



Students after a final exam, posing for a group shot on New College Lane. Photograph: 'Exam over II' by [Lawrence OP](#), CC-NC-ND

MERTON OF 2013-14 CONFIRMED AT TOP NORRINGTON TABLE

It was confirmed in May that Merton took top spot in the 2013-14 Norrington Table, with an average score of 74.7%.

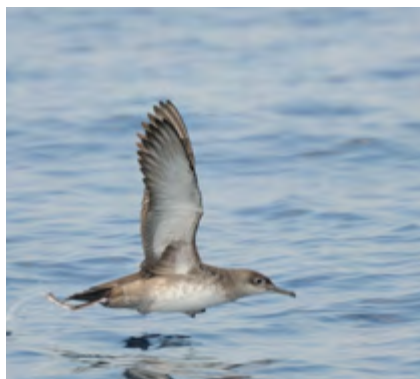
The league table ranks the University of Oxford's colleges according to the performance of undergraduates in finals. The College has been aware of its new first-place standing for 2013-14

since Michaelmas Term 2014, but the University was not able to confirm the result until May 2015.

Good news also for Merton's women, 40% of whom gained a First and who achieved a higher average Norrington score than women across the whole University (75% compared with 70%).

Merton was also incredibly successful in University Prizes across a range of subjects. From 83 Merton finalists in 2013-14, 16 were awarded prizes, and Mertonians topped schools in Economics & Management, Modern Languages, and Physics. 🏆

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



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Daniel Schwennicke. Photograph: Daniel Schwennicke

THREE YEARS RUNNING FOR CLASSICS STUDENT

Daniel Schwennicke (2012) – a third-year undergraduate reading Classics at Merton – has won the Greek Recitation category in the 2015 Classics Faculty Declamation Competition. Daniel has entered the competition three years in a row now and has come out on top every time, having won the Latin Reading competition in 2014 and Latin Recitation in 2013.

Daniel says:

“Unless next year’s competition clashes with my Finals, I would like to enter for the remaining category [Greek Reading] and hopefully bring back the complete set of victories to Merton.” 🍷

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Professor Daniel Grimley at the Birthday Weekend in 2014. Photograph: John Cairns

PROFESSOR DANIEL GRIMLEY TO SPEAK AT BBC PROMS

Professor Daniel Grimley – Merton Tutor in and Professor of Music – will be speaking on Sibelius and his influence for the BBC Proms this year.

2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the great Finnish composer, and Daniel’s talk will precede the performance of Sibelius’s choral symphony *Kullervo* at the Proms on Saturday 29 August. An edited version of his talk will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 the same evening.

Daniel’s work focuses on both Nordic and early 20th-century British music. 🍷

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A Balearic shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*) in flight. Photograph: Miguel McMinn

MERTON PROFESSOR LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO SAVE OUR SHEARWATERS

Professor of Animal Behaviour and Merton Tutor in Zoology Tim Guilford has been monitoring and raising awareness of one of Europe’s rarest birds, the Balearic shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*).

Shearwaters breed in the Mediterranean and migrate north to the Atlantic in the summer. They are increasingly seen off the coast of Britain later in the season, but very little is known about their behaviour and ecological needs. Tim’s work with the critically endangered birds – alongside the RSPB, the National Oceanographic Centre in Southampton and Spanish biologists in Palma and elsewhere – is helping conservationists understand how to prevent the birds’ eventual extinction. 🍷

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PROFESSOR DAVID PATERSON TO GIVE 2016 BROOKHART LECTURE

Professor David Paterson, Tutor in Pre-Clinical Medicine and Sub-Warden at Merton, will give the Brookhart Lecture at Oregon Health & Science University’s School of Medicine in 2016.

David – a leading cardiorespiratory physiologist and a world authority in cardiac-neural control – has commented that he is “delighted to follow in the footsteps of some very distinguished scientists, and to be only the second non-American-based academic to be awarded the lecture.” 🍷

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JCR HONOURS BAR MANAGER DAVE HEDGES

Merton students passed a motion this term to make the College’s bar manager Dave Hedges an Honorary Member of the JCR.

Current JCR Entertainments Officer Rhys Clyne (2013) commented, “Dave has worked at Merton for 28 years, and has been our beloved bar manager for 17 of them. He has been a spiritual member of the JCR for years, we just made it official.”

Dave was joined by another honorary member – pop singer Taylor Swift. 🍷

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Katie Ratcliffe. Photograph: Gemma Woodbridge

MERTON STUDENT TAKES LAW PRIZE FOR SECOND YEAR RUNNING

First-year undergraduate Katie Ratcliffe (2014) has been awarded this year's Criminal Law prize, sponsored by Slaughter and May, making this the second year in a row that a Merton student has won.

The prize is given to the best Law Moderations paper in a Criminal Law subject, and this year's paper addressed some especially controversial topics, such as the measure of proof required for consent in rape cases and whether theft and burglary can occur when a person uses a hotel's facilities but is not a guest. 🍷

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Colourised scanning electron micrograph of *E. coli*. Photograph: Oxford University Museum of Natural History

MAKING 'BIONSENSE' WITH PROFESSOR JUDITH ARMITAGE

How do bacteria sense their micro worlds? This is one of the questions addressed by 'Biosense', a current exhibition at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

The exhibition celebrates the University's leading research by combining scientific stories with incredible images and previously unseen museum specimens. 'Sensing on the nanoscale' – a section of the exhibition that looks at bacterial behaviour, in particular swimming and environmental sensing – draws on research carried out by Professorial Fellow in Biochemistry at Merton, Judith Armitage.

'Biosense' runs until 24 August 2015. 🍷

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Véronique Gouverneur (centre) is presented with her award.

PROFESSOR VÉRONIQUE GOUVERNEUR HONOURED BY THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Merton Tutorial Fellow in Organic Chemistry Professor Véronique Gouverneur was the recipient of this year's American Chemical Society (ACS) Award for Creative Work in Fluorine Chemistry, for her outstanding contributions to the advancement of the chemistry of fluorine.

The award – sponsored by the Juhua Group Technology Center (China) – was presented to Veronique at the 249th ACS National Meeting in March, in Denver, Colorado, USA, and a symposium was held in her honour. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)

PHYSICS UNDERGRADUATE WINS SPEAKING PRIZE

Merton second-year student Chris Hamilton (2013) has been awarded first prize in the 2015 Department of Physics Speaking Competition. Chris, whose winning talk was on Chaos Theory, says:

"Chaos Theory is the mathematical structure behind 'the butterfly effect', and has applications all over the sciences – from the turbulence behind an aeroplane wing, to predicting Twitter trends."

Chris first gave the talk as part of his physics course, supervised by Professor Artur Ekert. He was then chosen to represent the College in the competition final in May. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)



Nicholas Black. Photograph: Nicholas Black

OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY PRIZE FOR MERTON STUDENT

Merton graduate student Nicholas Black (2010) has been awarded the Matilda Tambyraja Prize in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, which is awarded to the student who achieved the best written mark in the Obstetrics & Gynaecology exam.

In 2016 Nicholas will be leaving for the American Midwest, having also recently been awarded the 2016 Iowa elective scholarship. 🍷

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OLD MERTONIAN NEWS



Stephanie Jones

STEPHANIE JONES (2009) MAKES MEDITERRANEAN ODYSSEY

Stephanie Jones has been putting the rowing skills she learnt at Merton to good use when on 18 July when she rowed 200 miles from Ibiza to Barcelona for charity.

The NOMAN Campaign organises the race to increase awareness of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), raising funds for the HPV and Anal Cancer Foundation in the process.

While at Merton, Stephanie studied for her DPhil in Clinical Medicine, with a focus on cancer research and simultaneously discovered the joys of rowing with the Merton College Boat Club. She rowed in the 2012 Oxford University women's reserves boat Osiris, beating Cambridge in the Women's Boat Race. 🏆

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Ed Vaizey. Photograph: [Ed Vaizey MP](#) by [The Department for Culture, Media & Sport](#). CC BY-NC-ND

MERTONIANS IN THE 2015 GENERAL ELECTION

Congratulations to Mertonians re-elected as Members of Parliament in the General Election in May.

- **Jonathan Lord (1981)**, Member of Parliament for Woking
- **Jesse Norman (1981)**, Member of Parliament for Hereford and South Herefordshire
- **Elizabeth Truss (1993)**, Member of Parliament for South West Norfolk
- **Ed Vaizey (1986)**, Member of Parliament for Wantage and Didcot 🏆

MERTONIANS RECOGNISED IN THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Many congratulations to two of our Mertonians for their outstanding achievements, for which they were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours on 12 June this year. They were:

- **Roger Witcomb (1965)**, Chairman of the Competition Commission and Chair of Reporting Panel, Competition and Markets Authority, was awarded an OBE for services to the Competition and Consumer Regime.
- **Peter Kessler (1982)**, Founder and Chair of the Governors of Eden Primary School, Muswell Hill, London, was awarded an MBE for services to Education. 🏆

DEVELOPMENT NEWS



END OF THE 2014-15 ANNUAL FUND YEAR

As Trinity Term draws to a close, the College's financial year is also soon coming to an end, and we would like to extend our thanks to all of the Mertonians and friends who have supported Merton this year.

Gifts to the Annual Fund have a tremendous impact, providing significant financial support to bolster the Tutorial System, support students and protect and resource the College's historic site.

And it's not too late to support the College this year! All gifts before 1 August help to boost the incredible work the College already does, so please make a gift today. 🏆

[DONATE NOW](#)



Going to finals, 1951. Photograph: Derek Richards from the [Merton@750 Anniversary Collection](#)

OXFORD STUDENTS VOTE TO KEEP *SUB FUSC*

Oxford students voted this term to keep *sub fusc* compulsory during examinations.

The Oxford University Students' Union (OUSU) held the referendum in May following calls to revisit the tradition, and of a turnout of 40.62%, 75% of the votes went to the 'Yes' campaign.

The last OUSU vote on the matter was held in 2006, when 81% of students voted to keep the traditional academic dress. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)

SIMON ARMITAGE ELECTED OXFORD PROFESSOR OF POETRY

Simon Armitage was elected as the next Professor of Poetry at Oxford University, it was announced on 19 June. He beat his closest competitors – Wole Soyinka and AE Stallings – by 300 votes.

The Professorship is voted in by members of the University's Convocation, which includes members of the University Congregation alongside any former student members of the University who have been admitted to a degree (other than an honorary degree). 3,340 voted in the election of 4,030 registered.

The Professor of Poetry is appointed every four years. The responsibilities of the post include giving a public lecture each term and delivering the Creweian Oration at the University's honorary degree ceremony every other year. 🍷

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Professor Louise Richardson. Photograph: University of St Andrews

UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES NEXT VICE-CHANCELLOR

In May the University announced the nomination of Professor Louise Richardson, currently Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of St Andrews, as the next Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

Professor Richardson – Oxford's first woman in the role – has had a distinguished academic career in the study of terrorism and security issues.

She said about her nomination:

"Oxford is one of the world's great universities. I feel enormously privileged to be given the opportunity to lead this remarkable institution during an exciting time for higher education." 🍷

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NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART WESTON LIBRARY OPENS

This year saw the completion of the ambitious three-year project to reinvigorate the former 'New Bodleian' building, part-funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation, chaired by Mertonian Guy Weston (1978).

The Weston Library boasts state-of-the-art research facilities and stunning new public spaces, including exhibition areas, lecture theatres, a café and The Zvi Meitar Bodleian Shop. It opened on 21 March this year with a weekend of free talks, tours and events, as well as the exhibition 'Marks of Genius'.

The Bodleian is named after a Fellow of Merton, Sir Thomas Bodley, who refounded the library in 1598. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)

OXFORD THINKING CAMPAIGN REACHES LANDMARK £2 BILLION

The Oxford Thinking Campaign – which brings together money raised by all sections of the University – has reached its £2 billion milestone, two-thirds of the way to the £3 billion target.

All donations to Merton count towards the Campaign, including those given to the *Sustaining Excellence* Campaign that reached its target last year.

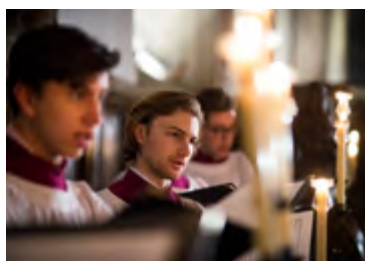
The funds raised also directly benefit Merton students – Sophie Wedlake (2013), a fifth-year medical student, is one of the faces of the Campaign, having received a grant from the Francis Napier Fund. She says:

"This support has had an enormous impact on my studies – I feel I am now on an equal footing with other students." 🍷

[READ MORE & DONATE NOW](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

ALUMNI EVENTS CALENDAR: SUMMER AND MICHAELMAS TERM 2015



SEPTEMBER

18 – 20 September | Oxford University Alumni Weekend in Oxford

[MORE INFO](#)

25 September | Merton Golfing Society Autumn Meeting
Venue: Frilford Heath Golf Club

[MORE INFO](#)

26 September | Gaudy for the years 1992 to 1996 | Venue: Merton College

[MORE INFO](#)

OCTOBER

10 October | 50 Years On – 1965 | Venue: Merton College

[MORE INFO](#)

20 October | Oxford University Careers Fair | Venue: Oxford Town Hall

[MORE INFO](#)

22 October | MC3 Merton in Manhattan | Speaker: Mark Thompson (1976)
Venue: The Residence of the UK's Deputy Permanent Secretary to the UN

[MORE INFO](#)

27 October | London Drinks Party | Venue: Davy's Wine Bar, Holborn

[MORE INFO](#)

31 October | All Saints' Eve Concert | Venue: Merton College Chapel
A stunning pairing of Fauré's *Requiem* with Brahms' *Vier ernste Gesänge*

[MORE INFO](#)

NOVEMBER

1 November | All Souls Requiem | Venue: Merton College Chapel
The College Choir will sing Mozart's *Requiem*

[MORE INFO](#)

12 November | Merton Lawyers' Association meeting
Speaker: The Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP | Venue: White & Case LLP, London

[MORE INFO](#)


28 & 29 November | Advent Carol Services | Venue: Merton College Chapel

[MORE INFO](#)

Date tbc (November / December) | Merton Society London Dinner
Venue: The Royal Thames Yacht Club

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OXFORD UNIVERSITY CAREERS FAIRS

The University Careers Service offers regular Careers Fairs in a range of sectors, allowing Oxford alumni to network face-to-face with dozens of employers. All alumni are welcome to attend any of these events, which are aimed at recent graduates or those interested in a career change. There is a comprehensive list of Oxford University Careers Fairs for Michaelmas Term 2015 on the Careers Service website. 

[MORE INFO](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR & NEWS

ALUMNI EVENTS CALENDAR: SUMMER AND MICHAELMAS TERM 2015 (CONTINUED)



DECEMBER

11 December | London Christmas Carol Service | Venue: St Luke's Church, Chelsea

MORE INFO

16 December | Christmas Choir Concert | Venue: St John's Smith Square, London

MORE INFO

JANUARY 2016

23 January | Oxford University International Careers Day
Venue: Examination Schools

MORE INFO



Some members of the Merton team who entered the Oxford Town & Gown 2015 gather at the Sports Pavilion before the race. Photograph: Merton College



The Oxford Town & Gown 2015 10k race.
Photograph: Merton College

RUNNING FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY - OXFORD TOWN & GOWN 2015

Well done to all Mertonians – undergraduates, postgraduates, alumni, staff and Fellows – who took part in the 2015 Oxford Town & Gown 10k on Sunday 10 May in aid of the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. We were especially delighted when it was announced at the beginning of the race that Merton had the largest college team in the race.

The fastest time from the Merton team was a fantastic 40 minutes and 1 second, run by current student Christian Ruckteschler (2012; front row, second from right). 🏆

[SEE MORE PHOTOGRAPHS ON FACEBOOK](#)



Samantha de Silva addresses Merton benefactors. Photograph: Greg Smolonski

GRADUATES ADDRESS MERTON BENEFACTORS, JUNE 2015

Following the successful 750th Anniversary Campaign, *Sustaining Excellence*, Merton's benefactors came together for a day of celebration and thanks. Current graduate students Samantha de Silva (2010) and Adil Hossain (2014), introduced by Professor Tim Softley, the Courtenay Phillips Fellow in Chemistry, demonstrated some of the world-class research the Campaign has helped make possible.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN](#)

Photographs from events in Trinity Term 2015 – including Benefactors' Day and the Merton@Home weekend – are available online on the [Merton College Flickr site](#).