University of Kent
MAGAZINE
Summer 2018

Cover story:
Remains to be seen –
St Leonard’s Church, Hythe
A forgotten piece of artwork by Oliver Postgate has been rediscovered at the University after being hidden from view for 25 years.

The artwork in question (above) was found on the other side of a mural that hangs in Eliot College at the University’s Canterbury campus. The mural is a piece called A Canterbury Chronicle, which depicts the history of Canterbury from 40,000BC to the present day.

This has been on display in the college since 1992 after the Master of Eliot College at the time, Shirley Barlow, commissioned Oliver Postgate to produce a work after a generous donation from Major Stanley Holland, a long-time friend and benefactor of the college, for a new work of art.

However, once the art work was installed as a triptych the two ‘doors’ of the left and right panels had never been closed, thus hiding the cover for the work. This is a piece of work quite different to the mural but unmistakably in the style of Oliver Postgate.

One panel has a drawing of a statue of Thomas Becket and another of Henry II and in the bottom right hand corner is a cartouche of two mice holding a scroll confirming the work to be by Oliver Postgate and dated 1992.

The new artwork only came to light after the current Master of the Eliot College, Stephen Burke, was approached by a member of the housekeeping team at the University and told the mural needed cleaning.
PULLING BACK THE COVERS ON A BAD NIGHT’S SLEEP

By Dr Gurprit S Lall

Most of us know the feeling when we fail to get a decent night’s sleep. Everything becomes more of an effort and we simply don’t function properly.

Younger people generally find it easy to get the recommended eight hours shut-eye. But for older people, it can become more and more of a problem. This, in turn, can affect their wellbeing at a time of life when they are getting more vulnerable to ill-health.

This may seem like a natural part of the aging process, but as a researcher I became fascinated by what lay behind this change in our physiology. Therefore set out to try and establish why age impairs the ability of our circadian clock – which controls our sleeping patterns – to continue functioning properly as we get older.

Anyone who has flown long-haul will know that jet-lag feeling. This is caused by changing light patterns causing our circadian rhythms to attempt to reset themselves, resulting in an inability to sleep when we need to and feelings of disorientation.

It’s important to realise that a circadian rhythm is not a concrete structure in the brain, rather it is a sort of 24-hour internal clock that is running in the background to cycle between sleepiness and alertness at regular intervals.

The circadian rhythm is why people begin to fade after too many hours awake, and why they may experience a midday slump. Most adults experience the greatest plateau in energy during the middle of the night – when they are likely already fast asleep – and in the afternoon – which is why they may be tempted to take a nap under their desk.

What I and other researchers found was that aging results in a significant reduction in sensitivity to light in the part of the brain that controls circadian rhythms, known as the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN). This was a real breakthrough because up until now no one had identified the mechanism behind this massive change in the way our bodies operate.

At the heart of this mechanism, we found, were subtle alterations in one of the neural pathways in our brain that controls circadian rhythms. We discovered that a glutamate receptor, known as NMDA, which is used to transmit light information becomes less effective in resetting the circadian clock as part of the aging process.

This structural change in the glutamate receptor was responsible for the decline in light response observed. Part of this NMDA receptor exhibited a big decrease in presence among older mammals, indicating an age-associated change in its structural configuration.

This discovery could have profound implications for the wellbeing and care of our increasingly elderly population. It means that in the future doctors may be able to target treatments that specifically aim to repair the circadian clock in older people, resulting in big improvements in their physiological condition.

This in turn could have a dramatic impact on increasingly stretched health budgets.

Photo: Dr Gurprit Lall, Medway School of Pharmacy in No 3 Covered Slip (built 1838) at Chatham Historic Dockyard.
Kent and Medway’s first medical school

The Government and Health Education England (HEE) announced on 20 March that the joint bid by the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University for funded places to establish a medical school has been successful.

It will be the county’s first ever medical school, bringing together the existing centres of excellence in health and medical education provided by the two universities and local healthcare organisations to offer a new model of patient-focused medical education.

The medical school will also be an essential part of the solution for recruiting and retaining medical professionals for the region.

Female-dominated workplaces have worse access to flexible working

It is commonly assumed that the low wages often found in female-dominated workplaces can be justified through better provision of family-friendly arrangements, but new research provides evidence that low wages are accompanied by worse working conditions for many.

A study looked at individuals in 27 countries across the EU. It found that the best workplaces for providing flexibility were gender-neutral – where men and women were equally represented.

Researcher Dr Heejung Chung, of the University’s School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, found that what she called a ‘women’s work penalty’ existed in every country covered by her study.

She said her research provides the evidence to ‘reject the assumption’ that women have better access to flexible working arrangements and that female-dominated workplaces are better at providing them.

University scientists make vitamin B12 breakthrough

Scientists have made a significant discovery about how the vitamin content of some plants can be improved to make vegetarian and vegan diets more complete.

Vitamin B12 (known as cobalamin) is an essential dietary component but vegetarians are more prone to B12 deficiency as plants neither make nor require this nutrient. But now a team, led by Professor Martin Warren at the University’s School of Biosciences, has proved that common garden cress can take up cobalamin.

The observation that certain plants are able to absorb B12 is important as such nutrient-enriched plants could help overcome dietary limitations in countries such as India, which have a high proportion of vegetarians and may be significant as a way to address the global challenge of providing a nutrient-complete vegetarian diet, a valuable development as the world becomes increasingly meat-free due to population expansion.

Stay up to date with all the latest news from the University online.

Visit www.kent.ac.uk/news or follow on Twitter @UniKentNews

IN BRIEF

New Gulbenkian Director

The University is pleased to announce the appointment of Oliver Carruthers as its new Director of Gulbenkian. He joined from Rich Mix, East London’s independent arts centre, where he was Artistic Director.

Beyond Brussels podcast

Students at the Brussels School of International Studies (BSIS) have launched a podcast that will feature interviews with individuals from the world of politics, business, economics, media and more: beyondbrusselspod.com

3D printed ancient musical instruments

A research project at the University has produced working 3D replicas of ancient Roman musical instruments from Egypt that are so accurate they played a recognisable scale – though higher notes than expected.

Kent Law Clinic wins £5.6 million for clients

The University’s Kent Law Clinic, which offers free legal advice to the community, has helped clients obtain a total of £5.6 million pounds since 1992.
Wildlife photography award win for Kent conservationist

Professor Zoe Davies, of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), has won an award in the annual British Ecological Society photography competition.

She was chosen as the winner of the ‘Dynamic Ecosystems’ category for her image entitled Salmon Run of a brown bear catching a sockeye salmon in Alaska, USA.

Her photograph was chosen by an independent judging panel made up of five renowned ecologists and award-winning wildlife photographers.

Shared arts commitment recognised by University and Arts Council England

A shared commitment to widen access and improve the quality of arts and culture across Kent has been recognised in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University and Arts Council England.

University Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Karen Cox and Arts Council England (ACE) Chief Executive Darren Henley signed the MoU at a ceremony on 23 March at our Medway campus.

Both organisations will work together to develop more opportunities for students, children and young people to get involved in the arts.

The collaboration with ACE will have a particular focus on supporting growing creative clusters in Medway, North Kent and beyond to ensure that Kent has the infrastructure and opportunities necessary to develop talent and creative careers across the county.

IN BRIEF

Globe Book Award shortlist
Dr Sarah Dustagheer from the School of English has been shortlisted for the 2018 Shakespeare’s Globe Book Award. She has been selected for her work Shakespeare’s Two Playhouses: Repertory and Theatre Space at the Globe and the Blackfriars, 1599-1613.

Kent shortlisted for space station experiment
Dr Penelope Wozniakiewicz, of the University’s School of Physical Sciences, is developing a project for a new type of dust particle collector that would sit outside the space station and collect orbital debris. Monitoring dust populations in low Earth orbit is vital to understanding the hazards they pose to spacecraft.

Research Design Service SE
The Centre for Health Services Studies (CHSS) have welcomed the announcement that the Research Design Service SE (RDS SE) has been awarded a further five years of funding. It provides free and confidential research design and methodological support to health and social care researchers.

A first Silver Athena SWAN
The Athena SWAN Silver Award recognises ongoing commitment to embed equality, diversity and inclusivity. The School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science (SMSAS) has become the first at the University to be awarded the Athena SWAN Silver Award.

The Green Room: from tree to building

A crowdfunding platform has been launched to support student projects at Kent. First up – enterprising students are building an environmentally sustainable round wooden timber-framed building using materials taken from the University’s own coppiced woodland. This will create a teaching, learning, and social space set within an ethnobotanical garden. They need your help to make this happen. To find out more and give, go to: tinyurl.com/kentgreenroom
Kent organises major conference for county business leaders

The Kent Business Summit: Shaping Kent’s Future in a Global Economy event was organised by Kent Business School (KBS) in conjunction with the Federation of Small Businesses and the Institute of Directors and was sponsored by audit, tax and advisory firm Crowe Clark Whitehill.

University of Kent Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Karen Cox said the conference was a great opportunity for organisations and individuals across Kent to come together and focus on the future of the county during this period of change.

‘Bringing businesses, public sector organisations and academia together to share ideas, knowledge and opinions during the Brexit process and beyond will provide us with a great opportunity to prepare for the future. The University of Kent is proud to host such an event.

Photo exhibition explores what peace means to Ugandans after decades of war

‘What does peace mean to you?’ was organised by Dr Nadine Ansorg, with contributions from Professor Feargal Cochrane and Dr Iain MacKenzie.

Dr Ansorg carried out fieldwork in Anaka in Northern Uganda in July and August 2017. The town was the site of the largest refugee camp with about 40,000 people at the height of the war between the rebel group Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and the government.

As part of this work Dr Ansorg brought some disposable cameras and asked a group of ten women and men to take photos of their lives in the camp.

She encouraged young people from Anaka town (Nwoya district) to engage with a creative side to research and the questions of peace.

Makeni-Kent Exchange Programme

Thanks to a generous donation from The Sigrid Rausing Trust, five students and two senior lecturers/barristers from the University of Makeni, Sierra Leone joined the Kent Law Clinic for a week in March to observe and fully participate in the legal work of the UK.

The future of race

A new study reveals how mixed-race British parents draw from their ethnic and racial backgrounds in identifying and raising their children. In her new book, Professor Min Song draws on detailed narratives to present a revealing portrait of how multiracial identity is – and is not – passed to children.

Paris School becomes the focus of BBC report

Our Paris School of Arts and Culture was the focus of a BBC Sunday Politics South East report on student and staff mobility. Reporter Briohny Williams interviewed Professor Jeremy Carrette, Kent’s Dean for Europe, and students Alice Cadney and Olivia Toulmin about Erasmus+ and the opportunities studying abroad presents.

Goodbye to Y?

It is becoming increasingly clear that the Y chromosome is not strong and enduring, according to Professor Darren Griffin and Dr Peter Ellis. Although it carries the gene, SRY, that determines whether an embryo will develop as male (XY) or female (XX), it contains very few other genes and is the only chromosome not necessary for life.
REMAINS TO BE SEEN

Field trip to the ossuary of St Leonard’s Church, Hythe

As part of the first-year introduction to Biological Anthropology module, SE302 Foundations in Biological Anthropology, students attend a field trip to St Leonard’s Church in Hythe. This unique church has the largest ossuary in the UK. It is unknown where the people that are interred there are from, however it is believed they date back to the medieval period.

This field trip shows students first-hand how studying the human skeleton can have several applications within biological anthropology. It follows just after the human osteology lecture where students learn about the types of information that can be gained from studying human osteological remains.

Acknowledgement: We are very grateful to St Leonard’s Church, Hythe for making this fascinating field trip possible and permitting us to take photographs.

ossuary /ˈɒsjuəri/ noun (plural noun ossuaries) a container or room for the bones of the dead

- Origin – 17th century from the late Latin ossuarium, formed irregularly from Latin os, oss – ‘bone’.
A TIMELINE OF THE TEMPLEMAN LIBRARY

RENEWAL

1 Construction of University Library commences, spring 1966
The University Library was located in various temporary homes in the city and around campus before receiving its own permanent building. Designed by architect Sir William Holford to be the campus centrepiece, the Brutalist architecture complemented nearby Eliot and Rutherford Colleges.

2 Catalogue Hall, c1960s
Stacks and reader spaces were located in the west wing whilst the central block contained the Catalogue Hall and staff offices. The Library also included a closed access Reserve Collection for the first time, leading press reports of “prison-like” conditions.

3 University Library with Senate Building, c1970
The Library was designed to be built in four stages, expanding as book stock and student numbers grew. This first stage consisted of the west wing and central block to the second floor, with space for 250,000 books and 600 readers, and opened in January 1968.

4 Expansion, 1972
In February 1972 building work commenced on Stage 2, adding the east wing and third floor of the central block. Capacity doubled to 500,000 books and provided space for 780 readers, with provision for a music and record library and Special Collections.

5 Innovation, 1976
The University Library achieved a significant milestone in 1976 with the launch of KLACS (Kent Library Automated Circulation System). This was the first automated system in operation at any UK university and revolutionised the issue and discharge service.
On 1 June 1990 the University Library was renamed the Templeman Library in honour of Kent’s first Vice-Chancellor, Geoffrey Templeman. Other than the introduction of computers, the interior of the library was little changed from its last expansion in the 1970s.

The first computer study area was introduced in mid-1982, with the installation of 12 computer terminals in an unused corridor on the top floor. The intensity with which students gazed into the screens led staff to nickname the area ‘Android Alley’.

In March 1997, a new extension was added to the east wing of the Templeman, the first increase in space for almost 25 years. The main driver was the expansion of computer facilities for students, with levels 2 and 3 entirely devoted to this.

In 2013, construction work commenced on a 5000m² extension to the west wing of the Templeman. Completed in September 2015, this added 500 study spaces, a lecture theatre, café, and a dedicated Special Collections & Archives space, including a Gallery space for exhibitions.

As part of the same works, from 2015-17 the central core was redeveloped, creating a new Welcome Hall with wider stairs, lifts, study facilities and help points. The original windows and facade were also updated, completely refreshing the look of the building.
ANTI-POACHING DOGS OF THE CHYULU HILLS

When domestic animals work in wildlife conservation

By Malini Pittet
Darwin, 2008: Biodiversity Conservation and Management www.malinipittet.com

In all my travels across Africa, I have never encountered elephants with tusks as long and as heavy as those in southern Kenya. In many parts of Africa, large-tusked elephants have all but vanished, eliminated by the reversal of natural selection through human activity. Poaching and trophy hunting have systematically removed elephants with the biggest tusks, leaving small-tusked elephants to dominate the gene pool. The same goes for lions with the biggest manes, big leopards and other species targeted by the wildlife trade. Today, large-tusked elephants are heavily protected but the threat of international organised poaching syndicates still exists. The elephants, with tusks so long they graze the ground, are continuously monitored to protect them from the threat of poaching and in some cases retaliation as a result of crop raiding.
The mafia-like poaching gangs operating across the continent are highly organised and heavily armed. The illegal trade of wild fauna and flora is estimated to reach a turnover of several billions of US dollars this year alone. What makes Africa’s ivory poachers so successful is that organised crime syndicates controlling the trade are rich to begin with. They arm local poachers with sophisticated weapons and they run secret supply and smuggling networks. These syndicates recruit people in poor areas who have few alternatives to make a decent living and the syndicates offer them high salaries, making it difficult to refuse. The hired poachers are increasingly daring, going after animals in national parks, in private conservation areas, and even in extreme cases, zoos and museums. With deep pockets and a ‘nothing to lose attitude’, these syndicates are successfully decimating wild populations of species that are endangered and already threatened by other causes (loss of habitat, climate change).

So, how do these dogs fit into the complex mosaic of wildlife conservation and organised crime? At first glance, the tracker dogs seem like the cutest of pooches but after spending some time with them you quickly realise that these are far from your friendly neighbourhood dogs. As soon as one of their handlers slips on the ‘work harness’, the dog’s demeanour changes. The animal knows that play time is over and it is time to get serious. The handler puts a cloth on the track that needs to be followed. He then places this cloth in a sterile plastic bag and holds it to the dog’s nose for a few seconds or minutes to fully expose the scent. The dog is then ready to track the scent and it is up to the handler to keep up. Once the dog is on the move, things can go quite quickly!

**To the dogs, it may be a high-octane game; for the handlers, it can sometimes turn into a life or death situation.**

Didi is an eight-year old mixed breed with what looks like a bit of Belgian Malinois in her. She was rescued from a dog shelter in Nairobi and from her arrival in the Chyulu Hills in 2013, she was put through a programme to train her as a tracker dog. Bonnie and Clyde are one year and seven-month old bloodhounds and were trained at a specialised facility in Laikipia, a county in Kenya.
A male tusker makes his way through the yellow fever tree forest, dwarfed by the Kilimanjaro. Didi watches Bonnie and Clyde socialising with the other handlers during the hottest part of the day. Other handlers during the hottest part of the day.

A small herd of buffalo warm up in the morning sunshine, in a few hours they will descend into the marshes where it is cooler and they can graze

A common eland, the second largest antelope of Africa, begins its day as the sun rises behind it. At less than a month old, this lion cub is impossibly cute. Depending on the genes he received, he will either be a blond-maned lion or the rare dark-maned lion.

Mutinda places a cloth in a sterile bag and holds it around Clyde’s nose for a while, long enough for the scent to take hold. It is one of the most interesting stories; ‘anti-poaching dog handler’ isn’t the most obvious job across Kenya. Most of the handlers are from near-by and have a story that begins in the vicinity of the Big Life Foundation. One gentleman was a former cook for the dog unit; his interest and dedication led him becoming an accomplished tracker dog handler today. Others begin as rangers for the Big Life Foundation and transitioned to handlers when they discovered a passion for the dogs and their work. Still others have more remarkable stories such as Mutinda who started off as a career poacher, spending much of his teenage and later years involved in wildlife-related criminal activities. Thanks to the dedication and persistence of Richard Bonham, one of the founders of the Big Life Foundation, Mutinda was attracted by the prospect of a legal, steady income and today is one of the team’s most charismatic handlers.

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The dogs and their handlers attend the training programme together, honing their skills and strengthening their bonds. Once the trainer deems the handler and the dog ready, both join the main anti-poaching team with the Big Life Foundation.

The training programme focuses on tracking, obedience and compliance skill sets. The course also equips the handlers with dog handling skills, maintaining a rigorous regime of daily exercise and general cleanliness. The tracking aspect of the training is the most important as this is the skill set the dogs will need to master for their future role. Once they are fully trained, they go through a six-day patrolling routine with regular ten-kilometre runs. During the patrols, the dogs test their skills through mock exercises that are geared towards improving their skills, fine-tuning their obedience and better their response time. Sundays are set aside for resting and grooming.

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Among the qualities of a good anti-poaching dog is obedience, while qualities of a good handler include passion and hygiene.

According to the handlers, bloodhounds are the best suited to the job as they use both tracks and scent to find poachers as opposed to other breeds that tend to only follow tracks. That being said, Didi is a celebrity in her own right, having led to the arrest of poachers and the recovery of ivory. It all began in July 2015 in the Tsavo West National Park when the bodies of five elephants were discovered with their tusks hacked off. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), along with the Big Life Foundation tracker dog team, were deployed to hunt down and capture the poachers. Didi led the sting operation with the KWS team in tow, following the tracks across the border into Tanzania right into the village and the hut where the poachers were hiding out. Didi unearthed the blood-soaked machetes that the poachers had used to remove the tusks from the elephants they slaughtered. The result of the operation was the capture of the poachers as well as the retrieval of the tusks which had been sawed off the elephants. Although a third suspect was arrested, a flaw in the judicial system led the three men to be released later. However, we hope that this lesson is one that they will never forget and share with their colleagues, causing them to reconsider turning to poaching as a source of income.

While this incident did not yield the expected results, the handlers agree that every successful mission is a great boost to their morale. The dogs and their handlers are at the forefront of a global war on wildlife trafficking and every success is a victory for the conservation world.

@malini2018 check out Malini’s wildlife photography on Instagram.

The Big Life Foundation was created by a trio of visionaries, photographer Nick Brandt, conservationist Richard Bonham and entrepreneur Tom Hill. Since 2010, the Foundation works towards protecting elephant populations in Kenya and in the bordering areas of Tanzania. The Big Life Foundation plays a crucial role in controlling elephant poaching in Kenya and Tanzania by launching transboundary anti-poaching efforts, partnering with local communities that are sometimes caught in human-wildlife conflicts, and protecting land that sustains fragile populations of wildlife.

Acknowledgement: thank you to Nikki Best and John Kasaine from the Big Life Foundation.
From the archive: Tommy Cooper’s fez
March 8 1977

Darling Hills,

Thank you for your lovely note. We were all asleep beneath the glassed roof that night!!

Love to Joan,

Love Tommy
What do you do?
Food is at the heart of everything I do!

My ‘day job’ is as editorial director at John Brown Media where as well as being editor of Waitrose Food magazine I launch magazines – and digital content – for supermarkets around the world. We’ve launched content and now run offices in London, the US, the UAE and South Africa. We are also in the process of pitching in various other territories, from Russia to Asia. I’m also a food writer and broadcaster. So on the freelance side I write books as well as articles for a range of newspapers and magazines, I make cider, I have a radio show and do TV work, (shows like MasterChef).

Of all you do, what do you enjoy most?
I’ve always enjoyed writing – while at Kent I had a column in the student newspaper called ‘The Sitwell Slot.’ Occasionally I would overstep the mark and my column would get banned – I’d then have to publish ‘The Sorry Slot’ to get back up and running again! I was always keen to get into telly and radio and had a morning show on the University station (then called UKC Radio) which I loved. Those interests have continued throughout my life!

How did you get involved in the world of food?
I was basically a journalist who ended up on a food magazine – a job came up on Waitrose Food in 1999 and I’ve been there ever since. I quickly realised that food, and drink, are phenomenal subjects for a journalist, as they touch our lives in so many ways, impacting on health, culture, entertainment, the environment, sustainability, agriculture, pretty much everything! It’s very easy to source and create news stories involving food, and set news agendas based around food that get picked up in the press.

What career ambition do you have still to realise?
Really, just more of the same, as I haven’t made my fortune yet! I hope to do another book very shortly and would love to get more involved in food from a sustainability point of view in the future, looking at alternative protein sources perhaps, or alternatives to food production/packaging. I studied politics at Kent (UK and US) and still enjoy that too, so that’s something I’d maybe like to get more involved in one day in the future!
What’s the most interesting thing about you that we wouldn’t learn from your CV or Wikipedia page?
I am fascinated by prisons and recently voluntarily sat through a murder trial at the Old Bailey – I found it completely enthralling. I’m weirdly interested in things like the death penalty and how people react as they approach their imminent demise… how did Charles 1st feel on the day of his execution, or Saddam Hussein, or some poor captive somewhere?

On a lighter note, I play the piano and strive to be better at it!

What is your funniest memory of your time at Kent?
I’m not sure about funny but I remember once we thought we ought to have a dinner party so we invited a bunch of friends over to our house in Roseacre Close, then totally forgot we’d invited them. I remember arriving back somewhat worse for wear from a night out – it might have been a day that turned into a night – to find all these people there and wondering who on earth they all were and why were they in our house?!

What do you know now that you wish you had known while at Kent?
I wish someone had told me how important it was to learn about commerce and business – how to pitch, how to speak in public, how to make money. I have been pretty much self-taught in those areas and I guess haven’t done too badly, but it would have been great to have understood the importance of it all while still at university.

How would you approach having a student budget with your cooking today?
I think it would be reasonably easy to cook economically today, there are so many competitively priced foods now – rice, pulses and veg can all be obtained very cheaply. I used to bring game birds back home after a weekend and if I was a student on a budget today I’d also look at growing my own veg, although I’m not sure how practical that would be in reality digging up a back garden...

Will we all be vegetarian in 100 years?
No, I can’t see it. I think people will always want to eat meat, but I see no reason why it can’t come from humanely grown products – I can see a time where protein is grown in labs and eaten as a norm, and eating animals is a luxury. One challenge is that the human psyche in the Western world doesn’t allow us to easily eat insects, as they are a great protein source, so maybe this will change in the future.

What’s the most trivial hill you are willing to die on? (ie what is the one thing you believe which you will never concede, no matter how much people argue with you?)
I firmly believe the Socialist project will always fail.

But more importantly, I believe there is nothing greater than a perfectly made self-saucing chocolate fondant!

www.williamsitwell.com
B.A. McFadzean 2012–2015

Plamena D. 2009–2013

Mike Presdee Criminologist

Happy 50 Fanny C.

Nouf Alahmed BA/MSc. 2009/15

Abdulla Alahmed BA Class of 2011

In memory of Fiona Fields Harvie-Eliot 1980

Olly Shelmerdine Keynes 2010–13

Yvonne (Fallan) Shelmerdine 1983

Brenda, Meg, Al: Canterbury girls Forever friends Darwin 1988

The Rough Road Was Easy Walking Rebecca Cuffe 2015 Graduate

Bonnie Tsai Pilgrims Trainer With us Always

WWM Partner Found you
For over 50 years the University of Kent has been a crucible of learning – fuelling young imaginations to shape the future. The opportunities Kent has provided are amazing and hundreds of thousands of people sharing an abundance of moments, experiences and memories. Leaving a legacy of learning through over half a century of study.

All of our experiences are special – our contributions varied and unique – but together, WE are KENT.

Through the Footsteps Project – set at the heart of the Canterbury campus – the thoughts and memories of students, staff, alumni and members of the University community can become part of the very fabric of our University – creating a monument to their time at Kent.

Starting from just a £50 contribution to the Kent Opportunity Fund you can leave your personal message at the heart of the campus.

The Kent Opportunity Fund supports a broad range of scholarships, student projects to enhance extra-curricular activities at Kent, and bursaries to support students experiencing financial hardship. Kent staff, alumni and donors come together to allocate all of the funds raised and ensure that they go to the students most in need.

Every year gifts to the Kent Opportunity Fund make a huge difference to the lives of Kent students. The Footsteps Project gives you the opportunity to support current students – while recording the legacy of your time at Kent.

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The Footsteps Project donation form

I wish to make a donation to the Kent Opportunity Fund of

- [ ] £50 (Two line brick)
- [ ] £90 (Four line brick)

Full name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
__________________________________________ Postcode __________
Phone/mobile _______________________________________
Email _____________________________________________

☐ I enclose my cheque / postal order payable to The University of Kent.

You can also make your gift:
Online at www.kent.ac.uk/footsteps
By phone on 01227 824346

I would like the following text to appear on my sponsored brick:

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Line 2: ____________________________________________
Line 3: ____________________________________________
Line 4: ____________________________________________

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If you wish to remain an anonymous donor please tick here ☐

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F17/18 LE02
IN MEMORIAM

Since the last issue of the magazine went to press, the University has learned of the deaths of the following alumni, honorary graduates and former 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.

Professor Jim Brown
Professor Joe Connor
Jacqueline Hill
Dr Sarah Hyde
Professor Colin Seymour-Ure
Jacqui Suggett

Obituaries

Professor Jim Brown
Professor Brown was appointed to the Readership in Experimental Physics from 1 September 1965 and appointed Professor of Experimental Physics from 1 April 1971. He was appointed Director of the Physics Laboratory in 1976 and he remained Director until 1982. He was appointed Emeritus Professor in 1985 following his retirement. After 1985, he continued to be closely associated with the University, acting as internal examiner in 1991, and still teaching for many years.

Arriving in Kent with the first undergraduates in 1965, he established the Low Temperature Laboratory here. With colleagues, the first application of the quartz microbalance to measure thickness of the helium film was effected and measurement made of the Bernoulli effect in the flowing electronic fluid of a superconductor, as well as other work to elucidate the contact potential of metals under stress. An NERC investigation of acoustic imaging to explore its feasibility for use in coal mines was carried out on large scale in the air. More recently, Professor Brown has been a member of the Applied Optics Group and still attended meetings on campus in his 90s.

Professor Brown used to visit the campus regularly until earlier this year. He was popular with students, with the ‘First 500’ holding him in high regard and they were still in touch with him all these years later. Staff found his warm, gentle approach to life of comfort, reminding them of the good things in life.

Jacqui Suggett

The University was very sorry to hear of the death of Jacqui Suggett in January 2018, following a long illness. Jacqui, who retired from the University in 2008, was the Alumni Database Manager in the Communications & Development Office. Jacqui’s hard work had made a considerable difference to the Degree Congregations for years.

Jacqui was an extremely dedicated and accomplished colleague, who pioneered the use of office technology in its infancy, training many people to use word processors when they were first adopted. Jacqui was also knowledgeable, wise, and a wonderful friend who would do all she could to help fellow members of staff.

Professor Colin Seymour-Ure

The University was very sad to hear of the death of Professor Colin Seymour-Ure in November 2017.

Colin was one of the founder members of the study of politics at the University of Kent, joining the University on its establishment in 1965.

He served as Dean of Social Sciences and Head of Department. He was one of the world’s leading scholars of political communications and mass media. He was an Emeritus Professor from 2002 and until his death in November 2017.

We have lost not only a scholar and colleague but also a friend.
**Colleges**

**Turing**
Welcome weekend just seemed like yesterday and yet another academic year has passed! Throughout the year our Residents’ Support Officer (RSO), Geoff Wu, has visited regularly all flats and houses, giving advice to residents with any domestic issues and signposting them to campus services. Our college committee has been busy with producing ‘The Enigma Newsletter’ for all Turing students, organising film and quiz nights, being involved in the College Week and reviewing how the Turing Hub was being used. Together with the Master’s Office, the committee have worked with Commercial Services, IT and Kent Union to try and adapt some of the Turing Hub space to be able to offer more facilities, including study space and equipment. They have also initiated the introduction of College hoodies with the Master’s Office.

**Darwin**
On 7 March the annual Darwin Feast was held, and it was a very memorable event. The guest of honour for the Feast was Caroline Waterlow, the producer of the Oscar winning documentary *O.J.: Made in America*, who gave a highly engaging public lecture prior to the Feast, entitled ‘Documentary Filmmaking in the Age of Fake News’. This provided great food for the mind and gave rise to many interesting conversations as the splendid feast was consumed.

**Woolf**
The experience and satisfaction of Woolf College students was recognised in the ‘Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2018’ when the University of Kent claimed 3rd place in the UK – and 1st place in England – for postgraduate satisfaction. In order to build further upon this success, two initiatives have begun to enhance the facilities and accommodation in Woolf College. One of these, being led by the Graduate School, is looking at ways of expanding and improving social and study spaces in the College. The other initiative, led by the University’s Commercial Services department is exploring ways of improving the student experience of the accommodation.

**Keynes**
Keynes College will be 50 this coming academic year and we are looking for the help and ideas of Keynes College alumni to make our anniversary celebrations as exciting as possible.

Do you have a story related to Keynes that you would like to share? Do you have a profession/expertise that may interest our current students? Did you form lasting relationships while at Keynes? Are you an artist interested in exhibiting in the College? Do you have any interesting photos you would be happy for us to show? Would you like to become a member of our 50th Anniversary Steering Committee and/or be involved in the planning and organisation of the events?

We would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in participating; please, get in contact by emailing us: keynesmastersoffice@kent.ac.uk. We very much look forward to hearing from you.
Kent Sport

New Director
We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mel Clewlow as Director of Kent Sport. Mel has been interim Director since August 2017.

Director of Commercial Services, Kevin Stuckey said: ‘I am really pleased to have appointed Mel as Director of Kent Sport and I’m confident that her appointment will ensure Kent Sport has a very bright and positive future.’

Clive Roberts – 30 years at Kent
On 3 April 2018 Kent Sport celebrated Clive Roberts’ 30 years of service at the University of Kent. Clive will be leaving us, but for one month only, as we are pleased he will be returning in a part-time capacity to continue to share his experience, knowledge and good humour at Kent Sport.

Clive said: ‘I have had a fantastic 30 years at Kent Sport plus three years as a student and one year as a sabbatical officer. I couldn’t be happier being here.’

Millie Knight
Millie Knight is an honorary graduate of the University of Kent and a visually impaired Paralympic athlete. She has gone from strength to strength in her personal training sessions at Kent Sport fitness facilities on the Canterbury campus.

Millie competed for Paralympics GB at the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang 2018 in alpine skiing. She brought home silver in the downhill and Super G events as well as bronze in the slalom.

Please visit blogs.kent.ac.uk/kentsport-news/ to read the stories in full.

Gulbenkian
Gulbenkian Uncovered gives students the chance to get behind the scenes, develop new skills and run events with mentorship by Gulbenkian’s programming, technical and marketing teams. Part of ART31 at Gulbenkian, the group has the ambition to provide student-led opportunities for involvement, training and to run their own events.

The group currently has 30 members and since forming in 2015 has joined the Young Programmer’s Network run by the British Film Institute and organised events such as BFI Black Star screenings for Black History Month, outdoor screenings and post-screening panel talks. With support from Film Hub South East and ART31Kent, Gulbenkian has facilitated Uncovered members attending ICO screening days, Flatpack Film Festival, BFI Future Film Festival and This Way Up conference.

The group are intrinsic to Gulbenkian’s work with societies and increasing student engagement. In 2017, the group submitted a successful application for a Film Hub South East grant to run their own series of student orientated events called ‘Flicks ‘n’ Chill’, which ran in Autumn 2017 and included an outdoor screening of Jurassic Park that attracted an audience of 400 students.

This May, the group organised and ran a series of ‘de-stress’ events during the exam period which included breakfast raves, an open mic night with a variety of performers and an incredibly popular film quiz.
A Canterbury local, Lee Ballard has worked in the Estates Department at the University of Kent for the last 15 years. Lee started at Kent in 2003 as an apprentice gardener on the Canterbury campus.

Kick-off

‘I remember the first day I came up here actually. I went to the Estates Buildings, and my grandad always used to say that our old boss was called Mickey Woods. So I went in there saying: “I’m here to meet Mickey Woods”. The receptionist had a right go at me saying, “How dare you call him Mickey Woods?! It’s Michael Woods or Mr Woods”.

I’d just turned 18, it’s my first day and I’m like what have I done, what have I let myself in for? I thought this isn’t going to last very long. He turned up and he was the nicest guy in the world and it was unbelievable, considering that start. So I called him Mr Woods and after I settled in a little bit I asked him if anyone called him Mickey? And he said, “No, no one calls me Mickey”. So cheers, Grandad!’

While learning his trade, planting, cultivating and weeding, among other jobs, Lee saw vast changes to the campus: from the Registry extension, Tyler Court, right through to Sibson and the Templeman Library redevelopment.

Box-to-box

Today he is a Senior Grounds Person, responsible for the sports pitches – primarily rugby and football. During term time, this means arriving on a Monday morning and assessing the pitches after the weekend’s matches. He mows and marks the pitches, ready for the Wednesday games. On Thursdays, the work starts on the pitches again for the weekend fixtures.
15 years
working at Kent. Lee is on his way to catching up to his grandad’s 36 years!

4 pitches
The University has two football pitches, two rugby pitches, three grass tennis courts, plus three artificial pitches, for hockey, lacrosse, American football, football, rugby and five-a-side.

100m x 70m
The size of Kent’s football pitches.

‘We constantly find rabbit holes!’
Perhaps a little inspired by the work of the Leicester City FC grounds team (though a Manchester United fan himself), Lee would love to spend a bit more time creating different pitch patterns.

‘We always try to stripe them up as best as we can. We want them to look as good as if we were playing on them. My son plays football and some of the pitches we go to with him look poor, so I always try to make our pitches look as good as possible.’

Extra time?
‘I can’t see myself leaving – when my grandad was still alive I always said to him I’m going to beat your 36 years, so even if I do 36 years and one day I’ll be happy with that.’
CORRIDOR FRIENDS FOREVER
(to the tune of Strawberry Fields Forever)

Going to university is pivotal in so many people's lives because of the new experiences it can offer: new things to learn in a new place, with new people. Living with people you've never met until you move into halls can be somewhat testing or truly life-changing. When it works out, it can seem that you were destined to meet your flatmates, and you can't quite imagine your time at university, and life afterwards, without them.
Babak, Jason and Martin met in F Block of Keynes in 1990.

Babak Nikravesh

From pints at the Falstaff Tap to pizzas at Sweeney Todd’s, to taco and chilli parties in our hall kitchen, food and drink always figured prominently in our recreation. As for the food in the canteen – well, perhaps the best thing to be said about it were the great serving trays which we ‘borrowed’ for winter sledding down the bomb crater. That was pure magic. The people at Kent were always colourful, from the lovely Keynes porters who were always ready to offer a hand and a quick quip, to the manager of the gymnasium who didn’t believe in water fountains. And then there were the visiting students who honestly didn’t realise the ducks at the pond were not for public consumption!

My year in Canterbury was one of the best of my life, and the friendships I developed were central to it. Jason and Martin are the first two people I call whenever my travels bring me back to Britain. Though it’s been years since we were neighbours, I still feel very close to them after all this time. There isn’t anything I wouldn’t do for these guys.

Jason Brautigam

They say that the friends you make at university are friends for life and that is certainly true of my two closest neighbours on F-corridor, Babak and Martin. Martin and I ended up sharing a house over in Park Wood in our final year, while I went to stay with Babak while backpacking across America in the summer of 1992. I was also an usher at Martin’s wedding in the mid-90s and Babak returned to the UK to study at LSE in the late ’90s.

We have all stayed in touch since, albeit more intermittently in our adult lives as our families and work commitments take up more of our time, but we always aim to meet up whenever we can. The great thing is that no matter how long it has been since our last gathering we can always pick up straight away where we left off – and continue to mercilessly tease Babak about his lack of stamina when it comes to drinking contests (just don’t mention the tequila/pizza challenge!).

Martin Jones

As soon as I visited Kent I knew it was right for me; the view from the top of the hill, the collegiate atmosphere; far enough away from home, but not too far! Oh, and my then girlfriend, now wife, was training to be a teacher at Christ Church College down the road.

Babak’s arrival in the college added a frisson of excitement to the dorm – we steadily worked away at his US accent (and he once bluffed some US tourists that he was British). I am still not 100% convinced of his dancing to MC Hammer at the Keynes kitchen taco party; but I was never going to show my stunted moves.

I am amazed at how little has changed amongst my group of friends that have grown up. We may all have less hair (some significantly less…); a little more experience; but we are still deep down the same people with the same humour and goodwill and good memories.

What came next for Babak, Jason and Martin?

Babak

I am a partner at the international law firm of Hogan Lovells, based in San Francisco and handling cross-border transactions. My path to the law started at Kent. I hung out with a bunch of Canadians attending law school at the University, and was captivated by their discussions of cases they were studying. My favourite was R v Dudley and Stephens, a 19th century case involving a shipwreck and cannibalism and the defence of necessity to a charge of murder. Those interactions sparked my interest in the law.

Jason

I am currently Chief Executive for British Dressage, having spent 25 years in horseracing after leaving University. I was an in-house broadcaster for Coral Racing as my first job before moving into marketing and becoming the Head of Sales and Marketing at Ascot Racecourse between 1999 and 2004, then working for the Tote for seven years, as Director of Racecourse Business and ultimately as the Managing Director for their pool betting division. Now I am in charge of the Olympic and Paralympic sport of the dancing horses.

Martin

Having spent the last twenty five years working in the criminal justice system; I am now Chief Executive of the Parole Board which is a nice quiet restful job with no stress, media interest or pressure…

Genuinely the one thing that I did learn from Kent was the importance of dealing with people from all walks of life and cultures. This has served me well in my career; whether dealing with a senior judge or a serving prisoner; people are just people – you have no need for airs and graces.
Representing

Jasmine is part of the WIKF England and English Karate Federation Senior National A squads.

3 England Caps

Plus 2 BUCS Great Britain Caps.

Champion

WIKF World Team champions, individual silver medallist (2017), 2 x English Champion, 11 x English Championship medallist, multiple British medallist. Current Bronze medallist in English and British Championships. Current BUCS 68kg champion. 3 x BUCS team champions (Kent).

MSc Forensic Osteology and Field Recovery Methods/ Sports Scholar – Karate

What are you studying?
I am studying for a Master’s degree in Forensic Osteology and Field Recovery Methods. I completed my undergraduate studies here in Forensic Science BSc and my interests from this led me on to the Master’s degree, where I could continue studying with more in-depth modules on some of my specific subjects of interest.

Do you know what you want to do next?
Not exactly – I am keeping my options open because of the wide range of things I can do with my degrees. I am currently looking for jobs in law enforcement. I’d particularly like to get a job in counter-terrorism in the future.

Have you learnt anything on your course that has particularly amazed/surprised you?
I did not know the amount of information that can be obtained from bones and the multiple ways in which a personal identification can be undertaken and information reconstructed.

How does sport fit into your student life?
Most people don’t actually know what I do on a day-to-day basis. For example I will get up, commute to university, attend some lectures, go to a strength & conditioning session in my break, run to my next lectures. I will then go home and leave for training in London – hopefully doing an assignment on my journey, get home at 23.00 and restart. Being a scholar has massively helped me juggle my studies with my sport, with the facilities, coaching and rehabilitation being available on campus – I have definitely made the most of it! Without it I don’t think I would have kept up.

What is your favourite memory at Kent so far?
I’d have to say winning the BUCS British Championships Women’s team three years consecutively is a definite highlight, as well as winning my individual category this year after I had been injured for three months. Academically, I would say graduating with a first in my undergraduate degree!
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every year we host a broad range of events, for students, staff, alumni and the local community: below are some of the big events and key dates that you should look out for! If you would like to find out more about these and other forthcoming events, please visit: www.kent.ac.uk/events

1. The big day! Congregations 2018
   10-20 July, 21 & 23 November 2018
   Over 5000 students are set to graduate in degree congregation ceremonies in Rochester and Canterbury in July and November, and they will join our global alumni community spread all over the world.
   We look forward to seeing our graduates at future alumni events both nationally and internationally.

2. Foundation Day 2018
   28 September 2018
   Our annual Foundation Day celebrates the foundation of the University of Kent. The lecture will feature distinguished guest Rt Hon Lord David Willets, who is the Executive Chair of the Resolution Foundation.
   He served as the Member of Parliament for Havant (1992-2015), as Minister for Universities and Science (2010-14). He has also recently published A University Education, which came out in November 2017.

3. In Conversation
   Kent in Europe
   15-23 September 2018
   We host conferences and events at our European centres and across the continent. This gives alumni the opportunity to interview more high profile guests on a range of different subjects at the Gulbenkian Theatre. It's also your chance to ask questions and hear a variety of opinions on current and past events. It's not to be missed!

4. Kent in Europe
   16 October 2018 – Brussels
   5 March 2019 – Paris
   2 April 2019 – Rome
   4 April 2019 – Brussels
   30 April 2019 – Canterbury
   10 May 2019 – Athens

5. Freshers’ Week
   15-23 September 2018
   The start of the 2018-19 academic year begins with a week of fun and excitement for new students of the University of Kent. Students can get involved in all sorts of events during this week as they start their journey at Kent.
   The university experience starts here, so be on the lookout for information on what to expect.

6. Carol Concert
   10 December 2018
   The most representative, and the biggest gathering of students and staff from the whole of the University takes place each December at the University Carol Service. Nearly 2000 people attended a memorable evening of readings and carols in the awe-inspiring atmosphere of Canterbury Cathedral.
   The 2018 Carol Concert is on 10 December.
IT’S COMPETITION TIME!

Update your personal and/or business details any time during the month of July and be automatically entered into our prize draw to win a University of Kent goody bag!

Knowing more about what you have gone on to do after graduation helps us to offer better careers support to current students, and to tailor our academic programmes to reflect changes in industry.

To enter: simply register or log in to update your details online at alumni.kent.ac.uk/update, or by completing and returning the form included with the magazine.

SHARE YOUR STORIES
If you’ve got some exciting news get in touch today. Simply email us at alumni@kent.ac.uk – we’d love to hear from you.