Kent welcomes new chancellor
50th anniversary preview
Dear friends,

It was with great delight that we received the news that the University Senate had agreed to appoint Gavin Esler as the University’s new Chancellor, succeeding Professor Sir Robert Worcester, who stepped down last year. Gavin has had a distinguished career as a journalist with the BBC, most recently as a presenter of the flagship Newsnight programme, is a prolific and successful author and, of course, a proud alumnus of the University of Kent. On pages 4 and 5 he shares his memories of his time at the University and feelings about his new role. We look forward to joining him at his official installation ceremony this summer during our degree congregations.

As we approach our 50th Anniversary year, it is fitting that our Chancellor (for the first time in Kent’s history) is one of our own former students. I am reminded each day as I pass the countdown clock on the Senate Building that the opening ceremony on 1 October is getting ever closer. An exciting programme – involving the entire University community of current and former staff, students, alumni and local supporters – is taking shape. In addition to the celebratory events taking place during the year, we plan to take this opportunity to create a lasting legacy, so that Kent’s next 50 years will be even more successful than the last.

In recent visits to the United States, Paris, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore my colleagues from the Development Office and I have once again been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and support for the University from our alumni around the world. These visits are always a highlight of the year for us, providing the opportunity to meet so many individuals with a strong connection to Kent. We also visited Athens in May, and are looking forward to many more opportunities to connect with our international alumni next year, as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations.

Our annual telephone campaign (page 8) has also given us the chance to connect with alumni recently, hearing about your time here, and sharing our plans for the future. I’d like to thank everyone who took the time to speak with our wonderful team of students, and express my gratitude to all our donors – your gifts will help the next generation of Kent students to excel.

Professor Dame Julia M Goodfellow, DBE, CBE
Vice-Chancellor
Representatives of the University of Kent and the Tizard Centre were presented with a Queens Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education by the Queen during a ceremony at Buckingham Palace on Thursday 27 February. The Prize was for the work of the Tizard Centre and its contribution to improving the lives of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and their families.

Recent figures show that nearly 9 out of 10 people with IDD have been the victims of disability hate crime. Founded by Jim Mansell, one of the UK’s most respected and influential figures in the field of learning disabilities, the Centre’s primary aims are to advance knowledge about the relationship between the organisation of community care services and their outcomes, and to help service commissioners and providers develop their own competence to deliver and sustain high-quality, comprehensive community care services.

In a joint statement the Centre’s Co-Directors, Professor Glynis Murphy and Professor Peter McGill, said: “We are very honoured to receive such a prestigious award. The Prize not only acknowledges the work of both the staff and students at the Centre, it reflects the legacy of its founder, the late Professor Jim Mansell.”

News continued on page 6
Gavin Esler, Rutherford 1971, has made a unique journey from Kent student to University Chancellor. He’s looking forward to the role’s responsibilities and its pleasures, he tells David Clark, Rutherford 1982.

Gavin Esler’s multi-faceted career combines being a BBC TV news and current affairs presenter with his work as novelist, non-fiction author and newspaper columnist. Recently he made a significant new addition to his CV when he became Kent’s new Chancellor.

He’s following in the footsteps of distinguished predecessors including Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, Baron Grimond and, most recently, Professor Sir Robert Worcester. Gavin, however, has the unique distinction of being the first Chancellor to have also been a student at Kent. Being offered the post was, he says, a complete surprise.

‘I’m absolutely delighted personally,’ he says. ‘I’m also really pleased that in the University’s 50th anniversary year the role has been given to an alumnus. It seems to me it’s a coming-of-age moment for the University that one of our own can be offered such a wonderful honour. I just hope I can make a contribution that people will think is worthwhile.’

Gavin, who also holds an honorary MA and honorary Doctor of Civil Law from Kent, believes that his own university experience helped change the course of his life. He was born in Glasgow and initially lived in a council house with his parents, grandmother and two aunts.

‘Clydebank was an area which really suffered with de-industrialisation in the 1970s and 80s,’ he says. ‘Without a university education I would have found it very difficult to escape from that environment.’

When he was three or four years old, his family moved to a house just outside Edinburgh. He later won a scholarship to the prestigious George Heriot’s School. ‘I was on a career track to go to medical school and become a doctor, which, from my background was the absolute pinnacle of achievement,’ he says. ‘However, when I reached 17 I had to break it to my dad that I didn’t want to be a doctor. I wanted to be a writer and a journalist.’
Choosing Kent

When selecting a university, Gavin decided to study in England and have a complete change from his home city. He was looking for a modern English literature course that “didn’t start with Middle English and Chaucer”. Another influencing factor was that he grew up near a US Air Force base and many of his friends were from the States. He was fascinated by all things American and keen to study American literature. Kent ticked all the boxes for Gavin and had the additional benefit of being in an attractive location.

“I’ll never forget arriving in Canterbury for my interview, hanging out of the train window and seeing the cathedral rising above the city,” he says. “I immediately thought it was a special place and I’ve never lost that sense of real love for Canterbury.”

Gavin became an undergraduate, reading English and American Literature, in 1971. The Canterbury campus was still being developed and Darwin, the last of the original four colleges, had opened the previous year. He was determined to get the most out of his university experience, both academically and socially.

“I really enjoyed the course because it channelled the things I was most enthusiastic about – literature, history and philosophy,” he remembers. “It felt very much as if the course was explaining the modern world to me and I loved it. However, although I worked hard I also had a great time. I wrote for Incant, the student newspaper, including a lot of music reviews and band member interviews. I also played a lot of sport. I was plugged into many things.”

The one downside to his university experience involved the journey to his accommodation on the coast at Tankerton. “I liked living out there, in a big colony of students, but I didn’t have a car and hated waiting for the bus in the freezing wind at the top of the hill. It was awful,” he adds, clearly still scarred by the experience.

Receiving his degree was a memorable finale to his time at Kent. “I was the first member of my family ever to go to university, so I was exceptionally proud when I got my BA,” he says. “It was a great moment for me and I’ve never forgotten it.”

He went on to do an MA at Leeds University, then was offered a job at The Scotsman in Edinburgh, but instead chose to go to Northern Ireland and work for the Belfast Telegraph. It was the height of the ‘Troubles’ and not a popular destination for journalists, but Gavin enjoyed the experience.

It was also an astute career move. He went on to work as a BBC reporter in Northern Ireland, then later became the BBC’s Chief North America Correspondent, based in Washington. This was followed by an 11-year stint as a Newsnight presenter, which ended last year.

New role

Now 61, Gavin lives in London with his wife, violinist Anna Phoebe, and their daughter. Aside from his television work he is researching a new book on leadership and planning a novel. He’s also looking forward to officially beginning his role as Kent’s Chancellor in July. His duties will include chairing the University’s Court and representing the University on special occasions.

“The post has no executive role,” he says, “but the team which drives the University is very open to suggestions. I would be very happy to be a sounding board for ideas and say what I think, without expecting to have any power whatsoever.”

Given the financial cost of a university education for today’s students, Gavin is keen to encourage people from non-traditional backgrounds to consider studying at university. He wants as many people as possible to experience the life-enhancing benefits it can bring.

‘University is not for everybody, there’s no question about that, but it may be right for a lot more people than actually consider going,’ he says. “I’d like to think I can help them make the decision to go to university and to realise that while there are risks, there are also risks in not going to university.”

One formal duty to which he’s particularly looking forward is conferring degrees on students at graduation ceremonies. “It’s a great moment when students get that piece of paper in their hand after years of hard work. It signifies the end of one process but the beginning of another part of life. I view that duty as a real pleasure.”

Biography

Gavin was born in Glasgow in 1953. After completing his degree at Kent he went on to do an MA in Anglo-Irish Literature at Leeds University. He then became a news reporter at the Belfast Telegraph.

In 1977 he joined the BBC as a Northern Ireland reporter before moving to the BBC’s Newsnight team in 1982. From 1989-98 he was the BBC’s chief North America correspondent and from 2003-2014 was one of the main presenters on Newsnight. He is currently the main presenter on the BBC News Channel’s Dateline London and BBC News at Five.

He has written five novels including A Scandalous Man (2008) and Power Play (2010). His most recent book is Lessons from the Top: The Three Universal Stories That All Successful Leaders Tell (2012).
Engagement Centre for WWI community research

The University is to host one of five new national Engagement Centres being established to support community World War One (WWI) research projects. Kent’s Professor Mark Connelly, one of the UK’s leading experts on WWI, will head the new Engagement Centre at Kent, to be known as ‘Gateways to the First World War’. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the centres will connect academic and public histories of WWI as part of the commemoration of the war’s centenary.

Kent’s centre – along with those hosted by the universities of Birmingham, Hertfordshire, Nottingham and Queen’s University Belfast – will provide UK-wide support for community groups funded by a range of HLF programmes, particularly its new £6m ‘First World War: Then and Now’ community grants scheme.

The centres also form part of the First World War Centenary Partnership, led by the Imperial War Museums, and will complement other AHRC activities, including the BBC’s ‘World War One at Home’ project.

Graduates congratulated for Gravity Oscar success

The University has offered congratulations to a number of its graduates who contributed to the work which helped secure a ‘Best Visual Effects’ Oscar for the film Gravity. The graduates, who studied at the School of Engineering and Digital Arts (EDA) for degrees in Multimedia, Technology and Design, all work for London-based visual effects company Framestore, which produced almost 80% of what appears on screen during the film.

Liam Russell, Christopher Johnston, Steve Hardy, El Suliman, Adam Ward and Mark Millena contributed to the ground-breaking postproduction work, including realistically inserting Sandra Bullock and George Clooney faces into the ‘universe’ – which, in most scenes, are the only elements not computer-generated. Masters in Computer Animation graduates James Harmer, Guo Kun Pan, James Parsons, and Bernard Wicksleef are also credited for their work on the film. Alongside Liam Russell and El Suliman, these graduates progressed from the undergraduate programme at Kent.

Lord Young praises University’s enterprising approach.

Lord Young of Graffham, the Prime Minister’s Advisor on Enterprise, praised the University’s strategy of promoting student enterprise when he visited its business school. Lord Young was at Kent Business School on 12 February to launch its annual Enterprise Day and deliver a speech on Government policy on enterprise for young people.

Current students and graduates, as well as members of the regional business community, attended the Canterbury campus event and heard Lord Young praise the University’s strategy of making modules on enterprise and business available to all undergraduates.

Respiratory Clinic supports GB Boxing

The University’s Respiratory Clinic, based at Medway Park, has been selected to screen the entire GB Boxing team. Following the success of work undertaken by Dr John Dickinson from the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences in advance of the 2012 Olympic Games, the latest project involves in-depth analysis and screening of GB Boxers for exercise-induced asthma (EIA). The research is providing information to athletes and the team’s coaches to help reduce respiratory issues occurring during their training and competition.

The initial screening took place throughout March at the English Institute of Sport, Sheffield. It is likely to extend to support the athletes throughout 2014 and into the run-up to the Rio Olympic Games in 2016.

Music building wins prestigious Wood Award

The University’s Colyer-Fergusson Music Building has won another top award in a prestigious national competition – this time for
best public or commercial building featuring a design making extensive use of wood. Judges picked it from a shortlist of 30 UK architecture, furniture and design projects that feature wood to win one of the top awards in the Wood Awards 2013. The winners were announced at a ceremony in London on 19 November hosted by the Worshipful Company of Carpenters. The Colyer-Fergusson Music Building, which opened on the Canterbury campus in 2012, won the award for the best project in the Commercial and Public Access Category.

Designed by Tim Ronalds Architects, the £8m Music Building is notable for its wide range of innovative design features. The architects employed timber throughout the public spaces to provide the warmth and acoustic qualities conducive to music.

Researchers aim to understand impacts of invasive parrots

A new research network which aims to understand the problems caused by parrots that have invaded cities has been launched by the University of Kent’s Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE).

Comprising researchers from Kent, Imperial College, London, and other UK partners, alongside scientists from Europe and beyond, the 4-year research network – PARROTNET – will provide opportunities for researchers to discuss and explore the invasion dynamics, risks to agriculture, and societal problems posed by what are known as invasive parrots.

The launch was marked by a workshop in Canterbury, 10-12 February 2014.

PARROTNET aims to better understand why species such as parrots are highly successful invaders. It will also explore ways to monitor and predict the various impacts, including the economic and ecological, of these species across Europe, and the means to mitigate them.

In the UK and across Europe, rose-ringed parakeets – a species of parrot – have begun to pose problems in urban and rural areas such as disturbance to humans, competition with native wildlife and, increasingly, as an agricultural pest, already prompting changes in national policies.

Rose-ringed parakeets are thought to have originally colonised the UK in the 1970s from a few escaped pet birds; now they are one of the UK’s fastest growing bird populations, numbering more than 32,000 individuals. In Kent, parakeets are well-known in areas of Margate and Broadstairs.

Dr Jim Groombridge, Reader in Biodiversity Conservation from DICE and Chair of PARROTNET, said: ‘The rose-ringed parakeet is listed amongst the top 100 worst alien species in Europe, and since the 1970s has rapidly established itself in over 100 cities across the continent and beyond, with recent evidence of explosive population growth in some regions of Europe. Given the extent of this problem we expect that our findings will be of interest to both policy-makers and the general public.’

The network will also create a virtual European Monitoring Centre, based at the University of Kent, for all invasive parrot species, as well as transfer results to policy and society.

Books

Freedom’s Debt

A new book by a University historian offers a revealing insight into the politics of freedom that influenced the development of the British trans-Atlantic slave trade.

Titled Freedom’s Debt (UNC Press), the book chronicles the role of The Royal African Company of England – the only slave trading company to receive a royal charter – and examines the political changes that influenced its rise and fall during the period 1672-1752.

It also exposes the central political irony of the period: that the eventual deregulation of the slave market, following a parliamentary campaign by independent traders under the banner of freedom, bolstered the expansion of the largest intercontinental forced migration in history.

Written by Dr William Pettigrew of the University’s School of History, the book describes how the African Company exploited its monopoly position to become the world’s single most important slave trading organisation – and how the ending of its monopoly led to the demise of that status but increased the overall number of slaves being transported by the English.

Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine

Edited by Karla Pollmann (Editor-in-Chief), Head of Classical and Archaeological Studies at the University of Kent, in collaboration with Willemien Otten (Editor) and twenty co-editors, the three-volume Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine (OGRHA) is a ground-breaking international and interdisciplinary enterprise on the impact of the thought and work of Augustine of Hippo (AD 354 – 430). Arguably the most influential early Christian thinker in the Western part of the Roman Empire, Augustine’s impact has reached further than the religious domain and he has become a veritable icon of Western culture.

OGRHA maps this influence not just in theology, his traditional area of prominence, but far beyond, taking into account fields such as political theory, ethics, music, education, semiotics, literature, philosophy, psychotherapy, religion, and popular culture. The book contains high quality scholarship from over 400 international experts. Offering precise information, with references to both primary and secondary sources, this reference work is unique in the breadth of material covered.

For more information, please visit http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199299164.do
Supporting student projects

As well as providing scholarships and bursaries, the campaign has been raising money to support projects and activities at Kent that give students opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and career prospects. Established in 2012, after consultation with staff and student groups, this area of the Fund has already supported a range of activities including volunteering opportunities in the local community, career advice and support for students with autism, and vacation studentships in the NHS.

In January 2014, grants totalling almost £40,000 were made to a range of activities across the University by the student projects panel, which comprises representatives from academic schools, Kent Union, the Alumni Office and the donor community, and is chaired by Dr Wayne Campbell, Kent alumnus and Director of Student Services.

"The Student Projects Fund forms part of the Kent Opportunity Fund, and has been developed to support projects and activities at Kent that enhance the student experience and employability of members of the student body. This year the Student Projects Fund Panel received a variety of very strong applications from Kent Union Clubs and Societies, Academic Schools and Professional Service Departments and was able to distribute a total of £40,000 in support of 14 separate student projects. We are grateful for the support of all Kent alumni who contributed to the fund, which will have a positive impact on the student experience and employability of Kent students."

Dr Wayne Campbell (Darwin 1985)

You can find out more about the Kent Opportunity Fund and make your gift to...
A caller’s story

Aaron Brown is one of our hardworking team of student callers, and has personal experience of how the support of a bursary can make a real difference. He received a KentHealth bursary in 2013, from the Kent Opportunity Fund which enables outstanding undergraduates to work on clinical research projects during the summer vacation. Aaron took a placement at the William Harvey Hospital where he carried out research into the treatment of ischaemic strokes. Since undertaking this project, Aaron has been invited to present his work at the 2014 European Stroke Conference in Nice, and is hoping to see the paper published in the ASA Stroke Journal in the near future.

Here, he shares his thoughts on his time at Kent, the impact his bursary had on him, and his future plans.

“I joined the telephone campaign so that I could talk with alumni about their experiences of the University. I feel that it’s a great chance for me to be part of a team on a campaign that’s important to the continued improvement of the University.”

What are you studying and what made you decide to come to the University of Kent?

I’m in the final year of a Biomedical Science degree. I chose to come to Kent as the course has a good reputation and well respected lecturers. I also liked the fact that the University is in an extremely nice area of England.

What is a typical day like for you?

At this stage of my studies I only have four hours of lectures on a Tuesday. On other days I am very busy either working on my dissertation at the library or in the William Harvey Hospital Stroke department.

How did you find out about the KentHealth bursary scheme?

While I was searching for opportunities to improve my application to medical school, my tutor emailed me about the position at the hospital paid for by the KentHealth Bursary team. Staying in Canterbury and undertaking this research was something I wouldn’t have been able to do if not for the bursary.

How has the bursary changed your experience of Kent?

It greatly improved my chances of gaining a place to study one of the most competitive degrees – Graduate Entry Medicine at Imperial College London. I have also managed to complete my dissertation using the research database I worked with during my placement and so it has completely changed my final year experience for the better.

Why did you want to get involved in the telephone campaign?

Having benefited so much from the KentHealth bursary, I really wanted to help others like me gain similar experiences and perhaps improve the number of students studying Biosciences at Kent that gain a place for Graduate Entry Medicine. The Kent Opportunity Fund supports a range of scholarships, bursaries and student projects which increase the opportunities available to Kent students, and it was a cause I was keen to get involved with.

What are you enjoying most about being a student caller?

Hearing from different alumni and listening about their experiences while they were at Kent. It’s also amazing to hear about what they have done since leaving or what they hope to do in the near future and how successful some former students have become!

What do you hope to do next and do you think that the skills you have acquired during the telephone campaign will help you?

I hope to complete my medical degree successfully. Of course, my planned career as a doctor will require excellent communication skills and my time as a student caller has definitely allowed me to work on this and will hopefully help me become successful in the future.

1 One of the many projects supported in 2014 through the Kent Opportunity Fund is the European Summer School programme at our Brussels centre.

2 Aaron Brown

support today’s students on our website at www.kent.ac.uk/opportunityfund.
As one of the closest British universities to mainland Europe, Kent has enjoyed a long association with France. This connection led to the development of the University of Kent’s specialist postgraduate centre in Paris and, along with its other centres in Athens, Brussels and Rome, cemented Kent’s status as the UK’s European university.

The year 2010 saw the graduation of the first cohort of Humanities MA students who studied at the University of Kent, Paris. Four years later, the Centre has grown from a base of four to thirty students, and now offers programmes in Architecture, Comparative Literature, Creative Writing, Film, French, English, History, History of Art, and Postcolonial Studies.

The Centre is located in Reid Hall, a stunning 18th Century building in the historical heart of Montparnasse where Picasso and Modigliani had their studios, a mere stone’s throw away from the beautiful Jardin du Luxembourg.

Students with a passion for literature, history and art come from all corners of the world to pursue the interdisciplinary programmes offered, studying in Canterbury in the autumn term before continuing their studies in Paris in the Spring term. Plans are currently underway to enable students to choose whether to split the academic year between Canterbury and Paris or study entirely in Paris, with the graduation ceremony still being held at Canterbury Cathedral each November. Further enhancement to the Paris programmes will also see the start of doctoral programmes for PhD students in
the Humanities, an expansion which will offer additional opportunities and course choices for students wishing to further their academic careers.

History comes to life

While in Paris, students are taught by University of Kent lecturers and professors who travel to Paris both to teach them and to take them on study trips aligned with their seminar topics. Students may for example attend an Art History seminar on Francis Bacon in the morning followed by a trip to the Bacon rooms at the Centre Pompidou, or a History seminar supplemented with a visit to Versailles and a mini-lecture about the role of the War Rooms while in the Palace. These field trips add a new dimension to the topics covered in the taught seminars, and truly bring the programmes to life. In addition, Paris-based Kent students have access to amazing resources such as the Bibliothèque Nationale or the more specialised Cinémathèque, and they are warmly encouraged to visit other museums and archives than those included in the weekly excursions organised by Kent staff.

‘I’ve long been in love with the city of Paris, so the attraction of a programme there with the support of an English-speaking institution is clear to see. Our understanding of the city was deepened through the excursions led by members of the university staff, and the weekly classes, which focused on the literature, art & history of Paris and French culture, brought the city to life. I was recently accepted onto a doctoral programme with the University, and am very excited to be returning to Kent’s Paris centre and furthering my academic career’.

Luke Burgess
MA Modern History (Paris), Keynes 2012

European Summer Schools

To celebrate the University’s 50th Anniversary, and to mark five years since the launch of Kent’s Paris centre, the University has developed the European Summer School Programme. Some of the very best undergraduate students will have the opportunity to participate in the two week summer school in Paris, with several of the top academic performers amongst them being awarded a scholarship to cover tuition, travel and accommodation expenses.

The Paris Summer School is focused on the theme of ‘Revolutions’, and how historical, intellectual, social and cultural revolutions continue to shape our lives. Students will attend seminars given by academics from the University of Kent, before having the opportunity to visit important historical sites and museums related to the programme.

Kent’s Paris centre held its first summer school in 2013 which was a tremendous success, and has just announced new scholars for summer 2014. The summer school is an amazing opportunity for hard working students from the various faculties and schools to come together in Paris over 14 days and learn a myriad of topics, whilst gaining valuable experience by living and studying abroad. Kent’s summer schools are open to all, unless otherwise specified, and can be pursued not only by current students as a preparation for further learning, but also by alumni and members of the wider community, who wish to study for interest, credit or professional training. For more information, visit www.kent.ac.uk/summerschools.

Paris events

The Spring term 2014 has been an amazing time for the Centre, which has seen it host two large scale public Lecture events that brought together a large number of alumni, current students and staff.

The British Ambassador to France, Sir Peter Ricketts, who was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law by Kent in 2013, hosted the first Open Lecture in Paris at his official Residence on Friday 7 March. The lecture, entitled ‘Humanities Research in the Age of the Internet’, welcomed more than 150 alumni, friends and members of the University community.

Kent’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, gave the opening address, in which she emphasised Kent’s position and role as the UK’s European university, and one that, with study centres in Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome, as well as campuses at Canterbury and Medway, has enabled it to provide a strong academic experience for its students.

The success of the event prompted the Ambassador and the Vice-Chancellor to make plans to turn this into an annual occasion, and arrangements are already being made for spring 2015.

At the end of March, the Centre also hosted the first Open Lecture in Reid Hall itself, and was delighted to welcome back Michael Sheringham, Marshal Foch Professor of French Literature at All Souls College, Oxford and Kent alumnus (Rutherford 1966, French), who gave a talk on ‘Archival Lives’. The Centre is currently working on developing its online web presence and the recording of Michael Sheringham’s lecture will be the first building block towards this.

The past five years have brought amazing changes to Kent’s Paris centre, and the University is looking forward to the next five years, where it is hoped that it will grow into a centre for research excellence whilst also providing postgraduate students with a unique opportunity to develop their skills and prepare to enter a global market.

For more information on the degree programmes offered by the University of Kent, Paris please visit www.kent.ac.uk/locations/paris/
Kent plans memorable 50th anniversary celebrations!

Our global community of Kent alumni are helping to shape the University’s 50th anniversary celebrations. The exciting calendar of events to mark this significant milestone in our history will lead us into the next 50 years and leave a legacy for the next generation of students and staff at Kent.

Everyone will have the opportunity to celebrate with us during the year which will begin with an opening ceremony on 1 October 2014 and culminate in a celebratory weekend on 4-6 September 2015. We hope that you will join us!

### Autumn 2014
- Opening Ceremony in Canterbury: 1 October
- Opening Ceremony in Medway: 2 October
- Kent comes to you! Visits to the USA, Asia, Belgium and Spain
- Foundation Day, bringing together some of our founding staff and alumni
- Congregations ceremonies incorporating 50th Anniversary celebrations
- School of History alumni reunion
- Launch of the ‘Templeman Ale’

### Winter 2014
- University Christmas Carol Service at Canterbury Cathedral
- Official opening of Turing College, Kent’s first new undergraduate college in over 40 years, named after Alan Turing, one of the founding fathers of modern computer science
- Kent comes to you! Visits to India, South America, Kenya, Nigeria, the Middle East and France

### An archive of Kent’s history

One of the many projects underway as part of the 50th celebrations are the History Projects, led by students from the School of History, who are busy gathering memories and photographs from Kent’s past, to showcase the university’s heritage and development in public exhibitions.

University Archivist Ann MacDonald, who has joined Kent from the British Library, will be supporting many of the history, heritage and legacy projects from the perspective of sustainability, to enable archives used in the 50th anniversary projects to be combined with the central University collections. This central archive aims to preserve the corporate and community memory of Kent, and be an inclusive and impartial representation of its history.

You can help us to create this archive for future generations by sharing your memories and memorabilia of Kent. You will also be supporting current students to gain new expertise because the work they are carrying out for this project forms a new module focusing on real-world
Join the Party: 4 – 6 September 2015

The Alumni Reunion Weekend will mark the culmination of the 50th year. More than 600 alumni have already expressed an interest in the occasion, which will be a wonderful opportunity to return to the Canterbury campus and experience the nostalgia of being a student again for the weekend by walking the familiar corridors of your student days. The weekend will reunite Kent alumni, College Masters and academic staff, and there will be activities for everyone, from campus tours and open lectures to music concerts and gala dinners. You are welcome to bring family and friends, to celebrate the end of a fantastic year and the beginning of the next 50! Register your interest in the Reunion at alumni.kent.ac.uk/50reunion.

Follow in their footsteps

The Footsteps Project will give current students, staff, alumni and members of the wider community the opportunity to leave an impression of their memories on a footpath alongside one of the main Canterbury campus landmarks, the Templeman Library. In recognition of a small donation, with all money raised going towards the Kent Opportunity Fund, individuals will have a brick engraved with a personal message, and set as part of the pathway. To find out how you can become involved, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/footsteps or email 50years@kent.ac.uk.

Contact us

For more information on our 50th anniversary plans, including the alumni reunion weekend and History Projects, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/planningfor50.

By email: 50years@kent.ac.uk

www.facebook.com/unikent50

@UniKent50

You can also meet Jack McDonnell, our 50th Anniversary Project Co-ordinator, on page 21!

For information about the Kent Opportunity Fund, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/giving/opportunityfund.

Spring 2015

• Worldfest, Kent’s annual celebration of diversity and multiculturalism
• Kent comes to you! Visits to cities in the UK, Greece, Asia and the USA
• Chamber Opera concert: ‘Tokaido Road – a Journey after Hiroshige’, composed by Nicola LeFanu to the award-winning book of poems of the same name by Nancy Gaffield, a member of the School of English
• 50th anniversary First 500 dinner

Summer 2015

• Congregations ceremonies incorporating 50th anniversary celebrations
• Community Open Day, inviting members of our local communities to experience life at the University of Kent! Will include Street party and a Great Kentish Menu event
• Official opening of the new Templeman Library development
• Alumni Reunion Weekend: 4 – 6 September

research skills. If you would like to be interviewed for the project or send in materials for the archive please contact 50years@kent.ac.uk

1 First 500 reunion dinner 2013
2 The History Projects office was officially opened by Professor Keith Mander and Robin Pitman, Rutherford 1965.
3 An example of how the pathway could look
Natalie Salunke, Eliot 2002

LLB (Hons) English and French Law, Group Head of Legal and Company Secretary at Venda

What made you decide to come to Kent?
I decided to come to Kent to study because it was one of the few institutions that offered the English and French Law course where I could have the opportunity to study towards a “licence” (the equivalent to a degree in the UK) in French law.

What is your favourite memory of Kent?
I really enjoyed graduation day – the atmosphere was buzzing, everybody was in high spirits and it was lovely to be able to demonstrate my “home from home” to my parents and show them what I had achieved during my time at Kent.

What have you been up to since graduating?
Since graduating I went on to undertake the Legal Practice Course at BPP Law School in London, having been fortunate enough to secure a training contract at City law firm Taylor Wessing. I then undertook my two year training contract and moved in-house upon qualification. I have since acted as Legal Counsel at FX giant Travelex and now reside as Group Head of Legal and Company Secretary at Venda, an eCommerce business.

What would be your perfect day?
My perfect day would be waking up to baking sunshine with not a cloud in the sky, moseying into town to grab some champagne, red wine, cheese and meats, and making my way to Kensington Park for some much-needed sunbathing and general relaxation.

What was your earliest ambition?
Probably passing my first piano exam. I think I would have been about 5 or 6 years old at the time. I remember those exams being really scary and the rooms they examined you in were always exceptionally cold. I think I have always wanted to succeed in whatever I do.

What was your first job?
My first job was pet sitting for one of my old headmasters. We used to live across the road from my school so when they went away on holiday I used to feed the cat, walk the dog and feed their fish!

What is your favourite item of clothing, either now or in the past?
When I got my first pay cheque from Taylor Wessing I treated myself to a Burberry mac. I had to use my bankcard and a credit card in order to pay for it though.

Which word or phrase do you use most?
“Take a step back”. When things get a bit overwhelming for my team I’m often heard dishing this phrase out – mainly to help them stop, take time out, and “zoom out” of the detail of what they are working on to appreciate the bigger picture. I find it helps me see to things from a different perspective.

What (if anything) would you like to change about yourself?
I’d love to have a better memory. I can be awful at remembering people’s names and numbers, and the names of cases, which can be embarrassing sometimes!

Which country would you most like to visit?
Japan – I’ve heard it’s meant to be amazing – the culture, the cuisine, the nightlife and the skiing!

What is your greatest achievement since graduating?
Being entrusted with the role I carry out today is a privilege and I would like to think my greatest achievement. I love what I do and am grateful for the opportunity to do it.

What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?
Don’t take things too personally. Although they may be personal to you, sometimes it’s better to take a step back and not judge the world from your perspective. It’s not always fair to judge others by your standards and sometimes people mean what they mean and not what you think they mean. In the world of work, it’s business not personal.

Who or what inspires you?
I am inspired by people who manage to balance their work life with their family life and are still able to be successful at what they do. I hope I can set the same example one day.

Where do you see yourself in ten years time?
In ten years time I would like to be a successful General Counsel with a seat at the board utilising another ten years’ worth of experience to advise and safeguard the interests of a business, perhaps with a family on the side.
Kent Law Campaign update

Campaign given boost by students and young alumni

The Kent Law Campaign, a £5 million project to build a new home for the Kent Law Clinic and the Kent Law School’s Mooting Programme, has received an enthusiastic response and a £43,000 boost from a group of dedicated Law students and recent graduates. Their work has inspired many other donors to get involved and £3.4 million of the £5 million target has been raised so far.

Established in 2012, the Young Alumni Group (YAG) – comprising Kent Law School alumni who graduated in the last 10 years – and the Kent Law Campaign Student Group (KLCSG) have set themselves a joint fundraising target of £50,000 in order to name a room in the new building.

Through a series of events and other fundraising initiatives, they have raised in excess of £43,000 so far, which leaves just £7,000 of their target to raise before the building’s completion in December 2015.

The groups’ fundraising efforts were kick started in May 2012 by the Chair of YAG, Natalie Salunke (Eliot 2002), when she took part in a sponsored skydive and raised over £2000 for the Campaign:

“I’d always wanted to do a skydive so when the opportunity arose to do one for charity I ‘jumped’ at the idea! To know that we were doing it for such a wonderful cause made me enjoy it even more. The Kent Law Campaign will make a huge difference to future students and the local community in a time when access to legal advice is diminishing. I experienced first-hand the difference the Law Clinic has made to the local community and it felt amazing to win the case for my first client! The new building will help more students experience this sense of achievement and allow more people to be helped.”

Natalie Salunke,
Chair, Young Alumni Group

Building on the fundraising success which the Campaign has seen so far, our supporters have pledged to take part in several more sponsored events over the coming months including the Canterbury Legal Walk, the London to Brighton Bike Ride and a Tough Mudder obstacle race. If you would like to know more about any of the forthcoming fundraising events or take part in your own sponsored challenge, please contact Anna Pollard, Campaigns Manager, at A.J.Pollard@kent.ac.uk.

Construction of the new building is expected to begin in September 2014, with the grand opening taking place in December 2015. To make a donation to the Kent Law Campaign or join the Young Alumni Group please visit our website www.kent.ac.uk/lawcampaign
Kent graduates paint a picture of success at the Turner

For over 20 years, the University of Kent’s School of Arts has been at the cutting edge in providing innovative and interdisciplinary teaching in the visual arts. Thanks to the internship opportunities and specialist modules provided by the School, such as Visual Arts Writing and Print Collecting & Curating within the History & Philosophy of Art programme, a high proportion of graduates from Kent’s School of Arts have gone on to pursue careers in arts-related fields, including galleries, museums and education departments.

Dr Grant Pooke, Senior Lecturer in History & Philosophy of Art, explains “A practical focus on employability is among the distinctive features of a range of School of Art degree programmes. Within an increasingly competitive employment sector, every effort is made to support the onward professional route of our graduates, which includes summer term workshops on internships, CVs and preparing personal statements.”

The Turner Contemporary art gallery in Margate now employs a number of Kent alumni, whose learning experiences whilst at Kent helped them to secure a career within the art industry.

*KENT Alumni magazine has been in touch with three former students to find out more...*
Feature

Monique Kent
I graduated from the University of Kent in 2009 with a BA in History & Philosophy of Art (HPA) with French. Since January 2013 I have been the Press Manager for Turner Contemporary and I am responsible for generating, managing and sustaining press coverage across all of the gallery’s activities. However, my relationship with Turner Contemporary began almost four years before my appointment during my BA at the University of Kent. This relationship was facilitated and nurtured by the School of Arts.

During my final year I undertook an Internship module with Dr Michael Newall which allowed me to intern for a 6 month period at Turner Contemporary. This internship was a unique and invaluable vocational experience which gave me an insight into how a visual arts organisation such as Turner Contemporary operates. It also allowed me to forge key relationships with the staff working at the gallery. In January 2013, after having worked in arts journalism for two years, I returned to the gallery to work in its press department. My internship contributed to me getting the job at Turner Contemporary and the skills and knowledge I acquired during my internship have been useful tools for my current role.

Kirsty Falconer
I graduated from the University of Kent in 2010 with a BA in European Arts. Following my graduation I have worked for arts organisations in France and England and have completed an MA in History of Art. I have worked as the Development Officer at Turner Contemporary since August 2013.

I developed many of the skills and experience relevant to my role here whilst at Kent, most especially through the Print Collecting & Curating course run by Dr Ben Thomas. Working on this course to realise an exhibition as a group gave me invaluable experience in the many levels of organisation involved in setting up an exhibition from start to finish. I also worked closely with the University Development Team during and after this project to help to create better conditions for the Kent Print Collection. This experience gave me an in-depth understanding of the processes of fundraising and helped me to see what an integral role this is to the continuation of cultural organisations. My experience in this course was instrumental in securing my first job in the sector and has helped me bring a fuller understanding of the exhibition process to all of my subsequent work.

Catherine Nicholson
I graduated from the University of Kent in 2013 with a Masters in Drama and Theatre Studies and have worked as Learning Officer at Turner Contemporary since January 2014. I deliver Turner Contemporary’s informal Learning Programme, providing learning opportunities for families, members of the community and diverse audiences.

My degree was a four year undergraduate Masters programme, with a Masters specialism in Contemporary Performance Practice. My course in Drama and Theatre Studies prepared me well for presenting to groups and managing creative projects from concept to delivery. The final year Masters course included vocational learning opportunities, with lectures and seminars led by practicing arts professionals. I met professionals from Arts Council England as well as local arts organisations such as People United and the Gulbenkian. Through these links I was able to network with and volunteer for arts organisations, giving me the knowledge, contacts and confidence necessary to take the next step into employment in the arts sector with Turner Contemporary.

The School of Arts has recently launched a taught Masters programme in Arts Criticism, spanning Drama, Film and Art History specialisms. For more information, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/arts
News from the colleges

Darwin

The Darwin Summer Fete 2014 took place in May, and at the time of going to press, the Darwin Student Committee were working hard to ensure that this year’s event matched last year’s extravaganza, in the hope of establishing a new annual tradition to be enjoyed for many more years to come!

Last year’s Darwin Summer Fete was a huge success, and attracted over 1,300 visitors to the Darwin Rose Garden, from staff and students to members of the local community, raising over £600 for Teenage Cancer Trust and Dogs Trust. Many current students chose to take a break from exam revision to come and relax in the Darwin Rose Garden, Kent’s beautiful oasis set to the edge of the Canterbury Campus, and families also attended in abundance, soaking up the festive atmosphere.

The event was the first of its kind to be hosted at Kent, and there was something for everybody with activities ranging from the classic fair games such as the Coconut Shy, puppet shows and Hook-a-duck to face painting, tombola and live music. Current students were able to showcase their societies and sports clubs with displays and performances, whilst the delicious barbecue and food stalls ensured that no one went hungry. A plethora of live bands and singers gave the family friendly event a truly festival feel, and the Darwin Rose Garden proved to be the ideal setting.

Money raised at this year’s fete will go to KASBAH, a small local charity that raises money for children and teenagers with disabilities, and aims to get them active and become more independent.

Keynes

Summer is almost here, the ducks are lively and plans for the pond are moving ahead! The Junior College Committee and Environment Officer launched the Student Pond Competition at the
beginning of spring term, in the hope of improving the pond for both ducks and their staff/student guests – we will of course keep you informed of the outcome!

Keynes recently supported the showcase of student work at the Wise Words Festival in Canterbury, and will be welcoming three exhibitions this summer term, including Frame of Mind, an exhibition of photographs and poetry by Lyn Powell (12 May to 6 June), the Canterbury College Fine Arts, Graphic & Design Finalists Degree Show (19 May to 9 June) and the exhibition of A-level and GCSE work from Community College Whitstable students (from 9 July to 9 August).

Keynes is also hoping to support two student led projects as part of the University’s 50th anniversary. The first, entitled The Big Picture, would see student volunteers from the School of Arts organising, managing and curating a project in which ten schools would each submit five paintings of the University. The selected paintings would be displayed in the Keynes Atrium, and exhibited to the university and local community. Prizes would be awarded at a preview celebrating the work of all contributors and schools, welcoming the latter and their families, alongside Kent students, staff and local VIP’s. The second project, Projecting Our People: Past & Present, would involve a group of students working alongside digital artist Pete Wallace to create a shifting montage composed of shots of University members, past and present. The project would offer the opportunity to gain new skills and professional experiences, as well as creating a living document of those who have worked to ensure the success of the University.

Rutherford

The Rutherford Student Committee has worked tirelessly this academic year raising funds in excess of £1,000 from events and initiatives for local charity ‘Catching Lives’. The money raised will help the Canterbury-based charity to support the homeless and vulnerably housed in and around the Canterbury area.

February was National LGBT month, and the Rutherford Student Committee teamed up with Kent Union’s LGBT Officers and the LGBT Society to host a variety of events throughout it. They even managed to get the LGBT flag flown on the Rutherford College mast for the entire month!

The Rutherford Student Committee also began an inspiring project with their ‘Humans of University of Kent’ initiative, which is based on photoblog and best seller ‘Humans of New York’. The committee’s version captures snapshots of University of Kent campus life; you can take a peek at their work on their dedicated facebook page: www.facebook.com/HumansOfKentUni

A message from Stephen Burke, Master of Eliot college

The Morgan clan has been in touch to tell us that Daniel Morgan, Eliot 2002, will be celebrating his 30th Birthday on 20th July! Daniel’s wife, Laura, has very kindly supplied us with a photo of Daniel taken during one of his many expeditions with the University’s Caving club. Happy birthday Daniel!

As Kent’s founding college, we are always delighted to hear from alumni and look forward to bringing you more news of Eliot students, staff and alumni in future issues of KENT.

If you would like the opportunity to have a message included in the November edition of the KENT Alumni magazine, please email alumni@kent.ac.uk
From the 24 – 28 March 2014 the University of Kent held its first ever Student Employability: Breaking Barriers week, which saw over 150 students meet with alumni and Careers & Employability Service staff members to discuss their future career paths.

Organised by Student Services, Breaking Barriers invited inspirational Kent alumni from a variety of career fields to come and speak to students about their own career trajectories, the challenges that they faced, including gender and disability, and how they broke barriers in their own fields to overcome these challenges.

Invited speakers were:
Rhonda Smith (Rutherford 1968 – Founder/Director Minerva Communications)
Katy Phillips (Target Jobs, Women in STEM fields)
Mike Bishop (Keynes 1987 – Equality and Access Manager for the Culture and Sport Group at Kent County Council and previous Kent Disability Sport Manager),
Fiona Marston (Eliot 1975 – Chief Executive of Absynth Biologics Ltd)
Jane Karczewski (Rutherford 1988 – Managing Director Prime Finance and Delta One Citigroup).

The Careers & Employability Service also discussed the state of the career market, and ways in which graduates can enhance their own employability.

The event was a clear affirmation of Kent’s commitment to Equality, Inclusivity and Diversity for all students, and Student Services will be organising another Breaking Barriers week in Spring 2015. They are keen to hear from any alumni who would like to share their experiences, particularly women who successfully broke through the glass ceiling in the areas of Sciences, Mathematics, Technology, Engineering and Banking. Please contact Becky Lamyman for more information, R.S.Lamyman@kent.ac.uk or 01227 823806.

The Joseph Conrad Society (UK):
40th Anniversary conference, 3 July – 6 July 2014

The Joseph Conrad Society (UK), founded in 1974, held its first conference in Eliot College, which was organised by Prof. Molly Mahood, a distinguished Shakespearean and a pioneer in the new Field of Commonwealth Literature.

The 40th Anniversary of the event will be held in Keynes from 3 July to 6 July 2014, and some 70 scholars from all over the world are expected to attend. Keith Carabine (School of English, 1967-2005) has been Chair for the past twenty years, and will be stepping down from the post after this year’s conference.

All sessions on the agenda are open to the public with a pay at the door policy, and events will include the British premiere of Peter Fudakowski’s ‘Secret Sharer’ at the Gulbenkian Cinema on Friday 4 July, followed by a panel discussion with the director after the screening. Saturday 5 July will revolve around expeditions to places such as Conrad’s grave in Westgate Court Avenue and the Canterbury Heritage Museum.

For further information, including full conference programme and ticket details, please visit www.josephconradsociety.org

Employability Week 2014

The University will be running an alumni/student networking reception on the evening of Thursday 6 November 2014 as part of our annual Employability Week, and we would like to hear from alumni in a range of disciplines who can offer their time and expertise to help current student improve their networking skills. If you would like to take part, we’d love to hear from you!

Please email alumni@kent.ac.uk for more information, or visit our events pages at www.kent.ac.uk/alumni
Jack McDonnell, Medway 2010

BSc (Hons) Music Technology, 50th Anniversary Project Coordinator, University of Kent

What made you decide to come to Kent?
I was 19 and already had a thirst for something new in my life – I had been trying with the idea of going to University after sixth form and knew I wanted to make it a music/music technology course. I was thinking about career prospects post-graduation and had heard that there was a great Music Technology BSc degree running at Kent in Medway and that this was only 45 minutes from central London. Naturally I put this as my first choice, and have since taken a detour to London via Canterbury!

What is your favourite memory of Kent?
This is difficult as there have been a lot of really great ones. I could choose anything, from winning the University of Kent’s Music Awards Committee Prize in 2012/2013, to the NYC class trip in 2012 and my graduation day! But leading a great team of six volunteers to manage equipment, stage and bands for the Medway campus Summer parties in 2012 and 2013 is probably my favourite. It was hard work, but I’m really proud of what we achieved and the memories we helped give the 500-strong audience.

What have you been up to since graduating?
Since before I graduated, I have been working in the University’s Development Office with a great Project Management team as Project Coordinator to the 50th Anniversary programme. My job also involves project support to the Congregations Ceremonies, Corporate Events and Alumni & Fundraising Operations team so every day is different, which I love!

In between this, I’m a part-time musician, songwriter and freelancer in various creative industries. I’ve just finished working on a video project with Kent County Council, thanks to the University’s Employability Points scheme and I enjoy spending my weekends making music with friends.

What was your earliest ambition?
My earliest ambition was to be a Paramedic – that quickly became a Neurosurgeon and then a fun. In the grander scheme of things, moving so far away from my home in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and beginning a career straight after my degree will be a proud memory.

What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?
“Everyone is intelligent, but if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree it will spend its lifetime thinking it’s stupid”. Quite a cliché to be quoting Einstein for something like this, but it resonated with me and a past self as I tried to figure out my strengths and weaknesses.

Oh, and “Eat it, don’t tweet it”. I’m still learning to practice what I preach with that one…

Who or what inspires you?
A lot of things inspire me and it changes from day to day. Most often it’ll be a new album that I’m listening to obsessively, or watching a performance of some kind. Hearing people’s achievements and stories is always inspiring though, which happens quite often in this job.

Primary School Teacher before I made a last minute decision to change my biology GCSE to music – a decision which brought me to Kent eventually.

What was your first job?
My first job was when I was 15 in the local SuperValu. Not the most exciting job in the world but I’m incredibly grateful that my family put me up to it when they did, because I’d not be where I am now without it!

Which word or phrase do you use most?
I’m from Northern Ireland originally so I’m sure my colleagues would tell you I come out with all sorts of obscure phrases. “Ach, it’s grand”, “Dead on”, “No bother” – quite positive phrases!

What are you doing now that you will look back on in 50 years and be proud of?
The 50th Anniversary is an amazing programme to be a part of and seeing such great enthusiasm for this University coming from far and wide really makes the job that much more
The Student Leadership Team has achieved so much in their term thus far including improving transportation links between the Medway and Canterbury campus via the University Shuttle Bus service. They have been campaigning to secure the C4 building at Medway, which will be repurposed as a social space, organised the very first Disability Sports Day, featuring Wheelchair Basketball, facilitated student-run stand out sessions, secured millions of pounds for student bursaries as part of the Access Agreement, worked with the University to ensure cheaper accommodation on campus and are currently developing the society equivalent of Team Kent – alongside numerous other campaigns and annual events.

After a fleeting week of flyering, campaigning and voting the Leadership Elections are now over until next year. A grand total of 4,776 votes were cast; which is the highest number in the history of Kent Union.

The newly elected Student Leadership Team for 2014-15 is as follows:

- President, Tammy Naidoo
- VP Welfare, Megan Wells
- VP Sports, Nina Mehm i
- VP Education, Jack Lay
- VP Activities, Tom Currie.

We are sure you will join us in congratulating the team and we are looking forward to working with them all in the new academic year. You can follow their progress at www.kentunion.co.uk

We were delighted to welcome Charlotte Green, BBC Broadcaster and Kent alumna, who opened our long awaited Student Media Centre on 30 April. InQuire, KTV and CSR FM have relocated to their fully furnished, professionally equipped space, thanks to all alumni who supported the #BuildingUp campaign.

It has been a busy year so far and will be a busy year to come!

**Varsity victory!**

Team Kent secured the Varsity crown for the eighteenth year in a row with a 23-11 win over Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU). The five day event highlighted the best of the sporting ability from both Kent and CCCU, but ultimately saw Kent’s side dominate the majority of the fixtures.

A stunning performance from the Kent Swimming team secured early victory for Team Kent, but moving to the final day of competition, there was still pride, and points, to play for in the Lacrosse, Cricket and Rugby fixtures.

It was a crisply cold setting on the final afternoon at Rough Common as the Lacrosse sides went to battle.

Traditionally brutal, neither the women’s nor the men’s team disappointed with two huge displays running out 14-8 and 13-2 winners respectively. The Indoor Cricket was a slightly different affair with the Women and Men’s Seconds falling to defeat, although the Men’s Firsts picked up the win to earn yet another Varsity point for Team Kent.

It may have been a cold night but it was certainly a blazing atmosphere at a phenomenal performance from the Women’s Firsts saw them run out 11-7 winners. Kent’s Men went into the fixture off the back of a difficult season so far. Despite promising plays, they were beaten by a disciplined CCCU 8-24.

As the dust settled on the competition, it was Kent who can now once again celebrate and hold the bragging rights over their rivals for another year.
Since the last issue of KENT 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 Chinua Achebe (Honorary Graduate 2002)
Professor Wyndham Albery (Honorary Graduate 1990)
Dr Michael Berry (Former Staff and Honorary Graduate 1998)
Sir John Cornforth (Honorary Graduate 1995)
Professor Alexander Cullen (Honorary Graduate 2002)
Stephen Darch (Eliot 1972)
Professor Christian de Duve (Honorary Graduate 1986)
Bill Genders (Keynes 1966)
Archbishop David Gitari (Honorary Graduate 2002)
Professor Donald Preece (Former Staff)
Dr Joan Thirsk (Honorary Graduate 1993)
Spencer Reynolds (Eliot 1976)
Professor Brian Spratt (Former Staff)
Dr Joan Thirsk (Honorary Graduate 1993)
Archbishop Kwang Ting (Honorary Graduate 1998)
Professor Laurence Goldstein (Head of SECL)
John Mattei (Rutherford 1990)
Professor Laurence Goldstein (Head of SECL)
Professor Donald Preece (Former Staff)
Spencer Reynolds (Eliot 1976)
Professor Brian Spratt (Former Staff)
Dr Joan Thirsk (Honorary Graduate 1993)
Archbishop Kwang Ting (Honorary Graduate 1998)
Petra Tripp (Eliot 1983)
Professor Jock Young (Former Staff)

During his time at Kent, Charlie fought for the establishment and staffing of Kent’s first analytical NMR facility, at a time when modern instrumental techniques were not yet commonplace in university chemistry departments.

In 1987, he took charge of the analytical facilities at SmithKline Beecham in Hertfordshire, which was later to become GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), the internationally leading pharmaceutical company, within which Charlie rose to be a vice-president.

Charlie lived his professional and private lives to the full. He was a dedicated scientist, teacher, mentor, and above all an exemplary family man. As a raconteur spiced with characteristic Scottish wit and skepticism, his words often resulting in uncontrolled laughter, he was a man who made us happy to be in his company.

Our deep sympathies go to Margaret, and to his sons Richard and Jeremy and their families.

**Professor Reg Foakes**

Professor Reg Foakes died peacefully at his home in Stratford-upon-Avon just before Christmas. In 1965 he was the founding Professor of the present-day School of English. He collaborated with the Dean of Humanities, Professor Guy Chilver, in applying for a grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation, which resulted in the Gulbenkian Theatre, opened in 1970, that has since become the hub of an entire arts complex.

Reg Foakes also took the lead in establishing other disciplines at Kent: in Drama, Film, and History and Theory of Art. Many practising academics, including several now at Kent, have a deep debt of gratitude to Reg Foakes for appointing them and for nurturing their careers. His own scholarship, for which he had a worldwide reputation, was wide-ranging and encompassed both Shakespeare and Coleridge. His Arden edition of King Lear is regarded by many as the most authoritative ever produced.

In 1982 Reg moved from Kent to the English Department at the University of California, Los Angeles. An aficionado of the western, he delighted in providing visitors with a tour of Death Valley. He was also a practising poet and produced a number of volumes chronicling his experiences in Canterbury, Stratford, and the USA. He was awarded an Honorary degree from Kent in 2009.

Staff in the School of English feel privileged to have known and worked with such a special man.

**Adrian Taylor**

It is with great sadness that the Law School has learned of the death of Adrian Taylor on 11 January 2014 at the age of 79 after a short illness.

Adrian Taylor was born in Leeds and attended Trinity Hall, Cambridge, obtaining a BA in 1956 (MA 1960). After National Service in the Intelligence Corps in Germany, he became the manager of The Soup Kitchens in London, and then taught modern languages for two years in Lagos, Nigeria.

He returned to Cambridge in 1962 and obtained an LLB in 1964 (LLM 1966), winning the University Prize for Jurisprudence. He was a lecturer in law at the University of Hull from 1964 to 1967, before coming to Kent from 1967 to 1977. He became the founding Director of the Kent Law Clinic in 1973.

The new Clinic assisted members of the public in over 1,000 cases within its first two and a half years, mainly in the fields of housing, welfare benefits, employment, consumer advice and mental health. At least three cases received national attention, especially one for patients with mental health difficulties.

The current staff of the Law Clinic found his guidance and encouragement in recent years to be inspirational, and will sorely miss him.

**Obituarities**

**Dr Charles Brown**

The many friends and colleagues of Dr Charles (Charlie) Brown will be saddened greatly by news of his death last summer. Charlie came to Kent in the late 1960s, one of the early faculty appointments in the then Chemical Laboratory, prior to which he was a graduate and postgraduate at Aberdeen University and a postdoc at the University of Wisconsin.
What’s on

Music
For more information, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/music

Friday 27 June, 2.30pm, Colyer-Fergusson Hall, Malcolm Binns, Piano
Malcolm Binns is a distinguished solo pianist, playing frequently for the BBC and at the Proms. This concert will include works by Beethoven, Chopin and Schumann, amongst others.
T: Full £12 / Students £5

Gulbenkian Theatre
For full details of listings, please visit www.theGulbenkian.co.uk

Thursday 12 June, The Henry Girls
Hailing from County Donegal, these three sisters blend classic traditional Irish trad with a hint of Americana and a nod to bluegrass. Renowned for their fine close-harmony vocals, they have been likened to The McGarrigles, and have five albums to their credit.
T: Full £10 / Students £8

Saturday 14 June, Rambert School of Ballet & Contemporary Dance
A company from the world famous Rambert School returns to the Gulbenkian with a sophisticated programme of works once again characterised by exciting dance theatre, performed by exquisite dancers to vivid live music.
T: Full £10 / GulbCard £8 / Student £6 / GulbCard Student & Gulbenkian Education Network £5

Tuesday 17 June, EDge
EDge’s 12 exceptional dancers perform an electric evening of dance at The Gulbenkian this Spring; featuring a selection from a repertoire of work by internationally renowned choreographers.
T: Full £10 / GulbCard £8 / Student £6 / GulbCard Student & Gulbenkian Education Network £5

Sunday 29 June, YolanDa Brown
Double MOBO Award winning saxophonist and Kent alumna YolanDa Brown is regarded as the emerging “voice” of mainstream Jazz in the UK and has toured with The Temptations, Errol Brown, and as part of Jools Holland’s Rhythm & Blues Orchestra.
T: Full £12 / Concessions £10

Wednesday 2 July & Thu 14 August, Interactive Theatre International – Faulty Towers The Dining Experience
Only one third of this two-hour show is scripted, so anything can happen as audiences take their seats in the ‘Faulty Towers’ restaurant! Internationally acclaimed by audiences and critics alike. Just don’t mention the war! T: £32 including meal

Sunday 6 July, Kolektif Istanbul
Traditional Turkish repertories, focusing on the “meeting” of Anatolian and Balkan Cultures with a funky and jazzy touch.
T: Full £10 / Students £8

Thursday 10 July, Folk in the Barn in association with Gulbenkian presents

Dougie MacLean
Fusing unique blend of lyrical, ‘roots based’ songwriting and instrumental composition, MacLean’s songs have been covered by hosts of artists, including Paolo Nutini and Ronan Keating. His music has been used in Hollywood films such as Last of the Mohicans.
T: Full £19 / Students £17

Thursday 31 July, Gulbenkian in association with Smuggler’s Records presents Nuru Kane & The BFG
Nuru Kane is internationally famous on the world music scene in France, North Africa and Japan. While his music is loosely described as Afrobeat, Nuru’s influences take in blues, jazz, reggae and funk.
T: Full £8 / Student £6

Thursday 28 August, Gulbenkian in association with Smuggler’s Records presents This Is The Kit
Kate Stables sings, plays guitar, banjo, trumpet and percussion, while a cast of friends deliver guitar strums, banjo plucks, hushed horns and electronic textures.
T: Full £10 / Students £8

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