldwide. With the increasing range of high-fat, high-sugar breakfast products available to young people, we were interested in investigating the effects of these on glucose and insulin response, memory and subjective feelings of mood and fullness when compared to a breakfast enriched with functional food ingredients. The hope is that by identifying the potential of a breakfast based on functional food ingredients we can contribute to the current breakfast literature and also encourage people, especially young people, to think more about the benefits of breakfast varying in nutritional composition. This research is funded by the Nigel Groome research studentship.



Adedotun Adeyemo
Department of Computing and
Communication Technologies

My PhD focuses on the 'Design and analysis of reliable Memristor-based architectures'.

After completing a computer science Bachelors in Nigeria, I worked for two years in an International bank before being awarded a postgraduate scholarship by the Nigerian government. I moved to England in 2012 and completed my MSc in Advanced Microelectronic Systems Engineering at the University of Bristol in 2013.

I became aware of Oxford Brookes through my MSc dissertation supervisor who was involved in research with my now current PhD supervisor.

The nature of the research being carried out by the Advanced Reliable Computer System (ARCoS) Group is what initially attracted me to Oxford Brookes. ARCoS presented me with the opportunity to work on an emerging technology that involves a mix of electronics and computer science based research.

My research project focuses on the design and analysis of architectures made from an emerging technological device called a memristor. The memristor, a portmanteau of MEMory and ResISTOR

as it behaves like a linear resistor with memory, is a newly discovered two terminal circuit element, like the existing trio of resistor, capacitor and inductor.

As the transistor draws near to the end of its scaling limit, there is the dire need for the semiconductor industry to explore new technologies to ensure continuous evolution of computing devices, according to International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors (ITRS). The memristor is among the emerging technologies tipped to usher in a new generation of computer architectures due to its simple structure, non-volatility and smaller feature size in comparison to the transistor.

My research project aspires to be a key enabler for the effective deployment of emerging memristor-based resistive memory technologies in all segments of computing systems by innovations towards improving their weakest aspect; reliability.

ONE STUDENT'S STORY



PRIYA SAMUEL

Department of Biological and Medical Sciences

I have been a part-time research student with the 'Chromatin and non-coding RNA research' group for the last four years. Each year has brought its challenges but the last year has been the most interesting and fulfilling. Whereas the first three years were a whirlwind of plans, experiments, data and analysis, the last year has seen the culmination of the group's research through the publication of two journal articles and a review piece.

The last year has been more about consolidation of data, drawing meaningful conclusions from the various experiments and coordinating the data into robust studies. I also applied to transfer from MPhil to PhD during this time, which brought with it its own demands. All the previous reports had looked forward to research plans, while this report looked back on what had been achieved as well as looking forward to the final stretch.

Spring brought the Science Bazaar; an event where everyone is invited into the University and aspects of ongoing science research are made accessible to all, particularly children. I especially enjoyed talking to the children through our computer game, which was developed by a colleague of mine, which matches building blocks of proteins with gene codes. It was fascinating to watch them get drawn into the game and begin exploring science.

I also attended the RNAi Conference this year and presented a poster drawing attention to my research in ovarian cancer and drug resistance. It was a great chance to meet with other leading researchers in the field and catch-up on the latest ideas and research finds. I had the opportunity, along with my supervisor Dr David Carter and another colleague, to write up the meeting notes summarising the main highlights of the conference.

The summer saw the arrival of the undergraduate and masters students, who were conducting their lab based projects with our research group. Mentoring them through the process, teaching them lab skills, guiding them through practical procedures, as well as sharing in their jubilation when an experiment was successful and in their sadness when it was not, made for an interesting summer.

Shortly after the academic year began, an exciting prospect of a job at Brookes as a researcher/demonstrator arose, with the opportunity to continue the research I had been doing as a PhD student. As I was in the last stages of my PhD I applied. Through the incredible support of my supervisors, Dr David Carter and Dr Susan Brooks, I was shortlisted for the position and was consequently offered the job. During the application process all my training as PhD student stood me in good stead.

Reflecting back on the last year, it has been a kaleidoscope of different experiences. As a researcher, I have seen my project move from experimental data to meaningful research published in journals, been part of an exciting research group exploring new ideas and theories in my area, had occasions to meet with other researchers in my area and had the opportunity to share my enthusiasm for science with a range of people.

Having recently taken my first steps into a career in academia and research and having enjoyed the experience thus far, I am very much looking forward to the coming year.

COMING UP

DON'T FORGET!

RESEARCHER CAREER PATHWAYS EVENT

The Researcher Career Pathways Event is open to all research students (MPhil/PhD) and contract research staff (Postgraduate Research Assistants, Post-doctoral Research Assistants and Research Fellows) across the University.

Tuesday 12 January 2016 – 9am to 3.15pm
JHB207 & 208, JOHN HENRY BROOKES BUILDING,
HEADINGTON CAMPUS, OXFORD OX3 0BP

The day will include three interactive panels, with plenty of opportunities for your questions and a fantastic free lunch!

To book your place for the Researcher Career Pathways Event please visit:

www.brookes.ac.uk/about-brookes/events/researcher-career-pathways-event/

If you would like more information email:
researchercareerpathways@brookes.ac



From the Research Degrees Team

UPCOMING EVENTS

An Evening @ Museum of the History of Science

Private guided tour and drinks – limited spaces!
Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AZ
Wednesday 16 March 2016 from 5.30 – 7pm

Graduate College Annual Event

The Forum (opposite Café Central), JHBB, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane
Friday 3 June 2016 from 4pm

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE SURVEY (PRES)

During 2015 postgraduate research (PGR) students were invited to take part in the PRES. A survey coordinated by the Higher Education Academy and designed specifically for PGR students.

We wanted to share with you some of the fantastic results from 2015's survey;

“92% of students felt their supervisors had the skills and knowledge to support their research.”

“88% of research students agreed that they would recommend Brookes to others”

“86% of students reported they were satisfied with the quality of their research programme.”

Keep an eye out for more amazing results from this year's survey in future editions of the GCN!

POSTGRADUATE OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 10 February 5-7.30pm
JOHN HENRY BROOKES BUILDING,
INFORMATION ZONE, HEADINGTON CAMPUS

Our University-wide open evening offers you the chance to find out about the range of postgraduate and professional development opportunities available.

Both academic and professional support staff from the University will be available to answer your questions and give you advice, guidance and information about our programmes.

For further information please email:
query@brookes.ac.uk

We are always looking for contributions for future editions of the newsletter and they are welcome from all sections of the University. If you would like to get involved please email:
asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk