# Table of Contents

5  Message from the President

6  The Foundation

8  The start of the 50th anniversary celebrations

11  Our fellowship program

19  The Philippe Wiener Lectures

23  The Ganshof van der Meersch Chair

27  The research projects

37  Our Alumni

40  Other funded initiatives
Message from the President

The Fondation Philippe Wiener - Maurice Anspach turned fifty in 2015. Born out of the remarkable generosity and foresight of Phyllis Beddington Wiener, the Foundation has grown and strengthened in a half century and it has proven to be a powerful catalyst of cooperation between the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford.

The year 2015 is testament to this, with €1,140,000 granted in support of scientific activities, up from just over the €1 million mark last year. The funding has continued to be balanced between fellowships to post-graduate students and to doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, in addition to the financing of collaborative research projects between teams from the ULB, Oxford and Cambridge.

What drives the granting of the funds is, however, not a preset allocation key between these categories of initiatives, but the quality of the submissions and their contribution to the goals of the Foundation. We are pleased that this quality has been sustained over the last several years, even as the financial means of the Foundation expanded.

The Foundation’s support continues to stretch across all fields of higher education and research, from chemistry to archaeology, from political science to mathematics, from law to anthropology.

The year 2015 was also marked by the start of the cross-Channel celebrations of the Foundation’s jubilee. In October, we gathered close to 70 alumni and friends of the Foundation in the Belgian Embassy in London at the kind invitation of Belgium’s Ambassador Guy Trouveroy.

It enabled many Alumni to reconnect with fellow Alumni and with the Foundation in general, as well as allowing us to pay tribute to the seminal role of Phyllis Beddington Wiener, with several representatives of the Beddington and Anspach families in attendance.

We had intended to hold a gala evening in late November in Brussels, but the security conditions in the city at that time compelled us to postpone the event. This however did not deter us and the gala evening has been rescheduled for May 25, 2016, allowing us fortuitously to stretch our celebration well into our 50th year. We will be privileged to have Commissioner Moedas deliver a keynote address on the importance of European research for 21st century global challenges, as well as interventions by the Vice-Chancellors of Cambridge and Oxford and the Recteur of ULB. A rare treat indeed.

These two events also effectively initiate our efforts to develop stronger links with, and between, our Alumni, which is one of our major goals for the years to come.

As I have stressed previously, the Foundation’s support has been a springboard for the careers of over 500 Alumni. Some have excelled in academia, others in public service, and yet others in the private sector. And the younger generation is not any less talented. Our ambition is to leverage this exceptional pool of wisdom, talent and goodwill for the benefit of future generations of Fellows. This is how we hope to help Alumni help future Alumni achieve their dreams, just like theirs were fulfilled.

Pierre Francotte
President of the Wiener-Anspach Foundation
Since 1965, the Wiener-Anspach Foundation has been promoting scientific collaborations, in every field, between the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

The Fondation Philippe Wiener-Maurice Anspach was established by Phyllis A. Beddington in 1965 to honour the memory of her husband, Philippe Wiener, who died during World War II at Esterwegen, where he was imprisoned as a political opponent.

After the death of Maurice Anspach, Philippe Wiener’s close friend who had taken care of her family during the war, Mrs Beddington modified the Foundation’s statutes to add his name to her husband’s.

The Foundation:

Enables graduates and researchers from the ULB to access the leading research centres of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and vice versa.

Supports two-year collaborative research projects.

Organises lectures and chairs.

Encourages contacts between researchers and academics by funding short-term visits.

The Scientific Committee is happy to welcome a new member, Professor Valérie André (Université libre de Bruxelles). The Scientific Committee wishes to express its warmest thanks to Professor Muriel Moser, who, on becoming Dean of the Faculty of Sciences in October 2015, stepped down.
The Foundation’s 50th anniversary celebrations commenced at the Belgian Embassy in London on 22 October 2015 where the attendees were welcomed by His Excellency, Guy Trouveroy, Belgium’s Ambassador to the United Kingdom. Among those in attendance were former and present members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors, family members from both the Wiener-Beddington and the Anspach families, professors from the ULB and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and of course, alumni and current fellows. Words of welcome were expressed by Ambassador Trouveroy, followed by an introductory speech given by the Foundation’s President, Pierre Francotte and a commemorative address by Phyllis Bedington-Wiener’s niece, Jenny Beddington, in honour of her aunt’s establishing the Foundation.

In her speech, Ms Beddington recalls her fond memories of her aunt Phyllis from early childhood well into adulthood, describing her as “everyone’s favourite aunt”, a woman “who loved to be with young people” and who often not only had “a mischievous look on her face” but also an ever-present “twinkle in her eyes”. Ms. Beddington also recounted the origins of the Foundation, describing how it was borne out of the sorrow of the loss of her dear husband, Philippe, during the Second World War in order to serve as a memorial to him and to her trusted friend, Maurice Anspach, whose invaluable support sustained Phyllis during turbulent times and long afterwards. It was a moving tribute not only to a unique woman and to two families, but as a result also to the legacy the Foundation has forged since its inception in 1965, building academic bridges and fostering ties between three great institutions of higher learning.

Additionally, a short film was screened, highlighting the history of the Foundation together with excerpts from interviews with a number of alumni who share their experiences and their gratitude for the opportunities the Foundation granted them to further their studies and ultimately their careers.

In conjunction with the Foundation’s 50th anniversary, a commemorative brochure was published shortly after the London celebrations, including texts written by Pierre Francotte, former FWA President Jean-Victor Louis, and Jenny Beddington.

On this page: 1. view of reception hall; 2. from left to right, Kristin Bartik, FWA Communications Officer, Francesca Spinelli, Jenny Beddington, Elizabeth Mills-Beddington, and Professor Christina Redfield; 3. Francesca Spinelli and FWA Secretary, Nicole Bosmans; 4. from left to right, current fellows Violette Pouillard and Celine Paqet, alumni Christophe Snoeck and Fréderic Piel; 5. current fellows and alumni.
Our fellowship program
In line with its objectives, the Foundation promotes the development of academic activities between the ULB and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge by awarding fellowships to students and researchers. Applications are examined by the Scientific Board.

The Foundation awards:

- Postgraduate fellowships to ULB graduates to enrol in Oxford/Cambridge
- Doctoral fellowships to ULB doctoral students to undertake part of their research in Cambridge/Oxford and vice-versa.
- Postdoctoral grants to researchers who have obtained their PhD from the ULB to work in Oxford or Cambridge and to DPhil/PhD from Oxbridge to undertake research at the ULB.

For the 2015/2016 academic year, the Foundation selected 20 Fellows.

Breakdown by academic destination (all fellowships)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Postgraduate fellowships (7)</th>
<th>Postdoctoral fellowships (13)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ULB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the 2015/2016 academic year, the Foundation selected 20 Fellows.
On September 9th, 2015 the Wiener-Anspach Foundation organised its annual fellows’ meeting. Most of our 2015/2016 fellows attended and had the opportunity to present their respective projects. Member of the FWA’s Board of Directors and its Scientific Committee were also in attendance. The ULB promoters of the nine research projects funded by the Foundation also attended, together with academic authorities and some of our Alumni.
2015/2016 Fellows

Doctoral fellowship for Cambridge

BLAGOJE OBLAK
PhD student in Physics
Research entitled "Holographic aspects of asymptotically flat gravity in 3 and 4 dimensions", under the supervision of Prof. Harvey Reall at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics.

Postgraduate fellowships for Cambridge and Oxford

LOUISE RAYNAUD
MA in Linguistics
MPhil in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics at Cambridge

GUILLAUME VALETTE
MA in Engineering Science
MSI in Applied Mathematics at Cambridge

CELINE PAQUET
MA in Archeology
MPhil in Archeology at Cambridge

ANNABELLE OLIVA
MA in Archeology
MPhil in Archeology at Cambridge

CELINE PAQUET
PhD student in Physics
Research entitled "Holographic aspects of asymptotically flat gravity in 3 and 4 dimensions", under the supervision of Prof. Harvey Reall at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics.
Doctoral fellowships for the ULB

RUADHAI DERVAN
DPhil student in Mathematics (Oxford)
Research entitled "Continuity methods in Kähler geometry" under the supervision of Dr Joel Fine at the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics.

CORENTIN CAUDRON
PhD in Earth Sciences

MATTHEW WILLNER-REID
DPhil student in International Development (Oxford)
Research entitled "To what extent is UNHCR’s intervention in Afghanistan influenced by incentives in the humanitarian marketplace?" under the supervision of Prof. Barbara Delcourt at the Department of Political Science.

Postdoctoral fellowships for Cambridge

FLORE KEYMEULEN
PhD in Engineering Science
Research entitled "Bio-inspired Synthetic Molecular Devices for the development of Drug delivery Systems and Sensors" under the supervision of Prof. Christopher Hunter at the Department of Chemistry.

NIBEDITA MUKHERJEE
PhD in Biology
Second year of research on "Designing efficient solutions to address the bottlenecks in the modis operandi of current biodiversity conservation efforts" under the supervision of Prof. William Sutherland at the Department of Zoology.

GUILLAUME SCHWEICHER
PhD in Engineering Science
Second year of research on "Reaching silicon-like mobilities with organic semiconductors", under the supervision of Prof. Henning Sirringhaus in the Department of Physics.
Postdoctoral fellowships for Oxford

MICHAEL DEPRETER
PhD in History
Research entitled "External state Action and Power relationships between Princes, Cities and Noblemen" under the supervision of Dr Steven Gunn at the Faculty of History.

FEDERICA INFANTINO
PhD in Social and Political Sciences
Research entitled "Inside UK Immigration Detention and Deportation: Analysing Street-Level Policymaking" under the supervision of Dr Franck Düvell at the Centre on Migration, Policy, and Society.

SANDY SCHUMANN
PhD in Psychology
Second year of research on "The Impact of Computer-mediated Intergroup Contact on Prejudices" under the supervision of Prof. Miles Hewstone at the Oxford Centre for the Study of Intergroup Conflict.

VIOLETTE POUILLARD
PhD in History
Research entitled "The Imperial Zoo. The official supply of African fauna to the London Zoological garden (1828-1960)" under the supervision of Prof. Miles Larmer at the African Studies Center.

IRINI VILTANIOTI
PhD in History of Art and Archaeology
Research entitled "Porphyry of Tyre as a Commentator: the Classical Tradition in Early Neoplatonism" at the Theology Faculty under the supervision of Prof. Mark Edwards.
KYRIAKOS ANTONIOU
PhD in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics
Research entitled "Bilinguism, pragmatics and cognition in children with autism" under the supervision of Prof. Mikhail Kissine at the Centre de recherche en linguistique.

PAUL EARLIE
DPhil in French
Second year of research entitled "The return of sophists? Rhetoric and Sophistry in Postwar French Thought" under the supervision of Prof. Michel Meyer at the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences.

DUNCAN HARDY
DPhil in History
Research entitled "Leagues, diets, and councils: political culture in the towns of the Holy Roman Empire and the Burgundian Low Countries, C. 1350-1550" under the supervision of Prof. Michel de Waha at the Groupe de Recherche en Histoire Médiévale.

GABRIELA FREI
DPhil in History
Research entitled "War, law and the emergence of an international economic order, 1914 - 1939" under the supervision of Prof. Olivier Corten at the Centre de Droit International.
University of Oxford, June 1st, 2015

Mathias Dewatripont
Executive Director of the National Bank of Belgium
Professor at the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management

"Which protection for bank liabilities?"

Mathias Dewatripont was appointed Executive Director at the National Bank of Belgium in May 2011, where he is responsible for prudential policy and financial stability. In this capacity, he is a member of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank, of the Board of Supervisors of the European Banking Authority and of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. He co-chairs the BCBS Research Task Force.

Mr Dewatripont holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University, 1986. He has done research in the theory of incentives and organizations. Since 1990, he has been Professor of Economics at Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). He was part-time Visiting Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Research Director of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) between 1998 and 2011. Fellow of the Econometric Society, laureate of the 1998 Francqui Prize and of the 2003 Yrjö Jahnsson Award for Economics, he was elected President of the European Economic Association for the Year 2005. He is member of the Académie royale de Belgique and Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Science. He was also outside Director of CGER-Bank (1992-99) and President and then Dean of the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management of ULB (2009-2011).

He has widely published in the areas of contract theory, organization economics and banking and finance. His books include The Prudential Regulation of Banks (with Jean Tirole, MIT Press 1994), Contract Theory (with Patrick Bolton, MIT Press 2005) and Balancing the Banks: Global Lessons from the Financial Crisis (with Jean-Charles Rochet & Jean Tirole, Princeton University Press, 2010).
Abstract of the lecture

On June 1st 2015, Professor Dewatripont gave a lecture entitled “Which protection for bank liabilities?” at the University of Oxford. He was welcomed by Professor Colin Mayer (Saïd Business School).

The lecture began with a brief history of banking regulation, deregulation and crisis management over the last 100 years. In particular it focused on an evaluation of the cost of bank bailouts. It also discussed the regulatory trend since the 2007-2008 crisis. Particular attention was devoted to the EU Banking Recovery and Resolution Directive, and its potential impact on financial stability. The lecture concluded with a more general discussion on the tradeoff between insurance and incentives in banking regulation.
The chair was established in 1995 in memory of Walter J. Ganshof van der Meersch, founder and president of the Institute for European Studies, Professor of Public Law at the ULB, Attorney General at the Belgian Court of Cassation and Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights. Mr Ganshof van der Meersch, who understood from the very beginning the potential of the Foundation, was its second President after the death of its founder, Mrs Beddington.

The chair is held by a visiting professor from Oxford or Cambridge. The course must focus on the economic, historical, political and legal aspects of European integration or on public law.

John R. Spencer Q.C, LLD was a Professor of Law at the University of Cambridge until his retirement in September 2013, when he became a Professor Emeritus. In a career lasting over forty years he has written extensively on criminal law, criminal evidence and comparative criminal procedure, including on law enforcement and police cooperation.

His interests include European criminal law. In particular, he was a member of the international team responsible for drafting the Corpus Juris project.

Besides his book (with Mireille Delmas-Marty) on European criminal procedure, he has written or edited books dealing with various aspects of the law of evidence in England and Wales, and also a short book in French about English criminal procedure.

He is the ECLAN Contact Point for the United Kingdom. Additionally, he is Life Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge, as well as being a Bye-Fellow of Murray Edwards College, Cambridge.
Opening lecture of the chair: "Noli me tangere? Tensions between Europe and the UK over criminal justice"

"Levelling up, levelling down, or leaving things alone? The EU and attempts to harmonise the rules of criminal law and criminal procedure"

"The European Arrest Warrant: Whose standards of justice should apply?"

"The European Public Prosecutor: Saviour, monster, or waste of space?"

"The right to silence - sacred cow or sacred principle?"

In his opening lecture, Professor Spencer examined current and continual discontent in the UK with the Strasbourg Court and the European Convention, much of which relates to criminal justice matters, and current political moves to “liberate” the national courts from their obligations to apply the Convention and the Strasbourg case-law that interprets it.

He then examined parallel moves to “liberate” the criminal justice system of the UK from the influence of Brussels, Luxembourg, and the EU. Professor Spencer contended that much of the current discontent is based upon grave misunderstandings - both about the administration of criminal justice in Continental Europe, and the supposed desire of “Europeans” to force the British to adopt Continental ways.
The Wiener-Anspach Foundation supports two-year collaborative research projects in all fields between the ULB and the Universities of Cambridge and/or Oxford. Nine projects were granted support for the 2014-2016 period.

ULB - Cambridge
Crossing boundaries, defining states: confession, music and territoriality in the Southern Netherlands and the Principality of Liège (c.1500-1650)

During the Renaissance, the Low Countries were a crossroads of ideas, notably religious and philosophical, a major centre of cultural exchange between different parts of the world, and the theatre of various confessional beliefs. The many years of conflict between Protestants and Catholics eventually led to the split of the territory into two distinct political entities (1648). The project aims to show how the process of musical composition, interpretation or diffusion served to associate a particular group with a specific confessional religion, and how this association may also have sometimes served to project a territorial claim. The project addresses the four main issues of conversion, belief, resistance, and memory. For practical reasons, the study is limited to specific towns: Brussels, Douai, Courtrai, Mons, Soignies, Valenciennes and Antwerp. This study draws mostly on archival and literary sources but also on an examination of the musical repertory.

Marie-Alexis Colin’s interest in early music focuses on France and the Low Countries between 1450 and 1650, particularly its stylistic, liturgical and essentially political dimensions. She is also interested in questions relating to the diffusion and circulation of music and texts.

Iain Fenlon’s principal area of research is music from 1450 to 1650. His work on music and culture has been centrally concerned with how the history of music is related to the history of society, whether through the medium of patronage, print culture, civic or courtly life.
Nitrogen is the quantitatively most important nutrient in cropping systems. Modifying root morphology to capture nitrogen more efficiently could represent a sustainable solution to maintain crop productivity whilst reducing the environmental impact of agriculture. One way to reduce nitrogen fertilizer input is to breed for crops with better Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE). Our project is to uncover mechanisms of lateral root growth stimulation or repression by nitrate availability in the model species Arabidopsis and parented oilseed rape. The Brussels partner identified candidate genes having a potential to redesign root architecture and further detailed characterization of those genes and isolated plant material is done in collaboration with the Cambridge partner, in particular for advanced confocal microscopy.

Christian Hermans is a bioengineer and a research associate from F.R.S-FNRS. Apart from the influence of nitrogen on root development, his research interest is also on the mechanisms of magnesium uptake and storage in plants. The Laboratory of Plant Physiology and Molecular Genetics is chiefly studying plant adaptation to extreme metallic environments.

Jim Haseloff is a plant biologist. His laboratory is focused on the engineering of plant morphogenesis (development and differentiation of the plant structures and form) using microscopy, molecular genetics, computational and synthetic biology techniques in simple plant systems, like Arabidopsis thaliana or the lower plant Marchnatia polymorpha.
The impact of bilingualism and bi-dialectalism on linguistic and cognitive development

Mikhail Kissine’s research group comprises five PhD students and three post-docs and specialises in experimental and theoretical pragmatics. In addition to bilingualism, this group addresses research topics such as: language in autism, irony, insinuations, speech acts and mood and modality. Mikhail Kissine’s group belongs to LaDisco, the center of research that regroups researchers in linguistics at ULB.

Napoleon Katsos is Senior Lecturer at the Department of Applied and Theoretical Linguistics at the University of Cambridge. He studied linguistics in Athens (Greece) and obtained his PhD in applied linguistics in Cambridge (UK). He is interested in semantics and pragmatics, language acquisition, and bilingualism. Napoleon is one of the senior researchers in the BiBi-project.

ULB Promoter: Mikhail Kissine (Centre de Recherche en Linguistique)
Cambridge Promoter: Napoleon Katsos (Theoretical and Applied Linguistics)

Speaking two or more languages is becoming the norm rather than the exception. It is therefore imperative to understand the impact of bilingualism on child development. Research to date reports negative effects of bilingualism on linguistic development (when the bilingual child is compared to monolingual peers), but positive effects on cognitive development. Researchers from the University of Cambridge and the Université libre de Bruxelles are investigating the aspects of linguistic development, namely pragmatics and conversational skills, where bilingualism should have a positive effect. Additionally, the researchers propose that the contrastive study of bilingualism and bi-dialectalism (children speaking two dialects) has unique potential to reveal the nature of the cognitive advantages of bilingualism. These two strands are interwoven into a single program of research, addressing questions of central interest for communities both within and beyond academia.

For more information about the project, you can visit the website: http://bibi.ulb.ac.be/Bibi/English.html
In an age of economic globalisation, how do business exchanges take place in situations of uncertainty when the state is missing or unable to guarantee basic institutional trust? This question is addressed through the study of clothing, one of the most emblematic sectors of the global economy. Using a comparative ethnographic study of two important African business hubs, this research will be able to track many commonalities regarding the questions of trust, border crossing, transnational economic exchanges and trade diaspora. Additionally, by following transnational trade chains supplying secondhand and new clothing to two marketplaces, we examine the variety of regimes governing the mobility of people and goods, as well as the social ties that allow traders to enforce contracts and defend their market share in situations of political instability and uncertainty.

At the Université libre de Bruxelles, Emma Lochery is working as a post-doctoral researcher under the supervision of Andrea Rea who has conducted extensive research on the trans-border movement of people and goods, investigating the impact of mobility on conceptions of citizenship, statehood, and belonging. Emma’s work builds on GERME’s past work on migration, border-crossing and trade in west and northern Africa.

At Oxford University, Martin Rosenfeld is working as a post-doctoral researcher under the supervision of Neil Carrier and Nicholas Van Hear. Neil Carrier, a lecturer at the African Studies Centre, has carried out extensive research work in Kenya. Nicholas Van Hear is Deputy Director of COMPAS, one of the world’s leading research centres on migration. The three members of the project team are also members of the Oxford Diaspora Program, which links Oxford’s three migration centres.
This project brings together archaeologists and historians who study early medieval peasant societies and landscapes. It will examine the standards of living of peasant households as documented by archaeology and texts and according to various ‘production modes’, thus focusing on the peasant household as both an empiric object and a theoretical structure in order to allow a dialogue beyond disciplinary boundaries. It will also document the way their economical strategies had an impact upon the surrounding landscape. Among the project’s aims are crossed workshops, lectures and winter schools in Oxford and Brussels in addition to the collective writing of a book offering an overall synthesis of the work’s results.

The teams involved are directed by Professors Jean-Pierre Devroey and Alexis Wilkin (Université libre de Bruxelles) and chaired by Professor Chris Wickham (University of Oxford). Both teams share a common interest in the material and economical history of Western Early and High Medieval Europe.

Professors Devroey and Wilkin have published mainly upon the history of agricultural production, commercialization and famines and their institutional and political management.

Professor Wickham has published extensively upon the history of Medieval Europe (especially Early Medieval Italy), and aims to adopt comparative analysis in his works.
The project “Beyond the Polis”, spanning from 2012 to 2015, focused on the study of collective ritual practices that took place in distinctive locations either in contemporary settlements and/or in sacred and funerary contexts from the Late Bronze Age to the Late Archaic period throughout the ancient Greek world. The study of rituals during such informative periods of early Greek culture advanced the definition of the character of such practices; and the social status of the groups who organised and participated in them.

The project focused on a variety of practices such as collective feasting evinced in the discovery of distinctive archaeological material.

The first two years of the research focused on case studies, examining the material revealed in the sites of Lefkandi in Euboea, the “Sacred House” at the Academy of Athens, the Spartan Amyklion, and the Archai building in Itanos (East Crete). In the second year another case study was added to include the region of northern Greece and in particular ritual associated with the burial practices of central Macedonia, at the Necropolis of Sindos site. The results of this two-year research project are soon to be published in a collective volume.

The third and last year expanded the research into theoretical questions, other geographical areas and sites of the Greek world, and also took into account new types of evidence brought by faunal and bio-archaeological remains. The final results were discussed in an international symposium held at ULB in September 2015 that gathered the leading specialists on the subject, and will be published in a second volume edited by the promoters of the project.

ULB Promoter: Athéna Tsingarida (CReA-Patrimoine)

Oxford Promoter: Irene Lemos (Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies)

The CReA-Patrimoine is a leading research centre of the Université libre de Bruxelles, promoting national and international programs on archaeology and cultural heritage. It constitutes the privileged partner between the university and the public authorities in charge of cultural heritage.

Athéna Tsingarida, a specialist of Archaic and Classical Greece, teaches Ancient Greek Archaeology and Art at the ULB. Her research mainly lies in the fields of Ancient Greek Pottery and Reception of Classical Art. She co-directed (with Didier Viviers) the excavations and restoration works at Itanos (Eastern Crete).

The Stelios Ioannou School for Research in Classical and Byzantine Studies plays a central role in these studies at the University of Oxford. The University hosts an incomparable breadth and depth of Classical and Byzantine research, encompassing ancient philosophy, languages, literature, drama, art, history and archaeology across the millennia.

Irene S. Lemos is a specialist in Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Greece. She is the director of the excavations at Lefkandi (Euboea), is in charge of the publication of the Iron Age cemetery in Toumba, and has led the excavations on Xeropolis since 2003.
Initiated in 2012, the ACME collaboration has been aiming at the understanding of atomic and molecular collision mechanisms of ammonia (NH₃) at interstellar space temperatures and beyond, thus leading towards a new chemistry to be controlled at the quantum level. The collaboration mainly addresses ammonia and rare gas collisions and half collisions, with experimental as well as theoretical work being conducted at the same time. 2015 was a fruitful year, with a complementary research track was successfully opened which considers water instead of ammonia. Moreover, the detection of ammonia in the field was achieved, exploiting previous results from and thanks to the experimental developments at ULB. Fourteen papers either were published or have been accepted for publication in international journals, in addition to thirteen oral contributions being presented at international events that included ACME results. A top ranking international workshop was organized by the three ACME co-promotors under the sponsorship of the Wiener Anspach Foundation and of the International Solvay Institutes, gathering the best experts in the field.

Michel Herman and his team implemented high-resolution infrared spectroscopy at ULB. Particular attention was focused on experimental and theoretical problems related to overtone vibrational excitation in isolated and van der Waals species.

Nathalie Vaeck and her team have developed, together with the LCP of the Université de Paris XI, a molecular non-adiabatic wave packet dynamics package for the calculation of collision or photodissociation cross sections.

Located in the Chemistry Research Lab, the 15-member Oxford group, comprising researchers from seven countries, has developed novel approaches to studying collisions of molecules and ions at very low temperatures.
Political information is a fundamental condition for the well-functioning of democracies. Democracy functions better when its citizens are politically informed because well-informed citizens are better able to formulate their interests and ensure that these interests are taken into account by governments. With emergence of a new digital era, access to information is being deeply transformed. Within this context, the project’s goal is to analyse the effects of digital technologies on citizens’ political knowledge and political behaviour, focusing on online-based news consumption on political knowledge and participation by means of innovative experimental methods. Two working packages are associated with the project: the first focuses on political knowledge and tests through an online experiment how a variety of online platforms affect how people learn and modify their attitudes; and the second focuses on political participation by analysing online petitions, particularly the lapetition platform.

The Centre d’étude de la vie politique is the main research unit in political science at the Université libre de Bruxelles. It is composed of 9 Faculty members, 10 post-doctoral researchers, and 25 PhD students working in the framework of research grants or teaching assistantship. Members of the Cevipol regularly contribute to events such as the ECPR Joint sessions, ECPR General & Graduate Conferences and Summer Schools, IPSA, MPSA, APSA, EPSA.

The Oxford Internet Institute (OII) is a social science department of the University of Oxford with a multi-disciplinary faculty. Its researchers use a diverse methodological toolkit, and develop cutting edge methods to understand digital life, such as experiments, social network analysis and big data approaches.

The neuronal diversity of the cerebral cortex manages the complex cortical functions of mammalian brains. Understanding of the mechanisms underlying the generation of cellular diversity of the cortex constitute a major challenge in developmental neurosciences. Within the cortex, the subplate (SP) is a transient cortical structure at the interface between the developing cortex and the guidance of axons and the establishment of topographic connections. Nowadays, very little is known about the genes which control specification of SP cell populations that are among the earliest generated in the cortex. The Bellfroid laboratory demonstrated that Dmrt5 mutant mice present major deficits in SP, and it launched a collaborative study with the Molnar laboratory to understand the role of Dmrt5 in the generation of SP neurons.

Eric Bellefroid’s group at the ULB studies the molecular mechanisms that control neurogenesis in the developing vertebrate nervous system, focusing on some transcription factors and their role in progenitor proliferation and differentiation and in the generation of neuronal diversity.

Zoltan Molnár’s group at the University of Oxford studies the molecular mechanisms that control the development and evolution of early cortical circuits, with special attention to cortical arealisation, thalamocortical connectivity, migration of cortical neurons and associated disorders.
In the Gonville & Caius College garden, Cambridge, 1973. From left to right: FWA Alumnus, Pierre Vaesen; College President, David Needham; and College Fellow, Pedro Echenique.
You left with a scholarship from the Foundation for the 1973/74 academic year. How, at that time, did you find this opportunity? Was it a fellowship program that was much talked about?

I can honestly say there wasn’t much talk about it. We were but a few candidates, I believe, and I think the Foundation, being fairly new, was looking for candidates. At that time more than forty years ago, such things as the Erasmus program didn’t exist and there was little exchange occurring, even between European universities. I had already decided that I wanted to have an international or European career and so I thought it would be a nice experience to be able to extend my studies abroad. I was studying Law and International Law at the ULB and so I became aware of what kind of opportunities there were through message boards, I believe.

Why did you choose Cambridge rather than Oxford, then?

At the time I think there was already a pre-established program, and I didn’t really have a choice. At Cambridge there was a reputable program in International and European Law. It was a one-year program that could be extended to two years. I opted for one year as I had to take entrance exams for the diplomatic corps and I still had to do military service which was still mandatory at the time.

You left for Cambridge the same year the United Kingdom joined the European Union. Was the topic discussed frequently and did it affect your year of study there in any way?

As a matter of fact, what dominated the news during my time in England (it was an academic year from September to August of the following year) was the domestic political crisis. There was a general strike which lasted ten months and which brought down the government. It was a miners’ strike and there was even a general blackout. I remember walking the streets of Cambridge with flashlights. In department stores oil lamps were lit. It was really a punishing strike that paralyzed the country’s economy. There were waves of protests. Finally, the Heath government was forced to call elections that it eventually lost. So that was the political and psychological context there. The UK’s entry into the European Union came and went completely unnoticed. Due to greater concerns, it was not a major topic of interest.
After a career of more than forty years in the diplomatic corps, how has the profession changed? I assume there must now be many more women diplomats. What are some of the major changes you’ve observed?

Unfortunately, there are still too few women diplomats. One of the reasons being that it’s very difficult to reconcile one’s private and family life with essentially a nomadic life. You have to be willing to change countries every four years, and so it’s not easy to find a partner, be they a husband or a wife, who is willing to follow you. You may say that the issue is now just as sensitive for a woman as it is for a man since there are more and more women who want to invest in and further their own careers.

When I left on my first mission, it was forbidden for spouses to work because it was felt that it was either dangerous or incompatible with the dignity and function of such a post. This was what the mentality was like some forty years ago. The system now has greatly changed. Although there are now services to help spouses find jobs, it still remains difficult to develop a career. It was a huge problem to find women diplomats precisely for these reasons, but it’s becoming a problem to recruit men diplomats for the same reasons. Even if the profession has changed greatly, the basic principles remain the same. A career in diplomacy is essentially one that promotes mainly bilateral relations from country to country or multilateral relations if we are in an international body.

Although there has been talk of the death of diplomacy, the opposite is in fact the case. I think we need diplomats more than ever before. International relations have now expanded to many areas that were once considered solely as national domains. Living in a globalized world means that there is a need for more diplomatic relations in all sectors, be they economic, scientific, academic or cultural. There are dozens of areas in which diplomatic relations are manifest. The changes have also been of a technological nature. Technology has greatly changed and along with it, a considerable expansion of focus areas.

As a representative of the Belgian state, have you often had to face questions about the specifics of Belgium and its community issues?

Yes, of course. Each country has its difficulties and challenges, naturally. In discussing the specifics of Belgium with foreigners, the real challenge lay in explaining the Belgian state structure, which as we know is complicated, but that’s the price paid to be able to live together peacefully. I’ve often made the analogy that a diplomat is a bit of a travelling salesman. We don’t sell soap, but we do sell the image of our country since that is what is ultimately important if we want to develop relations in any field. Somehow it all depends on the image of your country, whether it’s positive or not.

Some countries are better at creating a better image than others. For example, our French friends have a strong image based on quality brands and products. This may sounds a bit ridiculous and superficial, but all this helps to give an overall positive picture of your country. Italians do it very well and other countries too, such as Germany. In conclusion, the work of a diplomat includes, among many other tasks, selling the image of our country almost as a brand and making the world receptive to that image.
The Ganshof van der Meersch Prize

Established in 1994, the Ganshof van der Meersch Prize rewards a student from the Faculty of Law and Criminology of the ULB who achieved academic excellence in the study of public law and who obtained a Master’s degree in this field with at least a “Grande Distinction” (magna cum laude).

In 2015 the prize was awarded to Cecilia Rizcallah. Ms. Rizcallah holds a Master of Law from the ULB and is currently completing a Master of European Law at the Collège d’Europe in Bruges.

Other funded activities

The Ganshof van der Meersch Prize

Established in 1994, the Ganshof van der Meersch Prize rewards a student from the Faculty of Law and Criminology of the ULB who achieved academic excellence in the study of public law and who obtained a Master’s degree in this field with at least a “Grande Distinction” (magna cum laude).

In 2015 the prize was awarded to Cecilia Rizcallah. Ms. Rizcallah holds a Master of Law from the ULB and is currently completing a Master of European Law at the Collège d’Europe in Bruges.

Short stays

Academics and researchers from the ULB, Oxford and Cambridge who wish to conduct research for a limited period of time or participate in conferences organised by one of these universities can apply for funding.

2015 Recipients

- In the framework of his doctoral research at the ULB, Maxime Dhainaut spent two months from November 2014 to January 2015 at the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, University of Oxford. He was welcomed by Prof. Michael Dustin.

- Dr Robert Style (Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford) spent the week of 12-16 January 2015 at the Department of Physics, ULB, in order to establish a new collaboration in the field of Soft Materials. He was welcomed by Prof. Denis Terwagne.

- Prof. Edwin Zaccaï (IGEAT, ULB) gave a seminar entitled “Climate Change: Is adaptation a second best to mitigation?” at the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford on 26 January 2015. He was welcomed by Dr Thomas Thornton.

- Prof. Juliette Simont (Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences, ULB) delivered a keynote lecture at a conference entitled “Sartre Today” on 30 January 2015 at the Maison Francaise, University of Oxford. She was welcomed by Dr Christina Howells.

- Dr Evi Margaritis (University of Cambridge) delivered a lecture entitled “Wine Merchants, Olive Oil Factories, and Taverns in Hellenistic Greece” at the CréA-Patrimoine, ULB on 2 March 2015. She was welcomed by Prof. Agnès Vokaer.

- Prof. Elisabeth Hsu participated in a workshop entitled, “The Ethnographic Productivity of Tim Ingold” and delivered a lecture on the theory of the “ecology of the body” at the ULB’s Laboratoire d’Anthropologie des Mondes Contemporains (LAMC) on 20-21 April 2015. She was welcomed by Prof. David Berliner.

- Dr Aude Busine (FNRS, ULB) attended the XVII International Conference on Patristics Studies from the 10 to 14 August 2015 at the University of Oxford where she presented a paper entitled, “Basil of Caesarea and the Praise of the City”.

- Prof. Denis Terwagne (Department of Physics, ULB) spent the week of 23-29 August 2015 at the Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford to further consolidate a cross-Channel collaboration in the field of Soft Materials. He was welcomed by Dr Robert Style.

- Dr Julie Smith and Prof. Andrew Gamble (University of Cambridge) delivered lectures in the series of events on the theme, “The EU and the UK Facing the Challenge of Fragmentation in a Disordered World” on 29 September and 13 October 2015 respectively at the IEE, ULB. They were welcomed by Prof. Anne Weyembergh.

- Prof. Sir Mark Feldman (Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, University of Oxford) delivered a lecture entitled, “Pioneering anti-TNF therapy: Lessons learned point path future progress?” on 10 November 2015 at the inaugural conference, “From Scientific Breakthrough to Patient Care” organized by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Innovation in Healthcare, ULB. He was welcomed by Prof. Michel Goldman.

- Prof. Alain Viola and Prof. Kate Tunstall (University of Oxford) gave a joint-lecture entitled, “Anti? Querelles, modernité et construction des savoirs” at the ULB in the context of the international conference, “Femmes des anti-Lumières, Femmes apologistes” which took place on 19-20 November 2015. They were welcomed by Prof. Fabrice Freyat.
Information about fellowships and grants
Nicole Bosmans - fwa@ulb.ac.be +32 (0)2 650 27 16
Alumni and Communications Officer
Francesca Spinelli/Marco Della Motta - fwa.relations@ulb.ac.be +32 (0)2 650 33 37