Welcome

Dear colleagues,

The 50th anniversary year has arrived! The countdown clock stopped at 20.14 on 1 October, followed by a wonderful display of fireworks, marking the end of our preparations and the beginning of our celebrations. And what made the day more special was the presence of a number of our first 500 students – and even a few of our original staff.

We have now embarked on a different kind of display – the magnificent range of activities that constitute the 50th anniversary programme. Events are taking place to engage not only our present staff and students, but also the many thousands of past members of this University, who have made Kent one of the best universities in the UK. Rightly, now is a time to take pride in our past, celebrate the present and inspire our future.

We have developed a culture of excellence: quality teaching and innovative new courses; world-leading research; wonderful examples of outreach; and social impact. Kent scholars appear in the media, lead prestigious conferences and give evidence to public inquiries. Professional service departments provide the wide range of skills that a university needs to be successful – finance, IT, project management, recruitment, facilities management and so on. Projects can be just as complex to manage as academic endeavours; sometimes more so.

The next stage is to build on our achievements. We will want to use the opportunities arising from our anniversary year to help us develop our next institutional plan: to run for five years, from 2015-2020. This will require a continued concentration on excellence, students’ standing out and leading research, together with broader impact and understanding of the economic importance of the University to the region and the UK. But we also need to ensure that our strengths and achievements are recognised, both nationally and internationally.

When you read this, I will just have returned from a visit to China and Japan where I will have been talking to a wide variety of senior academics and officials about the excellence of British science. I will, however, also have been giving a strong message about how the University of Kent is making a difference in research and about the many other kinds of excellence that we are promoting. I, and my Executive Group colleagues, will be taking this message with us throughout the year – and beyond.

I want the anniversary year to be the start of a renewed emphasis on this University’s esteem, so that we are recognised at home and abroad not just as a leading academic university, but also as an innovative and creative institution with so much to offer. I look forward to working with you all to build this esteem.

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow
Vice-Chancellor
Students at the University are again among the UK’s most satisfied with their academic experience.

In the National Student Survey (NSS) 2014, Kent was placed joint third among publicly funded, multi-faculty universities for ‘overall satisfaction’, alongside universities such as Cambridge, Durham, Essex, Glasgow, Oxford and Surrey.

Kent scored 91% in this category, substantially above the national average of 86%.

Many of Kent’s programmes were also rated highly by its students. Programmes in its schools of Architecture, Arts, Biosciences, Economics, Engineering and Digital Arts, European Culture and Languages (Classics, French, Spanish, Comparative Literature, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Linguistics, Archaeology) and Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research all received ‘overall satisfaction’ rates between 90% and 100%.

Other schools, such as Law, English, Politics and Anthropology, all appeared in the top 20 for overall satisfaction.

Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor David Nightingale said: ‘Once again, this is a clear and welcome endorsement of our ongoing investment in the student academic experience. It also reflects our swift and positive response to student feedback and the ways in which we involve our students with major decisions and developments.’

The NSS is a national initiative, conducted annually since 2005, aimed at all final-year undergraduates in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. There are 23 core questions relating to aspects of the student learning experience, from teaching to academic support and overall satisfaction.
Student experience award shortlisting

The University has been shortlisted for ‘Most Improved Student Experience’ in the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards 2014.

For this THE Awards category, student market research specialists YouthSight asked 20,000 students across the UK to rate the academic reputation, teaching, social life and facilities of their institutions.

This endorsement by Kent’s students is a further reflection of Kent’s long-standing reputation for ongoing investment in these areas, including:

- 12% increase in academic and research staff, including a 30% increase in professors, in the past three years;
- £12.6m investment over the past three years for new and improved learning and teaching spaces;
- new £27m Templeman Library development, with over 500 new study spaces;
- investment of more than £120m in student residences over the last five years.

The Awards winners will be announced on 27 November.

University and KM Group in TV partnership

The University and the KM Group have been awarded a television licence to serve Maidstone and Tonbridge.

The licence was awarded following bids to Ofcom, the independent regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries.

Kent’s academic expertise and state-of-the-art facilities at its Centre for Journalism will support the KM Group’s extensive experience in multimedia broadcasting.

The Centre for Journalism, based at the Medway campus, and the KM group will provide dedicated local news and entertainment to Maidstone, the county town of Kent, and its surrounding areas in a new service, called KMTV.

KMTV will be launched during 2015 and will initially broadcast from a new dedicated studio to be built at the Medway campus.

Kent recognised for widening access

Kent has received national approval for plans to increase spending on its work with local schools.

The Office of Fair Access (OFFA) has announced approval of Kent’s Access Agreement for 2015-16, which sets out the University’s plans for increased funding to reach a total of £1.9m for outreach activity with local schools, colleges and communities.

Kent’s Access Agreement – one of 172 announced for universities and colleges wishing to charge tuition fees for higher education courses in 2015-16 – also shows the University plans to make a £1.5m investment in 2015 in new measures to support the academic success of its existing students. This is in addition to maintaining its existing level of bursary support for new students of nearly £5m.

Prize-winning poetry to acclaimed opera

A book of poems by Nancy Gaffield of the School of English has premiered as a new opera.

‘Tokaido Road – a Journey after Hiroshige’ is a new 50-minute chamber opera composed by British composer Nicola LeFanu which tells the story of a journey through memories. It is set in the rich, hedonistic ‘Floating World’ of Japan’s Edo period and is a composite of music, poetry, mime, dance and visual imagery.

The opera received excellent reviews in Classical Music magazine and The Times newspaper during a summer tour across high-profile UK venues. It will be performed at the Gulbenkian in May 2015 as part of the University’s 50th anniversary celebrations.

Commissioned by Okeanos – a professional music ensemble – the outreach project is a collaboration between the University’s School of English and Music Department, as well as the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Maidstone Museum and Workers of Art (a local arts organisation).

Skills for Justice accreditation

An academic school has been awarded the Skillsmark ‘seal of approval’ for its BA in Criminal Justice and Criminology.

The programme, run by the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research at the Medway campus, has been officially recognised by Skills for Justice, the sector skills council and standards-setting body for the justice sector, as providing education of outstanding quality and relevance.

The degree programme is multidisciplinary in focus containing elements of criminology, law, sociology, social policy, social history and psychology. Designed to give students an awareness of the complexities of the criminal justice system of England and Wales, students can take a placement year between their second and final year.

Historian marks life of pioneer suffragist

A University historian has unveiled a plaque to mark the life of pioneering Kent suffragist and women’s campaigner Amelia Scott.

Dr Anne Logan, of the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, unveiled the plaque outside Amelia Scott’s former home in Southborough near Tunbridge Wells in August.

Amelia Scott, who was born in 1860 and died in 1952, helped establish amenities for working women and girls in Tunbridge Wells, including the establishment of a social club and provision of a women’s lodging house. She was also vice-president of the town’s National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies, and one of the first two women elected to Tunbridge Wells Town Council in 1919.

Dr Logan, a senior lecturer in social history, has carried out extensive research into Amelia Scott’s life and was invited to unveil the plaque by the Southborough Society who commissioned it.
Teaching Excellence in Computer Science

The School of Computing has been certified as a university partner in the new UK-wide Network of Teaching Excellence in Computer Science.

The certification is recognition of the School’s role in improving computer science teaching in schools in the UK. The network of excellence is arranged by Computing at School (CAS) and BCS, the chartered institute for IT, with support from the Department for Education, Microsoft and Google.

Student creation for Herne Bay seafront

A Kent student has competed a one-off art commission, which will be a permanent feature on Herne Bay seafront.

Margot Laureau, a creative events student in the University’s School of Music and Fine Art, won a competition to design and create a unique bench as part of a project to help improve the accessibility and facilities on Herne Bay seafront. Margot’s bench – an imaginative design featuring Herne Bay’s historic landmarks and a number of her own drawings – was chosen as one of six independent commissions to be installed on the seafront in 2014.

The project, led by Canterbury City Council, was made possible after Herne Bay was awarded £50,000 by the ITV People’s Millions initiative to improve its seafront.

New PGDip in Endangered Species Recovery

An innovative new postgraduate diploma programme, validated by Kent, but based on the island of Mauritius, will run for the first time in 2015.

The new PGDip in Endangered Species Recovery programme will capitalise on the global conservation expertise of DICE, a research centre within the School of Anthropology and Conservation, and its long-standing partnership with the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Jersey and the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF).

PGDip students will be based entirely on Mauritius where they will be immersed in one of the world’s most successful species and habitat restoration programmes, spearheaded by MWF in collaboration with Durrell. Students will learn first-hand field skills such as design of transects for surveying endangered populations of geckos and taking measurements from endangered Mauritius parakeet fledglings. They will also gain the leadership, management and facilitation skills to run conservation projects on the ground.

http://bit.ly/1swcdf9

New bistro opens at Medway

Cargo, the University’s new bistro at Medway, offers students, staff and the local community a stylish eatery and live performance venue.

Cargo is a 15-minute walk from campus, situated in Liberty Quays’ Block T of Victory Pier and is open to students, staff and visitors. With its industrial themed interior, Cargo provides a modern, yet relaxed feel, with four different areas – a bistro, lounge, a bar with standing area and a performance space with adjacent booths.

Its menu offers modern bistro-style lunch and dinner options, at reasonable prices. Opening times are 12 noon to 11pm, Monday to Sunday (term-time only).

http://www.kent.ac.uk/catering/where-to-eat/cargo.html

Templeman Library topping-out

The first stage in a £27m project to extend and redevelop the Templeman Library was officially marked with a topping-out ceremony on 1 October.

University Deputy Vice-Chancellor Denise Everitt was on hand with John Solillo, Kent’s Director of Information Services, to carry out the traditional ceremony at the new wing of the Canterbury campus library.

The new extension, which will open in 2015, will include more than 500 new study spaces, as well as an exhibition gallery, seminar rooms and a 250-seat lecture theatre.

The extension is the first stage of a three-phase project to completely redevelop the library. Phase two will take place during 2016 with phase three to follow.
A new engagement centre at Kent is aiming to inspire community interest in the First World War. The Gateways to the First World War centre – one of only five in the UK – was launched in May 2014. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the centre is headed by Professor of Modern British History, Mark Connelly, who told KENT Staff magazine more about its launch and work so far.

In 2013, the AHRC, in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), called for proposals to support extensive interest in exploring World War One and its legacy among communities across the UK. In February 2014, five engagement centres were announced, hosted by the universities of Belfast, Birmingham, Kent, Hertfordshire and Nottingham. A key focus for the centres was to provide UK-wide support for community groups funded through a range of HLF programmes, particularly its £6m ‘First World War: Then and Now’ community grants scheme.

Since their launch, the centres have been extending links with a wide range of community activities commemorating the centenary across the UK, as well as developing international links. The centres also form part of the First World War Centenary Partnership, led by the Imperial War Museum, and complement other AHRC centenary activities, including the BBC’s World War One at Home project.

Kent centre

The Kent centre was launched on 30 May 2014 at an event attended by the Austrian Ambassador to the UK and featuring lectures by Professor Connelly and Dr Heide Kunzelmann, of the School of European Culture and Languages, whose great-grandfather was a medical officer during World War One.

Since the launch, activities undertaken by the Gateways centre in Kent have included:

• Supporting Folkestone-based Step Short in its creation of a World War One app and new memorial arch.
• Working with sixth-formers at Simon Langton schools on an exhibition about Canterbury in the First World War, on display at the Beaney.

The Gateways team

Gateways Director Mark Connelly has had a life-long interest in World War One. He says: ‘I cannot remember a time when I was not interested in every aspect of the conflict, but I think a real turning point was being given a copy of Martin Middlebrook’s The First Day on the Somme for my 13th birthday. The story of the worst day in British military history, in which 40,000 men were wounded and 20,000 killed within the space of a few hours, gripped my imagination and left me with a desire to find out as much I could about the war.

‘Nearly ten years later, I commenced a PhD on the commemoration of the war in the City of London and East London – a study that fully revealed the variety of ways in which people experienced the Great War and also the problems that can face any researcher trying to uncover the intimate details of its impact on individuals. In turn, this has given me a great passion for helping others discover pathways through the history of the conflict and I am greatly enthused by the thought that Gateways will enable others to engage with the Great War and produce fascinating new insights into an event which has had a seminal impact on our own world.’

Mark is being supported by six established academics specialising in the history of the First World War: Dr Brad Beaven (Portsmouth), Dr Helen Brooks (Kent), Professor Alison Fell (Leeds), Dr Emma Hanna (Greenwich), Dr Lucy Noakes (Brighton) and Dr Dan Todman (Queen Mary). At Kent, the team also includes Research Centre Manager Dr Zoë Denness.
House of Art and Knowledge until Sunday 9 November 2014.

• Giving historical advice to an EU Comenius project linking schools in Kent and West Flanders to study the war together – including a Christmas Truce debate for schools in December 2014.

• A public information open day at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, on 28 September 2014.

• Working with www.historypin.com to create a dedicated web portal featuring archive material and space for project groups to showcase their work. The portal is due to go live at the end of October.

What is particularly exciting about establishing Gateways to the First World War at Kent is that it is the only centre across a wide area of the south and east of Britain so there is a rich seam of community history to unearth and celebrate. The First World War continues to grip the imagination of generation after generation and its centenary provides a major opportunity for historians to reflect on its impact in a way that engages the public.

Gateways has assisted the Step Short project in Folkestone through the creation of a self-guided app tour and an exhibition for its visitors’ centre. Folkestone played a crucial role in the First World War as a communications hub for the Western Front. The town was transformed by the arrival of contingents from across the British Empire and beyond. It witnessed an influx of Belgian refugees, was the home of a huge Canadian encampment as well as Chinese Labourers, and one of the Allied intelligence centres was run from the town. Gateways therefore built its approach around key themes, including the social and economic nature of Folkestone in 1914 and how residents interacted with the transient and semi-permanent populations forced on them by war.

The app, designed by the School of History’s Dr Will Butler and programmed by Antonio Sanchez, a Master’s student in the School of Engineering and Digital Arts, went live in August 2014 and takes visitors around various sites with fascinating wartime histories. In addition, Gateways has developed new exhibition boards for the Step Short visitors’ centre, illustrating Folkestone’s hugely important role in the Great War. The Step Short Memorial Arch was unveiled by Prince Harry on 4 August 2014 during national commemorations marking the outbreak of World War One.

For up-to-date information, including confirmed dates, see:

www.gatewaysfww.org.uk
Email: gateways@kent.ac.uk Twitter: GatewaysFWW

Diary dates

Gateways projects planned for the end of 2014 onwards include:


• Friday 12 December 2014 – One-day public symposium on the Christmas Truce at the University of Kent.

• 2015 Study Days (dates to be confirmed) on UK military ancestors (26 February), German and Austrian experience of the First World War (20 March), UK non-combatant services (Society of Friends, YMCA, nurses, chaplains) (26 June) and the Home Front (20 November).

• Saturday 18 April 2015 (tbc) – Family Day in association with the Royal Engineers.

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Step Short project, Folkestone

Gateways to the First World War at Kent is that it is the only centre across a wide area of the south and east of Britain so there is a rich seam of community history to unearth and celebrate. The First World War continues to grip the imagination of generation after generation and its centenary provides a major opportunity for historians to reflect on its impact in a way that engages the public.
High-res images from a space mission involving Kent’s Dr Stephen Lowry has revealed the multifaceted world of a comet’s surface.

In August, after a ten-year and 6.4 billion kilometre journey, the Rosetta spacecraft entered 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko’s orbit and raised expectations of what has turned out to be an exciting and unique opportunity to study a comet close-up.

Scientists have now analysed images of the comet’s surface taken by OSIRIS, Rosetta’s scientific imaging system, and allocated several distinct regions, each of which is defined by special morphological characteristics. These include areas dominated by cliffs, depressions, craters, boulders or even parallel grooves.

Such an analysis provides the basis for a detailed scientific description of 67P’s surface and offered valuable insights when Rosetta’s Lander Team and the Rosetta orbiter scientists gathered in Toulouse on 13 and 14 September to determine a primary and back-up landing site from the earlier pre-selection of five candidates.

Dr Lowry, a member of the Centre for Astrophysics and Planetary Sciences and part of the science team for the OSIRIS instrument, explained: ‘Each new image from OSIRIS is a unique close-up glimpse of the surface of a comet in unprecedented detail, which we can use to help us to understand how comets form. Part of that process is to map the surface and define all its distinctive regions. There is still plenty of work to do though as the spacecraft continues to escort the comet on its long journey towards the sun, a journey which grows more exciting each day.’

High-res images provide a map of Rosetta’s Comet

Rosetta is a European Space Agency (ESA) mission with contributions from its member states and NASA. Its progress can be tracked via the ESA’s Rosetta blog:

blogs.esa.int/rosetta/

First steps for intelligent avatar

A ground-breaking project to support the UK’s ageing population through the use of responsive and interactive avatars has moved a step closer.

The use of the avatar, known as RITA (Responsive InTeractive Advocate), was demonstrated via a four-minute film presented at the King’s Fund’s International Digital Health and Care Congress in London on 11 September. The film demonstrated RITA appearing on a tablet device to help an elderly woman late at night.

The University’s Centre for Child Protection is heading a consortium of partners on the project, which is one of six developed from a national Technology Strategy Board initiative that aims to create new cost-effective ways of helping elderly people to live comfortably and independently in their own homes, if desired.

RITA, which harnesses emerging technologies from the entertainment industry, brings together three primary elements in personalised care:

• a friendly face, encouraging communication and interaction, represented by a realistic and emotionally expressive virtual avatar;

• the mind, as an ‘essence’ repository for storage and organisation of all personal and memory-related information, where access is determined by the user;

• an empathetic communication system that is capable of understanding and responding to the psychological needs and emotional welfare of the user.

Among its many possibilities, RITA could monitor heart rate and blood pressure, remind people to take medication, and would know if they had fallen over or were in pain and alert the doctor or the emergency services. The next phase of RITA is to go from proof of concept to building a working prototype, and funding is currently being sought for this.

DVD for people with learning disabilities

Researchers have teamed up with a disability charity to produce a DVD to help improve support for people with learning disabilities.

Research into people with learning disabilities, conducted by a team at the University’s Tizard Centre and its Personal Social Services Research Unit, has shown how support that is person-centred can promote social inclusion, growth in independence and choice, and control for those with learning disabilities.

The research revealed that just one third of people in the study sample – including those with complex needs such as autism or challenging behaviour – were consistently
receiving active support that was centred on their needs.

The collaboration, between the Kent team and national disability charity United Response, resulted in a new range of resource materials aimed at promoting person-centred approaches. This includes the DVD, titled ‘Promoting Person-Centred Support and Positive Outcomes for People with intellectual and developmental disabilities’. The DVD addresses key issues around active support, considering how it can best be implemented, and draws on good practice demonstrated by support staff and managers within United Response.

Uncovering secrets of cell fine-tuning

New research has shown for the first time how structures inside cells are regulated – a breakthrough that could have a major impact on cancer therapy development.

A team from the School of Biosciences uncovered the mechanism whereby the physical properties of the internal structures within cells – known as actin filaments – are ‘fine-tuned’ to undertake different functions. While some of these actin filaments appear to be completely stable, providing a framework for the cell, others are more dynamic, allowing the cell to respond rapidly to changes in its environment.

The researchers – PhD students Matthew Johnson and Daniel East, led by Dr Daniel Mulvihill - used yeast cells to mimic those in humans. They utilised a novel biology ‘trick’ to switch the location of molecules which bind to, and stabilise, the actin polymer and modulate the movement of molecular motors. In this way, they uncovered the mechanism which determines the functional characteristics of actin filaments in all cells and orchestrates cellular activity. It is expected the breakthrough could have a major impact on the development of therapies for a variety of diseases, including cancer.

The research, titled ‘Formins Determine the Functional Properties of Actin Filaments in Yeast’, was published in the journal Current Biology.

www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047248414001845

Non-dominant hand vital to thumb evolution

Research has shown that the non-dominant hand is likely to have played a vital role in the evolution of modern human hand morphology.

In the largest experiment ever undertaken into the manipulative pressures experienced by the hand during stone tool production, biological anthropologists analysed the manipulative forces and frequency of use experienced by the thumb and fingers on the non-dominant hand during a series of stone tool production sequences that replicated early tool forms.

It is well known that one of the main distinctive features between humans and our closest evolutionary cousins, the great apes, is the morphology and manipulative capabilities of their hands. Key to this is the substantially larger, stronger and more robust thumb displayed by humans, allowing them to forcefully and yet dexterously manipulate objects within the hand, a trait first thought to have evolved alongside the production of stone tools with the dominant hand.

Their results, published in the Journal of Human Evolution, demonstrated that the thumb on the non-dominant hand was not only required to exert and resist significantly more force than the fingers when manipulating stone cores, but that it was also recruited significantly more often. This means that our earliest stone tool producing ancestors were likely to have experienced similar recruitment levels, with those individuals displaying a stronger, more robust thumb being more capable stone tool producers and thus having an evolutionary advantage.

www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0960982214005995

Latest research awards

Professor Andy Hone (School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science), £687,887 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for ‘Cluster algebras with periodicity and discrete dynamics over finite fields’.

Dr Nathan Gomes (School of Engineering and Digital Arts), £455,545 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for NIVANA: intelligent, heterogeneous virtualized networking infrastructure’.

Dr Joy Zhang (School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research), £232,137 from the Economic and Social Research Council for Governing Accountability in China’s Life Sciences: A Comparative Study of Stem Cell and GM’.

Dr Judith Bovensiepen (School of Anthropology and Conservation) £231,056 from the Economic and Social Research Council for Anticipating Prosperity: A Study of Community Expectations and the Petroleum Industry in Timor-Leste’.

Professor Jon Williamson (School of European Culture and Languages), £222,096 from the Leverhulme Trust for ‘Grading evidence of mechanisms in physics and biology’.

www.kent.ac.uk/Research
Celebrating our 50th year

Our 50th anniversary year begins with opening ceremonies in Canterbury and Medway.

A spectacular fireworks display lit up the skies over our Canterbury and Medway campuses as we kicked off our 50th anniversary year. Thousands of staff, students, alumni, friends and many original benefactors joined in the celebrations, enjoying the anniversary lecture, live music and entertainment throughout the evening.

At Canterbury there was a performance by the Kent Salsa Society and live music from Ben Russell and the Charmers, and Keynestock 2013 winners Stranded at the Jivin’. Both acts were compered by stand-up comic and Kent alumna Cerrie Hodgson (Darwin 2010). Nearly 2,000 guests took a spin on the giant Kent Wheel for stunning views of Canterbury, our campus and the surrounding areas – many going twice to see the view again after the sun set.

The Kent Salsa Society and Ben Russell and the Charmers returned to Medway the following night and were joined by Wondermoth and Rock Avenue. The evening was compered by Kent alumnus and now Development Office staff member Jack McDonnell. Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, Vice-Chancellor, hosted a lecture at both campuses, delivered by Professor Keith Mander, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the 50th Anniversary Programme Board.

Both campuses did themselves proud in the big ‘We are Kent selfie’ and many guests raised a glass of Old Templeman ale to toast the start of the year. Students from the School of History took guests for a walk down memory lane and heard many happy memories of Kent. Here’s to making many more throughout the year ahead!
We are marking our anniversary with a year-long programme of special projects and events taking place across the institution. Find out more about the projects below and many more at:

www.kent.ac.uk/50/celebrate  Email: 50years@kent.ac.uk

Highlights

2015 Paris to Canterbury Campus Cycle Ride Staff and alumni can take on the challenge of riding 230 miles from Paris to Canterbury over four days to coincide with our alumni reunion weekend from 4-6 September 2015. You can find out more and register online on the 50th website (above).

The Italian Job The University is sponsoring a classic 1971 Mini taking part in the 2014 Italian Job Rally in October 2014. The Mini, driven by Publishing Officer Pat King and her husband Stephen, is raising money for the Variety children’s charity.

Kent QI Comedy and academia will collide in February 2015 when Kent hosts a special one-off 50th anniversary version of the famous quiz, compered by John Lloyd CBE, QI creator and Kent Honorary Graduate.

50 Rock World-leading bands, from The Who to Led Zeppelin, have performed at the University. The 50 Rock project wants to hear from you if you were there!

Community open day In March 2015, there will be activities within schools and departments, performances, stalls and hospitality, culminating in an academic debate on Europe, hosted by our Chancellor Dr Gavin Esler.

Vice-Chancellor’s 50th anniversary lectures A series of inspiring lectures will be given by University staff throughout the year, on subjects ranging from Augustus, the first Roman Emperor, to the Christmas Truce of 1914 which now looms large in public perceptions of the First World War. The lectures will be free and open to all.

Eliot Cloister refurbishment The Cloister garden was used for theatrical productions during the 1960s and, in our anniversary year, will be redesigned and refurbished as a tranquil spot and attractive venue for events.

Celebrating staff – special awards The University celebrates its staff in many ways and, in our 50th year, an additional special award will be included within all of the existing annual staff awards events, to celebrate sustained and outstanding contributions from University staff. Additionally, a new scheme and event celebrating research will be added during the current academic year.
Every year the University recognises the success of individual members of staff and this year was no exception with over 50 academic staff celebrating promotion to professor, reader or senior lecturer.

Marion Fanthorpe, Interim HR Director said: ‘We have continued to have high numbers of applications for academic promotions this year, with excellent success rates. The quality and range of the work has been impressive, including significant contributions to teaching and learning and leadership, as well as research excellence. Heads of Schools and Deans have assisted the University Promotions Committee this year by getting more involved in supporting applications and ensuring high standards are consistently applied and achieved across schools and faculties. This has also meant we have been able to offer individuals more feedback and advice on their career progression.’

The University has a number of ways to recognise the outstanding performance and contribution of its staff whether it is through promotion, additional increments, one-off payments or team awards. We also have RPD (Reflect, Plan, Develop) whereby every individual can have regular conversations with their managers and colleagues about their contribution to shared goals and their individual career development. Details can be found at: www.kent.ac.uk/hr-staffinformation/

This year’s promotions included five new professors who, below, highlight their key successes during 2014 and plans for the year ahead. A full list of academic promotions in 2014, including comments by other newly-promoted colleagues, will be available soon at: www.kent.ac.uk/campusonline/promotions/

**Professor Yutaka Arai (University of Kent at Brussels, Kent Law School)**

‘My recent research focuses on the interaction between international humanitarian law (IHL) and international criminal law. I have just published two papers dealing with the question of so-called ‘collateral civilian damage’. I have critically unmasked some legal and extra-legal factors that have special bearing on ascertaining individual war crime responsibility (as opposed to state responsibility). I am responsible for four LLM modules at UKB, as well as supervising five PhD students.’

**Professor Helen Carr (Kent Law School)**

‘My main area is social welfare law, particularly the regulation of housing, homelessness and adult social care. I am concerned at the failure of British courts to recognise the potential of human rights and legal notions of dignity to help solve the contemporary crises of adult social care. I am investigating how the law impacts upon the lives of homeless people, and is implicated in the politicisation of housing space. In 2014/15, I am leading the Law School’s periodic review, as well as working alongside Nick Jackson and Law School students to support Canterbury Housing Advice Centre.’

**Professor Karen Douglas (School of Psychology)**

‘Over the past five years, I have been focusing on the psychological factors associated with beliefs in conspiracy theories and some of the potential consequences of a growing culture of conspiracism. I have also been involved in interdisciplinary projects on online social networking and inter-cultural communication, and projects on the psychological factors associated with the use of sexist language. I am currently co-editor of the British Journal of Social Psychology.’

**Professor Andy King (School of Computing)**

‘My recent focus has been on cyber-security, with two threads of work. Firstly, I have been developing techniques for automating the classification of malware samples. Thousands of new samples are released each month, many of which are merely simple variants of existing malware. My work will help security engineers decide which samples warrant close scrutiny. Secondly, I have been developing compositional techniques to detect when binary programs leak sensitive information, due to flaws in the way memory is recycled. The key challenge in this work is to recover sufficient structure from a binary program in order to modularise reasoning and scale these techniques to large codebases.’

**Professor Robbie Sutton (School of Psychology)**

‘I work with PhD students and international collaborators to investigate the psychological processes that are associated with social inequality. One recent project examines the doctrine of maternal sacrifice (the ubiquitous cultural notion that women are less important than their children) and its central role in gender inequality. Another project explores how rich and poor people arrive at very different estimates of how wealthy their country is, and the political consequences of these perceptions. I am author of Social Psychology (Palgrave), and editor of Feedback: The Communication of Praise, Criticism and Advice (Lang).’
Raising awareness of Athena SWAN

The Athena SWAN awareness event on 19 September had a note of celebration, as well as a focus on the important issue of gender equality in the sciences.

The event was the first to take place since Kent was awarded an Athena SWAN Bronze Award in April. The award recognises our commitment to developing employment practices supporting the career progression of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM).

Opening the event was the Dean of Sciences, Professor Mark Burchell, who reflected on the award and work within the University, initiated by the Athena SWAN Working Group in 2010. He also stated his intention that this would be a single milestone in an ongoing journey towards creating an environment where female scientists are nurtured and all staff are valued.

‘Good Practice Benefits All’ was the theme of the event, underlined in a speech by Dr Kate Horner and in the panel discussion. Kate (pictured above with Professor Iain Cumming of Medway School of Pharmacy) is a member of the Athena SWAN Committee at York Chemistry Department, which has held an Athena SWAN Gold Award since 2007. Kate and the panel reflected on the importance of mentoring (by both men and women), flexible working and an inclusive culture. Kate also spoke about how unconscious bias can be an invisible barrier to progress.

‘Unconscious Bias’ was the theme of one of six workshops during the day, covering themes as diverse as promotion, career planning, and how other Kent departments and public organisations are changing culture. The workshops continued the lively, frank debate which was ignited by the panel discussion.

The Athena SWAN event gave staff a chance to reflect on the work to date at Kent and inspired participants to tackle this issue with renewed energy, understanding and commitment. It helped identify the challenges that are currently affecting staff, which will be fed back into the work of the Athena SWAN Working Group.

Innovations in leadership development

The Developing Management Skills (DMS) Programme ran its inaugural conference, the DMS Forum, on 9 September in Darwin College, welcoming current and past participants. The DMS programme was instigated by Learning & Development from an idea proposed by Helena Torres (School Administration Manager, School of English) as a project for her MBA.

Helena’s experience as a participant on a previous leadership development programme at Kent sparked the idea, to meet the needs of people working in their first position as a supervisor or manager. Helena has since remained actively involved in the design and delivery of the programme alongside Simon Black, HR Learning & Development Consultant.

The September DMS Forum was an opportunity for the first three cohorts to reconvene and the event will be repeated approximately every six months. One feature of the conference was the lead taken by previous delegates (Catherine Butler, Zoe Wood and Relly Bowman, EDA; Kalliopi Glezakou, SSPSSR) who presented current projects and other learning to their colleagues. In addition, several invited speakers led workshops including Dr Simon Raby (KBS), Dr Mark Gilman (KBS), Esther van Hout (Tonbridge Centre) and Anne Rushworth (Learning & Development).

The purpose of the Forum is to enable DMS participants’ further personal development and collaborative learning around issues relevant to their work at Kent. Participants are encouraged to establish new networks both within the DMS peer group and with other colleagues across the University.

The DMS course itself has been offered at Kent since January 2013, when it was piloted for staff in the Academic Division, with sponsorship from Academic Registrar Jon Pink. The programme has since involved delegates from IS, HR, Finance, Research Services, Commercial Services, Corporate Communications, International Development, Estates, UELT, Student Services & Wellbeing and a host of academic schools. Cohorts starting in October 2014 include colleagues in academic and research roles for the first time, as we look to blend the leadership learning and experience in professional services, administration and academic faculties across Kent.

PA Network report

Over 30 members of staff gathered to socialise and share ideas for the first PA Network event at the University.

The networking event, in the Darwin Rose Gardens in July, attracted new members to the group who discussed new and innovative ways the network can help individuals achieve their professional potential.

The new network aims to support all staff performing a PA or administrative function as part of their role at the University. The professional network, aided by Learning & Development, provides access to key training and encourages professionals to meet, share good practice and foster new ideas.

The launch event was followed by a PA Network workshop in Darwin’s Peter Brown Room on 22 October. This included a networking lunch with some group discussion on ‘Projecting a Professional Image in the Workplace’ and a professional skills session on ‘Navigating the new SharePoint site’.
Margaret Sargeant joined Kent Business School at the Medway campus in January 2007 and currently works as a student placement co-ordinator. But she is equally busy in her spare time – as an ambassador for the national Stand Up To Cancer campaign. Margaret has lost her husband, mother and sister to cancer in the past five years and is currently in remission herself. She will be starring, alongside her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Honey, in the Stand Up To Cancer campaign, being launched by Cancer Research UK and Channel 4, in October 2014. Her Kent Business School and other Medway colleagues have been supporting her various fund-raising activities this autumn, including the March on Cancer in London on 11 October.

What would be your perfect day?
Spending the day having a picnic somewhere in a place of historic interest with my sons, Darren and Nicholas.

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?
I would love to have the willpower to stick to a diet!

Which word or phrase do you use most?
Please Saint Anthony can you help me find…

What is your favourite item of clothing, either now or in the past?
My husband Keith’s XXXL Hong Kong 7’s rugby shirt.

Which country would you most like to visit?
I would love to travel to Sri Lanka. Seven Business students are going out there for their Year in Industry; it has taken a lot of time to organise and would be fantastic to see it for myself.

What (if anything) would you like to change about yourself?
I would prefer not to be so emotional; it can be a hindrance at times.

What was your earliest ambition?
To become a nun. I was bought up in a very devout Irish Catholic family where religion played a large part of family life. My two older sisters and I boarded at a convent for several months while my mother recovered from a serious illness. I was about four at the time, but still clearly remember Sister Stephen who looked after us younger children. I decided then that I wanted to be just like her, an ambition that stayed with me until, at 16, I met my husband!

What was your first/worst job?
Four hours in a haberdashery shop. I enjoy sewing but, after spending four hours winding wool from large skeins into smaller balls (by hand) my arms ached and I decided it wasn’t the job for me.

How do you celebrate good news?
Champagne!

What is the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?
Tell the truth and shame the Devil.

How do you spend your time outside work?
I enjoy walking with my dog Honey, visiting places of historic interest, reading and sewing. However, at the moment, much of my time is taken up with the Stand Up To Cancer campaign. Through my own experience of cancer, I have had so much support and kindness from people that I am determined to stand up to cancer, especially for all those whose cancers aren’t caught early, so that more treatments are available for people with advanced cancer.

Supporting Stand Up To Cancer is my way of hitting back. I’m so grateful for the treatment that saved my life. Sadly, as I well know, not everyone survives. That’s why I want to do all I can to get everyone in Kent to Stand Up To Cancer right now! We need to fight back against this disease by raising money so that brilliant research can be translated into treatments for patients faster.

For more information and to get involved in the Stand Up to Cancer campaign, see:
www.standuptocancer.org.uk

To support Margaret’s fund-raising activities direct, visit her JustGiving page:
www.justgiving.com/stand-up-to-cancer-Margaret-Sargeant/
Staff from across the University came together to ensure the smooth running of this year’s arrivals weekend.

On 20 and 21 September, over 5,000 new students completed their registration and moved into their accommodation at both the Canterbury and Medway campuses.

Academic Registrar Jon Pink said: Arrivals weekend is one of the best examples of teams of staff from across the University coming together with a common aim. Staff in a range of roles are proud to play their part in helping make both students and their families feel welcome, at what can be a fun but emotional time. We were also able to ensure that all the administrative necessities – from qualification checks to ID cards – were completed in time for the start of term.

Initial feedback from new students and their families, via social media channels, was an early indication that all the hard work by staff had paid off. Comments included:

• Katie King: Really impressed with how organised, helpful & friendly everyone was @UniKent as we dropped our daughter off today. Well done & thank you!

• Shahil Parmar: @UniKent Registration yesterday at the Medway campus was organised extremely well... it was fast and efficient! Great job!

• Duarte: As a Kent fresher, my hat’s off to the reception provided by the staff and volunteers. Great work!

To see more photographs and a full account of arrivals weekend, visit: www.kent.ac.uk/news/kentlife/2489/staff-feature-arrivals-weekend/
Enterprise

KIE at Discovery Park

Kent Innovation & Enterprise (KIE) has secured the use of an office at Discovery Park, the former Pfizer site at Sandwich. Discovery Park is now a thriving Enterprise Zone with world-class facilities attracting a host of international companies from the life science, pharmaceutical, biotechnology, science and technology sectors. Pfizer has retained a presence at Discovery Park, employing around 700 staff.

Enterprise Zone status brings many benefits to the businesses located on the site including government-funded tax relief for science. This has helped to attract global brands and created an environment where emerging businesses and established organisations can share, connect and develop partnerships. The site has grown significantly since Pfizer downsized its operation at the site and there are now around 95 businesses located in one of the main buildings and a growing group within the Science block. One of the companies is close to developing a new drug and others are world-leaders in their field.

KIE’s office will be used as a base to develop relationships with the companies, deliver a range of workshops and allow KIE to set up academic meetings with tenants. KIE is currently researching the 95 companies based at the Park and will be hosting a ‘show and tell’ event later this year to match relevant companies with academic expertise.

Copyright guidelines

Information Services has published copyright guidelines and a copyright policy to help staff, students and partners understand and resolve copyright issues.

The guidelines include a clear explanation of UK copyright law and practical advice for those using or creating text, images, music, software, sound and video recordings, as well as other types of educational and research resources.

The University’s Copyright and Licensing Compliance Officer, Chris Morrison, has created the guidelines in conjunction with a consultative group drawn from across the University. Chris, who also sits on the UUK/Guild HE Copyright Working Group, is available for further copyright advice at copyright@kent.ac.uk or on 01227 823857 and is planning a programme of activities over the coming months to raise awareness of copyright issues throughout the University.

You can see the guidelines at:
www.kent.ac.uk/copyright

IP website relaunch

The Intellectual Property (IP) team at Kent Innovation & Enterprise is delighted to announce its website has been revamped. The aim of the makeover was to ensure all the protected technologies available for licensing are displayed online for easy access to interested parties. The new website, which displays IP categories at the University with eye-catching imagery, contains a short description of each technology including inventors’ names, IP prosecution status and contact information.

Senior Commercialisation Manager Dr Gary Robinson said: ‘We have tried to provide a user-friendly window on all those currently protected technologies and would hope to stimulate interest and elicit partners for further development and exploitation.’

For more information or to provide additional contacts, contact Antonia Chatzopoulou by email at a.chatzopoulou@kent.ac.uk.
You can view the new website at:
In the University’s 50th anniversary year, Kent Sport is offering students and staff a huge range of activities suitable for all abilities. As well as the exciting schedule available to Kent Sport members, such as fitness and dance classes, there are many opportunities for non-members to get involved.

As part of the 50th celebrations, Kent Sport is organising 50 special events ranging from quizzes to parties, competitions, trips and taster sessions.

Let’s Play is another new programme of activities for this academic year. Funded by Sport England’s University Activation Fund, the programme offers an amazing opportunity to try new activities and meet new people during fun 30-minute sessions.

Details of these Kent Sport activities and other events including Kent’s Sporting Legends, Easter Academy and Ultimate Karate Fighter’s Boot Camp, are available on our online events calendar:

www.kent.ac.uk/sports/events

Update on Kent Sport staff

Kent Sport staff have been busy this summer, not only coming up with new activities for Kent staff and students, but also applying their sporting skills and experience beyond campus.

Mel Clewlow, Sports Development Manager
In addition to her pre-season preparation for the forthcoming national premier league hockey season, which sees Canterbury Ladies competing in Europe next Easter, Mel Clewlow commented at the recent Glasgow Commonwealth Games. She is the perfect candidate for this role, having played at three Commonwealth Games (1998–2006) and coming away with three medals. The next trip for Mel will be the Champions Trophy in Argentina in November where the top six teams in the world play against each other.

Vicky Annis, Physiotherapist
Kent Sport physiotherapist Vicky Annis, has recently been travelling with the Great Britain triathlon team. The first trip was to Stockholm for the penultimate World Series race of the season. The team then travelled directly to Edmonton for the Grand Final and the World Championships for both the junior U23 and senior competitions. Vicky and Emma Deakin, head physiotherapist for British Triathlon, shared the workload before, during and after the races. The GB team came away with medals in the men’s senior and junior races plus the U23 relay event.

Louisa Arnold, County Coaching Lead
Louisa Arnold has recently received the Kent Netball Coach Award for 2013-14. As the Coaching Lead for Kent, she spends her working life supporting the recruitment, development and retention of coaches across many sports throughout the county. In her spare time, she coaches at both a local netball club and the University. She describes herself as ‘very fortunate to be able to work in a job that I love and one that complements my hobbies so well.’ If you are interested in coaching or finding more about the Kent Coaching Network – including Project 500 that encourages more female coaches to get involved – email Louisa at l.arnold@kent.ac.uk or visit:

www.kentsportcoaching.org

Fran Plom, Let’s Play Activator
Another member of the Kent Sport team who spends her time inspiring, motivating and organising others is Fran Plom. Fran is a very talented netball player who, as a Kent student, won Sportswoman of the Year and took the Kent first team into the BUCS Premier division. Fran not only leads by example on court, but also off court with her two terms as the Netball Club president and Netball Now co-ordinator. Fran was rewarded at the recent Kent Netball Awards where she received the Needham Rider Salver for ‘Services to Kent Youth Netball’. For more information about Let’s Play, find Let’s Play Kent Sport on Facebook or visit:

www.kent.ac.uk/sports/letsplay
University Teaching Prize winners

Teaching excellence across the University was celebrated at the Kent Teaching Prize Awards on 1 October. The annual awards highlight the commitment of Kent academics and professional staff to teaching and ensuring students get the best possible learning experience at the University.

Sixteen Kent staff were recognised this year and received their awards from the Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, Dr Peter Klappa, a previous prize winner and now a National Teaching Fellow, received a special 50th anniversary prize for his sustained contribution to teaching, presented by the new Pro-Vice-Chancellor Teaching & Learning Professor Chris Davies.

Other winners of this year’s awards were: Humansities Faculty Teaching Prize – Dr Oliver Double and Dr Sophie Quirk (Drama and Theatre) for their MDrama work on Stand-Up Comedy. Dr Virginia Pits (Film Studies) for her innovative teaching in Film Practice.

Sciences Faculty Teaching Prize – Dr Tarlochan Gill (Pharmacy) for his work with the ‘Sim Man’ artificial patient in Clinical Pharmokinetics. Dr Jeremy Rossman (Biosciences) for his innovative teaching in Virology.

Social Science Faculty Teaching Prize – Dr Jane Reeves, Professor David Shemming, Isobel Drew, Vanisha Jassal, Dr Emily Blake and Dr Mark O’Connor, for their internationally-recognised work on the distance-learning MA in Advanced Child Protection. Dr Stefan Rossbach, Dr Iain MacKenzie and Dr Adrian Pabst for their work on the innovative postgraduate module ‘Resistance in Practice’.

Barbara Morris Prize for Learning Support – Samantha Harris, Specialist Associate Lecturer in KLS and Associate Lecturer in Drama, for her work on the interdisciplinary ‘Justice and Persuasion’ workshop series.

New College Masters

New Master of Turing College is Dermot O’Brien, previously Master of Darwin and Woolf Colleges. He will be helping to support students and establish the identity of Kent’s newest College, named after British mathematician and computer scientist Alan Turing.

Newly-appointed Master of Darwin and Woolf Colleges is Dr Jonathan Friday, formerly Head of the School of Arts. For a full list of Colleges and Masters across the University, see: www.kent.ac.uk/student/colleges/

Professor joins drugs advisory body

Professor of Criminal Justice, Alex Stevens, has been appointed to the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD). Appointed by the Home Secretary, Theresa May, Professor Stevens will join nine other new experts in health care, social science, criminal law, chemistry, education and drug prevention.

ACMD is an independent body, which makes recommendations to government on the control of dangerous or otherwise harmful drugs. Professor Stevens will be involved in ACMD work on the misuse of medicines, recovery from alcohol and substance abuse and new psychoactive substances, or “legal highs”.

KENT Magazine
**Fellowship for forensic scientist**

Robert Green OBE has been named a Fellow of the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences for his outstanding contribution to the profession. The Fellowship is the most distinguished category of professional membership of the Society.

Robert Green, who is Director of Undergraduate Studies for Forensic Sciences at Kent, was made OBE in 2008 for services to forensic science. His appointment at Kent follows a career spanning over 30 years in roles including Senior Crime Scene Manager with Kent Police, and Head of the Forensic Science and Technology Section within the Home Office’s Police and Crime Standards Unit.

**Comic’s success at Edinburgh Fringe**

Comic Mark Simmons, who is also Kent Sport Duty Officer, has received critical praise for his first solo show at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival. Chortle website described Mark as ‘a talented comic with an artisan’s grasp of joke-writing’, while Time Out said that his act included ‘lines on par with the Tim Vines and Steven Wrights of this world’. Mark is already setting his sights on next year’s show and will be trying out his new jokes at local comedy nights around the county. He will also be supporting Sean Walsh (Mock the Week, Live at the Apollo) on his new tour.

**Staff actors support Age UK charity**

The University of Kent Players, have taken to the stage again, this time in support of the Age UK charity.

The staff drama society performed Agatha Christie’s A Murder is Announced, from 8 to 11 October. A proportion of ticket sales, together with proceeds from programme sales, were donated to Age UK in Canterbury and Ashford. The Gulbenkian also made a donation based on sales of a special ‘Delicious Death’ chocolate cake. At each performance, volunteers from Age UK were on hand to talk about their work locally.

A Murder is Announced was the second production by the University of Kent Players, who were formed by Neil Hornsey in Estates in 2013. Their first production, the WW2 drama Flare Path, resulted in £2,500 being presented to the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust.

**Reg Foakes plaque**

Following the death last year of Professor Reg Foakes, the School of English and the Gulbenkian commissioned a memorial plaque in his name. Reg Foakes was the founding professor of the present-day School of English in 1965 and, among his many lasting contributions to the University, was the Gulbenkian Theatre, which he led the campaign to establish. The unveiling of the plaque took place at the Gulbenkian on 20 September and was attended by members of the Foakes family, friends and colleagues. Professor Mike Irwin, Emeritus Professor in the School of English and close friend of Reg Foakes, presented the plaque, recollected some of Reg’s many achievements and reminisced about his wit, energy and enthusiasm.

The commemorative plaque can now be seen to the left of the Gulbenkian box office, a fitting tribute to the vision of a colleague whose legacy is now the cornerstone of the arts scene at the University, the city of Canterbury and south-east England.

**Small ad**

Indigo Acoustic Duo We are an experienced duo combining soft female vocals and acoustic guitar to play stripped back versions of old and new songs. The perfect background music for weddings, drinks receptions, conference dinners and events. Discounts are available for Kent staff. www.indigoacoustic.com
What’s on

Music

Wednesday 5 November, 1.10pm, Colyer-Fergusson Hall, Lunchtime Concert: CantiaQuorum. Three members of our new ensemble-in-residence – Alexandra Reid violin, Alex Cordon trumpet, Matthew King piano – give a taste of things to come, performing music by Bach, Copland and Eric Ewazen. Admission free, with a suggested donation of £3.

Friday 14 November, 7.30pm, Colyer-Fergusson Hall, CantiaQuorum. Our new ensemble-in-residence makes its debut with two contrasting classics of 20th-century music, The Soldier’s Tale – Stravinsky and Façade – Walton. The audience is invited to a post-concert glass of fizz to meet the players. Tickets: full £15, students £7.

Wednesday 3 December, 1.10pm, Colyer-Fergusson Hall, Lunchtime Concert: The Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments, Playing Hardanger fiddles, viola d’amore, hurdy gurdy, nyckelharpa and medieval Vielle, Clare Salaman and Benedicte Maurseth explore the common ground between renaissance, baroque and traditional Norwegian music. Admission free, with a suggested donation of £3.

Saturday 13 December, 7.30pm, Colyer-Fergusson Hall, University of Kent Chorus and Symphony Orchestra. In celebration of the University’s 50th anniversary, the Chorus, conducted by Susan Wanless, is joined by Kent alumni music scholars who are now all established professional singers. They will perform an early Mozart masterpiece – Overture to The Magic Flute, and in the second half, Beethoven’s most daring and dramatic Symphony No 7 in A major. Tickets: full £13, students £7.

Wednesday 17 December, 5.15pm, Colyer-Fergusson Hall. A Christmas Swing-Along! Conducted by Ian Swatman, the University of Kent Big Band brings the term to a festive close with a medley of cheery Christmas classics, star turns and audience 'carol singing' – plus a free glass of mulled wine and mince pies, served with the compliments of the Music Department, in the foyer afterwards. Tickets free (reserved).

Gulbenkian Theatre

Friday 24 October, 7.30pm, house and Crying Out Loud present Cie Kial OFF, displaying emotions through the physical skills of a contortionist, hip-hop dancer, hand-stander, acrobat and clown. Suitable for ages 10+.

Sunday 26 October, 7.30pm, The Pantaloon: Charles Dickens’ Bleak House. A company of five actor-musicians bring the novel's cast of over 50 characters to life.

Wednesday 29 October – Friday 31 October, 10.30am and 1.30pm, Saturday 1 November, 10.30am and 1.30pm. A Fevered Sleep and Young Vic co-production of Dusk. Your child will play a central role in this inventive show, exploring the meaning of home, family, change and reunion. Suitable for 4-7 years; older children welcome.

Saturday 1 November, 7.30pm and Sunday 2 November, 2pm, Gulbenkian & Dance Touring Partnership present Boy Blue Entertainment The Five & the Prophecy of Prana, fusing hip-hop and martial arts in a modern Tokyo setting.

Tuesday 11 – Saturday 15 November, 10.30am and 1.30pm, Saturday 1 November, 2pm. Oysterband: Back In Town with The Noise Next Door delivering their trademark off-the-cuff comedy. Suitable for ages 15+.

Saturday 6 December, 8pm, Amos: Welcome To My World. The maestro of feel-good comedy is back on tour with his new show.


Tuesday 9 – Sunday 21 December, Lyngo Theatre Snow Play: When Mr Green comes back from holiday to find Mr White in his house it’s the start of a brilliant series of adventures! Suitable for ages 3+.

Gulbenkian Film

Monday 27 October – Sunday 2 November, Canterbury Anifest, the south east’s largest animation festival.

Thursday 30 October, 7pm and Thursday 6 November, 7pm, NT Encore: Frankenstein (recorded).


Monday 3, Tuesday 4, Friday 7 – Sunday 9 November, A Most Wanted Man (15).

Friday 14 – Monday 17 November, Magic in the Moonlight (12A).

Wednesday 19 November, 7pm, Film 65: For a Few Dollars More (15). Film talk introduced by award-winning broadcaster and author Sir Christopher Frayling.

Friday 21 – Sunday 23 and Thursday 27 November. The Riot Club (15).

Friday 28 November – Thursday 4 December, Mr Turner (12A).

Tuesday 9 December, 8pm. NT Live – JOHN (live), Suitable for 18+.

Tuesday 16 December, 7pm (live) and Saturday 20 December, 1pm (recorded), Royal Opera House. Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland.

Sunday 21 December, It’s a Wonderful Life (U).

Studio 3 gallery

A new exhibition by Tonbridge-born Rose Hilton will be on display at the University’s Studio 3 gallery from 29 September – 19 December 2014. Titled ‘Giving Life to Painting’ – a phrase taken from Post-Impressionist Pierre Bonnard’s notes – the exhibition features over 25 of Hilton’s lyrical, sensitive and joyful canvases including recent landscapes, still-lifes, interiors and nudes. It will also feature key works from earlier in her career.

The exhibition is curated by Studio 3 gallery’s Dr Ben Thomas, in partnership with Messum’s Fine Art, which will also feature Rose Hilton's art at its Cork Street Gallery, London. A catalogue with essays by Ben Thomas and Andrew Lambirth, art critic at The Spectator, will accompany the show. Admission is free.

To find out more about these and other events across the University, click on:

blogs.kent.ac.uk/studio3gallery/

www.kent.ac.uk/calendar