Dear colleagues, alumni and friends,

As we settle into the new academic year, I am delighted to say that the University is performing better than ever thanks to the efforts of staff, students, alumni and members of the University Council.

We are achieving our highest ever positions in the various league tables. Many are based on this year’s National Student Survey result which placed us 17th in the UK – an excellent result, but one which we naturally want to improve on – and also our success in the last Research Assessment Exercise. This year, Kent is among those UK universities included in the World University Rankings.

The University also led a successful bid for EU Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate funding for its three-year Doctoral Programme in Cultural and Global Criminology. This is the second successful Kent-led bid under this scheme.

The appointment of Professor Joanne Conaghan, Head of Kent Law School, to the Academy of Social Sciences brings the number of Academicians at the University to 20 and congratulations should also go to Dr Jawad Syed, from the Kent Business School, who received Pakistan’s Star of Excellence, for his research into equality and diversity management issues (see p5). I have also been appointed to the Council for Science and Technology, which advises the Prime Minister.

We have also appointed David Brown, formally Director of Structural Biology at Pfizer, as Chair of Structural Biology. Professor Brown, and four ex-colleagues from Pfizer, will expand upon previous research links with the University by launching a new start-up company, Cangenix (p19).

We have again been shortlisted in the Times Higher Education Awards for work by students and staff from the Kent School of Architecture on two regeneration projects in Margate, and also as part of a nomination by the Aimhigher Kent and Medway Partnership.

As we prepare for the new 2012 regime of funding for home and EU students, it is clear we do so from a strong platform, and we continue to maintain a positive financial surplus. Our new student intake for this year was exceptionally strong, at both under- and postgraduate level, and for international students as well as those from the UK and EU. Our plans for the future are ambitious – we have just completed 500 new study bedrooms at Canterbury (p20), where work is continuing on the new Music Building (p10). At Medway, we are also undertaking a major refurbishment on the Historic Dockyard site to allow for expansion of fine and performing arts.

These are just some of our recent achievements and I believe we have much to be proud of. Alumni in America will, no doubt, have learned more about them from Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Mander, when he hosted five events across the country from Los Angeles to New York. I will also be visiting China in November, and look forward to meeting alumni in Shanghai and in Beijing.

Professor Dame Julia M Goodfellow, DBE, CBE
Vice-Chancellor
Kent voted 3rd in London and the south east for student satisfaction

The 2011 National Student Survey (NSS) of final-year undergraduates at HE institutions across the UK has ranked the University of Kent third in London and the south east for overall student satisfaction.

With a rate of 88%, the University has also received a sixth highest national score for overall satisfaction.

Additionally, Kent has been voted into a top 20 position for the majority of its subjects and has 14 subjects in the top 10 based on overall student satisfaction.

David Nightingale, the University’s Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, welcomed the news. He said: ‘We are delighted that our students continue to feel that we deliver one of the best student experiences in the UK. The latest NSS results also reflect our position as a leading university, with an academic offer that combines teaching and research excellence.’

The NSS is organised by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in partnership with the government and the National Union of Students, and is carried out by independent market research company Ipsos-MORI.

Humanoid robots to help with teaching and research

Three unusual recruits – Nao humanoid robots – have been welcomed to Kent.

The robots have joined the School of Engineering and Digital Arts (EDA) to help with teaching and research projects.

Nao robots, standing 58cm tall and weighing 5kgs, are interactive, autonomous and fully programmable. Features include the ability to see, hear, speak, feel and communicate, as well as to sense and avoid obstacles. When two Nao meet, they can talk to each other and work collaboratively.

Developed by Aldebaran Robotics, Nao are used in research and education programmes around the world to study, for example, motor skills, balance, vision, language and man-machine interaction. New applications, beyond robotics, are also being discovered, such as treating children with autism, aids for the elderly and in NASA experiments.

Professor Sarah Spurgeon, Head of EDA, commented: ‘Our new robots will be a fun, as well as challenging, way for students to learn about, for example, real-time embedded system development and data-fusion, from sources such as cameras, accelerometers, microphones and tactile sensors.’

In 2010, 20 Nao made history by giving the first ever synchronised, autonomous 10-minute performance in public – captured on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-RnWPi31eg Nao also take part in Robocup, the world’s largest international robotics competition, and EDA is planning to enter a student team in 2012.
Kent students benefitting from employability strategy

New employment data from Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) has confirmed that the University’s employability strategy is benefitting students.

The data, which is available on the Unistats website, shows that almost 90% of full-time first degree Kent students are working and/or studying 6 months after graduation and that high percentages of this group are in graduate jobs consequently. Almost 66% of the academic subjects at Kent have been placed in the top 20 for employment prospects in the UK, with 75% of academic subjects contributing to full-time first degree students in graduate level jobs.

As part of its employability strategy, the aim of which is to encourage students to develop skills that are valued by prospective employers, the University operates an Employability Points Scheme which is designed to reward student engagement in employability skills training – such as interview skills and careers seminars – within the University, as well as wider experience such as part-time work, internships, volunteering and international study.

It also operates a Careers Advisory Service and a scheme to help students develop enterprise skills and business ideas through Kent Enterprise and Innovation, the University’s business development unit.

Professor Alex Hughes, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External), said: ‘This is good news for our students and the University. For our students, it means that we are providing them with skills that are both sought after by and useful for employers. For the University, it means that our employability programmes are of real and substantial benefit.’

Find out more at http://unistats.direct.gov.uk

Canterbury student radio gets green light to stay on air

The station, which launched in 2007, provides students with an opportunity to make their voices heard in Canterbury and features a range of topics with an educational focus. The decision by Ofcom, the independent regulator for UK communications industries, to extend the existing licence by five years was welcomed by Mel Lewis, CSR Student Media Co-ordinator.

‘We’re very pleased that Ofcom has extended our licence. It means CSR FM can continue to serve our local community, providing a variety of programmes including daytime, specialist and speech shows,’ she said.

Canterbury Youth and Student Media Limited, broadcasting as CSR FM, now has a licence to broadcast until 14 January 2017. It broadcasts on 97.4FM across Canterbury.

Additional partners required for Work Experience Scheme

The School of Psychology is appealing to enterprises, charities, NGOs, councils and organisations of all kinds to become additional partners in its already successful Work Experience Scheme.

The Scheme, which was piloted during the University’s spring term 2011 and which resumed in September 2011 for the beginning of the new academic year, presents final-year students with an opportunity to gain work experience by volunteering for a few hours per week with an organisation. To date, these have included People United, Kent County Council and the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Health Psychology Network.

Dr Ulrich Weger, co-ordinator of the Scheme, explained: ‘This is a great opportunity for all those involved: for students, as they can experience the world of work and employment, while gaining insight into the community; for organisations, as they have an opportunity to work with and benefit from the School’s highly qualified students; and for the University, as it is an opportunity to further strengthen its links with local organisations and communities.’

For further details, see http://www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/ug/workexperiencescheme/index.html

University criminologist advises EU drugs enquiry

A University criminologist is set to play a key role in shaping Europe-wide drugs policy.

Dr Caroline Chatwin, Lecturer in criminology within the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR), has been appointed as special adviser to the House of Lords EU Committee on Home Affairs. The Committee has launched an enquiry into European drugs policy, evaluating the current EU drugs strategy which runs until 2012 and suggesting content for the next one from 2013-2020.

New Kent enterprise zone welcomed by University

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Julia M Goodfellow welcomed a government announcement in August of new enterprise zones – including one in Kent – in a bid to boost economic growth.

The government hopes the zones will create more than 30,000 new jobs by 2015 by providing cheaper business rates, superfast broadband and lower levels of planning control.

The announcement identified Discovery Park in Sandwich, Kent as the location of one of the new enterprise zones.

Dame Julia said: ‘The University of Kent welcomes any initiative that creates jobs in east Kent. The region needs new employment opportunities to ensure its economy does not suffer following the closure of Pfizer.’

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Kent is redesignated as Fairtrade University

The University has been redesignated as a Fairtrade University.

The renewal of Fairtrade status follows a successful bid by staff and students across the University. They have supported Fairtrade by buying selected products and attending Fairtrade events.

The Fairtrade Foundation aims to promote better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

To find out more, contact the University’s Environmental Co-ordinator, Emily Crockford (e.e.crockford@kent.ac.uk).

Lecturer receives one of Pakistan’s highest awards

A University academic has received one of Pakistan’s highest awards for his research into equality and diversity management issues in that country.

Dr Jawad Syed, Senior Lecturer in human resource management at Kent Business School, has been awarded Pakistan’s Star of Excellence (Sitara-i-Imtiaz) by the country’s president.

Dr Syed, who will formally accept the award on Pakistan Day in March 2012, said: “I am very humbled and pleased by this appreciation of my research by the president of Pakistan.

‘Issues of equality, diversity and inclusion are close to my heart and I pursue research in this field not only as a part of my academic job, but also as a social contribution to organisations and societies.’

Decade of laughter from stand-up course now on CD

Twenty live recordings representing the best routines written and performed over the last 10 years by students on the University’s pioneering stand-up comedy course are now available on CD.

Monkeysphere 2001-2011 features two acts per year performing to a range of audiences, both on and off campus. Among those featured are Jimmy McGhie and Tiernan Douieb, both of whom are now successful stand-ups.

The pioneering comedy module – which forms part of the University’s Drama and Theatre Studies degree – celebrated its tenth anniversary earlier this year when comedian Ross Noble appeared at the Gulbenkian Theatre in conversation with module leader and stand-up comedy expert Dr Oliver Double.

The CD, which was made possible by the University’s School of Arts and costs £8 with profits going to Comic Relief, can be purchased via the University’s online store at: https://store.kent.ac.uk/browse/product.asp?catid=106&modid=1&compid=1

Free legal advice

A law clinic run by the University is again offering people in Medway free legal advice on employment, housing, debt, family or other similar issues.

The University’s Kent Law Clinic at Medway, which re-opened on 26 September, has previously helped clients gain compensation awards totalling more than £100k.

The clinic advice sessions, at two locations in the Medway area, are organised and attended by Kent Law School students and the advice is provided by local volunteer lawyers. The sessions last for 30 minutes and must be booked in advance.

As well as offering advice, Kent Law Clinic is able in some instances to take cases further and provide free representation when law students work under the close supervision of law clinic solicitors.

Find out more at www.kent.ac.uk/law/clinic

Successful Biotechnology Summer School

Students from universities around the world got to grips with cutting-edge biotechnology at Kent in July and August.

They were attending the Biotechnology Summer School, run by the University’s School of Biosciences. The three-week residential course included practical experience in designing an antibody for potential diagnosis and treatment of acute myeloid leukaemia.

The students also took part in informal seminars and discussions on independent experimental design and the regulatory and ethical issues in use of biological agents. They were offered individual career guidance and, in their free time, enjoyed attractions in Canterbury and its region.

Dr Dan Lloyd, a National Teaching Fellow and Director of the Summer School, said: ‘The School of Biosciences, with its outstanding reputation for teaching and excellent research facilities, provides a stimulating environment for students to learn how to apply cutting-edge biological research in modern healthcare. I think the students gained a lot of insight into how they can harness their skills and education into future careers in biotechnology.’
Leon McCarron (R05) graduated from Kent in 2008 with a BA in Film Studies and is now an adventurer, cameraman, writer and motivational speaker. In March 2011, he completed a 14,000 mile solo bicycle ride from New York to Hong Kong. He is about to set off on a 3,000 mile expedition by foot and kayak from Mongolia to Hong Kong, shooting a TV series for National Geographic en route.

USA and Canada

He started his first expedition from there in spring 2010, crossing the USA and Canada and finishing in Los Angeles, California. From there, he managed to get a free flight to New Zealand, again travelling by bike from Auckland in the north, to the tip of the South Island. Finally, he headed to Australia, where he pedalled the length of the east coast and then through south east Asia as far as Hong Kong.

He took with him four pannier bags carrying all his clothes, bike parts, food, maps and water. On top of that, he had a tent, a sleeping bag and the equipment for filming – a HD camcorder, a tripod and everything needed to upload clips (for his blog at www.leonmccarron.com) along the way. He aimed to use technology only for the purposes of the film, and decided to forgo GPS and other aids in favour of a trusty map and compass.

The trip concluded successfully in March 2011 and Leon returned to London to write a book about his experiences. He teamed up with friend Rob Lilwall and, together, they had an idea for a TV show which they pitched to National Geographic. The programme, on their Mongolia to Hong Kong expedition, will be broadcast on some of its channels in 2012.

Mongolia to Hong Kong

Leon and Rob plan to walk and kayak from Mongolia to Hong Kong (Rob is based in Hong Kong, hence the title of the expedition ‘Walking Home From Mongolia’), paddling some 800 miles down the Yellow River. Travelling in winter, their expedition will take them from the wastelands of the Gobi Desert to the glittering skyline of Hong Kong, via the Great Wall of China, the Yellow River, the ancient city of Xian and the limestone peaks of Guilin.

Preparations for the trip are extensive and Leon is taking on the role of both cameraman and director, so it will be his responsibility to ensure that the show is produced as planned. They will be using special inflatable kayaks that fold down to the size of a two-man tent so that they can travel by river when possible, but are able to walk unhampered by a large kayak.

‘The idea is to talk with people en route and find out what ‘home’ means to them. For example, a nomadic Mongolian will probably have a different idea of home than I do,’ says Leon.
surgery to avoid having to cope with contact lenses or glasses during the expedition. He spends a lot of time on the logistics of the trip and keeping sponsors and supporters informed of his activities. The biggest challenge, he says, is finding the right balance between doing pre-trip research, working on planning and logistics, and putting in the training hours.

Preparing for the physical challenges of the trip is vital, as their bodies will be subject to extreme conditions and have to endure many hours of physical activity. Leon was told to gain three stone in weight to prepare for the expedition and also as a defence against the cold, which is a real concern. It can reach -30°C at night so it is essential to plan ahead and think about getting water. Although there will be plenty of snow around, they will need to have the means to melt it. The first portion of the trip will be in the Gobi Desert – not known for its snowfall!

This is where the research comes in, ensuring that they are prepared for the terrain (easier said than done as maps available for China and Mongolia are very limited), the weather, areas where food and water may be scarce, as well as local customs and bureaucracy. It is likely that they will encounter a number of cultural barriers en route, travelling through a remote area which isn’t used to visitors.

‘Generally, people are more fascinated than anything else but I am trying to learn Mandarin in my free time – another challenge!’ Leon says.

‘However, I’m getting to do everything I dreamed of and I am so incredibly lucky. Who else gets to explore China and Mongolia for six months and get paid for it? When I feel like complaining about something I focus on that. I am a big believer in ambition – in setting challenges and trying to achieve them.’

To find out more about Leon visit his website www.leonmccarron.com or the expedition site www.walkinghomefrommongolia.com

Leon will be giving an open lecture about his experiences at the University on 3 October 2012. To find out more about the University’s open lectures, visit www.kent.ac.uk/openlectures

‘I wouldn’t be where I am without my Film degree. It has given me confidence and opened doors. Above all, it gave me direction and helped me understand what I really wanted to do. A degree is great, but you need to build it up with experience as well, especially in this field.’
New research centre opens

The University launched its new Centre of Research and Education in Forensic Psychology (CORE-FP) on 16 September.

Among the 200 guests attending the launch were locals MPs, members of the police, probation and prison services, and leading psychologists and criminologists from around the UK.

The launch, which took place in Keynes College, involved a day-long programme of presentations, talks and symposiums on topics ranging from street gangs, corporate crime and sexual harassment to stalking, firesetting, sexual offending and forensic uses of face perception.

Dr Theresa Gannon, Reader in Forensic Psychology and Director of the new Centre, explained the subject as ‘a modern branch of psychology that seeks to understand the psychological processes underlying offending behaviour, the reduction and supervision of offending behaviour – i.e rehabilitation, treatment, and management of community risk – victim responses to offending, the mechanisms underlying the criminal justice system more generally – i.e jury decision-making and the courts – and attitudes to offenders and offender reintegration in society’.

Dr Gannon also explained the main aim of the Centre as ‘one that aims to conduct high impact psychological research to further understand key forensic issues of social significance, leading to cutting-edge teaching and research opportunities for postgraduate students’.

Forensic psychologists at the University are currently leading cutting-edge research on: bullying in prisons, prison gang behaviour, jury decision-making, child sexual offending, rape, rape proclivity, female sexual offending, theories of offender rehabilitation, firesetting, sexual harassment, violence, aggression and alcohol, and the infrahumanisation of offenders.

Other areas of research include social cognition, social and moral emotion, and group process theory; all of which are applied to the study of offending behaviour or court process issues.

Research awards list
Some recent research awards
Dr Adrian Bonner (School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research): £84,500 from the Salvation Army for ‘Biomedical support for the social programme of the Salvation Army UK’.

Professor Mark Smales (Centre for Molecular Processing): £374,752 from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) for ‘Defining novel mechanisms of mRNA translational control upon cold-shock in mammalian cells’.

Dr John Batchelor (School of Engineering and Digital Arts): £417,757 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) for ‘Digital fabrication of UHF electromagnetic structures’.

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The new Centre is opened by former Dean of Natural Sciences at Kent and now Canterbury City Councillor, Dr Harry Cragg and Director, Dr Theresa Gannon.
Temporary tattoo can send wireless signals to external receiver

University researchers have developed a temporary tattoo capable of sending wireless signals to an external receiver.

The tattoo was developed with inkjet electronics, which involves the use of special conducting inks to create electronic circuits in the same way that a desktop printer produces pictures. One application for such tattoos is to measure brainwaves in cases of suspected epilepsy when cabled sensors are too distressing for a patient. If the sensors can be made small enough, they could offer more exact measurements to be taken by medics enabling them to better target problem areas in the brain. Other applications could enable patients to be monitored at home if they wish, or the sensors could be used by fire or police officers to show they are well in extreme conditions.

The project, which is a collaboration between the University’s School of Engineering and Digital Arts (EDA), Great Ormond Street Hospital and the University of Manchester, is led by Dr John Batchelor, Reader in Antenna Technology at Kent, and will combine expertise from EDA’s wireless communication engineering with printed electronics expertise from Manchester.

On a related theme, the researchers are also working towards the development of printed panels to be mounted in walls to make buildings wireless friendly. This work will be led by Professor Ted Parker at Kent and is intended to produce an affordable way to either screen out or allow, through radio, phone or WiFi, signals depending on the wishes of the building owner. Applications could be for security preventing eavesdropping or to increase the bandwidth of WiFi computing links. Currently, there are no regulations requiring buildings to be compliant for radio communications.

Dr Batchelor said: ‘Our research shows that wireless transmission can work with a skin mounted patch. Future work will involve the development and testing of inks that will survive the stretching and bending that will occur on human bodies. We also aim to increase the functionality of the tattoos so that they can act as sensors to aid the work of hospitals such as Great Ormond Street.’

Shadows of the night in Canterbury

People out in Canterbury near the city’s Westgate Towers on the evening of 22 September found themselves taking part in a novel and exciting art event involving large projected shadows.

The University’s schools of Arts and Architecture are working with the renowned Dessau Bauhaus Stage Workshop from Germany to present Walking in Motion, offering a unique perspective on the simple pleasures of walking in a city centre street.

The project saw large shadows striding, strolling, walking or simply passing by – all projected onto a giant ‘shadow screen’ set up next to Westgate Towers.

Organiser Dr Melissa Trimingham, Senior Lecturer at Kent’s School of Arts, said: ‘People who saw the huge shadow screen set up on the pavement had an opportunity to walk themselves and see themselves simultaneously write large upon the fabric of the city wall.

‘The performance was part of Walking in Motion, a longer term series of events that the University’s schools of Art and Architecture are developing on the improvement of urban spaces.

‘This event drew attention to the simple act of walking: how the urban environment shapes our walking – and how we ultimately could shape that environment.’

Dr Trimingham is collaborating with Professor Gordana Fontana-Giusti of Kent School of Architecture, with technical direction by Howard Griffin and the Dessau Bauhaus Stage Workshop Director Torsten Blume, to present Walking in Motion.

Science, evidence, experts and the new parenting culture

The effects of damaging myths about children and parenting, including the ways in which neuro-determinism has influenced policy and politics, was the focal point at a University event on 13-14 September.

Titled ‘Monitoring parents: science, evidence, experts and the new parenting culture’, the event featured keynote lectures by Dr Stuart Derbyshire, Reader in Psychology at the University of Birmingham, and John T Bruer (pre-recorded), author of the controversial book The Myth of the First Three Years: A New Understanding of Early Brain Development and Lifelong Learning.

Other contributors included: Janet Golden, Professor of History, Rutgers University; Stefan Ramaekers, from the Centre for Philosophy of Education at the University of Leuven; and Frank Furedi, Professor of Sociology at Kent.

‘Monitoring parents’ is the latest in a series of events organised and hosted by Kent’s Centre for Parenting Culture Studies (CPCS).

Dr Ellie Lee, Director of CPCS and the event organiser, said: ‘Our culture and politics is now very strongly influenced by certain notions about the development of small children’s brains and related ideas about the need to intervene in the practices of parents. The claim is repeated over and over that ‘the evidence shows’ if we really want to address social problems we have to intervene more in ‘the early years’. Discussion at our event showed that this approach draws more on prejudice than research. We also explored the problems of a culture that seems determined to turn raising children into an expert-led, professionalised affair.’

Further information is available at: https://blogs.kent.ac.uk/parentingculturestudies/pcs-events/previous-events/parenting-science
Feature

Making music

The musical life of the University has continued to thrive this year, with some memorable concerts and new additions to the performing calendar.

Music is an incredibly versatile extra-curricular department offering a whole range of music activities, including a 200-strong chorus, chamber choir, concert and big bands, symphony orchestra and music theatre. Students, staff, alumni, members of the local community and visiting professional players all contribute to this rich and vibrant aspect of the University’s cultural life.

Music Prize winners 2011

One of the highlights of each year is recognising students’ contribution to music-making at the University. At a ceremony in June, seven outstanding students were awarded prizes in recognition of their significant contributions.

This year’s Canterbury Festival Music Prize, awarded to a final-year student who has made an outstanding contribution to music at the University, was given jointly to Alice Godwin (Politics and International Relations) and Kate Lumley (English and Comparative Literature). Alice and Kate have excelled in the woodwind section of the Symphony Orchestra and in the Concert Band. They have both also performed in the Scholars’ Festival Concert as part of the Canterbury Festival.

The Colyer-Fergusson Music Prize, for a student who has made a major contribution to organising music at the University, was awarded jointly to Law student Alanya Holder and Anna Shinkfield, studying English and American Literature. Alanya was President of the Music Society this year, as well as participating in choirs and singing jazz. Anna was Acting Secretary of the Music Society, and has performed on the recorder, as well as singing with the Chorus and playing sax with the Concert and Big Bands.

Second-year Architecture student Chris Gray was awarded the University Music Prize, for his major contribution to music at Kent this year. The Awards Committee made two additional awards – to Mathematics student Andrew Kitchin, a stalwart of the Jazz @ 5 series, and Kathryn Redgers, studying History, who has made a tremendous impact in her first year as a flautist at Kent.

Director of Music, Susan Wanless said: ‘I am continuously amazed at the breadth and range of musical talent among our students. This is all the more remarkable as they make their music out of hours, alongside studying for their degrees. Thanks to the continued generosity of alumni, friends of the University, the Canterbury Festival and our other supporters, we can highlight their achievements and give them the recognition they so richly deserve.’

Musical alumni

The University was delighted to welcome back Humphrey Berney (E99), now a tenor in classical vocal quartet BLAKE, who performed at the Gulbenkian Theatre in October, as part of the Canterbury Festival 2011.

Humphrey graduated in 2002 with a BA in Drama and Film, and accepted a scholarship to The Royal Academy of Music, completing his classical training in 2005.

BLAKE launched their first album in 2007 and, just a year later, received a Classical Brit Award for Album of the Year, a huge honour for a new group. In 2011, with over half a million albums sold, and live TV performances to over 160 million people, BLAKE continue to build their reputation as one of the world’s most eclectic and exciting pop-classical groups.

It was Humphrey’s first performance in the Gulbenkian Theatre since he was an...
undergraduate. KENT caught up with him prior to the performance to find out what music at Kent meant to him.

He said: ‘The music at Kent was great. I was involved in as much as I could be and had opportunities to perform leads in full operatic performances, conduct choirs and sing in some wonderful concerts. Susan Wanless was a driving force and a great Director of Music.’

Colyer-Fergusson Music Building

To the sound of a brass fanfare from University musicians, the ceremonial turning of the first sod for the new Colyer-Fergusson building took place in May 2011.

After the long planning process, good progress is being made in transforming the dedicated performance and rehearsal space from drawing board to reality. All four walls are now in place, and the building is beginning to take shape as a new landmark on the Canterbury campus.

Present at the sod-turning ceremony were the Hon Jonathan Monckton, Chairman of the Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust, whose generous donation made possible construction of the building. Also there were supporters of the project including members of construction company, R Durrnall and Son, fresh from their recent success in building the new Turner Contemporary gallery at Margate.

The building will be completed in the summer of 2012 and will house the ever-growing range of music-making opportunities for students, staff, the local community and beyond.

‘The development represents a confident signal that the University is investing in its future,’ said Professor Keith Mander, Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

‘All universities face a challenging financial future, but prudent management over the last few years has put the University of Kent in a strong position. Increasingly, students, as they are asked to make greater contributions to their studies, are also demanding high-quality buildings and facilities. The Colyer-Fergusson Building will be an outstanding example of a high-quality facility that will benefit students, staff and the local community.’

To find out more about supporting Music at Kent, visit www.kent.ac.uk/music For the latest on the progress of the new building, visit the Music blog at blogs.kent.ac.uk/music-matters

Farewell to Eliot Concert Hall

On 10 June 2012, the University’s musicians will perform a concert in Eliot Hall. The concert will be a final farewell to Eliot Hall as a music venue, before the autumn term programme begins in the new Colyer-Fergusson Building.

For all those who remember wallowing in the soupy acoustics of Eliot Hall, or have traversed the depths of the colleges to find the practice rooms, this is a sign of great things to come.

The concert starts at 3pm followed by a sumptuous cream tea, and will feature all the University’s music groups performing a rousing programme. By this point, the Colyer-Fergusson Building should be nearing completion and it is hoped to be able to offer tours of the building to guests.

Music alumni are invited to attend and to bid farewell to Eliot Hall, either as a performer or in the audience, and to have an exclusive preview of the new building. Invitations will be sent out in the spring – to find out more in the meantime, contact Susan Wanless, Director of University Music, at S.J.Wanless@kent.ac.uk
2011 Scholars

As the University welcomes a new cohort of students, we are delighted to introduce two of our newest scholars.

Eric MacTaggart joins us from Idaho as the inaugural University of Kent in America Scholar – an award funded entirely by the generosity of Kent alumni in the United States. Our US alumni often tell us that their experiences at Kent were life-changing, and set up this fund to provide financial support to exceptional students aspiring to study here.

Eric is a member of Woolf College and studying for an MA in the Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics. He says: 'I was ecstatic when I received news that I was the one recipient of the first ever University of Kent in America scholarship. The scholarship will help me a great deal with funding my MA course.'

While studying Music Performance/Education as an undergraduate at the University of Iowa, Eric began to see many similarities between various arts disciplines.

'I realised,' he says, 'that the arts can be unified through the discussion of aesthetics. As I already had an interest in philosophy and a strong background and interest in music, the chance to combine the two became my academic and career goal.

'The University of Kent quickly became my top choice after learning about the Aesthetics Research Group associated with the School of Arts and the University’s MA in the Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics.'

'Thanks to Kent’s Welcome Week, I have had the chance to meet professors and other postgraduate students from all over the world, and I look forward to what promises to be a life-changing year.'

Katy Upton graduated from Kent in 2010 with a BSc in Wildlife Conservation and a passion for amphibians. She now returns as the 2011 Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholar, studying for a PhD in Biodiversity Management, examining the relationships between amphibian diversity and environmental change in the Peruvian Amazon.

She says: ‘I am so happy to have been awarded the alumni scholarship. It has given me an opportunity of a lifetime, enabling me to do something worthwhile which can make a real difference to the conservation of many species.

‘Amphibians (frogs, salamanders and caecilians) are threatened on a global basis with many amphibian species across the world rapidly becoming extinct. Amphibians are often referred to as an indicator species meaning they indicate the quality of a habitat. Therefore, if they are declining so is their habitat. Their suitability as an indicator species must be explored to determine what this means for many other species (including us).’

Katy is planning to write a blog detailing her experiences – watch this space for further details.

We wish both Eric and Katy every success and look forward to keeping you up-to-date with their studies.

Scholarship support

Scholarships make an enormous difference to the lives of gifted students at Kent, and we are very proud of the way our alumni community supports the next generation.

The Kent Scholarships Campaign raises funds to support students – providing scholarships to ensure that talented students are able to fulfil their potential without the burden of financial pressures; and funding hardship bursaries to help students who find themselves in financial difficulty through no fault of their own.

Scholarships supported by the campaign include the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship, which encourages the very best Kent undergraduates and recent graduates to continue their studies by undertaking significant and groundbreaking research projects.

Since 2002, Kent students have played a key part in raising vital funds through our annual telephone campaign – which, to date, has generated over £280,000 for projects to support students and enrich life at the University.

In spring 2012, our students will be taking to the phones again, keen to catch-up with our alumni, share the latest news, tell you about the very latest developments on campus and let you know about upcoming events. If you are able to support this campaign, they would be incredibly grateful for your generosity.

Many of you will have spoken to a student caller in the past, and perhaps made a gift. Thank you, on behalf of all of the students who have benefitted from your generosity, callers who have enjoyed some fantastic conversations and those who will be supported in the years to come.

‘I feel very privileged that, thanks to the generosity of Kent alumni, I was awarded the prestigious Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship in 2010. This scholarship has made a significant difference, enabling me to pursue my degree without the stress of huge financial commitments.’

Emmanuel Osuteye, Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholar 2010
Jan Pahl
K81

Jan Pahl is Professor Emeritus of Social Policy in the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research and a founder member and co-convenor of the University’s Former Staff Association.

Professor Pahl has been unusually innovative, original and productive in her academic research. She pioneered research on domestic violence and on the control and allocation of money within the family, and has represented the UK at the United Nations and the World Health Organisation. She has been responsible for research grants totalling nearly £4 million, and has published seven books and over 50 articles and other publications.

Professor Pahl’s research on the control and allocation of resources within the family has shaped national and international research into the economic situations and well-being of individuals, households and families. It has achieved widespread international recognition and has had far-reaching applications in many areas of social and fiscal policy.

Professor Pahl has also made significant contributions to the academic discipline of social policy. These include: consistently supporting the development of younger generations of social policy researchers; taking a leading role in the commissioning and conduct of social policy research; and making a major contribution to the development of a formal Research Governance Framework in the field of social care.

In 2010, Professor Pahl was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Social Psychology Association while, in 2008, her distinguished contribution to social policy was recognised through her admission to the position of Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences. In June 2011, she was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE), for services to social science.

What made you decide to come to Kent
I came to Canterbury as a wife and mother when my husband was appointed to the new Sociology department when the University opened in 1965. I arrived at the University in my own right in 1976, when I was awarded a grant to carry out research on domestic violence in the women’s refuge in Canterbury. I got my PhD at Kent in 1988, while I was doing research for the NHS in Medway. I went on to be Director of Research at the National Institute for Social Work in London, and then was appointed Professor of Social Policy at Kent.

You arrived here in 1965 – what were your first impressions of the new University?
When we arrived, there was only Eliot College in a sea of mud. I remember meeting Mrs Templeman, the wife of the first Vice-Chancellor, at the entrance to the College with a duster in her hand getting it ready for the first students. Though it was new, the University seemed very traditional and Oxbridge-like, with its colleges, common rooms and high table.

How do you feel the University has developed since then?
At first, each college had a mix of academics from different subjects, which I found quite difficult when I started my research in 1976. It was so hard to get to know your colleagues and to discuss ideas within your discipline when everyone was scattered. The problem was solved when I was invited to join a research unit, but I was pleased when academic departments were moved out of the colleges and into departmental buildings. Other important landmarks for me were the coming of the Gulbenkian, the setting up of the day nursery, the development of Women’s Studies and the growth of our wonderful Music Department. I also enjoy the increasing diversity of our students and am still in touch with alumni all over the world.

What would be your perfect day?
A walk with friends in the beautiful countryside round Canterbury; a meal in a seaside restaurant and playing on the beach with my children and grandchildren; and a June evening concert at the Stour Music Festival.

What was your earliest ambition?
To keep a sweet shop or a book shop.

What was your first job?
Packing biscuits for Peek Freans in East London.

What (if anything) would you like to change about yourself?
I’d like to need less sleep – I always have too much to do and too little time to do it!

What is your greatest achievement since graduating?
I’m proud of the stream of research I initiated on the control and allocation of money in the family and my book, Money and Marriage. And I was delighted, but astonished, to be awarded a CBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours this year.

What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?
We all get a turn at being young; most of us get a turn at being middle-aged; and if we are lucky we get a turn at being old.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
Still involved with the Canterbury Society and still wondering what we can do together to make our city an even better place in which to live.

Are you still involved in University life?
Thanks to SSPSSR, I still carry on with my academic work and have just been invited to New York to talk about ‘Money and Emotions at the Work and Family Researchers’ Network. I also sing in the University Chorus and am co-convenor of the Former Staff Association, which has raised funds for the new Music Building. I feel very grateful to the University and to my colleagues for providing me with such a stimulating and supportive academic home over so many years.
The University will be awarding four honorary degrees at its ceremonies at Canterbury and Rochester in November 2011.

In the ceremony at Rochester Cathedral on Wednesday 16 November, Baroness Blackstone of Stoke Newington, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Greenwich, will be awarded a Doctor of Civil Law in recognition of her contribution to education.

Receiving their degrees during the ceremony at Canterbury Cathedral on Friday 18 November will be Dame Jenny Abramsky, the Very Revd Robert Willis and Mrs Amanda Cottrell.

Dame Jenny is Chair of the UK’s National Heritage Memorial Fund and formerly Director of Audio and Music at the BBC. She was educated at Holland Park School in London and the University of East Anglia, where she read English. Dame Jenny will be awarded a Doctor of Civil Law, in recognition of her contribution to media and public life.

The Very Revd Robert Willis, Dean of Canterbury, will be awarded a Doctor of Civil Law, in recognition of his contribution to public life, especially in Canterbury.

Mrs Amanda Cottrell is a trustee of Canterbury Cathedral and Kent Wildlife Trust, Vice-President of the Canterbury Festival and Chair of Fairbridge Kent, a charity that supports young people in Medway. She served as a magistrate for more than 20 years and has also been a school governor and county president of the Kent Girl Guides. She will be awarded a Doctor of Civil law in recognition of her contribution to public life and service in Kent.

July ceremonies

Honorary degrees were also awarded by the University at its congregations ceremonies in July 2011.

Among those receiving honorary degrees were distinguished stage and screen actor Sir Donald Sinden, author and poet Vikram Seth and BBC political correspondent Mark Mardell.

Other recipients included: Oscar-winning musician and composer Anne Dudley; well-known science writer and broadcaster Dr Simon Singh; and Joanna Motion, until recently Vice President for International Operations at the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and, before that, Director of Communications and Development at Kent.

Also honoured were Professor Martin Daunton FBA, Master, Trinity Hall, Cambridge; Ursula Brennan, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence; Dr Alan Hearne, Chief Executive of international consultancy the RPS Group; Professor Dr Paul van Cauwenberge, Rector of Ghent University; Stevie Spring, Chief Executive Officer of international special-interest media group Future plc; and the Right Hon the Baroness Hale of Richmond, the first woman Law Lord and a Justice of the Supreme Court.
The University has appointed two new College Masters.

Stephen Burke has been appointed as Master of Eliot College, while Dr Peter Klappa has become Master of Rutherford College.

Masters – attached to each of the five colleges on Canterbury campus, as well as at Medway – are responsible for student welfare. This includes providing personal support and advice, arranging student events and activities and managing disciplinary procedures.

Stephen Burke will combine his role as Master with continuing as Senior Tutor and Finance Manager for Kent Business School. Since joining the University in 1990, he has held a variety of posts. He spent six summers living in Eliot and then Rutherford College looking after students enrolled on Summer Academy study holidays. As part of this role, he also gave lectures on medieval arms and armour, and researched and delivered courses on ‘Kent and the Battle of Britain’ and ‘The History of the Cinque Ports’.

In 1996, Stephen Burke was appointed School Administrator in the Institute of Mathematics and Statistics and, in 2001, became Quality Enhancement Officer in the Unit for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (ULET). He has shared his interest in medieval warfare by leading history tours in the UK, France and Italy, as well as researching and appearing in War Walks – Agincourt with the late Richard Holmes.

Commenting on his new role, Stephen Burke said: ‘I will work closely with students and colleagues to ensure that Eliot continues to offer students a safe, comfortable and attractive environment in which to study and relax. The University is approaching its 50th anniversary, and Eliot is the oldest college, so it will be exciting working with students, alumni and staff to devise a programme of events to commemorate this important occasion.’

As well as being Master, Dr Klappa will continue as Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry at the University. He joined the School of Biosciences in 1995 as a postdoctoral fellow and now heads a research group focussing on the structure and function of protein folding catalysts and the impact on diseases such as Alzheimer’s and cystic fibrosis. He is also a Visiting Professor at the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), which has a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Kent to develop sustainable and mutually beneficial collaborations.

In 2009 and 2011, Dr Klappa received University Teaching Prizes for his commitment to excellence in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. He designed and implemented the University’s popular Biology BSc degree and plays a key role within the University’s ULET in providing the Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (PGCHE) to all newly-employed academics.

Dr Klappa commented: ‘I am very much looking forward to this challenging role. My aim is to support students, provide them with academic and non-academic advice and make sure that they get the best possible experience from their time in Rutherford College. I am also very excited about the prospect of working closely with excellent support staff at the College and across the University. I hope that, with my enthusiasm and passion for working with students, I will be able to make a contribution to university life.’

Other Masters at Kent include Nancy Gaffield (Master of Darwin and Woolf Colleges), Michael Hughes (Keynes College) and Jane Glew (Medway).

New professors

Five new professors have been appointed at the University as part of the annual academic promotions from 1 October 2011.

The new professors are Iain Fraser (School of Economics), David Herd (School of English), Bernard Ryan (Kent Law School), Miri Song and Tim Strangleman (both School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research).

Iain Fraser joined Kent in 2006 from Imperial College. As Professor of Agri-Environmental Economics, he will continue his research spanning agricultural, environmental and resource economics. As Director of Learning and Teaching, he will also be steering the School of Economics through its Periodic Programme Review in 2012. From September 2012, he will become an editor of the European Review of Agricultural Economics.

David Herd joined the University in 1997. As Professor of Modern Literature, his work will continue to have a double focus on contemporary poetry and the politics of movement. Over the past year, he has given lectures and talks on these research strands in the UK and overseas, as well as readings from his new collection of poetry, All Just, to be published by Carcanet in July 2012.

Professor of Migration Law, Bernard Ryan started at Kent as a lecturer in 1991. His work explores the legal and public policy challenges posed by migration and he has published across the field of migration law, including the legal aspects of migration control, labour migration and nationality. He is the Joint Chair of the Migration and Law Network, which promotes the study of migration law within British universities.

Miri Song has made significant contributions to research on migration, race and ethnic identity, and ‘mixed race’ people since joining Kent as a lecturer in 1995. Now Professor of Sociology, she has carried out research on second-generation migrants in Britain, on issues such as belonging, racial exclusion and integration. Most recently, she is studying the identities and experiences of disparate types of ‘mixed race’ young people in Britain and Western Europe.

Tim Strangleman, one of the leading figures in UK work sociology and the new field of working-class studies, joined Kent in 2007. As Professor of Sociology, his research spans issues such as work, meaning and identity, deindustrialisation and unemployment in industries including engineering, construction, brewing, railway and coalmining. He is currently writing a book, Imagining Work in the Twentieth Century, based on his research into the Guinness Company and its West London brewery.

The 2011 academic promotions also included 19 new readerships and 29 senior lectureships. Find out more at http://www.kent.ac.uk/hr-staffinformation/promotion-salary-review/index.html
Olympic legacy

The University of Kent is playing an important part in ensuring the London 2012 Games are a success. Both our research expertise and sporting facilities are much in demand in the run-up to the big event.

Director of the University’s Centre for Sports Studies, Professor Louis Passfield has been chosen to take part in one of a series of national debates next year on how to best make use of public interest in sport generated by the Olympics.

Organised by Research Councils UK (RCUK), the series will feature six UK-wide public debates to be held in the lead-up to the London 2012 Games.

Professor Passfield said: ‘Everyone agrees that the London Games represent a great opportunity to harness public excitement surrounding the Olympics and these events will help focus on the latest cutting-edge research and technology behind our top athletes.

‘I’m delighted to be able to take part in the debate, representing the University’s Centre for Sports Studies, which is itself involved in much groundbreaking sports research.’

Professor Passfield has also received funding from the Engineering and Physical Science Research Council to research improving the performance of elite cyclists.

He is currently working with cross-country mountain bike rider, Oli Beckingsale, who is aiming to make London 2012 his fourth Olympic Games for Team GB. Oli crashed and broke his leg during the World Cup in the Czech Republic this summer. He is hoping to recover in time for next year’s Olympics with support from Professor Passfield and sports injury specialists in the Centre for Sports Studies.

Nepalese base

The Nepal Olympic and Paralympic teams have chosen the University’s Canterbury campus as their main base in the lead-up to the London Games.

The University will provide a range of training and accommodation facilities as a pre-Games training camp venue to Nepalese athletes qualifying for the Games.

Director of Sport, Graham Holmes said: ‘We are delighted to be hosting both Nepal’s Olympic and Paralympic squads. With a long track record for supporting elite sportsmen and women here at the University, we are looking forward to welcoming Nepal’s athletes. We will also be aiming to develop the University’s relationship with Nepal in cultural and educational areas.’

Nepalese athletes are likely to arrive in Kent in June next year to prepare for the Games. They will stay in University accommodation on campus and make use of its facilities for table tennis, weightlifting and powerlifting among other sports, depending on qualification.
Organisers of the 2012 London Games have established that the grass-roots sporting legacy should be a top priority and increasing participation in sport is a key legacy promise, said Dr Pappous. ’It will be really interesting to see if they achieve their ambitious plans and manage to turn the UK into a more active nation, or whether the results will have the same firework effect that we found in Athens 2004, where participation increased dramatically in the short-term, but was not sustained.

‘Will the enthusiasm for sport extinguish at the same time as the Olympic flame is put out in London? We will have to wait and see,’ said Dr Pappous.

The UK government hopes that the London Olympics will spark an interest in taking up a sport. But a new study of the 2004 Athens Games by the University casts doubt on the effect of the Games on sustained participation in sport.

Dr Sakis Pappous, Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Sport Studies, said: ‘There was a short-lived increase in sports participation in Greece between 2003 and 2004 of six per cent. However, five years after the Games, the percentage of people saying they exercise regularly had plummeted by 13% to a level that was significantly lower than even the period before the Games.

‘The data for the Greek population suggests that, if a broader strategy towards an active lifestyle is not implemented, then sporting excitement on its own will not sustain participation. In fact, there may be a reduction and possibly a ‘rebound effect’, where participation drops to levels lower even than during the pre-Olympic period,’ warned Dr Pappous.
Building a better future for students

2010/11 was a year of extraordinary achievements and enormous challenges for Kent Union.

The year was heavily influenced by the government’s review of higher education and plans to increase tuition fees.

Kent Union launched a high-profile campaign in response, taking over 500 students to the National Union of Students demonstration in London, sending a 2,000 strong petition to local MPs, taking 50 students to a lobby of Parliament and gaining significant media coverage.

We also ran many other priority campaigns, including ‘Right to Rent’, ‘The Lock’ and ‘Get on Board’. It was undoubtedly our best year for campaigning in the last decade, if not longer, led by a team of sabbatical officers intent on creating change for students.

We achieved our highest results in our student satisfaction survey, with an overall satisfaction rating of 92% with Kent Union, up from 81% in 2009/10, and 68% rating us good or very good. Other highlights included our RAG volunteers raising £89,000 for charity, the most we’ve ever raised in a year; we had over 9,000 members of our clubs and societies, again, our highest ever involvement; we launched our teaching awards and received 482 nominations; our volunteers gave over 46,000 hours in voluntary activity to the community; and our commercial services saw 1.34 million customer visits across our retail department and 115,000 customer visits to our late-night entertainment venues.

Two key pieces of work were the development of our new Plan 2011-14 – From Good to Great – and completion of a major review of our democratic structures. From Good to Great maps out our big goals for the next three years; it is bold, ambitious and exciting and sets out how Kent Union is working to build a better future for students at Kent. Our democracy review sought to refresh and revitalise our democratic structures and ensure they are accessible and relevant to our members. The review is being rolled out in September 2011 and includes four new democracy ‘zones’, less bureaucracy, greater use of technology and faster decision-making. We are confident that the new structures will make a real difference to the way students interact with Kent Union.

For more information on our Impact Report 2010/11, see www.kentunion.co.uk/about/reports

Kent Union

Sports

SummerZone

SummerZone, the University’s summer camp for children, took place in August with a record number attending. Feedback from both parents and children has been excellent with over 90% of respondents rating the coaching as good or excellent.

SummerZone has now firmly secured its place as one of the premier children’s holiday camps in the area. Poppy Watts, aged 7, said: ‘It was great fun. I made lots of new friends and learnt all sorts of sports that I hadn’t tried before. I definitely want to come back next year.’

Parent Julie Irvine said: ‘This was a great way to keep the kids entertained in the holidays and give them the chance to try out lots of different sports. We will be back again next year. Thank you so much.’

New for 2012

As part of Kent Sport’s ongoing commitment to improving the sports facilities and services at the Canterbury campus, we are delighted to announce that we will be building new amenities and redeveloping some existing ones.

This work is planned for completion at the end of the Olympic year 2012, when Kent Sport will be able to provide the following:

- Major extension to the fitness facilities almost tripling current capacity including: brand new CV equipment, a greater range of free weights, lifting platforms, a new dance studio, a wellness clinic and physiotherapy service.
- A new covered structure over some of the tennis courts at the Pavilion, providing indoor tennis/netball and, where possible, other sports.

This is a major commitment by Kent Sport to improve and expand the range of services we currently offer. We are presently working with architects on designs and plans for the various projects and we will display these as soon they become available. We will keep you fully informed throughout the development of these exciting projects.
Ex-Pfizer scientists launch bio-tech start-up on campus

The University has been working closely with Pfizer and their staff following the announcement of the closure of their Sandwich site.

Members of academic and professional services have been involved in a number of Careers Fairs as well as delivering a workshop on ‘Life within Higher Education’. One of the success stories is David Brown, formerly Director of Structural Biology and Biophysics at Pfizer, who has recently been appointed Chair of Structural Biology in Biosciences.

Professor Brown, and four ex-colleagues from Pfizer, will expand upon their previous research links with the University by launching a new start-up company, called Cangenix, from the Canterbury campus. Cangenix is a Contract Research Organisation (CRO) that offers crystallography – a structure-based drug design tool – and biophysics services to the pharmaceutical and biotech industry.

The arrangement means that students and researchers within the University’s School of Biosciences will be able to exchange knowledge with the Cangenix team. Throughout the start-up process, Pfizer has supported Cangenix by offering equipment purchase at a reduced rate and advice on the academic courses Professor Brown will run. It has also permitted the team to retain its portfolio of pharmaceutically relevant structural targets. As part of its support package for the company, the University is providing a six-month period of rent-free accommodation.

For more information see: http://cangenix.com or call Professor David Brown on 01227 823475.

Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) project awarded highest grade

A KTP project between the School of Physical Sciences and Hilger Crystals has been awarded an A grade (Outstanding) based on the final report summing up the project and its outcomes.

Hilger Crystals is a long-established manufacturer of synthetic crystals for infra red and X-ray detection applications, supplying both the security and medical sectors with high-quality crystals. The two-year project, led by Dr Maria Alfredsson, was developed to establish an efficient, high volume crystal growth process of single crystal scintillators with uniform standard. Within six months of the start of the project, new samples of crystals had been developed, enabling the company to scale up and build a pilot-plant. Ultimately, this led to the company selling the new crystals a year ahead of schedule.

The grading of the Hilger Crystals KTP project follows on from two other Kent KTP projects which were awarded top grades earlier this year: a two-year project between the School of Psychology and By the Bridge was awarded an A, while the partnership between the School of Engineering and Digital Arts and Martec Ltd was awarded a B (Very Good).

Dr Alfredsson commented: ‘The project far exceeded the initial aims. We developed a competitive product ultimately requiring less skill to develop which has resulted in substantial cost savings for the company. We have a long-standing collaboration with Hilger Crystals and we hope that this will result in further exciting developments in the future.’

For further information on current KTP projects, development and funding, contact Clare Witcher, C.J.Witcher@kent.ac.uk or call 01227 827376.

Responding to the challenge

UK universities are moving into an environment where far more will be demanded of them in terms of the economic impact of their activities and the extent of their interactions with external, particularly commercial, organisations. To respond to this challenge, the University’s Enterprise & Impact training programme has been developed.

The training has been developed for academics from all faculties who want to gain new insights and tools to generate impact from research activities and engage in added value enterprise activities.

Deans from all three faculties support the programme and believe it will be of benefit for academics to attend.

The training provides Kent staff with the knowledge and tools to successfully engage in added value enterprise activities. Specifically, the programme will help participants to:

- understand the range of, and engage with, knowledge exchange activities and enterprise projects;
- define and demonstrate economic impact;
- support the University’s profile linked to external engagement;
- increase the potential to generate unconstrained income.

Here is some feedback from colleagues who attended the training pilots:

‘Overall, the course has been motivating and inspiring and has encouraged me to move my innovation projects ahead.’

‘Practical and focussed.’

‘Learned to think in a different way. Highlighted important points in collaborating with industry.’

The programme will run in the spring/summer term at the Innovation Centre on the Canterbury Campus. To register interest, contact LearningandDevelopment@kent.ac.uk, ext 3487.

For more information, contact Christina Schönleber, in the Business Development Team at Kent Innovation & Enterprise, c.m.schoenleber@kent.ac.uk, ext 4804.
The University’s £25 million redevelopment of Keynes College has received unanimous approval from students, staff and visitors alike – a message that bodes well for its 2012 Olympic ambitions.

The redevelopment of the College on the Canterbury campus has resulted in 500 new bedrooms for undergraduates, the complete refurbishment of 162 existing bedrooms and the extension of its popular flagship bistro, Dolche Vita.

The redevelopment has also created 20 new jobs in catering and housekeeping.

Described by student Harriet Williams as ‘light, spacious and airy’, it is hoped that these new facilities will also contribute to the provision of high-level accommodation and services for the many thousands of conference delegates the University receives each year, as well as those visitors planning to stay at the campus during the 2012 Olympic Games.

Simon Westerman, Director of Commercial Services at the University, commented: ‘I am delighted that our students have given the redevelopment of Keynes their all-important approval. This certainly bodes well for future visitors to the campus, including those who plan to use the University as a base for the London Games.’

The new-build sections of the redevelopment comprise a combination of en suite student flats and townhouses with large ground floor kitchens and bedrooms, with shared bathroom facilities on the floors above. In addition to the University’s specification of 13 square metre bedrooms, larger than the sector norm, there are close to 100 generously proportioned double bedrooms.

The redevelopment, which commenced in October 2010, was completed in time for the University’s new academic year. It brings the number of beds on the Canterbury campus to 4,876.
In memoriam

Dr Tom Behan

The loss of our versatile and prolific Head, at just 53 years of age, was a real blow to Italian at Kent.

The many obituaries published and the commemorative ceremonies held in his honour here, in Italy and in Australia, testify to the respect in which this son of Irish working-class parents was held in the different countries to which his career took him.

Much of Tom’s research into organised crime and its overlap with some of the more shadowy forces in Italian politics drew upon his personal experience of Naples between 1980 and 1983 and its impact can be gauged by the fact that, within weeks of his death, ‘The Tom Behan Course in Investigative Journalism’ had been set up and endowed by the Guild of Journalists of Campania, the region which centres on that daunting and vibrant city.

His earlier years had not been without incident. He would occasionally joke that in some areas of London in the 70’s you were considered innocent until proven Irish. This surely relates to an episode when, with the signature ‘knock on the door at a quarter to four’, Special Branch came calling, claiming they had information that a Bren-gun was to be found on the premises. From Bloody Sunday to Blair Peach, the 70’s forged Behan into the political activist, rebellious against authority, that he would remain.

He graduated in Italian at Reading and, after lectureships in Melbourne and Glasgow, came in 1996 to Kent where he was promoted to Senior Lecturer. For his work on organised crime, he won the Marcello Torre National Prize for Civic Engagement; the first non-Italian to do so. In Kent, he published: The Camorra (1996); The Long Awaited Moment (1997); Dario Fo: Revolutionary History (2000); See Naples and Die (2002); The Resistible Rise of Benito Mussolini (2003); and The Italian Resistance (2009).

Those of us who worked alongside him appreciated his gruffly affectionate, frank manner, his generosity, his unswerving commitment to getting the job done with fairness and transparency and then getting back to what he did best; writing the highly readable books which bear witness to what for him was most important: the stuff to be told to those young people who study Italy, those he happily taught while he lived and those who will come next. He is survived by his partner, Barbara Rampoldi.

Dr Tom Behan, born in London, 22 June 1957, died in Milan after a long illness on 30 August 2010.

Mark Grimshaw

Books

Geoffrey Chaucer

Peter Brown, Oxford World’s Classics

Chaucer lived through a period of extraordinary upheaval: a protracted war with France, devastating plague, the peasants’ revolt, religious controversy, and the overthrow of the king.

This new book is the latest on the medieval poet by Peter Brown, Professor of Medieval English Literature and Head of the School of English at Kent.

Geoffrey Chaucer offers a wide-ranging account of the medieval society from which works such as The Canterbury Tales and Troilus and Crísee y sprang. Compact and comprehensive, the book is the perfect critical companion to Chaucer’s life and poetry.

Geoffrey Chaucer was published in August 2011. Readers’ comments so far have included:

‘a terrific book, really lively, informative, and stimulating account of Chaucer’s work and times, equally suitable for students and general readers’

‘Every sentence is a dance that is full of surprises’

‘brilliant’

‘Fascinating stuff. Beautifully written.’
The University received a broad range of regional, national and international coverage on a wide range of topics during the past few months. This included extensive print and broadcast coverage for the ‘Monitoring Parents’ conference organised by SSPSSR’s Dr Ellie Lee (highlights include a BBC2 Newsnight debate and features/coverage in The Guardian, The Observer and The Huffington Post).

Other members of SSPSSR to give interviews or make editorial contributions include Dr Kate O’Brien, Professor Frank Furedi, Dr Kate Bradley, Dr Caroline Chatwin and Professor Marian FitzGerald, who was in demand following the riots in England. Professor FitzGerald’s highlights include interviews with Canadian TV, BBC World, BBC 5 Live, BBC Radio Wales and a debate with David Blunkett on Radio 4’s World Tonight.

Psychology’s Dr Eduardo Vasquez, an expert on aggressive behaviour and gangs, also gave interviews on the riots, while colleagues Dr Joachim Stoeber, Dr Steven Loughnan and Dr David Wilkinson received international print and broadcast coverage for their recent research. This included appearances or mentions in India, Canada and the USA.

The problems facing the new administration in Libya and Turkish/Israeli relations resulted in Dr Gülnur Aybet from Politics and International Relations giving interviews to BBC World News, Al Jazeera and Radio 4’s PM programme among many others, while the News of the World phone hacking scandal resulted in Journalism’s Professor Tim Luckhurst contributing to programmes and publications ranging from Radio New Zealand to Radio France Internationale. Professor Luckhurst also appeared on the BBC Politics Show and Radio 4’s Media Show.

Other colleagues who have helped raise the University’s media profile include: Dr Zoe Davies, Anthropology; Dr Nick Hiley, British Cartoon Archive; Dr John Batchelor, Engineering and Digital Arts; and Professor John Fitzpatrick, Kent Law School.

Key:
D Darwin | E Elliot
K Keynes | R Rutherford
W Woolf

Year and location: The year given is the year that each person commenced their studies at Kent, and the location at the end of each entry is from the mailing address we have for each individual. Please let us know if any corrections are required. If you would like to submit a ‘Who’s what where’ entry, please email alumni@kent.ac.uk.

60s
Hayes, Stephen (K67, English and Theology) This was an amazing combined degree where I never read an American book (a fault since rectified) and did not have to have my long vacation work rated at the end of second year. Anyway, after 28 years working in hospital management in the UK, having gained entry to the NHS National Administrative Training Scheme straight from UKC in 70, I left the UK with my last post as Chief Executive of Lomond Healthcare NHS Trust in west central Scotland in 98 to manage and consult in hospital management and health systems development internationally. I’ve worked seven years in Pakistan as CEO of Aga Khan Health Service (where I am currently) and consulted in Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Georgia, Armenia, Syria, Nigeria and Pakistan. Married again, we have two children aged 11 and 12 and my wife Shavonne and I are gladly (sorry Canterbury) based in Glasgnow. From having been a painfully inappropriate President of the Christian Union at Kent in 68/9, and with a Christian Brethren background, I am now a contented practising Roman Catholic (if such references are allowed). I plan to return to the UK in September when my contract in Pakistan finishes and to consult abroad as opportunities arise. Lanarkshire, June 2011.

Sherlock, Mike (K68, Law) After happy years at Kent studying Law I proceeded, via the College of Law, to become a Solicitor. I worked in Local Government rising to Chief Solicitor. I took retirement in 99 and became a freelance legal/managerial consultant working around the country on various projects. I do less work now but keep in touch with developments, particularly in European and UK employment law. I still read Private Eye and fight injustice especially where the ordinary consumer is concerned. Still doing a good deal of footpath walking with friends (followed by a pub lunch). I like horse racing and attend meetings a few times a year (especially Goodwood). I am married to Mary and we have two daughters; one a clinical psychologist and the other a nurse. I would like to hear from any that knew me from those good times. East Sussex, July 2011.

Park, Jerry (R69, English) Retired from the Health Service (and Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals) in 2010, but since elected a governor of a local NHS foundation trust (my first ‘public’ election since R JCC forty years ago). Michael Hake, Steve Rayner and Chris Vandenerewe are among Kent contemporaries I’ve met over the last year or so. Married with two grown up daughters, Cheshire, August 2011.

70s
Lewis-Evans, Jerry (E72, Politics) I left Ordinance Survey at the end of 2009 in search of something more local to Salisbury. Now working in the Maternity Unit at the local hospital and loving the change. Lucky to have been contacted by some UKC friends and reunions have been held for the last few years in Wiltshire, with much wallowing in nostalgia and good company. Wiltshire, June 2011.
80s
Djamson-Tettey, Pamela (R85, International Relations) I would like to keep in touch with as many classmates as possible: Christos, Laure, Bennet, Roula, Alan, etc. Please contact me via the Alumni Office. Accra, Ghana, May 2011.

Hofman, Christiaan (R86, Politics) Have been in Germany since uni. Moved to Berlin last year and enjoying discovering all sides of the city. Happily together with partner of 14 years and trying to do enough sport. Love to hear from people. You can contact me via the Alumni Office. Berlin, Germany, May 2011.

90s
Bae, Younglae (K91, Electronics) Greetings from South Korea! After 20 years at the Korean Institute of Science and Technology, I’m now working as a professor in the Department of Digital Management, Chungbuk Provincial University, Korea. I’m missing all you guys at the Control and Computer Research Laboratory. Contact me via the Alumni Office, Chungcheong Buk-Do, South Korea, September 2011.

Kuehling, Klaus (E93) I joined KUCl for one year with a focus on chemistry. As there was no exchange program that I could join I had the choice to collect a number of credits to eventually get the University Diploma (which I did). Apart from Pure Chemistry, I enjoyed some courses in materials and particle physics, energy, geology, etc. A great year to remember with a lot of wonderful people from England and abroad. I finished my studies in Germany with a diploma in polymer chemistry and then did my PhD on enzyme catalysis and screening systems with the Max Planck Institute in Muelheim, Germany. Since 2000, I have been working for BASF in Ludwigshafen where I am currently working on energy storage systems in the context of electromobility. Elberfeldt, Germany, June 2011.

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

1960s
Derek Maxted (R65) wttf Peter Godfrey (R65) and Brenda Sims (R68)
Tamara Dragadze (E66) wttf Helen King (K67)
Helen Mate (R66) wttf Dudley Winterbottom (R65)
Sarah Roberts (Mitchell) (E66) wttf Amanda Farquhar (R66) and Petra Dolby (K66)
Eiltan Rehan (R67) wttf Jan Williams (D67)

1970s
Phil Williams (E71) wttf Malcolm Bent (E71)
Heather Carlyle (R73) wttf Malcolm Fish (D73)
Claudia Ives (McNulty) (R78) wttf Evelyne Little (R78)

1980s
Antonio Galvez (E83) wttf Sameh Said (D82)
Matthias Kutzscher (E85) wttf Geoff Wallis (R85), Robert Pearce (E84) and Anthony Watt (KB3)
Mark Chapman (E86) wttf Tracy Howard (E86)
Gary Steele (E86) wttf Catrin Davies (K94)
Robert Sturgeon (KB6) wttf Rika Ishii (K86)

1990s
Roy Haworth (K91) wttf Richard Springate (K91), Robert Stroud (E91), Melanie Rowledge (E91), Erika Salafia (R91) and Stephane Simonnin (R93)
Philip Thomas (E92) wttf Fay Gibson (D92)
Geoff Phillips (D95) wttf Saurav Mtra (D95)

2000s
Demetris Demetriou (E05) wttf Dmitry Bragin (E05)

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

Jim Cowie, Nigel Ewers E76, Chee Lee Lim K76, Nick McIver R66, Frank Parkin, William Petty (honorary graduate 1983), Leslie Pressnell, Ioan Rusu R56, Maria Shaw K92 Maurice Wilcox-Downs K03.

Over 80 alumni attended a Business Networking Event at Lloyd’s of London on 19 September, hosted by alumni Steve Robertson MBA (K03).
Music events

Monday 14 November, 1.10pm, Gulbenkian Theatre, Mussorgsky – Pictures at an Exhibition lunchtime concert. After the sensational piano-duet version of the Rite of Spring last season, Benjamin Frith returns as soloist for a performance of Mussorgsky’s musical picture gallery in its original version. Free admission, suggested donation £3.

Thursday 17 November, 1.10pm, Gulbenkian Theatre. Sing ‘Hallelujah’ for Pudsey Bear! Even if you think you can’t sing, bring your voice, enthusiasm (and a donation) for a rousing rendition of Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus to raise money for Children in Need. A famous bear may make an appearance!

Monday 5 December, 1.10pm, Gulbenkian Theatre. Join us for A ‘Cold’ Lunchtime Concert by the University of Kent Cantatina and Canticorum, featuring Emily Boffa (soprano), Nicky Lunt (soprano) and Paris Noble (bass-baritone). Talented students, staff and alumni will perform two of the most graphic musical depictions of winter – Vivaldi’s Winter from The Four Seasons and Purcell’s The Frost Scene from King Arthur. Free admission, suggested donation £3.

Saturday 10 December, 7.30pm, Eliot Hall. The Choral and Orchestral Concert showcases 20th-century music from England and Russia, beginning with Parry’s famous anthem, written for the coronation of Edward VII and performed earlier this year at a certain royal wedding! The University Chorus will continue the English theme with a triumphant celebration of ‘universal song’ in G.F. Handel’s homage to St Cecilia, the patron saint of music. By contrast, Lyadov’s short orchestral work of 1909 evokes a watery stillness. The second half of the concert features Mussorgsky’s musical promenade around an exhibition of paintings by his friend Victor Hulman, enhanced by Ravel’s orchestral colours.

Gulbenkian Theatre highlights

Wednesday 2 November 7.45pm Joe Wilkinson, critically acclaimed star of BBC3’s Him & Her and member of sketch group Two Idle Sods. Tickets £12.50.

Friday 4 and Saturday 5 November 7.45pm Earthfall revive their award-winning production, At Swim Two Boys, staged in water and set against the backdrop of the Easter Rising in Ireland in 1916. Tickets £15. Join us for a post show discussion with author Jamie O’Neill after Friday’s performance.

Wednesday 9 November 7.45pm Kalashnikov: in the Woods by the Lake, a world-premiere by Fraser Grace, award-winning author of The Lifesavers and Breakfast with Mugabe. Tickets: £14. Suitable for ages 14+.

Friday 11 November 7.45pm An Evening with Richard Digance. One of the most entertaining comedy acts you will ever see. Tickets £17.

Saturday 12 November 7.45pm Justin Moorhouse Live. Join the Manchester stand-up legend. Tickets: £15. Suitable for ages 16+.


Tuesday 29 November 7.15pm I, Malvolio written and performed by Tim Crouch, re-imagining Twelfth Night from the point of view of Shakespeare’s pent-up steward. Tickets: £14. Suitable for ages 11+.

Gulbenkian Cinema highlights

Tuesday 1 November – Thursday 3 November Mademoiselle Chambon (12A TBC)

Friday 4 November – Sunday 6 November Midnight in Paris (12 TBC)

Sunday 6 November West Side Story (PG)

Friday 11 November – Sunday 13 November I Don’t Know How She Does It (12A TBC)

Tuesday 15 November – Thursday 17 November La Piscine (12A)

Friday 25 November – Thursday 1 December Wuthering Heights (15 TBC)

Listings

7 December 2011, 6pm, Wooll College. ‘Can England and Wales afford both justice and the Ministry of Justice?’ Open Lecture by Andrew Baillie QC, R66.

24 February 2012 Worldfest www.kent.ac.uk/worldfest

10 March 2012 Colyer-Fergusson Cathedral Concert, Canterbury Cathedral.

14 March 2012 ‘Science and the media – the good, the bad and the ugly’, Open Lecture by Simon Singh.


10 June 2012 Summer Concert, Eliot Hall.

For further details and a full calendar, please see: www.kent.ac.uk/events