Dear friends,

We started 2015 with the excellent news that Kent was ranked 17th in the UK for research intensity in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014. The University also achieved one of the largest increases in research funding following its REF success. This success is due to the number of our world class publications; the number of our staff who are research-active and the demonstrable impact our research has made to the sciences and to economic, social and cultural understanding.

Another cause for celebration this year was the news that the QS rankings, published in April, place Kent among the world’s elite institutions in eight of the 36 featured subjects. Kent is among the top 150 in the world for Communication and Media Studies (Journalism), Law and Psychology. A number of our subjects feature in the top 200 including English Language and Literature, Geography (Conservation), Philosophy, Politics & International Studies and Sociology. This is a major achievement for the University and, in our 50th anniversary year, another cause for celebration.

This year we have celebrated with alumni and friends far and wide, at events so far in Brussels, Paris, Athens, Rome, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the USA and in London. But the culmination of our anniversary celebrations is yet to come! Over 800 alumni and friends have already registered for our 50th Festival on 4-6 September. The programme is hugely exciting and we’re delighted that the Kent Wheel will return to the Canterbury campus for the occasion. It will be a weekend to remember and I am looking forward to hosting what will be our largest ever alumni event at Kent.

As I write, we are preparing to host our annual Benefactors’ Garden Party on 20 June, which is set to be the biggest ever thanks to the generous support of an increasing number of donors. We held our first ‘Thank and Give’ Day on 15 May, to encourage our student community to be more aware of the ways in which philanthropy has shaped our campus over the past 50 years. Kent would certainly be a very different place without the generosity of our donor community and we are deeply grateful for their support.

Professor Dame Julia M Goodfellow, DBE, CBE
Vice-Chancellor

Welcome

Special thanks to Lesley Farr, University Design and Print Centre, and Wendy Raeside, Corporate Communications. Photography by Matt Wilson, Hawkins/Brown, Jim Higham and Helena g Anderson
The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 has ranked Kent among the top 20% of UK Higher Education Institutions for research power, alongside other leading universities.

Research power takes into account the quality profile and number of researchers included in university submissions to the REF. Kent is especially pleased to have increased its number of research active staff by 40% since 2008.

Contributing to the University’s REF success were its number of world class publications and the demonstrable impact it has made to society and the economy.

Significant strengths in all three faculties resulted in exceptional performances across a number of Schools including Arts; Biosciences; Law; Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research; and European Cultures and Languages.

In the new criteria of impact, just under a third of Kent’s submissions were rated as world leading and internationally excellent. Particularly high scores were achieved by Schools including Computing; Psychology; Physical Sciences; Politics and International Relations; Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research; and European Culture and Languages.

Schools submitting for the first time included Medway-based Sport & Exercise Sciences and the Kent School of Architecture, both of which had 40% of their submissions classified as world leading.

Kent’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, said: ‘I am delighted that the strength of research across the University has yet again been recognised. The University has done exceptionally well showing that high quality research can lead to significant economic and social impact. This is a direct result of our institutional strategy to increase both the quality and the quantity of our research. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of all staff who contributed to this success.’
The 50th anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on the University’s past, and a team of students from the School of History is working closely with the University’s Archivist, Ann MacDonald, to do just that: working on a range of projects which trace Kent’s continued development over the past 50 years.

Their projects draw on material already in the University’s archive whilst also creating new material through their conversations, interviews and memorabilia-gathering events, both of which will help to build the University Archive into a resource which future generations of students and staff can benefit from.

The 50th anniversary History Projects focus on five main areas: the foundation and continued development of the Gulbenkian Theatre; the experience of our students past and present; the changing experience of staff and, in particular, the way that teaching and learning has changed at the University; the physical environment, including the development of the Canterbury campus and the expansion of the University into its newer campus at Medway and into Europe; and ‘Kent and the media’, which looks at key events in the University’s history that were played out in the media spotlight and plots changes in the wider perception of the University.

The History Projects students have already met with a huge number of staff, former staff and alumni. They attended the London Alumni Reception in May 2014 (pictured on the right) and the AGM of the Former Staff Association in June 2014 to speak with a range of individuals whose memories and stories have proved invaluable to the projects. They were also present at the School of History Reunion in October 2014 and have held a range of smaller events and individual interviews.

As History students, the volunteers are particularly excited about their involvement in the project and the opportunity it provides to put the skills they are learning through their degree studies into practice. Over the course of the project they are improving their skills as historians: in researching, archiving, interviewing and recording. They also have the unique opportunity to create a visual representation of the University’s history, which will hopefully be preserved and used in the future. The 50th anniversary History Projects are an opportunity to make sure that none of the University’s history is forgotten, by providing a starting point for research that will, we hope, be used for many years to come.

‘The research that our students are carrying out for this project also forms a new module focusing on real-world research skills, so current students are able to gain new expertise in an area that will help with their career development.’ Dr Mark Hurst, History Projects Manager

The 50th anniversary History Projects team will be staging a major exhibition at the 50th Festival weekend on 4-6 September 2015. For more information about the projects, visit www.kent.ac.uk/50.
Ann MacDonald joined Kent in May 2014 in the newly-created role of University Archivist, and is currently working closely with students from the 50th anniversary History Projects. As a qualified archivist, she has worked with a diverse range of physical and digital archives in institutions such as the British Library, Altonaer Museum Grafik Archiv, the National Library of Wales and the Museum of the Order of St John.

What is an archivist?
Archivists are the exact opposite of the Vogons from *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*. We dig up documents and undertake to ensure they are preserved and accessible. My role is to manage the archives which relate to, or illustrate the historical, cultural, evidential and administrative development of the University and individuals within and connected to it.

Why is the University Archive being created?
Because the University is recognising the importance of its archives, as a unique resource of documentary evidence. They are a primary source of information on our environment, governance and vision throughout the University’s existence.

I aspire to develop the archive to be at the core of Kent, being an organ that connects the diversity of ideas, places, people, decisions and actions that have shaped the University. I hope that the University Archive will encourage a culture of collaborative and interdisciplinary thinking, as a place where the archives of the different schools come together. I’m targeting collection areas to support the institutional identity of the UK’s European university, and as a cultural focus for Canterbury and Kent.

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?
I find the things that make me happy are usually unexpected. For example, in my first month at the University, I accessioned a desk that belonged to the first Registrar, so had been with the University for over 50 years. It is a beautiful walnut, green leather affair, with a delicate key for each of the 12 drawers and two cupboards. Sitting at this desk feels like belonging in a small part of history. I hope to put it somewhere prominent in the new Reading Room of the Templeman extension.

Which word or phrase do you use most?
“Craic/crack” is one of my favourite phrases. To do something for the craic is to do something for the simple joviality of it. However, I censor my use of it as, in the British Library, a colleague made the assumption that I was talking about cocaine.

What is your favourite TV/radio programme?
I’m a big sci-fi fan. I love Dr Who, and hope that one day archive services will run like a TARDIS.

What was your first job?
One of my first jobs was helping out on a scallop divers’ boat just off the Isle of Skye. It was a great gig – I would watch the buoys of the divers and help pull up lobster pots.

What is the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?
I trust fictional characters to give me the best advice.
Kent subjects ranked among best in the world

Strong international reputation and research citations have contributed to Kent’s success in the 2015 QS World University Rankings by Subject.

Published on 29 April 2015, the QS rankings place Kent among the world’s elite institutions in eight of the 36 featured subjects. The University was among the top 150 in the world for Communication and Media Studies (Journalism), Law and Psychology. Kent subjects in the top 200 are English Language and Literature; Geography (Conservation); Philosophy; Politics and International Studies; and Sociology. The QS rankings reflect academic reputation, employer reputation and, through citations by research paper, research impact. For its latest report, QS evaluated 3,551 universities and ranked 894 institutions in total.

The news came in the same week that Kent was ranked 22nd out of 126 institutions by the Complete University Guide (CUG) 2016, with four entries in the top 10 subject tables and a top 20 position in a further 12 subjects.

www.topuniversities.com/subject-rankings/2015

Kent top in Best University Workplace Survey

For the second year running, Kent staff were among those who provided the most positive responses about their workplace in a national survey.

This year’s Times Higher Education (THE) Best University Workplace Survey, which took place over the course of several months in 2014, saw more than 4,150 higher education staff from 140 institutions across the UK complete an online questionnaire.

Of the 140 institutions, Kent was placed second in the category ‘I would like to recommend working at my university’, third for ‘My university offers a fair deal to its employees in terms of working conditions and benefits’ and fifth for ‘My work responsibilities allow for a healthy work-life balance’.

Last year, the inaugural year of the THE survey, Kent was placed second in the category ‘I would like to recommend working at my university’ and fifth for ‘My university offers a fair deal to its employees in terms of working conditions and benefits’.

Since its foundation in 1965, the University has become one of the largest employers in the region with more than 3,000 academic and professional services staff.

It also supports directly or indirectly a total of almost 6,800 jobs in the south-east and is worth £0.6 billion to the south-east’s economy, with its students contributing £211 million to that total.

Award-winning Careers and Employability Service

The Careers and Employability Service received a top industry award for its commitment to improving the employability of Kent students.

The National Undergraduate Awards highlight and reward hard work and innovation in skills development, placements and graduate employment across the United Kingdom.

Kent were finalists for two awards, scooping the much coveted ‘Most Improved Commitment to Employability’ award.

The awards ceremony was held in London with around 400 people from universities and industry celebrating the success of the finalists and winners, with the awards being presented by Green and Black’s Co-Founder, Jo Fairley.

Some of the areas of innovation and best practice highlighted by Jo Fairley were the University’s Employability Week, Work-Study Scheme and the bursary scheme B-KEW.

University facilities to receive £75m capital injection

Teaching, research and student support facilities at the University are to benefit from a £75m capital injection from the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The loan funding, repayable over a period of up to 25 years, will support the University’s £211m five-year estates capital investment plan. It will advance the existing Templeman Library development at the Canterbury campus and support improvements to both academic and teaching spaces at its Medway campus.

In addition, the funds will be used to develop a new building for the University’s business and mathematics schools and provide additional space for academic schools that have recently seen significant growth.

Plans for new student facilities are also being developed, including the construction of a student administration building which will provide a one-stop-shop service to students. Other University buildings are to be updated to reduce energy costs by an estimated 19%.

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow said: ‘As a top 20 university, we have a commitment to teaching and research excellence and to delivering the best possible student experience. We are delighted that our track record in delivering
extensive and large scale development projects in support of this commitment has been recognised by the European Investment Bank. This is yet another indicator of the importance of Europe to the UK’s universities.

Construction work on some of these projects is already underway and is expected to finish by 2018. This activity is part of an extensive period of University investment in student facilities and builds upon its third highest score for overall student satisfaction in the UK.

Sporting legends at University event

Sporting legends assembled at the University’s sports centre for a special gala evening to celebrate sporting achievement across the county. The event, which took place on 5 December 2014 at the University’s Canterbury campus sports centre, welcomed Kent sport stars to celebrate their past and present successes, and their future sporting aspirations.

Founded by the University’s Kent Sport Director Graham Holmes, it was organised by Kent Sport in partnership with Kent County Council Sport and Physical Activity Service (KCC). The evening was hosted by Kent alumnus and county cricketer, David Fulton (Rutherford, 1990), and also featured a number of sporting legends from the region including (among many others): England cricketer and Ashes winner, Geraint Jones MBE; Maidstone-born GB decathlete, Martin Brockman; Canterbury’s England women’s rugby player, Amy Garnett; and Sochi winter Olympics GB bobsleigh team member, David Coleman.

The University’s own sport scholars also attended the event. Many of these scholars have gone on to represent GB, such as karate champion Jasmine Pomeroy, and hockey player and Rio Olympics 2016-hopeful Susannah Townsend. Future stars from across the county, including athletes Bobby and Alex Clay, and Paralympian skier Millie Knight, were also present.

The event is part of the University’s 50th anniversary celebrations, and also helped launch a special fundraising initiative called Project 100 which will contribute to future sporting projects for Kent students.

The evening’s entertainment featured live music from double MOBO Award-winning saxophonist and Kent alumna YolanDa Brown (Keynes, 2001) and a performance from the Jasmin Vardimon Dance Company.

www.kent.ac.uk/sports/kentsportinglegends/

Books

7 Days, Eve Ainsworth

Eve Ainsworth (Eliot, 1997), who graduated from Kent with a BA (Hons) in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management in 2000, has had her first teen novel published by children’s publisher Scholastic, as part of a two-book deal. 7 days is a fictional story about bullying, told from two perspectives; the bully and the victim.

Eve was inspired to write the novel whilst working with young people. For several years after graduating from Kent, she worked in recruitment, before switching to HR within the education sector: After the birth of her son, Eve moved to a Pastoral Support position at a local secondary school, and later progressed into Child Protection. It was whilst working at the school that she began to write. ‘Working with teens was my inspiration’ she says. ‘Hearing their voices and their stories. So many had experienced bullying and many experienced pressures from outside of school. In my role, I had to speak to both victims of bullies and the perpetrators themselves. Although 7 Days is completely fictional, working directly with young people helped me to flesh out a realistic and honest story.”

Jalan Jalan, Mike Stoner

Mike Stoner (Keyness, 2005), who graduated from Kent in 2011 with an MA in Creative Writing, has recently won the Guardian's self-published book of the month award for his novel Jalan Jalan.

The book, which Mike began to write as part of his creative writing dissertation at Kent, tells the story of a man who travels to Indonesia to start a new life and overcome the loss of his girlfriend, but who is still haunted by her ghost and memories. ‘I had spent a year in Indonesia which gave me some of the most interesting memories of my life, so I used these as the basis for the fictional story. It’s about adapting to a new environment, the concept of time, and an insight into life on Sumatra’ he explains.

The Guardian’s review credits the novel as being ‘an interesting, involving tale of self-transformation, and a welcome blast of heat and spice in this cold, grey British December’
Kent in Europe

With European Centres in Athens, Brussels, Paris and Rome, Kent prides itself on being ‘the UK’s European university’, and with many voices calling for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, the University is a vital stakeholder in the country’s decision. In the University’s 50th anniversary year, Kent celebrates a learning environment which supports internationalisation and promotes freedom of movement within a common economic space.

Vice-Chancellor support

Kent’s Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow has strongly supported the United Kingdom’s seat within the European Union (EU), stating that withdrawal would not only be detrimental to our students’ futures, but to higher education overall, and emphasising that the EU remains a source of opportunity, not a threat. Dame Julia illustrates her view across four main points. Firstly, that the EU provides a common economic space within which talent can move freely. A large proportion of Kent staff and students now come from countries within the EU and around the world, enriching both teaching and learning on our campuses. Secondly, it enlarges the nation’s research base. Over 80% of the UK internationally co-authored papers are written with EU partners. The nature of EU research funding means that it complements and adds value to national structures, enabling projects that individual member states could not undertake alone. Thirdly, the country benefits economically from our international education links. The direct financial gain from EU students in fees and living expenses has been estimated at £2 billion a year, with the indirect benefits being even higher. European Union mobility programmes also present the single biggest source of funding for UK students and staff hoping to pursue a study or work placement abroad. Finally, Dame Julia believes that disengagement from the European Union would cause the United Kingdom to have less influence and less control over the environment within which the nation has to operate, doing our students a severe disservice in restricting their ability to compete in the global economy.

European study centres

Since the opening of our first European postgraduate centre over 15 years ago, the University has established a further three centres throughout Europe, enabling students to benefit from an English-speaking education in an international context.

‘The opportunity for studying at centres within other European institutions, together with a separate programme of worldwide placements, allows our students to gain a much wider perspective than they could within a single country. Increasingly businesses need leaders who have the cultural knowledge and sensitivity that comes from international experience.’

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow

Athens

As one of the world’s oldest cities, Athens is widely referred to as the centre of Western civilisation and the birthplace of democracy. Home to Plato and Aristotle, the city was a centre for the arts, learning and philosophy, and is central today to economic, financial, industrial, political and cultural life in Greece.

Based in the Athenian suburb of Eleusina, Kent’s postgraduate centre in Athens is located in one
of the most important archaeological sites in the world and offers the MA in Heritage Management. Designed to combine the worlds of business and archaeology to teach the skills required for the management of heritage sites across the world, the programme is taught through a unique collaboration between the University of Kent and Athens University of Economics and Business, subsequently capitalising on the specialist teaching, research and expertise of both partners.

**Rome**

Like Paris, Kent’s newest postgraduate European centre in Rome welcomes one-year MA students from Canterbury in the spring term. Located in The American University of Rome (AUR), in the picturesque Trastevere district, students can enjoy the benefits of university facilities whilst also having access to Rome’s extensive specialist libraries and surviving ancient sites and monuments. The international element brought by the AUR also enables Kent students to mix with their contemporaries from across the pond whilst remaining in a European context. The programmes offered to students are Ancient History, History of Art, Roman History and Archaeology and Rome – Ancient and Modern. During the University’s recent 50th anniversary celebrations held at the Galleria Borghese in Rome, which features an important collection of works by Bernini, Raphael, Caravaggio and Canova, Kent students were able to showcase their knowledge by giving talks to guests about the art on display.

**Brussels**

Established in 1999, the Brussels School of International Studies (BSIS) was Kent’s first step towards becoming ‘the UK’s European university’. The multi-disciplinary school, which celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2014, currently hosts five academic departments of the University of Kent, offering postgraduate students the opportunity to specialise in the fields of Politics and International Relations, Law, Sociology, History and Economics within an international context. As the only UK university with a campus in the ‘capital of Europe’, students at BSIS have the unique privilege of being taught international issues by academics and practitioners in the field in the heart of the European political community, among the NATO headquarters, European Parliament, Commission, and hundreds of non-governmental organisations.

Over 200 students pursue Master and Doctoral degrees at BSIS in each academic year, coming from over 65 countries around the world. The School supports networking opportunities for its students through its own Careers Advice service, run by a BSIS alumna, and encourages students to pursue internships during their time at Kent to transpose the words on a page to real life experience.

**Paris**

Kent’s postgraduate centre in Paris offers programmes in Architecture, Comparative Literature, Creative Writing, Film, French, English, History of Art and Postcolonial Studies. Currently, students begin their one-year MA in Canterbury, and relocate to the Montparnasse district of Paris in the spring term, and plans are currently underway for the Centre to also host year-long programmes from September 2015.

Students at the Paris centre are taught by Kent staff who travel to the French capital to teach and take them on seminar topic-related excursions, fully illustrating the curriculum and enabling students to properly assimilate what has been taught in the classroom. They are also strongly encouraged to use the amazing resources on their doorstep, such as the Bibliothèque Nationale and the museums, to further develop their knowledge.

**Joel Bertrand, Woolf 2009**

**LLM in International Law with International Relations, Brussels School of International Studies**

**Airline pilot**

**What made you decide to study at Kent?**

I chose Kent because its Brussels School of International Studies (BSIS) offered the unique opportunity to study International Relations in continental Europe, while still working in English.

**What were the advantages of studying at BSIS?**

The School offered a completely unique academic environment. Aside from the location in Brussels and the proximity to the various European political institutions, the classroom environment itself had a wonderfully international character. Faculty and students came from a wide array of diverse backgrounds which lent unique, and often very personal, perspectives on so many areas of study and discussion.

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

For three years, I was working as a pilot, flying for a company contracted to the US military in Afghanistan. I would spend two months at a time living at Bagram Air Base, transporting coalition personnel from base to base around the country. From a pilot’s perspective, the environment was obviously very unique, with a blend of military and civilian control and often relatively primitive operating conditions. At the same time, it was fascinating to work closely not only with the US Special Forces that were our primary client, but also with those from various coalition partner countries including Australia, Britain, Germany, Spain, Italy, New Zealand, Jordan, the UAE, and of course Afghanistan.

**What was your earliest ambition?**

As long as I can remember, I’ve known I was born to be a pilot, but I recall a time in my youth when I was quite drawn to the life of a cowboy.

**What was your first job?**

When I was 16, I started working at a small aircraft repair shop in my hometown of Anchorage, Alaska, that specialised in floatplanes. I was an apprentice mechanic, and it was a particularly gratifying way to learn the value of hard work and responsibility.

**Have you stayed in touch with Kent friends?**

Yes! One of the highlights of the year I spent studying at Kent was the wonderful friends I made, and I’m lucky to still be in touch with many of them.

**What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?**

My grandfather used to say, “Happy are those who dream dreams, and are willing to pay the price to make them come true.” So I am often reminded that if we are following our dreams, the hard work and sacrifice along the way can be both rewarding and gratifying.

**Where do you see yourself in ten years?**

The only thing I can say for certain is that I’ll be in the cockpit of an airplane somewhere!
Twenty years of the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship

Over the past 20 years, the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship has offered exceptional Kent students the opportunity to undertake groundbreaking research.

In recent years, universities and research councils across the UK have seen a decline in Government research funding, preventing graduates from fulfilling their research ambitions. The Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship, which is funded by donations from alumni and friends of the University, was established to support talented postgraduate students to undertake world-changing research. Projects in recent years have spanned a huge range of subjects including biochemistry, conservation and gang culture, with the outstanding work of our doctoral scholars increasing the University’s reputation for research excellence.

“The Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship is one of the University’s most prestigious awards and it is especially important today, when many students may otherwise not be able to pursue their research goals because of financial pressures. We are tremendously grateful to the donors who have supported the Scholarship over the past 20 years and look forward to welcoming future scholars to the University.”

Professor Diane Houston,
Dean of the Graduate School

If you would like to find out more about the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship which is provided through the Kent Opportunity Fund, including information on how you can support students to undertake groundbreaking research at Kent, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/giving
Our inaugural alumni scholar: Donna Jessop

Established in 1995, the Scholarship’s inaugural recipient was Donna Jessop (Keynes, 1994). After a first degree at Oxford University in Human Sciences, Donna pursued an MSc in Social and Applied Psychology at Kent in 1994/1995, before being awarded the Scholarship to study for a PhD in the field of health psychology at the University. Her research centred on preventative health, and looked at why a large percentage of people with asthma are often willing to take reliever medications which provide symptomatic relief, but are often more reluctant to take preventative medications. Donna found that people’s emotional responses to their asthma were an important factor in their adherence to preventative medication. Her research findings suggested that trying to persuade people of the practical benefits of taking medication was unlikely to be effective if their emotional responses to their condition were not also addressed. Her findings were fed back to healthcare practitioners and have influenced theoretical and applied developments in the field.

Upon completing her PhD at Kent, Donna took up a lecturing post at Middlesex University for a year, before moving to the University of Sussex, where she is currently a Lecturer in Health Psychology and now focuses on general health promotion campaigns. Her recent research challenges the assumption that using threatening material, such as images of blackened lungs on cigarette packets, will encourage people to alter their lifestyle and behaviour. The aim of her research is to ensure that health promotion campaigns use techniques which will make individuals open to the information they are delivering.

‘It’s funny how single moments can change your life in a way that you don’t really realise at the time’ reflects Donna. ‘Without the Scholarship, I would never have been able to pursue a PhD, and I wouldn’t be where I am now’.

The present: Katy Upton

Katy Upton was awarded the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship in 2011 to study for a PhD in Biodiversity Management. She came to Kent as an undergraduate student in 2007 to study Wildlife Conservation, and during this time she discovered her love for tropical frog research. With amphibians declining on a global basis due to a number of factors such as habitat destruction and climate change, Katy’s PhD research focuses on tropical frog species, and looks at whether amphibians are a good biological indicator species, as their decline could demonstrate vast environmental problems.

Her research, which has highlighted the importance of floating meadows as a habitat for many amphibian species, especially frogs, will enable conservationists to focus limited resources on areas most in need of conservation work.

Katy has recently been volunteering at Chester Zoo, and hopes to pursue a career working with captive amphibians and reptiles within a Zoological institution. ‘I have realised the huge impact zoos can have on conservation, not only supplying funds but also educating the public and using their expertise on the ground to assist with projects. I would love to continue undertaking research and feel that to do this within a zoo would be of great benefit to both them and the animals. I couldn’t have undertaken my PhD without the Scholarship. Thanks to the funding, I have been able to conduct my research without the constant money worries that many PhD students face, and have also attended international conferences where I have made invaluable contacts with specialists in my field. It has given me the opportunity to show people the problems that amphibians are facing globally which will make a huge difference to amphibian conservation’.

The future: Jamie Wickham-Eade

Our new scholar, Jamie Wickham-Eade, commenced his PhD in Astrobiology in September 2014. His passion began at the age of eight, when his grandfather gave him his first telescope, and continued into his teenage years. During his A-level studies, he took a short course in Astronomy with the Open University and undertook a basic project investigating the shape and depth of craters in sand as a function of impact angle. The project significantly contributed to the portfolio of his A-level coursework, and he was awarded a scholarship to study as an undergraduate student at the University of Kent.

After completing his studies, Jamie trained as a teacher for a year, but was then offered the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship to undertake a PhD in Astrobiology at Kent. His research involves impacting rocks of known type and composition in the University’s laboratory, and studying the rocks before and after impact, using instruments similar to those that will be carried on the ExoMars rover as part of the forthcoming European Space Agency mission to Mars, due for launch in 2018. His work will allow us to better understand the measurements from this future mission, and will position Kent as a leading player in the UK ExoMars community.

‘The Scholarship means that I can do the work I love, without financial worry or stress. Many research students without funding often have to do a lot of teaching that eats into their research time, and it’s nice not to have that, and to be able to commit 100 percent of my time to my work.’

Once he has completed his degree, Jamie hopes to become a postdoctoral researcher before embarking on a lectureship in ballistics. ‘A lectureship would give me the best of both worlds; I would be able to teach my favourite subject whilst continuing with my research’.
50th Festival: Celebrating 50 years of Kent

4-6 September 2015

Our 50th Festival will be the culmination of our anniversary year, and we’re going to make sure it happens in style! Held at the Canterbury campus, the Festival will give you the chance to return to Kent and let the memories come flooding back.

To fully immerse yourself back into your student days, you and your guests can stay on campus throughout the weekend in Eliot, Rutherford, Darwin, Keynes or Tyler Court, and enjoy a college breakfast in the morning. We’ve also set aside five-bedroom self-catering houses in Park Wood for larger groups. Prices for on-campus accommodation range from £31.50/night for a single standard B&B room to £75/night for a double ensuite B&B and £105/night for a self-catering house. If you would rather stay off-campus in the City of Canterbury, we have arranged exclusive discounts in the Abbots Barton, aBode and Falstaff Hotels – just quote ‘Kent alumni 50th Festival’ to access their best rates*.

Remember to book online for the 50th Festival at www.kent.ac.uk/50festival – booking is required even if you don’t intend to stay on campus! You can find out who has already booked their place by visiting our website. We will also be adding details of new activities as they are confirmed, so make sure you keep an eye on it for updates!

*Subject to availability.

To register for 50th Festival, visit www.kent.ac.uk/50festival

#50Fest /unikent50
‘Our 50th Festival will be an opportunity to celebrate the very many people – alumni, staff and friends – who have been part of our University community over the past 50 years and who have made Kent into the inspiring institution that it is today. Kent is flourishing and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to celebrate our many achievements together.’

Professor Keith Mander
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
On Monday 9 February 2015, popular quiz show QI rolled up to the University.

Sandi Toksvig OBE, an honorary graduate of the University Kent and presenter of The News Quiz, stepped up as the host of the show. She was joined by an all-star panel made up of some of the titans of British comedy: Alan Davies, co-star of the QI TV show and star of Jonathan Creek; Phill Jupitus, QI regular and long-standing team captain on BBC Two’s Never Mind the Buzzcocks; Jo Brand, the Queen of British stand-up comedy, who regularly appears on British TV as a guest on panel shows including Have I Got News For You and QI; and making his debut QI appearance, Harry Hill, narrator of You’ve Been Framed and star and host of Harry Hill’s TV Burp.

John Lloyd CBE, creator and producer of QI, was instrumental in bringing the show to Kent as part of our 50th anniversary, introducing and producing the show on the night. There was a special guest appearance from University of Kent Chancellor, Gavin Esler (Rutherford, 1971), and broadcaster Charlotte Green (Eliot, 1975).

The live performance at Kent was the first time the show had been hosted in English by someone other than Stephen Fry. The special one-off edition of the show focused on Quite Interesting things about the county of Kent and its University. The ‘QI Elves’ exposed all the quirks of Kent, from the the worst thing you can catch in the docks at Sheerness to the history of the humble sandwich, and the revelation that Robin Hood lived in Kent*.

In keeping with QI tradition, but as a live show produced on a budget, the high-tech buzzers were replaced with quirky alternatives. In a nod to Kent Horner, each panellist was given a horn: Phill a clown horn, Harry a hunting horn, Jo an air horn, and Alan… a shoe horn. The audience erupted with laughter at Alan tapping his shoe horn to get Sandi Toksvig’s attention, but much to Jo Brand’s dismay, her air horn produced a very feeble toot, prompting ridicule from the panel and audience alike.

With the panel still lively after the performance, Sandi Toksvig found a piano in one of the Colyer-Fergusson’s practice rooms and led the group in a sing-along. They stayed for an after-show buffet and were joined by members of the audience.

Everyone involved gave up their time for free to raise money for the Kent Opportunity Fund, which supports current students by providing scholarships, hardship bursaries and grants for student projects. It was also an opportunity for Kent students to gain some invaluable experience. Students from KTV worked alongside the film crew, benefiting from working with some big names in British TV. The editorial team from student newspaper Inquire were also able to interview John Lloyd and James ‘Turbo’ Harkin, QI Elf, before the show.

The panellists and their links to Kent

Alan Davies (Keynes, 1984) is a Kent alumnus who began performing stand-up in Whitstable.

Jo Brand (Honorary Graduate, 2006) grew up near Tunbridge Wells.

Harry Hill (Honorary Graduate, 2014) was educated in Kent and now lives in the county, as does Sandi Toksvig (Honorary Graduate, 2014).

John Lloyd (Honorary Graduate, 2012) was born in Dover.

Phill Jupitus has two daughters who studied with us, providing the parent perspective.

Did you know?

Kent Horner is a landscape gardener from California. The ‘QI Elves’ thought his name was rather apt for the show!

Would you be able to name a superhero from Kent?

In 2003, a man dressed in a blue leotard and called himself Angle-Grinder Man. He would find cars that had been clamped and free them with his saw. A hotline number on his website offered a free wheel-clamp removal service.

Jo Brand knows how to pronounce Trottiscliffe – do you?

The name of this Kentish village is pronounced ‘trozz-lee’.

*according to the latest research!
Community

50th anniversary souvenirs

Official University of Kent Monopoly boards, beautiful bone china ‘mugs full of history’, and the incredibly cute Kent Bunnies are the perfect souvenirs to commemorate the University’s 50th anniversary.

After the success of the 50th anniversary hoodies and onesies, we will soon be adding a range of new apparel to the online store: University of Kent gilets, joggers, polo shirts, and zip-up hoodies. The merchandise will also be available at the 50th Festival.

The University of Kent: The first 50 years

Kent’s journey from 1965 to 2015 will be showcased in a special book produced for our 50th anniversary. Featuring photos and memories from the last 50 years, it will plot the course of the University’s development, chart the changing trends in the student experience (and student fashion!) and highlight some of the stories that epitomise life at Kent.

The release date and price will be announced in the alumni e-newsletter in the coming months.

Crowdsourcing poem

Poet and alumnus Dan Simpson (Rutherford, 2005) wants your words for a poem to celebrate Kent’s 50th. As part of the anniversary celebrations, Dan is crowdsourcing a poem by staff, alumni, and current students. A crowdsourced poem is created entirely from words submitted by the public, which Dan will then cut up and combine to create a poem by and for the people who took part. That means you!

Dan has previously crowdsourced poems for the Royal Academy of Arts, the National Museum of Scotland, and The Beaney. For the University’s 50th poem, he will be using ‘We Are Kent’ as the inspiration, collecting words through social media and in person at the 50th Festival in September. Visit www.kent.ac.uk/50 for more info. To get involved, email your words to 50years@kent.ac.uk or tweet them to @dansimpsonpoet using #WeAreKentPoem.

The special range of limited edition gifts and souvenirs is available during the 50th anniversary year.

Visit kent.ac.uk/50/celebrate/souvenirs for more information and to order yours!
The Wigoder Law Building

Eight hundred years ago, on 15 June 1215, the Magna Carta was sealed under oath by King John on the banks of the River Thames. The charter is widely regarded as an important part of the protracted historical process which led to the rule of constitutional law in England and beyond.

It is therefore fitting that work has commenced on the same date on a new Kent Law Clinic and Moot Court for the Kent Law School.

Designed by architects Hawkins/Brown, The Wigoder Law Building, which spans 1000sqm, is named after The Honourable Charles Wigoder (Rutherford, 1978) in recognition of his donation to the Kent Law Campaign. It replaces an existing outdated office building, and provides a high quality, collaborative working environment.

The Kennedy Wong Mooting Chamber, at the heart of the building, is a prestigious space where users argue moot points of law in a simulated courtroom scenario. The timber form of the Chamber, which was named after Dr Kennedy Wong (Keynes, 1981) in honour of his donation to the project, creates a focal point within the building and is also visible from the exterior by way of the glazed facades, giving transparency to the legal processes within.

Thanks to a simple and robust set of materials, the interior will give the feel of a law firm as opposed to an academic building, bridging the gap between academia and practice.

The prime campus location will provide an outstanding learning environment with professional facilities and is due for completion in spring 2016.

The building has been made possible by the generous support of a large number of donors and volunteers who have supported the Kent Law Campaign since 2011.

The support received will help the University to provide state-of-the-art facilities which enhance the student experience, leaving a lasting legacy at Kent.

For further information, including details of the variety of naming opportunities on offer, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/lawcampaign or contact Hilary Edridge at H.A.Edridge@kent.ac.uk
I had no idea what I wanted to be when I grew up. My earliest ambitions were (a) to rule the World and (b) have a cat, not necessarily in that order. It was a bad start to find the Oxford College I went to did not allow pets. The sort of jobs that students who were doing Oxford’s version of the social sciences in the late 1950s thought about included journalism, advertising (a bit iffy) and the civil service. Academia was enviable but dons were too clever. Future journalists, I found, were ferociously ambitious and although I enjoyed being deputy editor of the Oxford newspaper, I was really a herbivore. But careers in the civil service were attractive, as the sixties were arguably the high noon of the public sector.

I scraped through the exam and took an MA in Ottawa as a change of scene before starting work in Whitehall. While I was abroad, academic jobs suddenly became a realisable ambition. The seven new universities (bringing the national total to about 25) started a gold rush. Subjects such as Politics, often tucked into a general Department of Social Sciences, now emerged in their own right. I went back to Oxford to get a doctorate and joined Professor Bryan Keith-Lucas, Maurice Vile and Fred Whitmore as founder members of the Kent Politics department. We all came from the same college, and if that sounds dodgy, bear in mind that the pool of potential candidates nationwide was by today’s standards tiny.

There can never have been a better time to be a junior lecturer. My letter of appointment (no formal contract) was about three lines long and said, roughly, that I should please do what the Dean wanted and retire at age 67. I didn’t finish my doctorate for three years — but it wasn’t a requirement: lots of people never did one. Bryan Keith-Lucas believed a don is a don is a don. He let us get on with things. As we were not stepping into vacated shoes we could design our own courses — approved more or less as a formality. I introduced what I believe was the first course on politics and the mass media in a British university. How we taught was subject to minimal oversight. Research and publication were our own affair. Staff appraisal was decades off. When I became Dean of Social Sciences in 1978, people did not yet have to submit an annual report of their publications, and plenty didn’t.

Not all the professors liked this degree of slack. Some got on with their own research, or left. Some, including Keith-Lucas, threw themselves into college business and left board administration to young lecturers. I rather liked administration and learned a lot from three years as a Dean. Typically of the time, I was given no training whatsoever, so there is a large cringe element in my private recollections.

My research was never far from the subjects I taught — British and American politics, and political communication. It was fun to work in a rapidly expanding field, with lots of opportunities for going abroad and off-campus activities. For six years I chaired the committee which advised on the rules for TV advertising. In addition to mainstream topics such as media and elections, I wrote about byways such as political rumours and political cartoons. My colleague Dr Graham Thomas founded what is now the British Cartoon Archive, and when his interests moved on I took up the running for some 20 years.

What this adds up to is that not only was I very lucky to be on the job market at such a good time but also to find I fitted into Kent so happily. Despite the contrived collegiate ethos, Kent was a very individualistic place — perhaps too much so. Once the league tables started, they showed our limitations. We were too long on the back foot. In retirement it is immensely satisfying to see how that has changed. And I did eventually get a cat.

Professor Colin Seymour-Ure

Founding member of staff, School of Politics and International Relations, Emeritus Professor of Politics and Government
Darwin Feast

On 11 March the annual Darwin Feast was held following a fascinating lecture given by Professor Martin Warren of the School of Biosciences on the subject of royal diseases. The lecture explored the scientific evidence relating to the porphyria suffered by King George III and the origins of the gene for haemophilia that Queen Victoria possessed. This provided a marvellous intellectual appetiser for the feast that followed. It was a wonderful evening, made even better by the presence of several of the original members of Darwin College.

Student Charity Ball

Darwin Student Committee hosted its second masquerade ball on 6 February to raise money for charity. A James Bond theme, ‘Diamonds are forever’, was chosen and the Darwin Conference Suite decorated accordingly – including a montage of Bond clips playing throughout the event – and three excellent bands kept the guests entertained. Over 350 people attended the ball, raising £700 for Catching Lives, a local charity supporting the homeless around Canterbury.

Darwin College hoodie

The College has produced a hoodie with the University Crest on the front and a Darwin logo on the back. Any alumni interested in purchasing one can do so through the University’s on-line store at www.store.kent.ac.uk.

Woolf

The Kent Graduate Student Association held a Pizza and Film Night for students of the College in March. The Master of Woolf had the pleasure of ordering 50 pizzas plus drinks for delivery to the Woolf Foyer where they were consumed with gusto. After finishing off the pizza, students retired to the cinema for a screening of the film Guardians of the Galaxy.

The Graduate School Association’s schedule of student trips continues to be popular. A coachload of students, many of them overseas students taking the opportunity to see more of Britain, have visited London, Oxford and Cambridge so far this year. A further trip to Edinburgh is currently being organised.

Eliot

Eliot Chapel refurbishment

On the evening of 30 January, around 60 students, staff and members of the local community gathered in Eliot Chapel to celebrate the completion of its refurbishment as part of the University’s 50th anniversary celebrations. During the event, the Reverend Dr Stephen Laird, Father Peter Geldard, and Pastor Aaron Berko said some prayers and words of dedication and thanks, while Stephen Burke, Master of Eliot College, spoke of the refurbishment project and those involved.

The Chapel was repainted, its brick floor repointed and partly carpeted, new signage designed and erected, artwork sourced and displayed, and new chairs purchased and installed. Finding a fitting altar and lectern provided a challenge, until Nigel Smith and Peter Dray from Estates came to the rescue. Using fine quality American Oak, Peter and Nigel crafted a beautiful new altar and lectern, that will not just see out the next 50 years, but the 100 years after that!

The Chapel has been restored to its previous glory, and now provides a bright, peaceful and comfortable haven for quiet contemplation and prayer for our students, visitors and staff.
Introducing Turing College

Turing College is the sixth college to be built at the University, almost 50 years since Kent received its Royal Charter in 1965. The College is named after mathematician, philosopher and pioneering computer scientist Alan Turing, who is most well-known for his involvement in cracking intercepted coded messages sent from the German Enigma Machine during World War Two, and now recognised as the father of modern computing.

The College is set atop of the hill overlooking the City of Canterbury and the Cathedral, and is comprised of townhouses, flats and a hub which will hold a reception, laundry facilities, three food outlets and a common area. When the multi-phase development of construction is complete, it will house 800 undergraduate students. Turing is currently home to approximately 200 students, with 90 second year students now also fully affiliated with Turing College living off-campus.

Building work has suffered delays but it is hoped that the College will be ready for full occupation soon. Though Turing does not yet have a central Hub ready to host activities, the small group of students belonging to the College are being creative in making their presence felt, with the elected student committee putting on some fantastic activities such as quiz nights and a ‘The Great Gatsby’ themed evening. The College is also slowly developing some sports teams to bravely take on the giants of the more established colleges, and there has also been a competition to create a logo and choose the college colours, so it will soon have its new identity. The spirit of the pioneering students that Kent recognises in its current 50th celebrations lives on in Turing.

Dermot O’Brien, previously Master of Darwin and Woolf, was appointed Master of Turing College in September 2014. Dermot is a Senior Lecturer in Drama and Theatre Studies in the School of Arts, where he teaches Creative Producing, Event Management and Cultural Policy among other modules.

Dermot’s journey to Kent was varied and interesting, including working in the worlds of steel, finance and telecoms. After a period competing in international motorsport and rallying, he became an actor and director before creating and producing two mid-scale touring theatre companies. He has directed seasons at theatres such as Wimbledon and The Mermaid, where he produced critically acclaimed versions of King Lear, Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, and Measure for Measure in repertory.

Before joining the University of Kent, Dermot was Director of Performing Arts for the Arts Council and South East Arts. Mixing business and arts has been a constant pleasure for Dermot and he is a member of both the Institute of Directors and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He was a member of the Equity Theatre Directors Panel for eight years and is still a member of the Directors’ Guild of Great Britain.
50 years of love at Kent

Diana May (née Cobban), Eliot 1965, English
Andrew May, Eliot 1965, Economic & Social History

Diana and Andrew May, who live in London, met at Kent in their first year. They were married in 1969 and have two children, Joshua and Olivia. Diana and Andrew have both recently taken part in the Footsteps project (see page 21), to celebrate being part of the first cohort of students to have studied at Kent.

Why did you both decide to study at Kent?

Andrew: It was really the attraction of going to a brand new university.
Diana: The fact that Kent (then UKC, of course!) was new, plus the opportunity to study in a Cathedral City. Sadly we didn't get to graduate in the Cathedral (in Kent’s earlier years, graduation took place in Eliot dining hall) but I was given the opportunity to give a reading at the University’s annual Carol Service in December to mark the 50th anniversary.

When did you both meet?

We met in our second term, but only started our relationship at the end of that summer term.

Have you stayed in touch with friends from Kent?

Yes! We really enjoy all the alumni events which the University organises and of course John Platt’s First 500 dinners held each year in May.

What is your favourite memory of Kent?

Andrew: Tutorials in pairs.
Diana: Walking in the bluebell woods behind the Physics Building (now Marlowe) – I wonder if they still flower every year?

If you didn’t attend Kent how would your life now be different?

For a start, we’d be married to different people!

What have you been up to since graduating?

Andrew: I had a career in merchant banking at Rothschilds, in Personnel.
Diana: I worked with the British Council, then moved into teaching as an FE Lecturer in English.

What advice would you give to a new graduate embarking on a career?

Andrew: Try to get a job which uses your degree studies.
Diana: Ideally, do something which inspires you and which you will enjoy but, initially, take ANY job rather than none. You never know where opportunities will lead!

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

Andrew: Persevere, and keep an open mind.
Diana: Do as you would be done by.

What do you enjoy most about your continuing involvement with Kent?

We are both truly honoured to be involved with the 50th anniversary, which is both a personal and a University triumph!

What is your greatest achievement?

Our relationships; family is so very important. That, and we’ve never been unemployed!
Kent alumni sing to success

The University’s 50th anniversary celebrations have coincided with the launch of Kent’s first alumni choir.

Formed by alumnus Matt Bamford (Eliot, 2010), who conducted the Chamber Choir in 2013/2014 and graduated from Kent in 2014, Invicta Voices is based in London and comprises University alumni who are all former Chamber Choir members.

‘The idea for an alumni choir first came about after discussions that many members of last year’s choir were graduating and moving to London and wanted to carry on singing together. Susan Wanless, Director of Music, had also ‘sown the seed’ earlier in the year by mentioning the idea of pulling together an alumni group of singers who were based in London’ explains Matt.

Invicta Voices held its inaugural concert on 27 March in the Colyer-Fergusson Hall, the award-winning building on the Canterbury campus dedicated to music-making. Performing alongside the University Chamber and Cecilian choirs, they treated a packed audience to a rich selection of colourful choral music, including works by Eric Whitacre, Olafur Gjeilo and Vaughan Williams. The Cecilian Choir and String Sinfonia, conducted by Deputy Director of Music Dan Harding, contributed with two pieces including Monteverdi’s vibrant Beatus Vir, and this year’s Chamber Choir performed a trio of pieces conducted by fourth-year Drama student, Emma Murton. The eminent British composer Paul Patterson was present in the audience to hear Invicta Voices perform his motet, Salvum Fac.

After the concert, audience and performers mingled during a post-concert reception in the Colyer-Fergusson foyer.

The event highlighted the energy, commitment and enthusiasm which lie at the heart of extra-curricular music-making at Kent, enhancing the University experience of both staff and students, past and present, by bringing them together to rehearse and perform.

It was lovely to welcome back our musical alumni, and a privilege to see how they continue to pursue their singing to such a high standard after graduating. To find out the latest news from Invicta Voices, follow them on Twitter (@InvictaVoices).

Update on the Footsteps Project

The third wave of the Footsteps Project ended in May, with a new batch of 117 bricks being laid and extending the path to 365 bricks in total. Over £33,300 has been raised for our students so far (including Gift Aid and the University’s 50th anniversary year top up of 25%), and the path will continue to grow over the next few month, with the next wave of bricks being set in August.

Established in 2014, the Footsteps Project enables alumni, current and former staff, students and friends of the University to have a message engraved on the Canterbury campus Crab & Winkle Path. Proceeds from the Project go towards the Kent Opportunity Fund, which provides financial support to students at Kent.

We have been delighted to read the messages, memories, words of thanks and remembrances submitted from alumni from all over the world. We hope that many of those who have donated to the project will be able to visit their brick during the 50th Festival from 4-6 September. We have also just launched a new photo album at www.kent.ac.uk/footsteps so that those who are further afield can download a pic of their brick.

If you haven’t had the chance to inscribe your brick yet, there is still time! The project will close with the end of the 50th anniversary year in November 2015. The path will remain as a constant reminder of the unique experiences and memories of our diverse and extensive community.
This has been a golden year for the Union, as we celebrate some landmark officer wins as well as our 50th anniversary alongside the University. Notable campaign achievements include successfully lobbying the University for a 24 hour Library, introducing exam feedback into schools starting 2016-17, securing a 24 hour bus service, increasing resources and space for student groups, and extending The Venue opening hours to 3am. We are also delighted to announce that The Venue will be hosting a special party, ‘Back with a VEN-geance’ during the University’s 50th Festival on 4-6 September 2015, to which all alumni and friends are invited – to find out more, visit www.kent.ac.uk/50festival!

Varsity, an annual sporting event between the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church, brought together students from across the City to participate in over 30 fixtures. After five days of matches the Varsity scoreboard stood at 13:21 to Kent, allowing us to hold onto the much coveted Varsity trophy and winners title for the 17th consecutive year! This year players wore rainbow coloured laces in support of the Stonewall campaign, to kick homophobia out of sport.

Kent Union has once again been awarded a place in the Sunday Times ‘100 Best Not-for-Profit Organisations to Work For’ list 2015. Ranking 15th in this year’s list, it marks the sixth time that Kent Union has been recognised as an outstanding employer by the Sunday Times and the Best Companies scheme. Kent Union is the only Union in the UK to have been ranked in the list multiple times and this year has obtained the highest rating that any Union has received!

Plans for the new Medway Student Hub are well underway and an artist’s impression of the new building can be viewed online at www.gkunions.co.uk. The purpose-built student centre, with entertainment and social space, will also house offices for ‘Greenwich and Kent Students’ Unions Together’. Subject to planning approval, facilities could be open from September 2016.

Don’t forget about the alumni NUS card, which will give you fantastic discounts in over 170 different stores for only £12 a year! To purchase yours, email kentunion@kent.ac.uk.

Alumni membership details
If you still live not too far away from the Canterbury campus and want to enjoy the huge range of sport and fitness facilities available, why not consider our special alumni membership options? www.kent.ac.uk/sports/membership/alumni.html. There are a number of activities that alumni in the area can enjoy with or without membership, such as parkrun every Saturday at 9am from the Pavilion.

Wayne Otto OBE and the Ultimate Karate Fighters Boot Camp
From 31 July – 2 August, alumnus Wayne Otto OBE (Rutherford, 1988), 5th Dan, nine times World Champion, nine times European Champion and 18 times English Champion, is hosting the second annual Ultimate Karate Fighters Boot Camp in partnership with Kent Sport. National and international standard karate athletes will attend master classes and lectures delivered by world-class karate experts. Visit www.kent.ac.uk/sports/karatecamp for details. To find out what else Kent Sport has planned over the coming months, visit www.kent.ac.uk/sports/events.

Stay in touch
If you have any photos and memories of sport at Kent or sporting achievements since your time at Kent, we would love to hear from you! We can also help you to reconnect with your old sports team, you can contact us at sportsenquiries@kent.ac.uk.
Since the last issue of KENT Alumni 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.

Farel Bradbury (Keynes, 2003)
Philip Clarke (Eliot, 1982)
Ron Flaherty (Former staff)
Peter Fawell (Former staff)
Professor Sheppard Frere (Honorary Graduate, 1985)
Marianne Gibson née Brenger (Keynes, 1981)
Patrick Hetherington (Eliot, 1981)
Stella Irwin (Former staff)
Dr Penny Lacey (Eliot, 1967)
Dr Dedemuri Rusru (known as Rus) Leelaratne (Eliot, 1994)
Melissa Leigh (Rutherford, 2001)
John Miles (Keynes, 1982)
Princilla Moxon (Eliot, 2003)
Arthur Percival (Honorary Graduate, 1991)
David Reilly (Woolf, 2011)
Martin Rimmer (Eliot, 1996)
Professor Hamish Swanston (Eliot, 1968 and former staff)
Ian (Yan) D Tomlinson (Rutherford, 1965)
Jonathan de Villamar Roberts (Keynes, 1978)
Professor Michael Warren (Former staff)

In memoriam

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Professor Michael Warren (Former staff)

Obituary

Dave Reason

It is with great regret we note the passing of Dave Reason, who died on the 30 October 2014 from heart complications. Dave joined the University as a Lecturer on 1 October 1971 and remained at the University for over 30 years. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer on 1 October 1990 until his retirement in 2008 after which he held the post of Associate Lecturer from 2009 until his passing. During this time he played a full and outstanding role in the life and culture of the University. In the fluid and interdisciplinary structure of the old Faculty of Humanities in the 1980s and 90s, Dave developed and participated in innovative new initiatives and degree programmes, moving on from his initial appointment in Sociology to play a leading role in the development of the postgraduate programme in Psychoanalysis with Martin Stanton and Julia Borossa and the innovative Communication and Image Studies programme with Bernard Sharratt, Glenn Bowman, Roger Cardinal and Graham Clarke. After the introduction of departmentalisation saw the closure of these programmes, he moved to History & Theory of Art, where he continued to teach innovative and original courses that reflected the broad reach of his knowledge, such as Word and Image, Abstraction and Constructivism, Everyday Images and Inner Worlds: Art and Psychoanalysis. He also continued to explore interdisciplinary teaching through popular modules such as his two science fiction courses co-run with Alex Dolby. Interdisciplinary collaboration was something he valued highly and always sought to promote in his relations with colleagues and students. Courses were often opportunities for extending collegial dialogues with colleagues, stimulating common interest, intellectual debate and new research. Those who worked with him knew him as an outstanding and remarkable colleague and one who stood for the highest collegial ideals. Students who took his courses often remarked on what an inspiring teacher he was, how memorable his courses were and how much they developed new perspectives of thought for them.

The range and diversity of Dave’s thought and interests was exceptionally impressive, ranging across subjects as diverse as cultural studies, art, music, politics, sociology, anthropology, social psychology and science. His first degree had been in mathematics before going on to study sociology at postgraduate level. Of particular fascination for him throughout his life was the political and cultural situation of Eastern Europe, where he taught for a period, and the former Soviet Union. Visual representation in science and medicine and ‘new media’ were also long standing intellectual pursuits. More recently he had been exploring indigenous African photography and writing articles for the Church Times. His publications reflected his wide ranging knowledge and include An Introduction to the Theory of Regression, ‘European Consortium of Political Research Monographs Classifications in their Social Context’, 1979, co-edited with RF Ellen, a co-edited collection entitled, ‘The Unpainted Landscape’, 1989 and ‘Teaching Transference, 1996’, edited with Martin Stanton.

Despite this diversity the guiding figures in his intellectual thought were Marx and Freud. Within these intellectual traditions, the writings of Theodor Adorno and the Frankfurt School were of particular importance to him. Dave was also a pioneer of the study of land art; the relationship of art and nature was a source of fascination since childhood.

In addition to his teaching and research, Dave was a tireless and eloquent champion of equal opportunities. Since childhood he himself had suffered disability from polio and did much to raise the consciousness about disability issues within the University and improve conditions for colleagues and students with disabilities. He also served on the Tizard Ethics Committee. From 2005-2008 he served as Master of Keynes College and did much in his time as Master to revive the longstanding collegiate tradition at Kent. His chairmanship of the Arts ‘Hanging Committee’, served to make the college the focal point of arts exhibitions on campus and to inspire later related University initiatives. All who attended the musical events Dave organised in Keynes College will never forget him. He was also an honorary member of Rutherford College. He is survived by his wife Aliia, his son Jonathan and daughter Alice, and his two grandchildren.

KENT Magazine