

# KENT

The Magazine for the University of Kent | Autumn 2009 | No 1



The Parent Trap

Building on a dream

University of Kent

# Welcome

The outstanding settings of Canterbury and Rochester Cathedrals provide a magnificent backdrop for our degree ceremonies. Whether they are the July or November congregations, they are always a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the success not just of our graduands but the University as a whole.

As you can imagine, these events take an enormous amount of planning and I would like to thank all staff involved in getting things right on the day and making them such memorable events. Above all, my thanks go to our Chancellor, Sir Robert Worcester, who does such an excellent job presiding over many of the ceremonies.

This summer, I was particularly impressed by the exploits, often over a lifetime, of our honorary graduands. Many of these exceptional people are alumni of the University or have worked closely to support the University or the region of Kent and Medway. This autumn, we are conferring awards in recognition of the contributions made by Sir Brandon Gough, Sir Cyril Chantler and Dame Elizabeth Forgan, all equally outstanding in their service to others. I hope you take the opportunity to read about them all on the University website.

This time of year can be daunting for new students, many of whom are leaving home for the first time. We are fortunate that we are currently able to offer all our first years campus accommodation at Canterbury, and Liberty Quays, our new accommodation at Medway, is at capacity. Given the high level of demand, it is likely that we will need to expand our provision for both campuses.

As well as our current (and future) students, we also have our alumni very much in our thoughts. I have recently returned from Athens, where we hosted an event attended by nearly 200 alumni, and plans to set up an Athens alumni association are well underway. We have also hosted events in Hong Kong, which now has its own alumni association, and also in the USA in several locations including Chicago. Closer to home, we have just held a dinner for the Class of '66 in London, as always a most enjoyable evening.

I am very proud to be the Vice-Chancellor of such an exciting University. It is because of the activities of its staff, students and alumni that I can say with confidence that we have yet another exceptional year ahead of us.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia".

Professor Julia Goodfellow, CBE  
Vice-Chancellor



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## New look KENT

This is the first issue of the new University's magazine. Produced by the Communications & Development Office in conjunction with the University's Design & Print Centre, it brings together the former Newsletter for staff and KENT magazine for alumni as part of a move to streamline our communications activities and also as a response to the results of the staff survey earlier this year in which the overwhelming majority voted for a new magazine style for the in-house publication. The magazine will be produced six times a year, with two of the six issues having a special alumni focus and these will be sent to around 30,000 alumni worldwide in addition to being sent to staff and friends of the University.

This is the first of the special 'alumni' issues, with the next one due next summer. However, alumni are welcome to keep in touch with the University's activities throughout the year by reading the magazine online at [www.kent.ac.uk/alumni/news/index.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/alumni/news/index.html)

We have also set up a readers' panel for staff. Please get in touch if you would like to become a member. We are also developing ways to increase feedback from alumni but in the meantime we are always keen to have your feedback. Letters are welcome from all our readers. Simply email the editorial team at [kentmagazine@kent.ac.uk](mailto:kentmagazine@kent.ac.uk)

**Editorial team:** Posie Bogan, Media & Communications Manger; Colette O'Reilly, Publications Officer; Fiona Jones, Alumni Relations Officer; Karen Baxter, Media Assistant.



## Survey winner

Lisa Flett, Student Planning Data Office, has won a Lastminute.com voucher after entering the prize draw as one of those members of staff who took part in the survey to name the new University magazine and to vote on the best design.

## Recognition for Kent academics

**University of Kent academic, Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby, has been made a Fellow of the British Academy in the latest round of elections to the foremost organisation for scholars in the arts and humanities.**

Peter is Professor of Social Policy, Director of the Economic and Social Research Council Social Contexts and Responses to Risk Programme, and a leading academic on a global scale.

Further recognition for the quality of the academic staff at Kent came with the news that Senior Lecturer at Kent Law School, Nick Jackson, has been shortlisted for the Law Teacher of the Year Award 2010. Nick is one of six shortlisted candidates, with the winner due to be announced at a ceremony in January.



## Students raise record-breaking sum for charity

This year, Raise and Give (RAG), a student fundraising group, raised over £40,000 for local, national and international charities, breaking their previous record of £21,000.

Over 30 charities benefited from this year's fundraising activities, including: Save Canterbury Cathedral Appeal; Miles of Smiles; Teenage Cancer Trust; East Kent Rape Line; Crossroads; Lupus; and Cancer Research.



## Kent's international impact recognised

The international reputation and impact of the University of Kent has again been recognised by *The Sunday Times University Guide*.

In its latest profile of the University, the Guide reports that Kent has seen 'a 19% rise in applications this year, with candidates keen to embark on courses designed to equip them with the skills needed for work, as well as to broaden their horizons'. As an example of such an opportunity, the Guide refers to the University's new four-year law degree with the third year spent at Southwest University of Politics and Law in Chongqing, China. It also refers to the 400 UK students a year who now take part in foreign exchanges with more than 100 partner institutions in Europe through the Erasmus programme.

Professor Alex Hughes, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs, said: 'We are committed to progressing an international student experience that will equip our students for life in a global context, and welcome *The Sunday Times University Guide's* acknowledgment of our commitment.'



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## Satisfaction high for Kent students

The results of the National Student Survey 2009 (NSS) have once again shown that students at Kent highly rate their university experience. According to the NSS, the Medway School of Pharmacy has been rated the best institution in the country for overall course satisfaction by an overwhelming 97%. The Medway School of Pharmacy is a unique collaboration between the University of Greenwich and the University of Kent. Professor Alistair Mathie from the School said: 'This is a fantastic result. It would be a huge achievement for any institution, but it's especially rewarding as we are a new school.'

Students also gave the University as a whole a resounding vote of confidence, once again rating Kent among the UK's top universities. This follows the news earlier this year that Kent was ranked 12th in the UK for student satisfaction in *The Sunday Times University Guide 2009*.

## At the fringe

Kent academics joined the debate at the Liberal Democrat and Labour party conferences this autumn. Professor Tim Luckhurst, Head of the University of Kent's Centre for Journalism, chaired a fringe event, entitled 'Personalising care – the choices we face', which addressed

the subject of personal healthcare budgets, while Beth Breeze joined Charities Minister Angela Smith MP for Charity Question Time, a fringe event held at the Labour party conference, which allowed conference delegates to debate some of the key issues relating to the Third Sector and hear the views of some of the sector's most influential figures.

## Business Career Foundation Programme in Bahrain

The University has signed a memorandum of agreement with Capital Knowledge, Bahrain, to enable high school graduates in Bahrain to undergo a nine-month Business Career Foundation Programme.

The programme will provide the participants with an opportunity to develop many of the essential skills necessary to start and succeed in business careers. It is designed and quality assured by the University of Kent and is based on the International Foundation Programme (Business Pathway), which the University runs at its Canterbury campus. Participants who successfully pass the foundation programme will automatically be granted the option to proceed into the first year of one of the University's three-year Bachelor's degree programmes in business, management or economics.

## Supporting carers

Researchers at the Universities of Kent and Edinburgh have published the results of a study on what employment support is needed for carers in order for them to take up or remain in work.

The research, which was commissioned by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), aimed to investigate how caring responsibilities affect people's decisions about employment, and to assess how DWP and Jobcentre Plus (JCP) can effectively help claimants with caring responsibilities who want to work to return to the labour market.

Sarah Vickerstaff, Professor of Work and Employment at the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, said: 'It is a safe assumption, given current demographic trends and developments in medical care, that the demand for informal care will increase in the coming decades and that the challenge of how

to effectively support carers to continue working and/or facilitate their return to work will become increasingly important. Removing the barriers to employment for carers will require action on a number of different fronts and by a range of stakeholders including government, employers and the social and health services.'

## Kent study aims to help reduce 'deer problem' in Britain

A new study led by Professor Douglas MacMillan at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), aims to help reduce the widely reported 'deer problem' in Great Britain.

In many parts of Great Britain, deer populations are increasing and, as a consequence, so are the financial, environmental and social costs associated with them. These include serious road traffic accidents and damage to agricultural and forestry crops. The economic cost from deer-related road traffic accidents in England alone, due to injury, death and damage, is estimated to be around £10.5 million per annum.

Douglas's study, which was funded by the UK Research Council's Rural Land Use and Economy Programme and conducted by an academic team from the Forestry Commission and DICE, has suggested four options to redress this situation, including legislative reform to apportion legal responsibility for deer management and mutual co-operation between local stakeholders, such as landowners, stalkers, motorists and government groups and conservation groups.

## Student numbers increase

The University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University, two of the partners based at the Medway campus, will benefit from the additional student numbers recently announced by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as part of its programme to raise skills levels and increase participation in higher education in several key areas across the country.

While HEFCE has selected nine centres of education across the UK for additional investment, the Medway campus is receiving by far the largest allocation of the new places on offer. Kent is to receive 250 additional student places, while Canterbury Christ Church is to receive 200 places.



## Minister tours Medway campus

Shahid Malik MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Communities and Local Government, toured the Medway campus during a visit to the Thames Gateway region. Professor Clare Mackie, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Medway, escorted the minister around the academic and social facilities on offer at the campus, including the Drill Hall Library and the Pilkington Building. The MP also dropped in on the sports and community fair that was taking place as part of Welcome Week, and even managed to make a brief appearance on the Labour Party stand.

## Children's University graduation ceremony

Pupils representing 17 schools have graduated from Medway Children's University (MCU) following a ceremony in the Rochester Building at the Medway campus.

Each of the young 'graduates' was presented with a medal by Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults, before receiving a Medway Children's University certificate from Cllr Les Wicks. They also received a national bronze certificate from Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Clare Mackie, and College Master, Jane Glew.

## World EcoTourism Conference

The University's tourism development expert Dr Mark Hampton recently addressed the World EcoTourism Conference in Vientiane, Laos, South-East Asia.

The annual conference brings together government officials, tourism chiefs, business leaders and academics from across the globe, and addresses a host of issues vital to the future of the tourism industry, such as conservation, environmental protection, preservation of ethnic communities and impacts of climate change. The conference was officially opened by Bouasone Bouphavanh, the Prime Minister of Laos.

Dr Hampton, who is the Director of the University's Centre for Tourism in Islands and Coastal Areas (CENTICA), part of Kent Business School, spoke on the topic of 'Responsible Backpacker Tourism in South-East Asia'.

## Kent to Kenya

Two Kent Business School (KBS) MBA students, Miriam Demirates and Reabetswe Kgoroadira, have just returned from a trip to Kenya where they used their expertise to assist a Kenyan youth project.

Miriam and Reabetswe spent four weeks of their summer vacation helping Wilomo International (an organisation dedicated to developing the talents of Kenyan youth) with the Marera Youth Group (MYG) project near Kisumu in the north-west of the country. The MYG runs a brick-baking enterprise and sweet potato cultivation. However, despite the enthusiasm and commitment of local youth, both projects regularly suffer from adversity and setbacks often beyond their control; for example, unpredictable rainfall patterns.

Miriam and Rea's aim was to improve the relevant skills for the MYG through training, promotion and education in all aspects of entrepreneurship and small business management. The pair did not just work with the MYG, they also played a key role in mobilising the Marera community, meeting with community leaders and youth groups, as well as leading or participating in community business workshops and seminars.

Miriam and Rea's trip to Kenya was in conjunction with TeamMBA, a global initiative to encourage business school students, staff, faculty and alumni to become involved in charity and community work.

## Architecture nominates students for RIBA awards

The high level of creative excellence and student experience promoted by the Kent School of Architecture (KSA) has been reflected in its nominations for the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) President's Medals Student Awards.

The KSA nominees include Joel Jenkins, who has been nominated for his Major Design Project, Liquid History – 'a transformation of London's Chambers Wharf into a multi-use meander of buildings strewn along a newly constituted urban beach'; Michael Dillon, who has been nominated for his proposal to develop a Spa Centre in Ramsgate, Kent, from the landscape; and Joanne Macey, who was nominated for her dissertation work, *The Education Building: The Development of School Design*.

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Widely regarded as the best architectural education awards in the world, the winners will be announced in December.

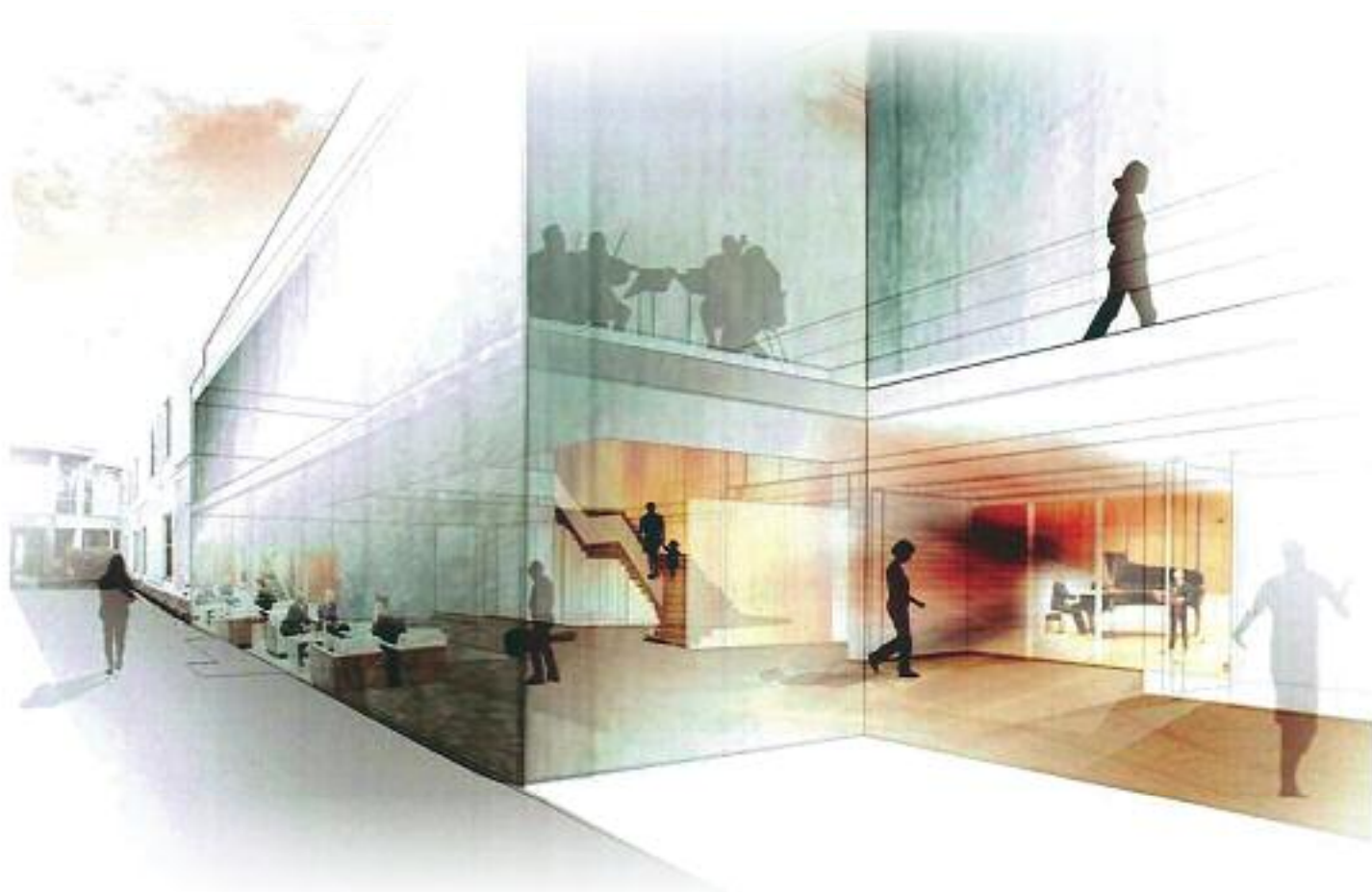
## University gives Pfizer a new approach to training

The University recently hosted a corporate training day for 45 senior executives from Pfizer Ltd. The Drama and Theatre Studies Department in the School of Arts led the training for the multinational pharmaceutical company and major employer in the region. After discussions on bespoke training with the School of Anthropology and Conservation, School of Psychology, School of Arts and Kent Innovation and Enterprise, Pfizer selected a training workshop using Forum Theatre.

Forum Theatre is a technique applied to business contexts for training and management purposes; it involves participants and facilitators engaging in problem solving, role play and creative thinking. The theatre was delivered by staff from the Drama and Theatre Studies Department alongside Kent graduates, who have formed a graduate training company, affiliated with the Department.

The Pfizer Corporate Training day was the first service offered as part of the Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise (ICE) initiative, a programme that shows how the expertise in the University can be used to benefit external organisations.

For more information on the ICE initiative, email [enterprise@kent.ac.uk](mailto:enterprise@kent.ac.uk)



Artists impressions © Tim Ronalds Architects

## Building on a dream

**Director of Music, Susan Wanless, has been at Kent for 22 years. Here she looks back at her early days and tells us how her dream of a dedicated music building is finally coming true.**



### **Can you remember what attracted you to Kent?**

It is just a great job. As the Director of Music at Kent, you are an animateur, organising anything musical that you think will work – everything with the word ‘music’ on it comes my way! As there is no academic music department on the Canterbury campus, everyone who wants to make music can do so – that is the ethos behind what we do here. We encourage all students, staff and the local community to get involved in a whole range of music activities.

### **What were your priorities when you first arrived?**

There wasn't any one big thing I wanted to change, I just wanted to get lots more people on campus making music and develop core areas such as the University Chorus and Symphony Orchestra.

### **What were the facilities like?**

To be honest, grim. I am always amazed that we are able to make such fantastic music and produce all these wonderful concerts when the facilities we have are so awful! All our alumni will remember the gruesome practice rooms in the bowels of the colleges, invariably situated next to the laundry or the kitchen, and the awful acoustics in Eliot hall.

### **When did the idea of a music building first come up?**

Well it was always a dream. As the music on campus has developed, we have outgrown our ad hoc facilities. For example, one of the rooms we use for rehearsals is called the OTE (Old Telephone Exchange – annoyingly next to the new telephone exchange!); when I first arrived, the University Chorus rehearsed in there – now we can barely fit the University Chamber Choir in.



In November 2008, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Mander and I decided to launch a fundraising campaign at a music lecture and dinner on campus. One of our guests was Jonathan Monckton, Chairman of the Trustees of the Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust. On our way to the dinner, he asked me what we were hoping to achieve and I told him about our hopes for a dedicated music building. He didn't flinch when I told him how much money we needed and asked me to send him details of our plans. Professor Mander and I submitted an application to the Trust which considered the application in great detail. The Trustees then met representatives of the University and, having been reassured that Kent was an organisation that had the capacity to deliver the proposal to an agreed schedule, subsequently sent us a letter suggesting a gift of £4.5 million. We will reach our final target for the building with Sir James's bequest, matched funding from the Higher Education Funding Council and other donations.

### **That sounds remarkably simple.**

It was a result of a relationship with the Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust that began many years ago. I first met Sir James Colyer-Fergusson in 1996, when he was kind enough to give us an endowment to support the musical activities at the University. Sir James was a wonderfully kind and gentle man, who took great personal interest in our music making and attended many of our concerts. When sadly he died in 2004, we learnt that he had bequeathed to the University one-sixth of the residue of his estate, with a specific request that it should be used to support music.

### **What happened next?**

Plans for the new building have moved along at an incredible rate. With the very generous donation from the Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust, matched funding from HEFCE and a contribution from the University, we managed to secure (between November 2008 and February 2009) the funding needed to construct the

building. We then had to appoint a design team. From 81 applications, we made a shortlist of five, and have selected Tim Ronalds Architects to lead the project. It is a firm that we feel we can work well with; it has a good track record of working on similar buildings, including the acclaimed Watford Music Centre in Hertfordshire, which gives us all great confidence.

### **What stage is the project at now?**

We are now at the beginning of a consultation period when we will talk to as many stakeholders as we can, and there is the planning process to go through. We hope that building work will begin on site in November 2010.

### **How will the new building look?**

We owe it to the Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust to make it as wonderful as we can. (The building will be named after Sir James Colyer-Fergusson.) We want the building to be a gateway to the University, to be an iconic building that will draw people in, even those who may not have thought of making music or attending concerts before. But practically, it has to be very flexible; the hall needs to be used for lots of different types of performance, from solo players and bands, through to concerts with the University Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Ultimately, I am absolutely clear in my mind that the single most important thing the building must have is superb acoustics.

### **In your quiet moments, do you have to pinch yourself to be sure this is really happening?**

There aren't many quiet moments these days – but yes, I still can't quite believe this is all happening! This is one of the most exciting things that has ever happened to me and I can't take the grin off my face. It is a huge responsibility, thrilling but also daunting. As a musician, I am used to doing performances –

all that is left afterwards is the memory of the concert – nothing concrete, but this building will be concrete (and perhaps brick, glass and wood!) and it will be there for a very long time. I am on a very steep learning curve but everyone in our Estates Department has been so helpful and I am beginning to get my head round all the technical terms. Looking at the initial plans and designs is so exciting.

### **How difficult is it to wait?**

Of course, I'm very impatient and want it all to happen now, but we must take our time over this project to get everything right. It will be amazing to watch the building go up and I can't wait to walk through its door and play the very first musical note in there!

### **What else needs to be done?**

Although the funds raised to date will allow us to construct the building, we are still looking for funds to help us equip it. The new building will require pianos, keyboards, a harpsichord and audio equipment, plus things like instrumental storage racks, plasma screens, noticeboards, orchestral seating and music stands. We also hope to be able to include listening and social spaces too for the students to chill out. It's a daunting list, but we have already received some donations and pledges towards these items, and I hope lots of our musical friends and supporters, past and present, will want to contribute. We owe it to Sir James and all the future generations of students, staff and the local community at Kent to ensure this building is the most fantastic place to make music of every sort.

For details of how you can help with this project or just to find out more information, please contact Susan Wanless at [S.J.Wanless@kent.ac.uk](mailto:S.J.Wanless@kent.ac.uk) or on 01227 823305

## Christmas Scholarships Appeal: Investing in futures

Central to the vision of the University is the determination to make Kent a magnet for outstanding students, irrespective of their social or cultural background.

The Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship, generously supported by alumni and friends of Kent since 1995, is at the very heart of this vision. It is the most prestigious scholarship offered at the University and encourages the very best final – year Kent undergraduates, and recent graduates, to continue their studies by undertaking significant and groundbreaking research projects.

Opening up this research opportunity benefits the students themselves, the University and, more importantly, society at large, as the research often tackles areas of social or scientific importance. It is an award based on academic ability and, by providing maintenance, ensures that financial or economic pressures do not impact selection.

The award is open to students from all disciplines and successful candidates have included forensic psychologists, anthropologists, biologists, a conservationist, a political scientist, historians, a lawyer and even a space scientist. Declan, Emma and Sam are the current Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholars:

[www.kent.ac.uk/scholarshipscampaign/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/scholarshipscampaign/)



### Declan Wiffen – language and its relationship to the world we live in

Declan graduated from Kent in June 2008 with a first class honours degree, and is now undertaking a PhD in Literary Theory, having been awarded the Alumni Research Scholarship in September 2009.

'I would like to thank all alumni and friends of Kent who have given generously to this scholarship and allowed me to continue with my passion for studying and researching literature.

'My project is interested in language and its relationship to the world we live in. My research project will look at the writing of two theorists: the Palestinian Intellectual and political activist, Edward Said, and the French Algerian philosopher, Jacques Derrida. Both are interested in seeing the humanitarian and equal treatment of people and the ways in which language affects this goal. I propose to study their approaches to language and how they relate to the physical situation of exiled peoples around the world.

'I simply would not have been able to undertake this valuable research project without the generous support of Kent alumni and friends. Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards this Scholarship. I hope that during my time as the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholar I am able to give something back by engaging with both students from local partnership schools and other potential postgraduate students to encourage them to pursue their passions through research.'



## Emma Alleyne – a look at gangs from a psychological perspective

Emma was awarded the Alumni Research Scholarship in 2008 and is now in the second year of her PhD researching the psychological characteristics of gang-involved youth.

'After completing my Master's degree at Kent, I knew that there was still a lot of work that could be done on gangs from a psychological perspective in the UK. However, as an international student, I realised the overseas fees would make it almost impossible for me to continue to progress my research. Not only did I take a year off to work full-time and save towards the commencement of my PhD, I also took time off after my first year to earn some money. This made my completion date seem a distant reality. The Alumni Scholarship has allowed me to focus on my PhD full-time.

'My research looks to highlight the importance of understanding gang membership at the individual level and builds on previous research by emphasising the importance of including psychological processes with what is currently known about gang formation.

'The most successful programmes that have targeted delinquency address social, cognitive, and behavioural processes, I therefore hope to apply my findings to the current intervention and prevention programmes targeting gangs.

'Thank you to everyone who has generously supported my scholarship!'



## Sam Godfrey – developing a new therapy for treating cancer

Sam was awarded the Alumni Research Scholarship in 2007 and is now working on a potentially life-saving treatment for Leukaemia.

'During my undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences, I had become very interested in how radiation therapy could be used for the treatment of leukaemia. I wanted to pursue this by taking on a research degree but knew that this would not be possible if I could not get financial assistance.

'A PhD is a hugely time-consuming vocation. Without this Scholarship, I would not have been able to pursue my extremely valuable and potentially life-saving research project. A second job would have been impossible to fit in around my work and the Scholarship allows the research towards this therapy to progress much faster.

'I am working on the development of an exciting new therapy for treating acute myeloid leukaemia, a disease that affects all ages and the elderly in particular. The plan is to develop a targeted therapy which will deliver a short range radiation dose specifically to the leukaemia cells in the body, leaving all healthy cells unaffected and hopefully leading to far fewer side effects than are seen with current chemotherapy treatments.

'In addition to my work towards leukemia, we have started working on a related therapy that could have implications for many more types of cancer. Without the Scholarship, I would not have the time to work on my lab project, and would have to work to fund my PhD.

'I thank everyone who has donated in support of scholarships at Kent for making my Leukaemia research project possible.'

This Christmas, the University of Kent is appealing to all alumni and friends of Kent to give a gift to the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship and ensure future exceptional students have the opportunity to undertake valuable and groundbreaking research projects.

Scholarships are a priority for Kent in the lead up to the 50th Anniversary of the University in 2015. To encourage more alumni support, the University is currently running its own matched funding scheme to match gifts from new supporters at a rate of £1 for every £3 donated (full details can be obtained from the University's Development Office). Administration and fundraising costs are also paid by the University, so every single penny you donate will go a long way to support today's students.

### Even a small gift can make a real difference (include Gift Aid and University match):

- If 30 alumni give a gift of just **£25 a month**, we will be able to award the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship to an exceptional Kent graduate in 2010
- If everyone who receives KENT magazine this Christmas were to give a **gift of just £1.50**, we could together support the full cost of this prestigious three-year scholarship for a talented student starting their research project in September.

The Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship is entirely reliant on voluntary donations. Please make a real difference to a Kent student today by giving as much as you can. This prestigious scholarship simply would not be possible without your support.

To make a gift, please complete the donation form on the carrier sheet enclosed with KENT magazine and return in the prepaid envelope.

Alternatively, you can donate online through our website  
[www.kent.ac.uk/scholarshipscampaign/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/scholarshipscampaign/)  
or by phone on 01227 827 830.



# Kent awarded share of £5 million to support NHS research

**The University of Kent is one of three universities in the south-east to receive a share of £5 million to provide research support services to the NHS in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.**

The award was made by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and will support the recently formed Research Design Service South East (RDS South East), an organisation that aims to increase the volume and quality of successful grant applications for NIHR funding, and to provide consistency across England in the support provided.

The RDS South East is a collaboration between the Centre for Health Services Studies (CHSS) at the University of Kent, the Faculty of Health and Social Science at the University of Brighton and the Postgraduate Medical School at the University of Surrey. A team of research advisers is now available in Canterbury, Guildford and Brighton to support researcher bids to the NIHR programmes. They will provide one-to-one advice and assistance, as well as organising a series of workshops for applicants. Specialist help from statisticians, health economists, trialists and epidemiologists will also be available.

Jenny Billings, Acting Director of CHSS, said: 'It is great credit to the Centre for Health Service Studies and the University to have received this award. The Research Design Service is important as it provides an accessible one-stop-shop for NHS staff in the south-east seeking to improve patient care through research. We

already have a very good working relationship with the universities at Brighton and Surrey, so we have been able to set the service up very quickly. We are providing NHS staff in the south with a wide-ranging pool of academic expertise, which will ensure that research bids are of the highest quality. We have already been successful in having some of our collaborative bids funded.'

Professor Dame Sally C Davies, Director General of Research and Development at the Department of Health, commented: 'Each Research Design Service will perform an important role by providing expert advice to local researchers. With more government funding available now than ever before through the NIHR, we want to encourage the development of high-quality research applications for the benefit of NHS patients.'

For further information on RDS South East, go to [www.rds-se.co.uk/index.htm](http://www.rds-se.co.uk/index.htm)





## How physics can improve our lives

Pioneering research by Professor Adrian Podoleanu at the the University's School of Physical Sciences has been cited as an example of how physics can play a vital role in underpinning and improving individual lives and society in general.

Professor Podoleanu's development of a unique non-invasive optical imaging technique that can 'create a powerful diagnostic tool for studying eye disease' has been selected by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) for its publication *Optics and Photonics: Physics Enhancing Our Lives*. The aim of this publication is to highlight and showcase examples of world-leading research in the UK, which has a strong potential for commercial exploitation. It is jointly sponsored by the EPSRC and the Institute of Physics, the professional body and learned society for physics and physicists.

By combining two high-resolution imaging technologies (adaptive optics and optical coherence tomography), Professor Podoleanu has provided doctors with the ability to create 3-D images of the retina, macula and the optic nerve. Such high-resolution images can contribute to early diagnosis and treatment of common ocular diseases such as glaucoma, diabetes and age-related macula degeneration. Outside of ophthalmology, Professor Podoleanu's discovery can be applied to a number of fields, including dentistry, impact crater profilometry and art conservation.

Professor Paul Strange, Head of the School of Physical Sciences, added: 'This development is an excellent example of physics working for the good of society. I am very pleased that Professor Podoleanu's research has been recognised by the Research Councils and the Institute of Physics.'

## Workers on camera

Dr Tim Strangleman, a Reader in Sociology in the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, has won a grant from the British Academy to research the use, meaning and interpretation of corporate photography by drinks firm Guinness.

This study builds on his earlier work where he carried out an oral history and photographic project at the company's historic brewery at Park Royal in West London before it closed in 2005. Diageo, owners of the iconic Guinness brand, have two archives in Scotland and Dublin, which contain a large amount of visual material about Park Royal and the work that went on there. The British Academy grant will allow Tim to look in more detail at the company's use of photography, which is of an exceptionally high standard. The project's aim is to understand how corporate photography represents work and workers and how this changes over time.

### Research awards list

#### Some recent research awards

Professor Jon Williamson (SECL): £119,540 from the British Academy for 'Causality across the levels: biomedical mechanisms and public health policies'.

Dr David Potter (School of History): £31,177 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for 'Henry VIII and Francis I: the Final Conflict (1541-46)'.

Dr Stefan Goebel (School of History): £27,294 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for 'Coventry and Dresden: the politics of remembrance and reconstruction'.

Dr Dominique Chu (School of Computing): £12,613 from the Royal Society for 'Understanding the firm-switch in E coli – simulating Lrp/Ihf binding'.

Funmi Oduniyi (Medway School of Pharmacy): £39,891 from Hackney Primary Care Trust for 'Evaluation of a community pharmacy-based weight management service'.

Professor Mike Fairhurst (School of Engineering and Digital Arts): £42,000 from the Home Office for 'Age-related effects in biometric system delivery'.

Professor Yong Yan (School of Engineering and Digital Arts): £169,067 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) for 'Oxyfuel combustion – academic programme for the UK'.

Dr Edward Cartwright (School of Economics): £5,031 from the Nuffield Foundation for 'An experimental investigation of the relationship between prejudice and economic discrimination'.

Dr Nicholas Newton-Fisher (School of Anthropology and Conservation): £103,916 from the Leverhulme Trust for 'Social complexity, grooming and the evolution of intelligence'.

Professor Douglas MacMillan (School of Anthropology and Conservation): £692,000 from Natural England for 'Eastern channel marine conservation zone project'.

Professor Dominic Abrams (School of Psychology): £115,899 from the British Academy for 'The role of group status, threat and social norms in children's peer exclusion'.

Dr Jane Wood (School of Psychology): £15,000 from Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team for 'Integrated services for managing prolific offenders: a longitudinal perspective'.



The growing professionalisation of parenting is seen as a solution to society's ills. However, critics including Kent's Ellie Lee and Jan Macvarish believe it's damaging to parent-child relationships and helps foster a culture of anxiety. They talk to David Clark, alumni and freelance journalist.

# The Parent Trap

When the reality TV programme *Supernanny* hit the nation's screens in 2004, it quickly became one of Channel 4's most popular shows. It concentrated on applying friendly but firm discipline to dysfunctional families, but it also symbolised a growing feeling that we had somehow, as a nation, lost the ability to control our children.

The crisis in parenting confidence had been developing since the mid-1990s. Instead of parenting being regarded as something that happened naturally, there was a widespread perception that we now needed someone to tell us how to do it.

As well as discipline, other worries began to cluster around parenting, particularly in relation to food. They ranged from the importance of breastfeeding babies to the growing obsession with what children are fed, both at home and at school. As the media focus on poor parenting intensified, it was held responsible for a range of social ills, ranging from teenage obesity to youth crime.

In 2007, the founding of the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners, with a £30 million grant from the Department for Education and Skills, demonstrated that the government was also concerned by poor parenting and was determined to tackle it. It established an institution in which formal, professional training was given to those who support and advise parents in the community.

However, a growing number of commentators are concerned by our obsession with child-rearing, and staff members in Kent's Social Sciences faculty are among those questioning the growing cult of 'parent-blaming'. In 2007, Dr Ellie Lee and Professor Frank Furedi introduced Parenting Culture Studies as a new area of academic study, and a landmark conference was held on the Canterbury campus, entitled *Monitoring Parents: Childrearing in the age of 'intensive parenting'*.

Now a new book, *Standing up to Supernanny* by journalist and social commentator Jennie Bristow, offers a lively and robust rebuttal of the 'Supernanny' culture. It aims, in Bristow's words, to 'put an end to the "parent wars" that make bringing up children today so hard to do.' The book includes contributions from Dr Lee and from Dr Jan Macvarish, a research associate in the University's Centre for Health Services Studies. The book acknowledges that parenting experts have been around for a long time, but says that this current generation is very different from previous ones.

'In the early 20th century, we saw the rise of the health visitor, where attention was focused on the poor and those who were seen as inadequate,' says Jan Macvarish. 'However, in the late 20th and early 21st century, we've seen a massive expansion in the way the State and its institutions are addressing a wide range of parenting practices as being problematic. This has really intensified under New Labour.'

'Research suggests that there is an increasingly fraught relationship between health professionals and mothers, because the framework in which practical support with baby-care is delivered has become increasingly rigid and dogmatic.'

Professionals are having to work within guidelines shaped by theoretical and even politicised ideas about attachment, bonding and breastfeeding, for example, and are less able to offer objective, empathic support. Mothers are looking to professionals more, but trusting them less.'

Ellie Lee believes this kind of State intervention is actively undermining the kind of informally-acquired knowledge and skills we acquire from family and social networks. 'If you make parenting style such a focus, you materially begin to undermine the possibility of supportiveness and informal collaboration between parents,' she says.

'It's contributing to the erosion of the idea that, by and large, you can allow parenting to happen by itself and that people will make their own way through it. The value of this informal knowledge is constantly being weakened and people just don't think it's trustworthy anymore. This leaves people much more on their own to raise their children and they are always looking for another source of external authority such as books, television programmes and parenting professionals.'

This growing 'professionalisation' of parenthood, where we are encouraged to behave in particular ways, Lee adds, is also changing the way parents and children relate to each other. 'It puts a gap between us, in the sense that it becomes harder to be natural with your children,' she says. 'Parenting becomes an all-consuming and self-conscious activity and it becomes more difficult to integrate children into the ebbs and flows of everyday life. It also makes parenting less of a relationship and more of a skill to be learned.'

*Continued overleaf*



So why have the ideas put forward by this new generation of 'parenting experts' gained such wide credibility and support? Jan Macvarish suggests that it's partly to do with our historical relationship to the State. 'In Britain, we have seen the State as very benign,' she says. 'We have a sense, for example, that the extension and expansion of the NHS is a good thing. We also see State involvement in the family as a good thing, which it is, when it provides services for us such as education, health care and childcare. But it also means we're insufficiently critical when the State is doing something quite different to providing services and is more concerned with re-programming behaviour.'

In addition to creating unnecessary anxieties and damaging our relationship with both children and adults, both Lee and Macvarish believe that the focus on parenting is distorting the way we understand society. 'Genuine problems are getting sidelined, and one of them is poverty,' says Lee. Not so long ago, families not having enough money was a problem and the idea was that social policy should try to find ways of making people have more money.

'If you look at discussions about poverty now, they all look at poverty as a risk factor. Poverty is not seen as being about people being poor; it's that not having money is more likely to make you a bad parent. So now, social initiatives are about amending the parenting style of those at risk of being a poor parent. The official view is that poverty is transmitted through poor parenting practices, rather than through ongoing structural dislocation. It's a massive shift in thinking and has huge ramifications.'

The consequences of contemporary attitudes to parenting is being discussed in a series of seminars at Kent entitled Changing Parenting Culture, which continue into 2010. With so much at stake, Ellie Lee believes that it's important that this issue is discussed as widely as possible, not just in academic circles.

'What we're really trying to do is establish parenting culture as a field of study and to begin to ask questions about it,' she says. 'This new culture is affecting everybody's lives and I do think that it's important for academics to engage with the wider public and try to generate and encourage a dialogue about it.'

*Standing Up to Supernanny* by Jennie Bristow is published by Imprint Academic. For more information on Parenting Culture Studies and its ongoing seminar series, visit [www.parentingculturestudies.org](http://www.parentingculturestudies.org)

## Dr Ellie Lee

Ellie Lee is a Senior Lecturer in Social Policy at Kent. She researches, publishes and teaches in the areas of the sociology of reproduction, of health and of the family. She has published works including *Abortion, Motherhood and Mental Health* (2003). Since 2004, she has also developed research projects about motherhood and parenthood. With Frank Furedi, she set up Parenting Culture Studies at the University of Kent in 2007 and in her spare time she co-ordinates Pro-Choice Forum.

## Dr Jan Macvarish

Jan Macvarish has been a research associate and lecturer at Kent for the past four years. Her interests lie in the sociology of interpersonal relationships, parenting, family life, sex and intimacy. She is particularly interested in questions of risk culture, de-moralisation and individualisation but is also concerned with policy developments. She is currently working on the Big Lottery-funded Am I Bovered? project, which explores teenage girls' relationships to exercise.

## Humphrey Berney E99

### Drama and Film Studies

### Tenor in Classical BRIT Award-winning group Blake



#### What made you decide to come to Kent?

I wanted to study theatre and film before going on to a music conservatoire for postgraduate studies and Kent was one of the best courses in the country!

#### What is your favourite memory of Kent?

It would have to be the *Beggars Opera* which was put on by the University of Kent Summer opera Project with Susan Wanless. I was lucky enough to have the lead role and I learned so much. Great music and production, loads of friends in the cast and, of course, Susan at the front with her baton!

#### What have you been up to since graduating?

After Kent, I was awarded a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music in London, where I completed a two-year postgraduate course. Since then, I have worked with Glyndebourne Opera, Garsington Opera, been a concert soloist in St John's Smith Square, appeared in opera films for Channel 4, recorded a duet with Hayley Westenra on her album *Treasure*, and now I am one of the four members that make up Classical BRIT Award-winning vocal group Blake ([www.blakeofficial.com](http://www.blakeofficial.com)).

#### Are you still in touch with any of your friends from Kent?

Yes, I made some great friends at Kent and I am still very close to five or six, who I see a great deal. In fact, my present flatmate is a friend from Kent!

#### What would be your perfect day?

This all depends on where I wake up but for this answer I will be in London. After a good sleep, hot shower, go out and meet some friends for early brunch. Then a stroll across Hampstead Heath, find some nice shops (not Oxford Street), come back home, pick up my tennis kit and go for an afternoon of singles (my friend is a member of Queen's, so try and get him to invite me and, if not, in my local park!). Back home late afternoon, shower, change and then out with friends for evening drinks, Arbutus for dinner and off to some good bars. Then on to somewhere for lots of dancing (and some pretty girls!), taxi and bed!

#### What was your earliest ambition?

To sing. I have always wanted to be a successful singer and I think one of my earliest ambitions was to sing on a record.

#### What was your first job?

Picking strawberries on our farm. The only problem was that I ate more than I picked! After that, I worked in a pub.

#### What (if anything) would you like to change about yourself?

Well, there are lots of things! However, I am very lucky to be where I am and to be enjoying my work so much, so I will leave things how they are in case it stops my good luck!

#### Which country would you most like to visit?

I love Latin America so Argentina would be amazing. I really want to go and learn to ride and work on a ranch out there. The steak is also incredible!

#### What is your greatest achievement?

Joining Blake and making our new album *Together*, which is out now. It has been a quite incredible journey and I have my dream job. We started our own record label – BLAKE RECORDS – and made this album, which has taken a great deal of work and patience. I hope people enjoy it.

#### What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

Follow your heart. Although it sounds like it is from a Disney film, I have always done this. I have had to make some very hard and painful decisions but I think deep down you always know what you want and if you are not sure, you just have to believe in your judgement and see where it takes you. Although it's another cliché, you only live once and you must take every opportunity that comes your way.

#### Who or what inspires you?

My sister Rose. She very sadly died four years ago and it was a huge loss. She was (is!) an incredible girl who was a huge inspiration and continues to be so every single day.

#### Where do you see yourself in ten years time?

I hope to still be singing and involved in music. I would like a family at some stage as well. So living in between the country and London with a family and making great music. That certainly gives me something to work towards. Who knows, Blake may still be going and producing another hit record!



# Working in partnership

Erlang Training and Consulting Limited (ETC), a niche company specialising in the open source language 'Erlang', have formed a strong working relationship with the University of Kent through the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) programme. The KTP programme is co-ordinated and funded by the Technology Strategy Board and enables an organisation to tackle a strategic need, or to improve productivity through the use of the knowledge, technology and skills that are available in academic institutions.

For the company's first KTP project, Professor Simon Thompson and the School of Computing built a new software tool known as 'Wrangler' that will allow them to bring solutions to market more quickly and cheaply. The KTP Associate working with them was Xingdong Bian, who Simon Thompson cites as being instrumental to the success of the project. Equally important to the smooth running of the project were the support provided by the regional KTP Adviser and the University's own KTP Officer. 'The staff in Kent Innovation and Enterprise and the KTP Adviser help you to write and refine your application to give it the best chance of success, and, indeed, the majority of applications submitted are funded,' said Professor Thompson.

So positive was the company's response to this initial KTP process that, shortly after the first project began, they started discussing a second. This second project began in October 2009, and involves e-learning. As well as again working with the School of Computing, ETC will also be drawing on the expertise of the University's Unit for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching and receiving technical support from the Information Services web team. This is the first inter-departmental KTP project undertaken at the University.

The company are now planning a third KTP project, a natural progression from the second, which will examine how best to market the e-learning package. This third project will draw on the expertise of Kent Business School.

It is unique for a small company such as Erlang Training and Consulting Ltd to be considering a third KTP project, and if approved, it would be a first for the University.

If you would like more information on KTPs, please contact Kent Innovation and Enterprise on 01227 827376, or email [enterprise@kent.ac.uk](mailto:enterprise@kent.ac.uk)

## University launches 'Innovate' Week

Monday 14th September saw the start of Innovate, the first student entrepreneurship week run under the Student Innovation Zone, which provides business start-up support for Kent students.

Thirty-six students took part in the week-long, intensive course, which involved interactive learning with lead facilitator Luke Aikman. The students worked on harnessing their innovative ideas and formed business teams to develop them. The week concluded with presentations of their business ideas to a judging panel, in a *Dragon's Den*-style event on Friday.

Feedback from the students has been very positive, with many commenting that they now have the confidence to take their ideas forward, which will be supported by Kent Innovation and Enterprise.

For more information on Innovate Week and other student Enterprise events this term, please contact Tracy Crowther, Student Enterprise Officer, on ext 7376, email [enterprise@kent.ac.uk](mailto:enterprise@kent.ac.uk)



**Marcus Taylor, CEO at ECT said: 'In the two years since we started the current KTP with the University of Kent we have doubled in headcount and turnover. While this is not solely due to the KTP, I know that the professionalism that all the stakeholders have put into the project has diffused into the rest of the organisation. It is a brilliant programme and we would warmly recommend it to companies as a way to grow, learn and improve.'**



# ACTIVE

## Ready, steady, go...

Kent's Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation department aims to get as many students, staff and members of the local community as possible involved in sport as possible.

As well as running accredited training courses for referees and coaches in sports such as football, basketball and rugby, the sports development arm of the department also run workshops to help you improve your game whether you are new to the sport or at a more advanced level. Workshops are available in badminton, squash, tennis and golf.

If you enjoy competition, you can sign up to take part in the intramural sport programme, which offers you the chance to join a league or compete in one-off tournaments. All the fixtures are organised by the sports development team, who also keep track of all the results so you can see how well you are doing. These competitions are open to all, regardless of ability.

For further details about sports or the BIG little challenge, contact [sportsenquiries@kent.ac.uk](mailto:sportsenquiries@kent.ac.uk) or see [www.kent.ac/sports/](http://www.kent.ac/sports/)

## The BIG little challenge

On the 11 and 12 December, Director of Sport, Graham Holmes, is doing a non-stop 36-hour sporting challenge to raise awareness of Cancer Research and Hospice Care.

The aim of the BIG little challenge is to involve as many people as possible, all doing something very little. It doesn't have to be anything onerous, difficult, taxing or expensive, or involve getting sponsor forms filled in – Graham is doing that bit for you!

Simply do something little that you perhaps wouldn't normally do (it doesn't even have to be sporty): You could:

- take the stairs instead of the lift
- walk to the shop instead of taking the car
- clear the loft out that you have been promising to do for months
- take part in the local wine and wisdom evening
- join the club you've been meaning to join.

Find out more at [www.kent.ac/sports/](http://www.kent.ac/sports/)

## Kent Union celebrates sporting success

Kent Union is currently host to over 50 student sports clubs, all of which are run by committed students who volunteer their time to ensure the success of the clubs. Kent Union ensures that these volunteers are able to participate in training and development opportunities, which give them invaluable transferrable skills that they can use long after they graduate.

Many of Kent's clubs take part in the British University and College Sport (BUCS) league and, in the most recent season, Kent finished 34th, an improvement of five places on the previous season and the highest standing in Kent's history. Congratulations to over 2,400 students, who are members of sports clubs at Kent.

Kent Union has always encouraged students of all abilities to take up sport and in January

2010 we are launching Fresh Start, a campaign which will concentrate on physical activity, nutrition and well-being. We will be holding a series of events promoting the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Both competitive and recreational sports at Kent are very dependent on the excellent facilities available on campus. The newest addition to these facilities is the Sports Pavilion, which has a café bar overlooking the grass and artificial pitches for spectators as well as providing changing facilities for competitors.

Celebrations of success and development plans for the future will, no doubt, excite and strengthen the student sporting community at the University of Kent and 2009/2010 promises even more sporting success.





# Rising to the challenge



Kent graduate David Rowe hit the headlines when he took to London's streets wearing a sandwich board, advertising himself as a potential employee. David's innovative approach at a time of global economic downturn not only gained him extensive media coverage but, as he told the University's Careers Advisory Service, it was a highly successful move which earned him a number of job interviews and won him the bet he had with his father.

Although his unusual approach may not be quite in line with the advice given by the University's career service, like other Kent alumni, David has had access to full careers support for up to three years after graduation. Recent Kent graduates are also offered the opportunity to benefit from the advice and support of alumni who are more established in their chosen career through, for example, work shadowing or email advice.

Director of Student Services, John Greer, said: 'David's approach demonstrates the ability of Kent graduates to think outside the box. Our aim is to support our students in finding the right career path and, for David, studying in one of the best history departments in the country will have equipped him with highly transferable analytical and writing skills. According to a recent survey of Kent graduates, only 6% of history graduates were unemployed six months after graduation.'

With a developing portfolio of different enterprise and entrepreneurial opportunities, the University is also building a growing enterprise culture

among its students to help develop employability skills. Many courses incorporate project work and placements within companies and wild modules are offered on enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Kent graduates are also benefiting from the government's Economic Challenge Investment Fund, a scheme that was launched to enable higher education to respond to the needs of employers and individuals during the economic downturn. Earlier this year, the University was jointly awarded £311,563 under the scheme. As part of a partnership led by Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent is working with the Universities of Greenwich and the Creative Arts to address immediate economic challenges through rapid placement of graduates with businesses in Kent and Medway. Funding will also go towards establishing a framework for a graduate consultancy accessible to local firms, thereby retaining higher level skills within the local economy.

The four universities will be seeking to strengthen the links between graduates and local businesses as part of the Kent Universities for Business and Enterprise (KUBE) partnership. The grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England is being invested in the partnership's Business First project, the first of its kind in Kent.

The University is not only helping its students to succeed despite the recession. Along with its fellow universities, it is part of a UK-wide sector which is contributing £45 billion to the nation's economy, supporting 580,000 jobs and earning £3.6 billion in exports. Combined with long-established strengths in teaching, research and knowledge exchange, this is a sector which the government recognises as having a major contribution to make not just in helping the



economy out of recession but in shaping the post-recession landscape. Speaking at a recent Universities UK conference, Minister of State for Education, David Lammy, said: 'I firmly believe that our university system and the values that it stands for must remain one of the forces that brings our society together and keeps it together. It has shown itself time and again as one of the most powerful forces for social and economic progress that we have.'

According to a recent survey, 60% of businesses had links with local universities, using them to improve not just leadership and management skills but also to improve business practice and efficiency. According to Carole Barron, Kent's Director of Innovation and Enterprise, the University is uniquely placed to provide support to its local region, particularly during the current economic downturn. A member of the Kent County Council's Backing Kent Business Campaign group, she said: 'Our world-class research activities mean we are ideally placed

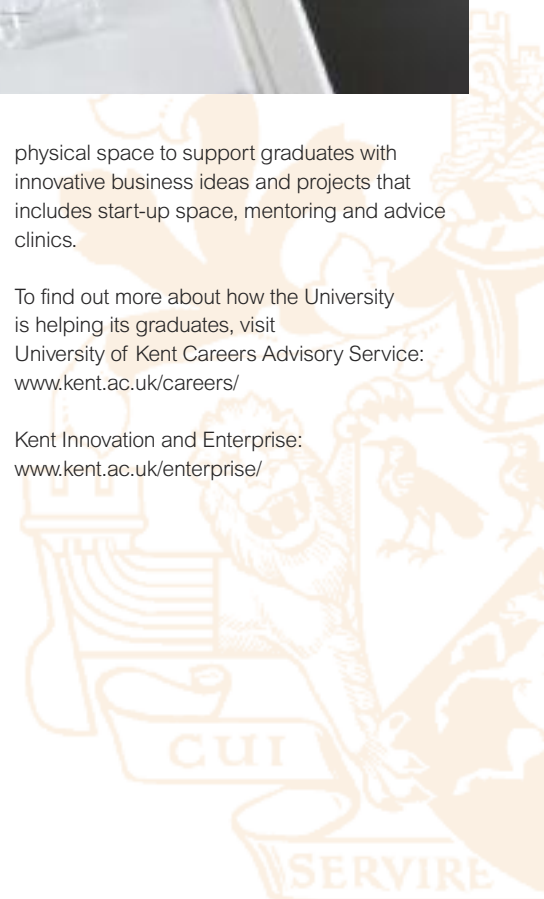
to provide support for the commercialisation of ideas, business start-ups and knowledge transfer – all of which are essential to a successful regional economy. We are particularly keen to see the development of new industries, such as those based on the digital economy and the creative industries.'

These, and other, industries will receive a boost with the opening of the new Canterbury Innovation Centre. This £7m Centre, funded by South East England Development Agency and built on the Canterbury campus by the East Kent Spatial Development Company, forms part of Kent's strategy to encourage innovation and enterprise within the University. With its much-needed high-tech incubation space and support for entrepreneurs in almost 25,000 sq ft of offices, studios and workshops, it is also part of a strategy to encourage graduates to stay and work locally. The Centre, due to open in November 2009, will house the University's student innovation zone The Bulb, a dedicated

physical space to support graduates with innovative business ideas and projects that includes start-up space, mentoring and advice clinics.

To find out more about how the University is helping its graduates, visit University of Kent Careers Advisory Service: [www.kent.ac.uk/careers/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/)

Kent Innovation and Enterprise: [www.kent.ac.uk/enterprise/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/enterprise/)





## Supporting students

**We've just finished one of the busiest times of the year for Kent Union; all our new students have settled in (with the help of our 500 volunteers!) and have now started their courses. For me and my team, it's now the time to fulfil our manifesto pledges or be held accountable to our members!**

Kent Union has just won a Third Sector award for accountability and transparency, something we're very keen to win again next year! The best thing about being a representative is the challenge that whatever the students want or need, we must try our hardest to put into place. If you're interested in what we're up to at the moment, you can look at our monthly blogs on the Kent Union website [www.kentunion.co.uk](http://www.kentunion.co.uk)

We're currently undergoing a governance review, which looks at the make up of Kent Union's Board of Trustees (the people legally liable for Kent Union). This involves exploring the possibility of changing the sabbatical roles to fit with the ever-changing demographics at the University of Kent to better represent our members. We're also conducting a review of our nightclub, The Venue, to see if it can be better used in the daytime, and better understand its purpose as a nightclub within the current entertainment scene. This is something I'm particularly keen to put my stamp on!



We have also got some campaigns in the pipeline. The Get on Board campaign will include lobbying for a later bus service to Park Wood and Darwin College and conducting a survey to find out what else students and staff would like from their local transport companies. Love your Body is a campaign that will encourage students to look after their sexual health and love the skin that they are in.

It has been a great start to the year so far and the sabbaticals and I are devoted to making sure that this will carry on for the year ahead.

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**Helen Wood E06**  
Kent Union President

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**Kent Union President Helen Wood is 21 years old and from Benfleet, Essex. After studying at Kent for three years, she graduated this summer with 2:1 in Psychology. As a student, Helen served on the Eliot Student Committee. She gradually became more involved with the Union and in her third year was elected Eliot Student Committee President.**





## In memoriam



### William (Bill) Ieuan Jenkins 1941-2009

Bill Jenkins arrived at Kent in 1971 as a lecturer in Interdisciplinary Studies. While at the University, he developed his interest in studies of public policy, UK public administration and UK politics. He went on to become Professor of Public Policy and Management, and retired from Kent in 2006. Here, his friend and colleague Professor Andrew Gray, Emeritus Professor of Public Management at Durham University, pays tribute.

'I first got to know Bill well in 1978 when I was appointed to a Kent lectureship and Bill had just published *Policy Analysis*, a book that still has a place on the shelves of many academics. Over the next 30 years, Bill and I collaborated on books, journal articles, chapters in books (the latest of which will be published in spring 2010), reports for government bodies and papers for conferences.

'Apart from a strong and scientifically trained intellect, Bill brought two notable qualities to this collaboration: the ferret and the squirrel! These qualities were indispensable in particular to our 21 annual reviews of developments in UK government and administration. Bill's initial task in these reviews was to provide the raw narrative on which I subsequently worked to provide themes and links to theory. This played to Bill's wonderful capacity to hunt down all sorts of documentary sources, which he filed in wine case boxes (products of service on the Darwin College Wine Committee).

'Bill was a teaching enthusiast, who until quite late in his career held student seminars in his room; quite how they fitted in there remains a mystery, but they did, and gladly too. I learnt early on from his lectures the importance of good, and that included humorous storytelling.

'This humour with his generosity and scholarship were all part of what made Bill such a pleasure to be with. Many colleagues have been in touch with me

to share their memories of him. One, who chairs an international research group that Bill and I belonged to, wrote of how he "was a joy to know and to spend time with. He was intellectually curious and a great reader. He also just smiled a lot".

'That Bill was this same personality – open, generous, and constantly dependable – with all who knew him is a wonderful legacy.'

### Mike Presdee 1944-2009

Mike Presdee was a sociologist of international acclaim and considerable personal magnetism. His work focused on the sociology of youth and cultural criminology. He was fascinated by the way in which young people are criminalised and controlled; of youth being seen as the problem rather than young people being the locus of the problems of the system. Later in life, he emerged as a key figure in the burgeoning field of cultural criminology, convinced of the impossibility of understanding crime (or any other form of human behaviour for that matter) in terms of survey data and quantitative analysis. He argued that 'numerical life' had little if any relationship with 'actual life', that there was a chronic split between academic knowledge, the gaze from above, and everyday experience and the view from below revealed by ethnography and biography.

Mike was born in Gloucester in 1944. One of six children, he was the son of a telephone engineer and grew up in a three bedroom temporary post-war 'prefab' house. At the age of 11, he won a place at the local grammar school. By his own account, he heartedly disliked his school, encountering not so much meritocracy but the astonishingly random way in which wealth is

distributed from which his isolation in a working class community had shielded him.

At 16, he escaped school by joining the junior Royal Marines. He spent six years as a marine commando, part of it in Aden (Yemen), encountering many dreadful things which haunted him all his life. Aged 22, he suffered blast damage to his arm, leg and ears, wounds that would ultimately see him invalidated out of the forces.

After training as a teacher, he left the UK for Australia, returning to England in 1990, with posts first at Canterbury Christchurch University, the University of Sunderland and finally at the University of Kent.

Cultural criminology was made for Mike and he was one of its chief architects. His book *Cultural Criminology and the Carnival of Crime* published in 2000 epitomised this. It is one of the best introductions to cultural criminology ever written.

Mike Presdee died after a three-year fight against cancer; he was stoic and good humoured throughout. Near the end of his acknowledgments to *Cultural Criminology and the Carnival of Crime*, he apologises to his friends for enjoying life too much and to his employers for seeming to enjoy work too little. And that was it: Mike was a *bon viveur*, an intellectual enthusiast, a proud father, an inspired writer, a bit of an agitator – a wonderful man.

### Keith Hayward and Jock Young

This is an extract from an obituary which appeared in *The Guardian*. To read the full obituary, go to: [www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/aug/20/obituary-mike-presdee](http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/aug/20/obituary-mike-presdee)

### Ian Bolt 1936-2008

Ian was a friend of the University of Kent for many years and established the Christine Bolt Scholarship Fund in 2005 in memory of his late wife, Professor Christine Bolt. She began her career at the University in 1966 and became Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor of American History.

Through this scholarship fund, Ian has successfully supported a number of postgraduate students in their research in the USA. Research fields have so far included the public understanding of President John F Kennedy's legacy, the study of major James Joyce archives in the USA and psychopathology in chimpanzees, among others.

Since his death, the fund has been renamed The Christine and Ian Bolt Scholarship Fund. The University of Kent remains indebted to Ian's generosity and the significant contribution Christine made to academic life. The scholars are most grateful for Ian's benevolence, without which much of the scholars' valuable research would not have been possible.

Ian was very active, having successfully completed a number of marathons and also enjoyed football, supporting Arsenal. A keen businessman, he was director of an investment company which provided start-up capital to new businesses in biotechnology and life sciences.

Since the last issue of KENT went to press, we have learned of the deaths of the following alumni and staff. If you would like to be put in touch with the families or friends of anyone listed here, please let us know. We may be able to help.

**Fahad Al Thani** K92, **Peter Hall** E73, **Anthony Hepburn** E65, **Robert Robertson** K96, **Elif Toprak** E93

## Kent in the news



The University continues to have a high profile in the national press. Recent coverage included a report by Professor Douglas MacMillan at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) on the management of deer, which gained coverage in a range of newspapers including the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Express*. He was also interviewed on BBC Radio Scotland. The School of Physical Sciences' Dr Chris Solomon's work on facial recognition software gained media coverage on a global scale, from India to America, and the BBC's World Service featured Dr Alex Magaisa from Kent Law School talking on Zimbabwe. Dr Robin Mackenzie, also from Kent Law School, was invited onto the BBC's Big Questions to discuss assisted suicide, while Dr Vince Miller from SSPSSR contributed to a Today Programme debate on blogging and anonymity.

Research by Dr David Zeitlyn on regional variations in internet use and approaches to technology was covered by the mainstream and specialist press, including Broadband Expert and ISP Review UK. Professor Tim Luckhurst from the Centre for Journalism reviewed the week's news on LBC radio and he was also on BBC Newsnight Scotland discussing the relationship between politicians and the media.

Medway School of Pharmacy's success in the 2009 National Student Survey was highlighted in much of the national media, including BBC News Online, *The Times*, *Guardian* and *Times Higher Education*. Several regional papers also covered the School's top ranking as well as a number of pharmaceutical titles and websites.

The University's Clearing campaign once more attracted a high level of national and regional media attention. Coverage appeared in titles including *The Guardian*, *Guardian Unlimited*, the *Evening Standard*, *Loud magazine*, and The Times Online ran a question and answer forum which featured Steve Holdcroft, Head of Information, Recruitment and Admissions. The University was also featured on Meridian TV, BBC South East Today, KM-FM and BBC Radio Kent as well as in the *Kent Messenger* and *Kentish Gazette*.

Regional media coverage remained buoyant. BBC Radio Kent featured Social Policy's Beth Breeze on Philanthropy in a recession, sociologist Professor Frank Furedi on the stigmatisation of fatness, and Kent Business School's Dr Mark Hampton on the ongoing impact of the Indonesian earthquake. The opening of Medway's Liberty Quays student accommodation was in the *Kent Messenger*.

### Correction

July issue of Newsletter (p14): apologies to Patty Baker, Lecturer in Classical and Archaeological Studies, for incorrectly naming her Barker.

## Who's what where

The complete 'Who's what where' is available online at [www.kent.ac.uk/alumni/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/alumni/)

### Key:

**D** Darwin | **E** Eliot

**K** Keynes | **R** Rutherford

**Location:** The location at the end of each entry is from the mailing addresses we have for each individual. Please let us know if any corrections are required. If you would like to submit a 'Who's what where' entry, email [alumni@kent.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@kent.ac.uk)

### 1960s

**Brandon, Christine** (R66) Retired now from paid employment – the corporate coalface lost its lustre. Filled the hole left by work with masses of local voluntary activities. London, August 2009.

**Malik, Javed** (R69) I joined UKC in 1969 to study Electronics. I graduated in 1972 and was awarded a PhD in Microwave Electronics in 1978. I moved to USA in 1981 and established my own business designing microwave passive devices. I visited UKC in 1996 and was surprised to see that the University had expanded so much. It brought back many good old memories. I would like to hear from graduates of 1972. Simi Valley, USA, May 2009.

**Park, Jerry** (R69) Board Secretary, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals since January 2009. Married, two grown-up daughters. Nantwich and Oxford, UK, August 2009.

### 1970s

**Creedon, John** (K72) Have given up the wicked world of London media to live in the sticks and do something useful for a change. Now working for conservation charity WWT, based at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire. Always keen to hear from old UKC chums. Gloucestershire, June 2009.

**Kendall, Sarah** (E79) I spent 2001-2004 in New York working at the British Consulate doing media and marketing. After a brief period as an academic on my return to the UK, I reverted to my original career choice in railways. British Rail was of course privatised while I was working for Eurotunnel so I had to fight for a role. I led the successful bid in 2007 to win the CrossCountry rail passenger franchise and am now working as Production Director,

implementing all those things that were written in the bid business plan. Also, make a sport of trying to get Network Rail to have a better focus on its customers. Piero Bohoslawec (K79) is still at the *Financial Times*. We live in Bath with Jack, 9, and Clare, 12, and enjoy drinking wine of a better quality than we could previously afford, as many holidays as possible and keeping up with the likes of Hil Moll (E79) Julie George (E79) and Phil Dennis (K79). Bath, May 2009.

**Petch, Angela** (R70 née Sutor) I graduated in Italian in 1974 and since then have lived in Holland, Sicily, Tanzania, the Lake District and now Suffolk. I teach Italian both in England and in Tuscany, where I run practical, 'hands-on' language classes, involving shopping, museum, gallery and restaurant trips etc. Oh yes, and truffle hunts too! I'm married to Maurice Petch (half Italian) and we have three children – nearly all independent now. Next year, he plans to retire and we will be living in Tuscany (not the Chiantishire part) for six months of the year. If anybody is interested in renting our very old, beautiful watermill there then get in touch. I still wish I'd read English with Italian and it is my ambition to get into UEA to read Creative Writing (never too late and nothing ventured etc.) I won a short story award last year at a local literary festival and have been runner-up twice in national writing comps and now I am keen to write and write and write. The only alumna I have been in contact with is Jenny Webster (née Fernando). It would be fun to catch up with anybody else who may remember me. Whenever I see Gavin Esler on TV, I wonder what Alan Hearn and his other cronies are up to. Francesca Ronan sadly died about 16 years ago and I still see her 'little sister' who lives in Norwich. Does anybody have news of Monica Hajek? Suffolk, May 2009.



### 1980s

**Brennan, Marko** (E81) It's now been 15 years since I moved to San Francisco. Life is beautiful, despite the current economic woes, we are headed in the right direction and our energies are focused on worthy causes. Debi and I have been married for three years and are happy, in love, and united as we face challenges and enjoy small (and sometimes great) victories. We live in the eye of the storm for all web 2.0 and social media technologies, green inventions and spiritual revolution. It also happens to be one of the prettiest places I've lived in. California, USA, May 2009.

**Dacombe, Jez** (R81) Working for Birmingham City Council as IT Technical Co-ordinator. Keen to contact Sue Evans, Mike Tucker, Hugh Kelly and Glen Green. West Midlands, August 2009.

**Gower, Corinne** (K81, née Rossbotham) These days I live just north of Wellington in New Zealand. Recently married Derek and now Corinne Gower. I work for the Ministry of Health and am studying for a PhD (part-time) that focuses on elective surgery and health sector performance outcomes. Would love to hear from anyone who remembers me. Hamilton, New Zealand. (19/05/2009).

**Numata, Keitaro** (K84) Hello to all my old friends! I am living in Tokyo, controlling an online game and contents servicing company. Planning to find partners to service the European territory in the near future. Tokyo, Japan, April 2009

**Potts, Gregory** (E81) Embroiled in the planning for London 2012 with Essex Police. Homelife amid the rolling countryside of North East Chelmsford is splendid as ever, with wife (Susan) and cat (Elsie). Chelmsford, Essex, March 2009.

**Salter, David** (E89) After graduating with a degree in Microbiology, I spent time working in a pub which helped fund two trips to India. I gradually found my way into the care profession and now work as a psychiatric nurse. I recently married and have a baby on the way. I'm still in touch with Nigel Inniss (D86) and Luke Olley (E89). I'd like to say hi to Amanda Jezrawi (sic), Nic and Tom who I lived with in the salubrious Ellenden court. Glamorgan, July 2009.

### 1990s

**Proudfoot, Ryan** (K91) Married one year and just left my 11-year banking career to try my hand as a business owner back in my native Trinidad. Now in the business of selling office furniture, stationery and office equipment. Previously spent 11 years in investment banking in Barbados and Trinidad. Would like to hear from anyone who remembers me. Trinidad, April 2009.

**Young, Chris** (K93) Having tired of the travel industry and spent a while studying the dark arts of PR, I have now crossed to the third sector. I am now putting my CIS degree to good use at the charity Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming, co-ordinating the Real Bread Campaign. Anyone interested in our work can visit [www.realbreadcampaign.org](http://www.realbreadcampaign.org) or contact me. London, July 2009.

## Only connect

Lost touch with an old friend? Our alumni database may be able to help. If we have a current address for them, we would be happy to forward a message from you. If we too have lost touch, Only connect, which is printed in KENT twice a year and on the web monthly, may get a response: And if you do connect, please let us know.

### 1960s

**Nicky Avery** (E65) w/lf Alastair Philp (K66) and Patrick Murphy (E67)

**Gill Marris** (née Deland) (R68) w/lf Stephen St Clair (K69)

### 1970s

**Simon Lord** (R72) w/lf John Doris (E71)

**Stuart Jacobs** (K75) w/lf Fiona Gunn (K75)

**John Stanley** (K78) w/lf Gary Cookson (E78)

**Maddy Tanner** (K78) w/lf Deborah Bennison (K79)

### 1980s

**Moi Chan** (née Anna Tjandra) (D80) w/lf Marie Hayes (D80)

**Jez Dacombe** (R81) w/lf Hugh Kelly (R81), Glen Green (R 81), Michael Tucker (R 81) and Susan Evans (R84)

**Heb Newman** (née Tomkins) (E84) w/lf Diana Cadogan-Rawlinson (E84)

**Balvinder Mudan** (Dhenjan) (E86) w/lf Mary Clarke (R87)

**Zina Marques** (R87) w/lf David Culverhouse (K88)

### 1990s

**Matt Jennings** (K91) w/lf Stella Spencer (D93)

**Marie Gallagher** (R93) w/lf Gary Thorpe (R95)

**Pattanee Teerapunyapong** (R93) w/lf Wasanthe Senanayake (K93)

### 2000s

**Daniel Webb** (R00) w/lf Chris Han (K01)

## Small ads

### Computer maintenance

Local computer engineer (Upper Harbledown) offers a variety of services, including broadband installation, repairs & upgrades, home networking, virus eradication, etc. Many delighted clients, both on and off campus. Please call Marc: (01227) 456955; mob: 07951 023054 or email: [marcgj@nildram.co.uk](mailto:marcgj@nildram.co.uk)

### Independent financial advice

Pensions, investments, protection and property. Being independent means no ties to any one company (or lender) so the advice we provide is totally unbiased. Contact: mobile: 07723 836662; fax: 0870 705 1558; email: [martinfoad@positivemortgages.co.uk](mailto:martinfoad@positivemortgages.co.uk) website: [www.thinkpositive.com/partners/MartinFoad](http://www.thinkpositive.com/partners/MartinFoad)

Plants shot up? Garden in a mess? Phone me Barbara Jarvis, **Lady Gardener 01227 463465**. City & Guilds qualified in Amenity Horticulture and Garden Design.

**Room to let** for working person or postgraduate/older student near Canterbury West Station. Spacious house, £95 includes bills and council tax. Non-smoker. Phone 01227 463465

Canterbury Licensed Cars. **Air Line Taxis** Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted. All other destinations quoted for up to four people. Bookings confirmed in writing. We now accept UK debit/credit cards 07884 294055/01227 491010

### JKF Computer Services

PC installation, maintenance, repairs and upgrades. Virus and spyware detection and removal, data recovery and backup, PC's built to your specification. Phone: 01795 531623 or 07880 602823. Reliable, professional service at realistic prices by certified engineers.



# What's on



## Gulbenkian Theatre highlights

**14 November 2009** 7.45pm  
Gordon Giltrap with Woody Mann  
Gulbenkian Theatre

**21 November 2009** 7.45pm  
Sean Hughes  
Gulbenkian Theatre

**25 November 2009** 5.00pm  
Jazz@5  
Gulbenkian Theatre

**27 November 2009** 7.45pm  
Mitch Benn & the Distractions  
Gulbenkian Theatre

**30 November 2009** 1.10pm  
Gulbenkian Lunchtime Concert  
University of Kent Camerata

**4 December 2009** 7.45pm  
Kentish Kreme – Best Kent Bands  
event featuring Belleville (see right)

**8 & 16 December 2009** 1.00pm  
Children's Christmas Carols  
Gulbenkian Café Bar

Online bookings and  
programme details at  
[www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk](http://www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk)

Don't forget to find out more about  
the **Gulbenkian Christmas parties**  
on 10, 11, 17 and 18 December  
2009.

## Listings

These are just some of the  
forthcoming events at the  
University. Further details at  
[www.kent.ac.uk/whatson/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/whatson/)

**24 November 2009** 6.30pm  
Celebration of DICE's 20th  
Anniversary  
Woolf College, Canterbury campus

**27 November 2009** 6.00pm  
Pfizer Lecture  
*Tackling global grand challenges*  
Sir Leszek Borysiewicz PhD, FRS,  
FRCP, FRCPATH, FMedSci, Chief  
Executive of the Medical  
Research Council  
Woolf College, Canterbury campus

**4 December 2009** 6.00pm  
Open Lecture  
*A life lived through pictures*  
Harriet Bridgeman, Founder and  
Chairman of the Bridgeman Art  
Library Ltd  
Woolf College, Canterbury campus

**20 January 2010** 6.00pm  
Open Lecture  
Mr David Warren, HM Ambassador  
to Japan  
Woolf College, Canterbury campus

**29 January 2010** 6.00pm  
Chancellor's Lecture  
Former Lord Chief Justice,  
Lord Bingham of Cornhill  
Woolf College, Canterbury campus

**3 March 2010** 6.00pm  
Bob Friend Memorial Lecture  
Mark Thompson, BBC  
Pilkington Building, Medway  
campus

**13 March 2010** 7.30pm  
Colyer-Fergusson Concert  
Canterbury Cathedral

**June 2010**  
Sports Reunion Weekend  
Canterbury campus

## Alumni band are among 'Kent's best bands'

Canterbury-based band Belleville  
have been chosen to appear at the  
Gulbenkian Theatre on Friday 4  
December to celebrate some of  
the best music the county of Kent  
has to offer in the Kentish Kreme –  
Best Kent Bands event. All five  
members of Belleville studied at  
the University of Kent and have  
chosen to stay in Canterbury to be  
part of Canterbury's thriving music  
scene, which includes other  
successful bands such as Motion  
Picture Soundtrack and Syd Arthur,  
who will also be appearing at the  
main event. For more info see  
[www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk](http://www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk) or  
[www.myspace.com/bellevillemusic](http://www.myspace.com/bellevillemusic)

## DICE 20th Anniversary

The Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) is celebrating its 20th birthday on 24 November. A mission-driven institute, striving to build capacity in countries high in biodiversity, it takes an interdisciplinary approach to human-centred conservation. Working on a global scale, DICE-trained conservationists have made great advances in saving species, from Sumatran tigers to Mallorcan midwife toads. Closer to home, DICE has been working with the University's Creative Campus initiative to produce a series of posters for buses in Canterbury as part of their celebrations.

