

HUMSCI NEWS:

keeping Human Sciences Alumni, Students and Staff in touch

May 2012

Welcome from the Head of the Institute of Human Sciences

Welcome to HumSci News 2012, the newsletter of the Institute of Human Sciences that keeps Alumni, current students and Institute members in touch with one another. This is a special year for us because it is the 40th anniversary of Human Sciences at Oxford. 1972 was the year in which the first cohort of Human Scientists graduated and we are pleased to say the degree course has gained in popularity and obtained a powerful reputation for attracting some of the best candidates who apply to Oxford. It has proved to be a most stimulating degree, one that many other undergraduates are envious of when they arrive here and learn about the course and its contents from those reading for the degree. It remains the only undergraduate course in Oxford that draws teaching from all four divisions within the University encouraging its students to think about humanity across the medical, biological and social sciences. The course had its roots in discussions which took place during the 1960s between a number of academics including John Pringle, 'Chelly' Halsey, Geoffrey Harrison, 'Henry' Ford, Niko Tinbergen, Michael Argyle and John Beattie. During these forty years there have been over 1,000 graduates who are now pursuing a huge variety of careers all over the globe.

This is my first year as Head of Human Sciences and it is perhaps fitting that in our celebratory 40th year, it should fall to an alumna to lead and promote the Institute. I read Human Sciences at St Catherine's between 1980 and 1983 and returned after completing a doctorate at Warwick University to teach my subject, Sociology, to the Human Scientists at a range of colleges. I have done that for the last 25 years and I constantly see the same enthusiasm and commitment to the degree among each cohort of students that I, myself, felt back in the 1980s, and still feel today.

Many others have either returned to their Human Sciences roots or stayed with them throughout their career. For example, Professor David Coleman, currently Chair of Examiners and a mainstay in Demography, whose thorough and detailed lectures caused me to learn the skill of simultaneous listening and speed writing! Naomi Freud (St Catz, 1985-1988) is now our Admissions Officer and teaches on the Human Ecology paper. Darren Chadwick (St Catz, 2003-2006), who set up the environmental consultancy *Brite Green* after graduating, conducts seminars and organises visiting speakers for Human Scientists. Others (too many to mention) remain in, or return to, Oxford as post-graduates working in related fields while others develop careers that allow them to be effective in humanitarian, policy or environmental arenas. The common thread here is that Human Scientists develop an awareness of, and a sensitivity to, the planet and the creatures that inhabit it, including ourselves, and this motivates them to undertake work that allows them to utilise this respect for our world in a meaningful way.

As we become 40 years old there are many exciting developments to report to you. Three new posts have been created within the School of Anthropology, at Magdalen College, Wadham College and Harris Manchester College, each with a remit to teach on the degree and/or become the Director of Studies for Human Sciences in the college. In addition, there is the exciting prospect of a further full-time post with responsibilities in Human Sciences at St Hugh's. Half of the funding is in place for this permanent post and the remaining funds are now being sought via a range of fundraising activities.

Any alumni wishing to help us secure the position of Human Sciences at Oxford should get in touch with Sarah-Jane (sarah-jane.white@ihs.ox.ac.uk). Even a small amount per month, for example a modest standing order for £5 pcm can make a huge difference to us if a number of our graduates do the same thing.

Our 40th Anniversary Celebrations

Finally, I must mention what we are planning to celebrate our 40th anniversary. We are holding a **very special** event to coincide with the University's 3-day Alumni Weekend between 14th and 16th September 2012, namely a Human Sciences Gala Dinner at All Souls on Friday 14th September with Professor Ian Craig and Dr Paul Dresch as after dinner speakers. The price for this is £60 per person and, whilst it is not part of the main Alumni Weekend, it is designed so that alumni can attend both and have a wonderfully full weekend catching up with tutors and friends alike.

For those also booking the Alumni Weekend, there are talks by Steve Rayner on Climate Change and many other Human Sciences tutors giving key-note talks at Schools, the Natural History Museum and at the Pauling Centre throughout Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning. In addition, those also booking the Alumni Weekend have the benefit of a drinks reception at Schools hosted by the Vice-Chancellor of the University prior to the meal at All Souls. Booking for the University Alumni weekend opens on 18 June and you can register for a brochure at <https://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/alumniweekend/>

I very much hope that you will be able to join us for our Gala Dinner. Places will be limited by the size of the venue so prompt booking is recommended and we will operate on a 'first come first served' basis.

Dr Amanda Palmer, Head of the Institute of Human Sciences

Population in the Human Sciences: concepts, models, evidence



Participants at the Population in the Human Sciences conference

When the Human Sciences programme began, 40 years ago, a meeting was held to mark its inception to present research and critical discussion of a central concept in the Human Sciences, population. The meeting was funded by the Wenner-Gren foundation, and published by OUP as *The Structure of Human Populations*, edited by Geoffrey Harrison and Tony Boyce. The intervening period has seen immense changes in population research across the biological and social sciences and so we thought a second meeting would be appropriate to mark the subject's 40th birthday. Again funded by Wenner-Gren, together with assistance from the University's John Fell Fund, the meeting brought together 25 geneticists, epidemiologists, anthropologists, demographers, historians, and others for a very lively and informative set of

papers and discussions. These will again be published by OUP, with the title given in the heading above, and edited by Philip Kreager, Bruce Winney, Cristian Capelli and Stanley Ulijaszek.

Dr Philip Kreager

Some recent adventures in Libya

“Andy, we have the chance to do Libya, are you in?” said my colleague Christoph Sahm excitedly in a phone conversation in September 2011. After explaining that this meant that he and his company, Oxford Research International, had funding to conduct the first National Survey (of attitudes and views) of Libya, and that this could be linked as a research project to the Institute of Human Sciences, I replied that I didn’t think we had a choice – yes. Geoffrey Harrison, Christoph and I had been discussing a possible research project for Human Sciences on routes out of poverty, and so while this came out of the blue, I had learned enough to know Dr Sahm as a man who delivers. My initial involvement, which would connect the project formally to Human Sciences, would be to design four environmental questions for the survey. I was grateful for Christoph’s help with the final format of these since, as an ornithologist, I have rarely got anywhere by asking my study subjects to fill out questionnaires.

The survey itself, which was scientifically structured to represent the views of the adult population, was conducted during December by an international team, which included 60 locally recruited and trained interviewers, all facilitated through a close collaboration with colleagues Dr Fathi Ali and Dr Maree Agela of Benghazi University. The results were released to the public and press at a seminar hosted by the Institute of Human Sciences on 15 February. While there remains great scope to analyse the data further for academic publication, for example by region, age and sex of the respondent etc. the key results are available for download from the [Human Sciences website](#).

In November, Christoph phoned me again. “They are very excited about your environmental questions” he said, “is there any chance you could come and lecture in Benghazi in January?” I said I guessed I could, but then he dropped the bombshell “the only thing is, I don’t think they’d be very interested in birds!” I didn’t think long about this. That day I’d been working on a book chapter (now in press) on the potential to engage people in nature conservation through religious or faith traditions. The Islamic examples in the chapter seemed relevant and so I said “Well how about if I lectured on the Biblical basis of environmental stewardship?” There was a brief pause followed by “Oh they’d love that”. I said I thought he’d better check, but that I could do it if they did. He did; they did; and so that is how it came about that on 15 January 2012 (Sunday of 1st week Hilary Term back home), at the University of Benghazi, I delivered a lecture entitled ‘Peace and the Environment in Libya’.

I decided to place the whole issue of environmental stewardship within an Islamic context, using relevant suras from the Qur’an supplied by the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES). I talked about global ecology, the Gaian concept, how human evolution raised the question of how a species had arisen that was inherently destructive, climate change, and the cognitive relationship between humans, Creation and Allah, and thence human responsibility. I also talked a bit about Human Sciences and our involvement in the recent *National Survey of Libya*, especially in relation to the environmental questions. I had taken advice from many colleagues in Oxford, including Philip Stewart, about the wisdom of presenting Qur’anic texts on slides, as I could see several reasons why that might be offensive, but they all advised me that on the contrary this should be received as a good and respectful thing to do.

My audience of about 250 included many students and ten professors who flew in that morning from the University of Tripoli and, as I was to discover, also members of the National Transitional Council. A series of distinguished people came up to the podium after my talk to thank me and to address the audience. The lecture had taken two hours to deliver because it was translated into Arabic as I went along, and so I was a little surprised when the first person to speak addressed the audience in English. He was the former Minister for the Environment, whose Ministry had recently

been closed because environmental issues were not perceived to be a high priority. He spoke with some passion, saying “I’m so happy that Dr Gosler has framed these issues in this way, because now we know it’s true”. This has made a very profound impression on me concerning the power of the decision I had made.



Andy delivers his lecture ‘Peace and the Environment in Libya’ 15 Jan 2012 – photo c/o Dr Fathi Ali

The next person to speak addressed the audience in Arabic, and to applause turned and said something to me. “What’s she saying” I asked my host Dr Fathi Ali. “Oh, she’s saying that because of your talk, she now believes there should be a statement on the need for environmental protection in the new constitution of Libya, and she’s asking if you think that would be a good thing!” he said. “And who is she?” I asked. “Oh, she’s a member of the National Transitional Council, and a very active one” he told me. That day was one of the most extraordinary of my life, but it was not the end. I believe that the impression it would present of Libya to the world were they to make such a statement in their constitution could be breath-taking in its beneficial impact, both to Libya and to the rest of us. I was subsequently asked to draft a page of notes on why such a statement would be beneficial and our work continues.

As I write these words, I am waiting to hear when the President of Tripoli University, who is due to visit us in the Institute of Human Sciences this week to discuss future research collaboration, will be arriving. We are scheduled to take him on Friday to meet the Vice-Chancellor for a welcome, all of which helps to signal that Human Sciences has something real and precious to offer the world. And what is that exactly? Well, let me put it like this. I could not have made my visit to Libya, or given a lecture that had the impact that it did, irrespective of any good that might come from it, if I hadn’t learned something along the way about the importance of cultural sensitivity in our engagement with people. And I learned that through my involvement with the Institute of Human Sciences.

Andy Gosler, Deputy Head, Institute of Human Sciences

Obituary: Dr John Clarke

John Clarke, who died on 2 April 2010 aged 85, was a reproductive physiologist and lecturer in the Departments of Agricultural Science and Zoology here in Oxford. John was born in Perth, Western Australia, where his father was Professor of Geology at the University of Western Australia. In 1947, following a degree in Zoology at the University of Western Australia, he won a Rhodes scholarship to St John's College, Oxford where he completed a D.Phil. on the ecology of the field vole.

John was appointed to a Lecturership in the Department of Agriculture becoming a Fellow of Linacre College in 1964 and later Vice-Principal. He was member of the Society for the Study of Fertility (now the Society for Reproduction and Fertility), becoming Business Secretary from 1975-80 and Chairman from 1987-90. The Society for the Study of Fertility awarded John the Marshall medal in 2004 for his "outstanding contribution to the study of fertility and reproduction."

John Clarke was a great enthusiast of Human Sciences. Although he was not involved in the setting up of the degree, as soon as he heard of it he became strongly committed to it. He often said it was exactly what education should be all about. His main teaching contribution was in giving lectures and tutorials on the physiology of human reproduction, surely one of the foci of the Human Sciences but his interest extended far beyond this. His enthusiasm is best witnessed by the fact that he continued to offer lectures well into his retirement, indeed until only a few years before he died at 85 years of age. He is sorely missed.

A memorial service for John Clarke was held in Linacre College on 30 October 2010 and was attended by a number of tutors and staff from the Institute of Human Sciences.

Congratulations to former HumScis

Belinda Stewart-Cox awarded an O.B.E. for nature conservation in Thailand



Belinda holding her OBE award for '25 years of service to nature conservation in Thailand'

On 6 December 2011, H.M. Queen Elizabeth II invested Belinda Stewart-Cox with an O.B.E. for twenty-five years of service to nature conservation in Thailand. Belinda is currently executive-director of the Elephant Conservation Network (ECN), which works in partnership with the Zoological Society of London and Elephant Family.

Belinda went to Buckingham Palace to receive her award accompanied by her mother, Mary, and two brothers, Rupert and Charlie, as well as by her Thai colleague, Jittin Ritthirat, who is ECN's programme manager.

"What an honour, and what a surprise!" says Belinda "but how nice to know that my work is recognised as worthwhile after all these years, though I do realise I couldn't have done any of it without the help of my many Thai and non-Thai colleagues".

Belinda did not plan a career in conservation. Nor did A-levels in English, French and Italian lend themselves to work in the scientific field. "I wanted to do biology as well", she explains "but wasn't allowed to mix arts and science - which is ironic, as that's

exactly what I did at university several years later. My parents were keen naturalists and I spent much of my childhood in up-country Malaysia and Kenya. Nature has always been important to me”.

After four years with Time-Life Books, London, working on a natural history and anthropological series, Belinda went to Oxford University (Lady Margaret Hall) to read Human Sciences. “It’s a



Belinda Stewart-Cox (second left) with her mother Mary, brothers Rupert and Charlie, and colleague Jittin Ritthirat by the steps that lead to the state rooms of Buckingham Palace.

perfect degree for anyone interested in conservation because it focuses on people as well as wildlife”. But she did not know that then. Immediately after university, Belinda became a researcher for Yorkshire Television, working on an educational science series with the colourful Adam Hart-Davis. “Looking back, I realise that everything I’ve done has been about gathering and sharing information to raise awareness about something that seems valuable, interesting or worthwhile”

Belinda first went to Thailand to study green peafowl in the Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary near the country’s border with Burma. “It was supposed to be a one-off visit of 3-months” she explains “but I fell in love with the place and kept going back”. The following year, she helped Thai colleagues campaign against a hydro-electric dam that would have done immense damage to the ecosystem while providing much too little in return. Eighteen months later, she supported another campaign

to stop a change in the law that would have allowed loggers into Huai Kha Khaeng and other wildlife sanctuaries.

Following the successful outcome of these two campaigns, Belinda then helped her colleague and companion, Seub Nakhasathien, write Thailand’s nomination for the 600,000 hectare Thung Yai-Huai Kha Khaeng to become a UNESCO natural world heritage site. When he died in 1990, she fielded the nomination successfully through a long approval process on behalf of the Thai government. She also served for nine years as a founding trustee and full-time fund-raiser for the Seub Nakhasathien Foundation, resigning in 1999 to set up the Elephant Conservation Network with her colleague, Jittin Ritthirat.

The Elephant Conservation Network aims to ensure the long-term survival of wild elephants and their ecosystem in Thailand, currently focusing on seeking sustainable solutions to human-elephant conflict in Kanchanaburi province. In the UK, Belinda works in partnership with the Zoological Society of London and with Elephant Family. In Thailand, she and her colleagues work closely with government and non-government organisations at local and national level, but their day-to-day involvement is with local communities.

“Kanchanaburi contains the southern half of the Western Forest Conservation Complex” explains Belinda “and WEFCON is Thailand’s most important conservation area for elephants and other large mammals, so if we can find ways to help farmers and other villagers co-exist comfortably with elephants, we will make a useful contribution to ensuring their overall conservation in Thailand. More importantly, we will help safeguard an ecosystem that sustains so many lives and livelihoods in this region”.

“I’m biased” of course “adds Belinda, “west Thailand has been my spiritual home for the last quarter century – almost half my life – but having worked there so long, I do know how important its forests and wildlife are to the well-being of Thailand and Thai people”.

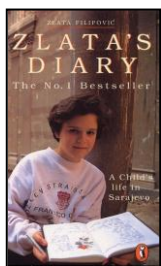
Human Sciences Alumna makes the Women in Film and Television Top 50 PowerList of 2012

Vanessa Berlowitz who studied Human Sciences at St John’s College from 1988-1991 has been named on this year’s list of the 50 most powerful women in Film and Television. After graduating, Vanessa went to work at the BBC Natural History Unit as a researcher on the human animal series. She went on to work on a number of very successful series such as Postcards From The Country and Land Of The Tiger. Additionally Vanessa produced a number of one-off documentaries, such as the award-winning Spiders From Mars and Bear Crime. In 2000, Vanessa began work on BAFTA-nominated Life of Mammals. She produced the Mountains and Ice Worlds episodes of Planet Earth. In 2007 Vanessa turned down the opportunity to become Head of the BBC Natural History Unit to be the Series Producer of Frozen Planet, the sequel to Planet Earth. She also produced and directed the opening programme, 'To The Ends of the Earth'. The ambition of the series was to provide a definitive portrait of the natural history of the polar regions at a time when they are changing faster than any other part of the planet. The series recently aired in the UK and has proved to be the most successful documentary series ever on BBC1. Vanessa has recently been nominated for a BAFTA Television Craft Award for Frozen Planet (To the ends of the Earth) in the category of Director: Factual.

Human Scientist is named as CIPR Public Affairs Parliamentary Researcher of the Year

John Mead who read Human Sciences at St Hugh’s College, graduating in 2009 has been named as the CIPR Public Affairs (PA) Parliamentary Researcher of the Year 2012. John is a researcher to the Liberal Democrat MP, David Ward and was recognised for his work and involvement in the Affordable Car Insurance Campaign which resulted in success both locally and nationally. He was presented with the award at the St Stephen’s Club, on Tuesday 27 March.

Book by former Human Scientist tops list of 75 favourite Penguin books



Congratulations to Zlata Filipović whose book *Zlata's Diary* topped the list of the 75 favourite Penguin books. Zlata was a Human Scientist at St John’s College from 1998 to 2001. Zlata began her diary when she was just 11 years old, growing up in Sarejevo, part of the former Yugoslavia. The diary describes the horrors and devastation of the war in Bosnia during 1992 and 1993 as seen through Zlata’s young eyes. Originally published in Croat, Zlata’s writing has been translated into over twenty languages and published throughout the world. It has been critically acclaimed, being compared to the diary of Anne Frank.

Human Sciences Alumnus is named International Student of the year

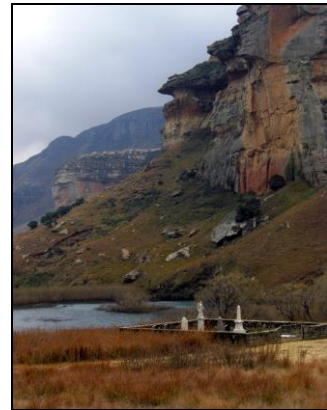
Ziqi (Zig) Wu who studied Human Sciences at St Catherine’s, has won the inaugural International Student of the Year Award from the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) Foundation. After graduating in 2007, Zig worked for the Ministry of Health in his homeland of Singapore, helping to upgrade the country’s hospitals and nursing homes. He then studied for a graduate degree in Design and Environmental Analysis at Cornell University, specialising in facility planning and management.

Recent graduate is runner-up in *The Guardian* Readers' Writing Competition

Aisha Mirza, who graduated from St Catherine's in 2010 was the runner-up in *The Guardian's* readers' writing competition on the theme of Beach and Relaxation. Aisha's piece, entitled 'Nova Scotia: so little so much' describes her experience of visiting Pictou Island in Nova Scotia and the full article can be found on the [Guardian's Website](#).

After graduating: Sarah Fordham explains how she spent the year following her graduation in 2009

My first course of action when I finished finals in 2009 was to pack up my Morris Minor 1000 (circa 1967) and drive 10,000 miles from Oxford to Ulan Batar, Mongolia. My four companions and I had a truly grand adventure; camping in the deserts of Turkmenistan, fording rivers in the Gobi, and playing cricket in no-man's land... We experienced the warmth and hospitality of a myriad of different peoples across Eurasia, and became rather adept at wriggling out of sticky situations. Our efforts raised more than £3000 in sponsorship for the two Mongolian charities we were supporting.



The Van-Reenen Family Cemetery, Golden Gate Highlands National Park



Remains of a Carcass at the Vulture Restaurant, Golden Gate Highlands National Park

Upon returning to the UK, I started an internship with The Climate Group in London. I was lucky enough to be there during the COP-15 conference at Copenhagen, so had a fantastic opportunity to learn about the workings of environmental NGOs in relation to the UN.

After Christmas, I packed my bags and spent six months working with the People and Conservation (P&C) Department with the South African National Parks. I was based in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park (one of the best kept secrets in South Africa): a breathtaking expanse of high-veldt grassland in the Drakensburg Mountains of the Free State. The role of the P&C Department is to integrate local communities into the conservation activities of the National Parks; improving their quality of life whilst also ensuring the protection of the ecosystems.

Quite a challenge! For my part, I organised and ran educational programmes for school groups visiting the park, and coordinated several community outreach programmes – including an Eco-Schools initiative. I was also lucky enough to be in South Africa during the World Cup, and experienced a marvellous bout of Soccer Fever!

In the midst of these debacles, I managed to secure a place back at Oxford to read for an MSc in Nature, Society, and Environmental Policy, starting October 2010.

***If any HumScis are interested in doing similarly silly things with their free time, there is more information on the Mongol Rally at <http://mongolrally.theadventurists.com/>, and the SANParks internship at*

<http://www.qvi.co.uk/programs/wildlife-conservation-south-africa-national-parks-internship>

Please also feel free to ask me any questions if you fancy: siffy88@gmail.com

Sarah Fordham (Magdalen, 2009).

Catherine Borg, 2011 Human Sciences graduate describes how she spent a summer vacation in Malawi

The project that I undertook one summer involved staying at a Catholic mission in one of the most rural and untouched areas of Malawi – the Lower Shire Valley. I stayed there in my gap year and taught English, and greatly desired to learn more about the medical situation of the area. The objective of the trip was to research the following questions: “The “first stop” for many people in Malawi when ill is the traditional healer. Why is this so? Are their remedies better trusted than medical help from local clinics? Is western medicine perceived as effective, and is it thought to be incomplete (due to a lack of spiritual intervention that would be believed to be present with a traditional healer)?” Together with Rosalie Lear, a fellow Human Scientist from Keble College, we found a local man who spoke very good English to act as a translator, and arranged several interviews with a variety of people in the immediate village that we were staying in (Mitumbiri), and also in the surrounding villages of the Namitembo parish. We questioned a diverse cross-section of people of varying ages, levels of education, people living within different distances from the nearest western-style health clinic, religious leaders, nurses and doctors, and most importantly, “a’singanga” – traditional healers. The interviews were very broad to begin with as Rosalie and I began to get an insight into who uses traditional healers, and who uses western medicine (or both), in which situations and why. As we spoke to more and more people, we got a great insight into the methods which are used to cure various illnesses, but what was perhaps most interesting was the response to HIV/AIDS, and the various methods to work alongside ARVs to prevent the progression of the disease. We also learnt the great importance of “ufiti” within people’s use of medicine and healing – that is, witchcraft – which we didn’t anticipate but were fortunate enough to learn about.

The research has been a fantastic insight into the reality of anthropological research in a place of such a different culture from our own, the difficulties that come with it, and the need for a great variety of methods and techniques to get accurate and useful information. Understanding the practicalities behind collecting the information in some of the fascinating ethnographies that I read in the first year of my degree has made me realise the significance of it, and better understand the research methods described. I feel I have learnt a great deal about medical anthropological research, and have gained a greater desire to further explore ethnographies and research related to it, particularly those based in Malawi. Being able to experience both the biological and anthropological aspects of my course in the field has helped me put into practice what I had already learnt and read about, and aided my understanding of the anthropological works I came across in the next two years of my degree. I am very grateful for this opportunity that was granted to me, and hope to continue to explore the “a’singanga” of Malawi, and one day return to further my research.

Catherine Borg (Somerville, 2011)

Other graduate news

1976

Stephen Douglas (St Edmund Hall) spent seven years after graduating in the Ministry of Defence in a number of roles including political adviser to the army in Northern Ireland, working on arms control negotiations in Geneva and latterly as private secretary to three defence ministers. He then spent over twenty years in various banks in the City, before taking early retirement in 2005. Stephen is now living in Valle de Bravo, Mexico, with his Mexican wife, looking after his horses and has written his first novel for which he is currently seeking a publisher.



Rhys Taylor (St Catherine's) is now living in New Zealand and is in contact with Gareth Renowden over there, who like Rhys, is a St Catz Alumnus. Rhys is still planting trees and teaching about sustainability. Rhys and Anne are based in Geraldine, South Canterbury, and he's contributing to projects in earthquake-damaged Christchurch city, including www.greeningtherubble.org.nz

1979

Michele Hill-Perkins (St Catherine's) is Senior Technology Transfer Manager for Life Sciences at Queen Mary Innovations, University of London. Prior to this she was at the Children's Investment Fund Foundation where she was involved in investment management in the charity sector and responsible for assessing delivery models and risks associated with investments in child survival projects to ensure that initiatives had a high probability of success. Previously, Michele worked as Project Director in both the Commercialisation and Ventures teams at Partnerships UK where she had responsibility for working with the public sector to enhance the commercial value of government-funded projects and intellectual property assets. This involved both commercial advisory work and investment in early stage spin-out companies. Preceding this, she was Business Manager at Catalyst BioMedica leading a business team involved in driving licensing transactions and provision of "development gap" funding to spin-out companies. She has a biochemistry PhD and MSc from University College, London.

1986

Anthony Judge (Lady Margaret Hall) had a science background at school but was also interested in law and spent two years at law school after leaving Oxford before joining Travers Smith, a medium size City law firm, in 1988. He is still at Travers Smith and is now a partner in the property department specialising in buying and selling commercial property. One of the hangovers from his interests at Oxford is in environmental matters. He is responsible for the firm's policy on environmental matters and the firm's impact on the environment generally, and sits on the British Property Federation Sustainability Committee.

1990

Caroline Lewis (St John's) spent a few years in television, then trained as a lawyer. She hated training in the corporate law firm but took a liking to employment law. Caroline advised a few trade union members here in the UK on their labour rights but then had to move to New York with her husband. She was there for 7 years and the only work she could do (without a greencard) was in the international organization field and so interned with the International Labour Organization. Caroline decided she liked international over domestic labour law as it is more far reaching (and travels well!). So, after a substantial absence from the job market (getting on for 8 years), she tried to get into the field of ethical sourcing – that is, working in a company's purchasing department and trying to ensure that their suppliers meet with core labour standards in production of clothes, toys etc.

1991

Graham Isherwood (Queen's) began working in London before moving to Asia in the late 1990s where he spent time in various countries. He is now living and working in Singapore.

Maya Matthews (Jesus) lives in Brussels with her husband and 2 children. She works for the European Union on health and consumer policy. Maya says she is lucky enough after all these years to continue working in a field that she is passionate about - public health. It was thanks to Human Sciences and the option she did on health and diseases that she ended up following this path. Along the way, Maya has bumped into many human sciences alumni and still draws on many of the topics that she studied 20 years ago at Oxford in her current job.

Cesare Onestini (St John's) works for the European Union's new External Action Service; after a stint at the EU Embassy to the United Nations in New York he is now back at Headquarters in Brussels— not a typical Human Sciences path, but then there isn't really one!

1993

Emma Haire (nee Grimshaw) (Magdalen) runs, with her husband, Guruve, a company that specialises in contemporary African art (see <http://www.guruve.com/index.php>) which enables her to visit Africa at least once a year.

1995

Alexandra Pitman (St Catherine's) went on to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to do an MSc in Health Policy Planning and Financing (1997-8) and to study medicine at Imperial College. She has an MRC-funded research fellowship at UCL, based at the Royal Free Hospital. This is part of her psychiatric training and involves a three year cross-sectional study of the impact of suicide bereavement on the mental health and social functioning of young adults. It will survey young people at 36 universities and colleges in the UK using an on-line questionnaire, and involves both qualitative and quantitative analysis. She would be interested in hearing from any other Human Scientists involved in suicide research (a.pitman@ucl.ac.uk).

1999

Lucinda Richards (St Anne's) worked at National Geographic Channel and the BBC doing Production and Interactive. She then worked in Sexual Health for a few years before doing the Graduate Medical Programme at St. George's, London. Lucinda has worked for 3 years in London as a doctor and is specialising in Psychiatry. She is currently on maternity leave following the birth of her son Hugh.

2000

Lucy Etherton (nee Crosthwaite) (Magdalen) trained and worked in the City as a lawyer for six years. She trained to be a nutritionist in her spare time. She is now living in Ghana and has two children.

2001

Isabel Thomas (Mansfield) is a freelance writer. Her children's books include *What You Need To Know Now*, which was shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Awards 2011. She lives in St Albans with her family and is expecting her third baby in May 2012.

2003

Hannah Hislop (Wadham) completed a Masters in Professional Studies in 'Leadership for Sustainable Development' with the charity Forum for the Future and Middlesex University in 2005. She then worked as a policy adviser for environmental policy and politics thinktank Green Alliance (where she led work on waste, resources and product policy). She is now global advocacy manager for the consumer goods company Unilever, where she focuses on environmental sustainability and EU engagement.

2005

Anna Goodman (New College) finished an epidemiology PhD in 2009, and is now doing a post-doc looking at ways to reduce car use and increase walking and cycling – part of her general interest in trying to promote both public health and environmental sustainability. Anna also organises an informal HumSci book club in London – get in touch (anna.goodman@lshtm.ac.uk) to join!!

Tom Hamilton (St Hugh's) worked on human rights documentaries for Storyville at the BBC and then on the Pangea Day project for TED in New York. In 2008 he had a radical career change, completed legal training in London and is currently working as an intern at the Khmer Rouge war crimes tribunal in Cambodia. He is interested in getting in contact with other Human Scientists who have become lawyers.

2006

Leila Tavakoli (New College) spent six months in the year following her graduation in Windhoek, Namibia carrying out an internship at UNESCO. She worked primarily on UNESCO's EDUCAIDS programme, developing her interest in HIV which was cultivated when writing her Human Sciences dissertation on the link between HIV and male circumcision. Following her return to the UK, Leila worked at the International HIV/AIDS Alliance as Assistant to the Communities Delegation of the Global Fund for a year. She then developed her research skills, working as a social researcher at Ipsos MORI in London.

We are always pleased to hear news about our Alumni. If you would like to send in an update for inclusion in the next edition of HumSci News, please e-mail sarah-jane.white@ihs.ox.ac.uk

We are also trying to update our graduate profiles on the website. If you would be willing to feature on our website, please e-mail a photograph and a paragraph about what you have been doing since graduating to sarah-jane.white@ihs.ox.ac.uk We'd especially like to hear from you if you think Human Sciences has helped you in your career.

Human Sciences is now on Twitter



You can now keep up with the latest news about Human Sciences by following us on Twitter [@Oxford_HumSci](#). We try to tweet news about Human Sciences but also like to include news about the achievements, publications and media appearances of our Alumni, current students, and those who teach (or have previously taught) for the course. Even if you don't use Twitter, we are always interested in hearing news which you think may be of interest to other HumScis which we can share on Twitter. E-mail sarah-jane.white@ihs.ox.ac.uk

Thank You

to all our Alumni who have contributed to this newsletter and support our Annual Symposium and other events.

A special thank you to Jenny Soderlind, who graduated in 2005, and a few years ago set up a monthly direct debit to help Human Sciences. Small regular donations such as this can make a big difference to Human Sciences. If all of our Alumni were able to give a small amount each month, we would have around £50,000 a year which would be enough to fund our own teaching post. If you would like to make a regular (or one-off) donation to Human Sciences, you can do so at http://www.giving.ox.ac.uk/academic_departments/social_sciences/human_sciences.html

If you would like to donate to Human Sciences, but would prefer not to do so on-line, please contact sarah-jane.white@ihs.ox.ac.uk

Help to put other Alumni in touch with us

This newsletter is being e-mailed to all those Alumni who we have contact details for. If you are aware of other Alumni who have not received this newsletter, please ask them to get in touch. They can do so by e-mail: sarah-jane.white@ihs.ox.ac.uk; telephone (01865 274702) or post (The Institute of Human Sciences, the Pauling Centre, 58a Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6QS).