Kent in the EU
Join the conversation
Dear friends,

As 'the UK's European university' we are proud of our longstanding European connections: our postgraduate centres in Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome; our staff and students from across the EU; and the partnerships with other European institutions that have created important opportunities for research collaboration. The referendum on the UK’s continued membership of the European Union will be one of the most important political decisions in this country in a generation. Kent, along with other UK universities, has judged that a vote to leave would be very damaging for the higher education sector. But whatever your own views, it is vitally important that as many as possible of those eligible should exercise their vote on polling day, 23 June.

The University’s reach extends not just to Europe, of course; in recent months we have held events in France, Italy and Greece and have also visited Hong Kong, the USA, Malaysia and Singapore, and have also held our first alumni events in Oman and Jordan. We have also been reaching out from the UK in a virtual way: encouraging guests and participants to take part in the Chancellor’s successful In Conversation series by joining in on social media. These are just some of the ways in which we are seeking to change the way that the University connects with the local community and with the wider world.

It is inspiring to see how much Kent has evolved since I arrived in autumn 2007; so much is new and yet the University still retains the same welcoming and collegiate atmosphere. You may already have heard that I plan to retire from the University in autumn 2017 and that plans are underway for the appointment of my successor. It has been and continues to be an honour to lead such an outstanding institution and I would like to thank alumni worldwide for your support, which has helped in securing our place among the UK's best universities. We are now in a strong position to build for the future and I look forward to seeing the University of Kent go from strength to strength.

With best wishes,

Julia

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow
Vice-Chancellor
KENT

We are keen to have your feedback and letters are welcome from all our readers. Please email us at alumni@kent.ac.uk with your comments.

KENT is also available online at www.kent.ac.uk/alumni/news

Editorial team: Julia Baxter, Development & Alumni Engagement Officer, Annabel Chislett, Communications Officer and Fiona Jones, Development & Alumni Engagement Manager.

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Medway Dean in Nobel Peace Prize nominated team

Kent Law School professor and Kent alumnus, Nick Grief (Rutherford 1975), is a member of a legal team nominated for its work at the International Court of Justice.

The international team of lawyers represents the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in nuclear disarmament cases against India, Pakistan and the UK. The RMI alleges that each State is failing to comply with its obligation under international law to pursue in good faith and conclude negotiations for the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons.

Professor Grief practises at the Bar from Doughty Street Chambers.

Professor Grief was brought on to the RMI’s legal team by Keller Rohrback LLP, a US law firm acting for the RMI in parallel proceedings filed in the Federal District Court in San Francisco.

The RMI’s legal team, led by the RMI’s former Foreign Minister Tony de Brum, has been nominated for the Peace Prize by Secretary-General of the International Peace Bureau (IPB) Colin Archer. In a letter to the Norwegian Nobel Institute, he praises the team’s “highly effective” work and says the IPB sincerely believes that the Marshall Islands initiative will prove to be a significant and decisive step in ending the nuclear arms race and in achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

Professor Grief teaches Public International Law and EU Law at Kent Law School.
Sleeping sickness, or human African trypanosomiasis (HAT), affects tens of thousands of people across sub-Saharan Africa each year, and often results in death or disability. If caught early, treatment is usually successful, but until now, early diagnosis has proved difficult. A team of dedicated researchers at the University of Kent are working to change this.

**What is sleeping sickness?**

The Trypanosoma parasite that causes HAT is transmitted to humans through infected tsetse flies, which breed in warm and humid areas. With tsetse flies found across a vast region, over 60 million people are at risk of infection. Around 5,000 cases are reported each year and without treatment, almost every single case will result in death. Due to the nature of transmission, the disease is found disproportionately in the working population – younger, economically active members of the community, who are exposed to the parasite while working outdoors. This magnifies the impact of the disease on a community, as an outbreak can lead to disruption in the ability of a population to farm or source food, and lead to further problems.

The first signs of infection include fever, headache, joint pain, itching and weakness – common symptoms making it very difficult to detect in the early stages. Within weeks or months of infection, progression to the second stage takes place, where confusion, violent behaviour and convulsions often occur. One of the most striking features of the infection – and the one from which it takes its name – is the inability to sleep at night, and being overcome by sleep during the day. Finally, the disease progresses to coma, and then death.

**The challenge**

In the first stage of the disease, treatment is straightforward and overwhelmingly successful; however, the non-specific symptoms make it very difficult to identify before the infection progresses. By the time the disease reaches the second stage, treatment becomes exceedingly complex and difficult to administer. By this point, in order to be successful, drugs must cross the blood-brain barrier to eradicate the parasite from the body, and this treatment can, in itself be fatal in some cases.

Dr Barrie Rooney from the School of Biosciences has been involved with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) screening teams for the past ten years. The traditional screening approach involves sending large teams and complex equipment – requiring refrigeration and therefore electricity – to remote areas, and takes a significant amount of time, making it very difficult to undertake this activity on a large scale. The MSF mobile screening team constantly travels between outbreaks, taking a team of around 30 people, a mobile laboratory, generators, fuel and all the food they will need to some of the most inaccessible regions. This is incredibly expensive and time consuming.

When the screening team arrives at a village, everyone must be checked to ensure that any carriers of infection are identified, as these individuals can act as a reservoir for the parasite and trigger a new infection. Once screened, anyone infected requires a lumbar puncture in order to ascertain what stage their infection has progressed to, and appropriate treatment; all of which is carried out by the team in situ.

**Progress so far**

After being involved in this work for a decade, Dr Rooney was determined to try and use modern technologies to find a better solution. Now, working with Professor Mark Smales and other colleagues from the School of Biosciences at Kent, a team at MSF and the Tropical Institute in Antwerp, the team have successfully
developed a simple diagnosis method to identify sleeping sickness more easily, safely and cheaply than ever before. The new test, which is similar to a dipstick pregnancy test, requires only a simple pin-prick blood sample. This could revolutionise testing and treatment, and be a real breakthrough in the fight against this infection.

This work was funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, as part of the Flexible Interchange Programme (FLIP), which is designed to encourage collaboration between academia, industry and charities by providing funding for these organisations to work together. The initial 18 month project to develop the test has received follow-on funding for another 18 months to develop a prototype test.

The future
Work at the Antwerp Institute has introduced the team to a company called Coris Bioconcept who are now working to produce a stable working prototype test that can be administered in the field. As HAT is considered a ‘neglected tropical disease’ by the World Health Organisation, this work simply covers costs and no profits are made. In the spirit of this, intellectual property rights for some techniques used in the creation of the test have also been waived by the patent holder, Jena Biosciences.

If this work continues to provide positive results in testing, it is hoped that the test will go one to be included in an EU-funded field trial in October, where it will be tested in a real-world situation.

“This international collaboration combined expertise from many sources to produce a novel approach to developing rapid diagnostic tests.”
Dr Barrie Rooney

How does HAT spread?
The tsetse fly acts as the host for the Trypanosoma parasite, which is transmitted when the fly bites to partake of a blood meal. When the fly bites, the parasite is able to enter the bloodstream via the bite, from where it passes over into the lymph and the central nervous system.

At this point, the parasite continues its life-cycle in the body and reproduces in the blood. A fly that then bites this infected host may itself become infected, and over the course of four to six weeks this fly may transmit the infection further.

Potential for growth
If successful, this work could be adapted and applied to several other tropical diseases related to the Trypanosoma parasite, including:

American trypanosomiasis: Chagas disease
• Spread by insects known as Triatominae or kissing bugs.
• A potentially life-threatening illness caused by the protozoan parasite, Trypanosoma cruzi.
• An estimated 8 million people are infected worldwide, mostly in Latin America.
• Depending on cardiac damage, up to 85% of infected patients usually die within ten years if untreated, often in early adult life.
• As with HAT, treatment is more successful the earlier it is initiated – particularly in the initial stage of the disease.

Visceral leishmaniasis: Kala-azar
• Spread by sandflies.
• Commonly found in India, South East Asia and often seen in refugee camps.
• This disease is the second-largest parasitic killer in the world (after malaria), responsible for an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 infections each year worldwide.
• The parasite migrates to the internal organs such as the liver, spleen and bone marrow; and, if left untreated, will almost always result in the death of the host.
Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow announces her retirement

Dame Julia, Vice-Chancellor of the University since 2007, has announced her intention to retire in August 2017. Through her leadership Kent has made a significant step-change in its national and international standing.

Sir David Warren, Chair of the University’s governing Council, said: ‘Julia has been an outstanding Vice-Chancellor and has led the University through a time of profound change in the higher education sector. Kent is now in the top 20 of British universities, an institution whose research and teaching is of the highest standard, and an environment which receives high praise from staff and students as a centre of study and as a place to work.

‘Julia’s focus on international engagement has also meant that we are on course to become a globally recognised research institution by 2020. This is a tribute to Julia’s inspiring leadership of a great team.’

Dame Julia said: ‘I would like to thank staff, students and alumni for their support and hard work in securing our place among the UK’s best universities in such a challenging environment. We are now in a strong position to build for the future. It is an honour to lead such an outstanding institution and I have valued working with so many exceptional individuals.’

University wins Guardian award for digital innovation

The University was presented with the Guardian University Awards Trophy for digital innovation at their annual awards ceremony in London.

The award was in recognition of the ‘Lottie’ project, ground-breaking work from the Centre for Child Protection – based within the University’s School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research – providing an interactive simulation tool to help young people become more aware of the dangers of sexual grooming.

The judges said the Kent entry had very good community engagement and will have longevity, adding that using online tools to deal with an online problem was ‘very clever and brave’. They also stated that the fact that the project is targeted at both young people and professionals made it very inclusive, with great scope for development and great evaluation potential.

Dean for the Graduate School, Professor Diane Houston, Co-director of the Centre for Child Protection, Dr Jane Reeves, and Vanisha Jassal, Centre lecturer, attended the awards presentation on behalf of the University.

Research offers potential new treatment for children's cancer

Researchers at Kent and the Goethe University Frankfurt in Germany have identified a potential new treatment for a cancer of the nervous system affecting children.

The team, including Professor Martin Michaelis and Dr Mark Wass at Kent’s School of Biosciences, found that flubendazole – a drug used against parasitic worms – has potential for the treatment of neuroblastoma, a cancer of the peripheral nervous system which affects children.

Tests on 461 cancer cell lines revealed that neuroblastoma – the most common solid cancer occurring outside the brain in children and a major cause of death during infancy – was highly sensitive to flubendazole.

Professor Michaelis and the team concluded that flubendazole represents a viable potential treatment option for neuroblastoma. It will now be subject to further research.

Carol Service raises funds for Calais migrants

Hundreds of staff and students attended the University Carol Service in Canterbury Cathedral in December 2015 and helped raise almost £3,000 for migrants in Calais.

The annual candle-lit service was led by the University Chaplains. It featured the Minerva Voices (the University’s female voice choir), the Gospel Choir of the Christian Performing Arts Society and the singing of verses of Silent Night in several different languages including Japanese, Shona and Portuguese.

The Carol Service was attended by around 400 staff and 800 students, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Councillor Sally Waters; the Chancellor of the University, Dr Gavin Esler; and the Vice-Chancellor and her guests.

The appeal speech was given by Alice Brown, a Kent teacher who has been making regular visits to the so-called ‘Jungle’ in Calais as part of a team of local volunteers. Money raised was sent to Caritas Social Action Network, which supports humanitarian work on the ground in Calais.
Kent among THE’s top 100 most international universities

The University’s position as a leading ‘outward-looking’ institution has been confirmed by the Times Higher Education’s (THE) table of the most international universities in the world 2016.

Published on 14 January 2016, the table ranks Kent 66th out of the 800 leading institutions that were considered. Based on the results of the THE’s World University Rankings 2015-2016, where Kent was in the top 10% for international outlook, this latest table considers each institution’s proportion of international staff, proportion of international students and proportion of research papers published with at least one co-author from another country.

Professor Dame Julia said: ‘Our position in this latest league table reflects Kent’s ability to recruit great staff and students from around the world, and the important contributions they make to the life, reputation and impact of the University.’


Kent reaffirms its commitment to gender equality

To mark International Women’s Day (8 March) the University has reaffirmed its commitment to gender equality.

Kent’s successes in this area were most recently underlined when, on 2 March, it was announced by WomenCount that 48% of the University’s Council positions are taken up by women, and that Kent is well above the Committee of University Chairs’ aspirational target of 40% of female governing body members.

A recent Equal Pay Audit by the University also confirmed that Kent has positive equal pay practices and that across the majority of the institution there are no gender pay gaps by grade. The Audit also identified some noteworthy areas for continued improvement and the University is developing an action plan to address these areas.

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow said: ‘I am delighted by the progress the University has made over recent years to address gender imbalances. Schemes such as Athena SWAN are extremely important in helping us achieve gender parity and our own Women’s Network has also supported the development and retention of women within the University.’

Welcoming the announcement by WomenCount, Sir David Warren, Chair of the University’s Council, commented: ‘I am delighted that the University of Kent is at the forefront of gender diversity on its Governing Council. Diverse institutions are more effective institutions. I am proud to be Chair of a very effective Council in a very high-performing university.’


Books

The Body: A Very Short Introduction, Chris Shilling

Written by Kent Professor of Sociology, Chris Shilling, this book highlights how ‘body matters’ are key to contemporary social trends and problems. It explores the potential of classical sociology to aid our understanding of embodiment, and identifies some of the multiple reasons why the body has become a source of conflict in the contemporary era.

The body is an amazing mechanism that enables us to exist, move and function throughout our daily lives, but we often overlook its importance for our social identities and for the maintenance and development of societies.

This latest book has just been published by Oxford University Press, as part of the bestselling ‘Very Short Introductions’ series, that aid as a perfect introduction to subjects you previously knew nothing about or if you want to further your learning.

In a matter of days, the United Kingdom will be taking to the polls in a referendum on ongoing membership of the European Union. Arguments have been made, debates held, but what does membership of the EU mean to the Kent community? We’ve been speaking to staff, students and alumni from all over the world to find out what influence the EU has had on their time at the University. Be it an opportunity to spend time at another European institution, a research collaboration or funding, the impact of the European Union is unmistakable.

Leading the way

‘My introduction to the concept of Europe began when Britain joined the European Economic Community in 1973. I was 15 years old, living in Belgium, and remember how this was seen as a major event – it dominated school life and lessons for an entire year! Being from a country through which people had moved for 2,000 years, bringing their cultures and languages with them, I had developed an international outlook and enjoyed studying languages helped in part by the access to Dutch and French TV that living in Belgium afforded, along with listening to the BBC World Service.

Upon completion of my PhD in mathematical physics in 1985, my post-doctoral research received European funding, and immediately opened doors. I travelled in order to work with colleagues in Milan, Eindhoven, Oxford and Limerick, and – as well as furthering my research – this travel also opened my eyes to different cultural perspectives.

Like many of my colleagues, much of my work has been supported by European institutions. Funding of this type encourages collaboration and develops worldwide networks of researchers able to tackle problems of a magnitude that would simply be beyond a single researcher or group working in a single country. The study of climate change or finding the Higgs Boson are two prime examples where a meeting of minds, philosophies and perspectives have come together to drive our understanding forward at a much greater velocity than anyone could have achieved alone.

The position of the University of Kent, in the only county from which you can physically see mainland Europe, with centres in Paris, Brussels, Rome and Athens has made us truly unique in outlook. As the UK’s European university we have a duty to bring our students and researchers closer to our neighbours and undertake collaborations with partners across the EU. I have a particular interest in this area and encourage this activity in my day-to-day role overseeing research and innovation at Kent.’

Professor Philippe de Wilde
Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation

In numbers:
- 2,200 European students enrolled
- 300 European study exchanges for Kent students
- 23% of Kent staff from mainland Europe
- 60 staff exchanges through the Erasmus programme each year
- £13.8 million received in European research awards in the last five years
- 20% of Kent’s research awards come from European sources
Broadening horizons

Kent’s international outlook is certainly influenced by the people who chose to spend their time here. With a large number of international students, and almost half of the academic staff body coming from outside the UK, the University certainly is well placed to make the most of our connections. An active participant in the European Commission’s Erasmus scheme since its inception in 1987, Kent has formed strong, bilateral links with prestigious institutions across the region. The Erasmus programme also facilitates staff and student mobility between higher education institutions across Europe, and provides opportunities to spend time in other universities, with over 300 students and a great many staff taking advantage of this opportunity in the 2014/15 academic year.

In today’s interconnected world, the international perspective gained from exchanges or international work placements is invaluable: allowing individuals to grow in self-confidence, establish international contacts, and improve their language skills. Students participating in these exchanges significantly enhance their employability, while staff taking advantage of such opportunities gain new perspectives on their work, and return to Kent with fresh ideas to implement.

Natalie Basden, one of our careers advisers recently travelled to University Carlo Cattane in Milan as part of this scheme, and explains how it helped her:

‘I work-shadowed in the External Relations and Placements Service, the equivalent to our Careers and Employability Service. It was very interesting to get an insight into how their department worked compared to ours and it was useful to share best practice and gain ideas. At the end of the placement we agreed on a reciprocal CV feedback scheme. Students from the University of Kent looking to work in Italy can get feedback on their CVs from an Italian careers adviser and vice versa.

In addition to the placement being useful in a practical way, it also gave me a fascinating insight into Italian culture and allowed me to have an experience similar to our EU and international students. I think that having an understanding of how EU/international students may feel studying abroad for the first time is essential for staff that support them.’

A home in Europe

‘Our four European study centres in Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome are the most tangible illustration of our position as the UK’s European university. Each of these centres provide a unique perspective on the subjects they teach, enhancing the experience available to our students. Studying international relations, law or economics at the heart of Europe; learning about heritage management or classical civilisation in an area of world-class archaeological significance such as Athens or Rome; researching the history of art amongst the museums and galleries of Paris or Rome; exploring the development of film or creative writing in Paris; our European centres bring their subjects to life and offer an unrivalled study experience.

‘Having responsibility for Kent’s European Centres as Dean for Europe gives me enormous personal satisfaction. I have been a passionate supporter of the European schemes such as Erasmus that enable students to experience study in a different country and culture as this is one of the key building blocks of a common European heritage. Using the right to free movement and establishment to develop our own programmes that attract students from all over the world has created something very special, something that really cements our position as the UK’s European university. Thirty years ago, in February 1986, the UK and France signed the Treaty of Canterbury that paved the way for the construction of the Channel Tunnel. Shortly after that I began a major research project on the economics of the Tunnel and its impacts. The research involved French partners, attracted European funding, and became the basis for involvement in 30 years of research into the importance of transport as one of the building blocks of the EU. The Tunnel and other transport developments, such as Eurostar and the growth of low cost airlines, have been critical factors in Kent being able to develop the European Centres. These now attract students from all over the world and contribute not just to our European mission but to our wider global mission. One of the important lessons from the European Centres is the way that students can come together, but retain and promote their own culture whilst being receptive to others. Shared experiences strengthen ties and that is surely a lesson for Europe.’

Professor Roger Vickerman
Dean for Europe
Opening doors to the world

Being part of the EU doesn’t only open doors to collaboration with our European partners, it can actually help to bring in talented researchers from elsewhere, creating centres of research excellence and helping to drive our understanding forward. One example can be found in the School of Biosciences, where, with support from an EU grant, Kent scientists are working to understand more about heart disease – the biggest killer of under 30’s in the UK.

Following a successful application to the European Commission’s Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) programme, the School of Biosciences has been able to welcome Dr Alice Racca from Seattle. The highly sought-after MSCA fellowships support only the best, most promising scientists from around the world, bringing their knowledge and expertise into Europe.

Alice’s MCSA fellowship allowed her to join the team of Professor Mike Geeves, who has been at the University of Kent since 1999, leading a team working on the properties of the muscle protein myosin. This research is aiding our understanding of how different types of muscle are adapted for the specific roles that they play within the body – such as fast running, supporting posture, or heart function. Through this research, their laboratory in Kent has developed a world-leading specialism in studying very small amounts of muscle protein.

The team has to date secured close to £5 million in grants from the Wellcome Trust, British Heart Foundation and National Institutes of Health (USA) in addition to the EU, and are currently working on how mutations in cardiac myosin cause heart disease.

Alice joins Kent from the University of Washington, in the United States, where she investigated the role of inherited errors in myosin in birth defects in skeletal and heart tissue in rats and mice. She states:

‘Mike and I first met at a conference in 2013 and discovered the complementary nature of our work. Unfortunately, there are very few funding opportunities available to bring researchers from the US to the UK to continue their work. Thanks to the MSCA Fellowship, in 2015 I was able to join Mike and his team for two years to collaborate on this project. This funding will also allow me to spend time working with colleagues at the University of Florence and strengthen ties between that institution and Kent.

Working in the UK has also given me the opportunity to experience working in a much more international environment and to see the approach to science from multiple cultural perspectives – an unexpected and very useful outcome!’

Together, Alice and the team combine two approaches that should allow real progress to be made in understanding the causes of congenital diseases of muscle development. The MSCA funding has played an essential part in bringing this team together.
Nurturing talent
In 2015 Dr Heather Ferguson became one of just a handful of UK researchers selected to receive a European Research Council (ERC) starting grant. These awards are prestigious, sought after and incredibly competitive, with just 200 made each year across Europe. Supporting up and coming research leaders with outstanding proposals, the grants provide the funding to develop their work and build their knowledge and careers. Heather explains what this means to her:

‘There are many reasons – both professional and personal – why remaining part of Europe is important to me. One important reason in my professional life is that the majority of my current research is funded by an ERC grant. This European funder awarded me €1.5 million in September 2015 to conduct a massive five year project looking at how our ability to communicate changes in old age.

This funding also brings new facilities to the University of Kent, in particular a brand new ‘mobile research van’, which will be fully equipped with an eye-tracker and brain recording equipment to test participants in their own neighbourhoods. Importantly, it also brings benefits in terms of new jobs: the project pays for a full-time teaching replacement for me, employs three postdoctoral researchers and will fund one PhD studentship in full. None of this would be possible without this European funding.

Ultimately, cutting edge science requires a rigorous and comprehensive approach that simply cannot be sustained by a small number of people. Europe provides an extensive network of universities in 51 countries who are all pushing the boundaries of psychological science in different ways. It is this scientific community that makes real progress possible. Of course this community is also underpinned by an enormous student body, who not only engage with their local institutions but are increasingly likely to travel and study in other European universities. It is this sort of exchange of ideas, knowledge and expertise that emphasises the importance of being part of Europe.’

Bringing people together
With over 20% of our staff and more than 10% of students currently hailing from mainland Europe, the University has a decidedly cosmopolitan feel. When asked about their experience at Kent, our alumni often tell us how this shaped their time here, and how it remains an enduring memory to this day. Dr Stefan Gunther (Eliot, 1986), shared his thoughts with us:

‘I attended Kent in 1987/88 as a student sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service. At that point ERASMUS was in its infancy (no credit from Kent was transferrable to my home university in Germany) and the university was still known as ’UKC’, the University of Kent at Canterbury. The remarkable success the University has experienced over the last 30 years as ’the UK’s European university’ was already tangible during my time at Kent. Even though the Brussels, Paris and even Medway campuses had not yet been conceived, the Canterbury campus was energised by the coming together of students from various backgrounds and countries; during my first week I met new friends from all over the UK as well as the USA, Cyprus, Japan, Germany and France.

These heady interactions made me realise how comparatively provincial the student body at my home university was; I credit this exposure with a lifelong interest in other cultures and the realisation of how contingent the constructs of one’s own upbringing truly are. It is now that it is crucial to continue to foster this European and international approach; as the forces of nativism, xenophobia and nationalism appear to be gathering strength on both sides of the Atlantic, surely the antidote needs to be increased contact, enhanced understanding, and measured dialogue. I can think of no other institution in the UK – by accident of geography and merit of sustained effort – in a better position than the University of Kent to engage in this work. While a potential ’brexit’ might have deleterious economic consequences for the UK, I fear that the damage in areas of academic cooperation and exchange (in every sense of the term) would be immeasurably larger.

I am proud to say that it was only at UKC that I felt like a true European for the first time – here’s hoping that future generations will follow suit!’
Join the conversation

The University hosts a huge range of events at our campuses and further afield; these include lectures, receptions, panel discussions, reunions and more. All are an opportunity for alumni and friends to connect with Kent and with each other, and perhaps to learn a little more about a subject of interest. This year, we have two new series of events which encourage discussion and dialogue, and which welcome viewers from around the world to participate using social media.

**In Conversation**

This year we’ve been delighted to join our Chancellor, Gavin Esler, as he interviews high-profile public figures for the first *In Conversation* series at Kent. If you’ve not been able to join the audience at the Canterbury campus, all is not lost – you can catch up on the full lecture series on the University’s official YouTube channel!

There is a relaxed, informal format to each *In Conversation* – with audience participation encouraged! This year, questions were invited in advance and could be submitted by email or on social media. All were shared with Gavin, and many were put to the interviewee on the night alongside those taken from the audience. In addition to being Chancellor of the University, Gavin Esler is one of TV’s most highly regarded broadcasters having presented *Newsnight* and *BBC News*. Each *In Conversation* event in this first series has given great insight into the fascinating lives and careers of each guest.

**Gerald Scarfe CBE**

Celebrated satirical cartoonist and illustrator Gerald Scarfe CBE was first to join Gavin Esler *In Conversation*. Gerald shared his experiences working for *Private Eye*, *Yes, Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister*, the *Sunday Times* and the *New Yorker*, and his involvement in the 1997 Disney film, *Hercules*. He presented many examples of his work, including caricatures of British politicians, both past and present – some previously unpublished – and discussed the challenge of approaching sensitive current affairs.

**Ian Rankin OBE**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, welcomed Scottish crime writer, Ian Rankin OBE, to Kent for his *In Conversation* with the Chancellor, a fellow Scot. The pair discussed Rankin’s most famous character, Inspector Rebus, good and evil, and the position of crime novels within the broader context of literature. The audience duly quizzes him on Scottish football, the state of modern publishing and more.

**Mark Kermode**

Gavin Esler and Mark Kermode present *The Film Review* together on BBC News Channel, giving their unique take on the best and worst of the week’s films and it was as full house in Woolf Lecture Theatre for their *In Conversation*. Following a foray into Mark’s first memories of film, he explained his tendency to misremember scenes from films and recalled having a very vivid memory of the line, “But I want to love you now” from *Battle for the Planet of the Apes*, only later realising that he’d transposed it from *Cabaret* starring Liza Minnelli. Mark also spoke about the Oscars and the advantages of being a film critic, namely being able to see everything that is released!

**Alastair Stewart OBE**

With two titans of British broadcast journalism sitting opposite each other, the *In Conversation* with Gavin and Alastair proved to be a fascinating and engaging evening. Gavin started the discussion with questions about Alastair’s early career, before discussing the changes in journalism in terms of technology and competition between different networks. A key theme of the evening was the importance of impartiality in journalism.

“An artist’s job, if anything, is to tell the truth to the world”

Gerald Scarfe CBE

**Robert Wyatt**

The spectacular Colyer-Fergusson Music Hall hosted the final event in the series, with musician Robert Wyatt *In Conversation*. Robert shared memories from his incredible career, which began in Canterbury, and was instrumental in creating the Canterbury Sound. Live music on the night was performed by SoupSongs – a band he and long-time musical collaborator Annie Whitehead have assembled to perform his work live. Robert Wyatt discussed covers and wholeheartedly recommended the Tasmin Archer version of his hit, Shipbuilding.

**Louis de Bernières**

The Chancellor asked Louis about his early forays into writing and Louis explained the formative role of his parents – especially his father who was known to quote Shakespeare at the dinner table – as well as his English teachers. He emphasised the importance of not just reading literature written in English and noted that being an avid reader was key to becoming a good writer.

The pair discussed the success of *Captain Corelli’s Mandolin* and other works including *Birds Without Wings* and de Bernières’ poetry collections. The evening concluded with Louis reading two of his poems.

Watch now!

On the University of Kent YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/UniversityofKent
Think Kent!

Our students regularly highlight the enthusiasm, expertise and teaching style of our academics as some of the things they enjoy most about Kent. ‘Think Kent’ is a series of 15-minute lecture videos, similar to TEDx Talks and Reith Lectures, that showcase the breadth and quality of research undertaken by our academic staff and the international impact of this work.

As well as highlighting Kent’s research, these lectures could provide inspiration for continued learning or to help applicants and prospective students from overseas to become better acquainted with the University. If you saw an academic speaking in an engaging and entertaining way about their research, wouldn’t you want to find out more?

The series features Kent academics including Professor Abdulrazak Gurnah from the School of English, Dr Dan Lloyd from the School of Biosciences, Professor Ruth Blakeley from the School of Politics and International Relations, Dr Peter Klappa from the School of Biosciences (and also Master of Rutherford College) and Dr Heejung Chung, from the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research. Viewers will find a host of content from the faculties of Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences, and these lectures are already some of the most viewed videos on the University’s YouTube channel.

More lectures are planned for the near future and the format may also be expanded to include panel discussions between Kent academics, or eminent Kent alumni speaking about their area of work and offering advice for others keen to work in the same field.

The full ‘Think Kent’ playlist can be found on the official Kent YouTube channel.

Find out more:

\[
\text{Think Kent:}
\text{www.youtube.com/UniversityofKent}
\]

Coming up…

*In Conversation* Autumn 2016

**Sandi Toksvig OBE**

Write, actor, presenter and comedian

4 October 2016

**Bernard Cornwell OBE**

Author

17 October 2016

**Dame Diana Rigg DBE**

Actress

28 November 2016

Find out more:

www.kent.ac.uk/events
Supporting students

The Student Projects Grant Scheme is supported by the Kent Opportunity Fund and was established to fund projects which help students to develop their personal and professional skills through a variety of extracurricular activities.

The scheme is open to all, with student groups within Kent Union, departments, faculties and schools across the University, including campuses in Canterbury and Medway, and centres in Tonbridge, Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome all welcome to apply for funding to run projects. Groups submit their applications in the autumn term and, if successful, have until the end of the academic year to complete their projects.

The funding process
As part of the application process, groups are encouraged to plan out their projects in detail: with the purpose, activities involved, timeline, budget and the proposed outcome all included. It is particularly encouraging to see both the number and the quality of the applications improving the longer we run this scheme. In the current academic year over 30 applications have been received, with 19 of these winning either full or partial funding amounting to almost £50,000.

Applications are judged by a Grants Application Panel, who meet to discuss the projects presented and decide which should receive support. Prior to the meeting, applications are shortlisted by the Chair and staff from the Development Office. The Panel usually consists of representatives from Student Services, Kent Union, all three faculties, our donor community and the Development Office.

Stephen Hearnden (Rutherford 1968) represented our donors on the most recent meeting and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. He told us:

‘I was impressed by the scope and breadth of these projects and would encourage all students to consider applying if they have an interesting idea which needs help with funding.

Employers will look favourably upon such endeavours and if additional funding can be raised too, this can only help the student and also demonstrate his or her potential.’

During the application process students are prompted to identify the objectives of their project and to communicate their ambitions via a well-written application accompanied by a budget detailing how they propose to use the funds. A particularly important part of the process is the feedback and the suggestions from panel members that they receive along with the application results – whatever the outcome.

Ivana Blaskova, a second year student of Art History and Film, received funding from the Scheme to put up an art exhibition and developed some valuable skills through the application process.

‘I hadn’t had much experience in bidding for funding until I came across the Student Projects Grant Scheme. Through the application we were guided to think about our project more strategically, and to plan all aspects of the project, including the activities involved and the budget spent. We were also encouraged by the Panel to consider expanding the scale of the project in order to create a bigger impact. These are important skills that I can transfer into any workplace,’ said Ivana.

Through this structured approach, students gain key employability skills such as clear communication, proposal writing and presentation skills before they even begin to deliver their project.
Your donations in action: the App Development Conference

From this year’s applications, the App Development Conference was a highlight. A one day conference to introduce students to the rapidly expanding industry of app development, the event included inspiring presentations from mobile entrepreneurs and local businesses who provided insights on their entrepreneurial journeys. There is also a promise of future work with two of the speakers’ companies. Some of the students who attended the conference shared their impressions with us:

‘I liked that there was a diverse range of speakers from different levels and all of the talks were really engaging. There was an opportunity to network with the guest speakers and other attendees and I was able to get advice from the speakers and meet other students who share the same interests.’

‘I really enjoyed being able to speak to the entrepreneurs and app developers who had delivered the presentations. It was great to meet the people behind the apps we actually use and the Q&A session was really insightful and helpful.’

‘Thank you for getting industry speakers with experience coming to talk to us; the presentations were awesome. My one concern would be, how could you top this?’

Your donations in action: the Work-Study Scheme

The Work-Study Scheme has also secured funding from the Student Projects Grants Scheme for the past two years. The scheme is designed to give students access to employment opportunities on campus; putting their abilities to good use while receiving additional training and personal development.

Since its foundation in October 2014, the scheme has helped 31 students obtain campus-based employment in roles ranging from Student Research Assistant in the School of History to a Lab Assistant in the School of Biosciences. Jasmine Curran, a second year student of English, American Literature and Creative Writing, secured positions as an Employability Representative and an Assistant within Careers. She reflects on her experience with the Work-Study Scheme with enthusiasm:

‘The scheme gave me first-hand experience in an office environment where I learnt how to brainstorm and work as part of a team. It helped improve my CV drastically, and I feel more confident about my future job prospects.’

Find out more...

www.kent.ac.uk/opportunityfund

If you would like to know more about the Student Projects Grant Scheme, including the 2016 projects, or you would like to join the Grants Allocation Panel please contact Eva Chow at W.K.E.Chow@kent.ac.uk or email giving@kent.ac.uk.
Following completion in early July, the law building will be the new home for Kent Law School’s award-winning Kent Law Clinic and Mooting Programme.

The Law Clinic helps those who cannot afford the services of a lawyer to defend their rights – and it teaches students of the Law School as they participate in providing that help. In 2015 the Clinic dealt with over 1,400 telephone enquiries. Staff and students, with valuable pro bono assistance from private practice lawyers locally, advised nearly 400 clients with employment, immigration, asylum, family, housing, property, contract, welfare benefits, access to land and other problems; and in a further 115 new cases, Clinic solicitors and the students they supervise provided full representation to clients in court and tribunal cases.

As a result, tenants obtained repairs to their homes, parents and grandparents got the court orders they need to protect their children’s interests, asylum seekers gained refuge in this country, and immigrants were reunited with their families. At the same time substantial monetary benefits were won in employment, welfare benefit and contract cases – over the year clients gained or saved sums of money totaling over £300,000 either by orders made by courts and tribunals or through negotiated settlements.

Over 250 students a year participate in providing these legal services and other projects. The six practising solicitors in the Clinic are part of the Law School’s academic staff, and they not only supervise, teach and assess students but also foster in the Clinic a culture of enthusiastic, legally informed engagement with law and society. Students and staff alike cannot wait to move into their spacious and bespoke new home.

The new building is being funded by donations from generous benefactors including alumni, trusts and foundations, friends of the University, students and staff, for which we are very grateful.

Mediation excellence in the Law School

A team of student mediators from Kent Law School were voted the best international team at the 15th Annual International Law School Mediation Tournament held in Chicago in the United States.

Rachel Bale, Meshaal Choudhary, Rachel Easton and Hannah Loosely were presented with the H Case Ellis of Mediation Award for the accolade of being voted the best international team by more than 400 fellow competitors.

Janie Clement-Walker (Eliot 2005), the Law School’s Lecturer in Alternative Dispute Resolution, accompanied the team to the USA and was thrilled with their success: “The University of Kent is now firmly established in the international field of mediation. Outstanding performances by all four students contributed to their success and the four awards they received are a testament to the hard work they put into preparing for the tournament”.

By the time you receive this magazine there will be just weeks left to participate and rise to the Wigoder challenge and help us reach our fundraising target. The Hon Charles Wigoder (Rutherford, 1978), major supporter of the new building has added further support to the final fundraising push by agreeing to match all gifts received until 30 June 2016. For new supporters – and to existing supporters who may wish to give just that little bit more – this is a great opportunity to support access to justice.

You can make your gift online at www.kent.ac.uk/lawcampaign or complete the donation form enclosed.

This was the toast proposed by Professor John Fitzpatrick at the topping out ceremony on the roof of the new Wigoder Law Building on 9 March. Guests then took it in turns to sign a Memory Board which will remain within its walls.

“May it bring justice in the land”
Providing support in times of crisis

Regular readers of KENT magazine will be familiar with stories of how your support changes the lives of students here at the University. Today, we shine a light on how the University itself – along with the generosity of our staff – is working to support prospective students and academics who have sought refuge in Europe.

In this time of instability and insecurity across the world, unprecedented numbers of people are being forced to flee their homes in search of safety and security. Here in the UK, we have a long history of helping those in need of sanctuary, and this crisis is no exception. The University is proud to be playing its part, and, earlier this year launched the Kent Refugee Fund to allow staff to lend their personal support to individuals supported by two organisations: The Helena Kennedy Foundation ‘Article 26 project’ and the Council for At-Risk Academics (Cara).

Cara has roots stretching back to 1933; it was set up following the Nazi expulsion of academics from their posts in Germany. Shocked by the situation, leading UK academics and scientists joined forces to help them to flee and continue their work in safety. In the intervening years, Cara has been working tirelessly to help academics and their families caught in conflict or endangered by violent or autocratic regimes. By providing fellowship places at its network of institutions in the UK and further afield, Cara has been able to provide academic colleagues with a safe haven to continue their work, in many cases until it is safe to return home. The University is committed to this programme and welcoming to academics who join us through it.

For some time, the University has also been working closely with the Helena Kennedy Foundation ‘Article 26 Project’ to provide opportunities for people seeking asylum to access – and succeed in – higher education. This includes a full tuition fee bursary and funding to meet some of the additional costs associated with studying.

It can take years to process an asylum claim in the UK, during which time individuals can be essentially stuck in limbo – unable to work, and surviving on a very low income. During this time, people seeking asylum in the UK face two significant barriers preventing them from accessing university. Firstly, tuition fees classify people seeking asylum as international students, and apply at the international rate, and secondly they cannot access student loans or maintenance loans to help pay for living costs - which is why this funding is so important.

**Find out more**

- Cara: www.cara.ngo
- Article 26: http://article26.hkf.org.uk

“Many of our scientists and scholars have been killed... all organisations I have contacted have apologised in one way or another... I have never felt so helpless and hopeless... Today, I knock on the door of Cara, my last hope.”

Syrian academic 2013
Later helped by Cara to continue his career at a UK university

**Article 26 (1)**

‘Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.’

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
Community

News from the colleges

Rutherford

Rutherford leads the way in exciting new research study

Over the last five years the College has seen a steady increase in mental health-associated cases, mainly related to depression and anxiety. Often students say that they feel very stressed and anxious about their courses, and especially about exams and assessments, to the point where some of them consider dropping out from university. The University has an excellent student support system with different opportunities for students to find help and support with their issues. However, sometimes the demand outnumbers the available support. We therefore thought that it might be good to look into adding additional strings to this ‘support’ bow.

Teaming up with a group of experienced clinical hypnotherapists, the Rutherford Master is leading a research project which offers students the opportunity of group clinical hypnotherapy sessions. The study will investigate whether hypnotherapy is a useful tool to overcome exam and performance anxiety. Student group sessions are being offered where students can share their worries, before the clinical hypnotherapists get to work to help relieve these anxieties. The outcomes are then analysed.

Although the study is in the early stages there have already been a number of hugely positive comments from study participants. One student, said after the second session, ‘I feel relaxed, my body is soft. I am eager to do my dissertation, because I want to learn and I feel excited and confident that I do know my stuff’. Another student said after the session, ‘I have never felt so joyful and relaxed about my work in my entire life – it really changed me’.

This programme is supported by the Rutherford College Hardship Fund.

Keynes

Chloé Gallien was delighted to find that her first task as Master of Keynes was to welcome college alumni attending the 50th Festival, and she was particularly interested to hear tales of Masters past, recounted by some of Keynes’ early residents.

One of the most remarkable Keynes Masters was undoubtedly Derek Crabtree, who occupied that role for twenty years, from 1973 to 1993, the longest tenure of any Master in any Kent college.
We learned with great sadness of Derek's passing away in October. Following his funeral, a reception was held in Keynes, where family, colleagues and alumni were able to remember and pay tribute to 'a most inspiring teacher and understanding College Master'.

Bruce Webster, another important member and Deputy Master of Keynes College, was fondly remembered in February, with a ceremony culminating in the planting of a memorial tree near the College’s much-loved duck pond.

The tree is a valued addition to the beautifully restored area around the pond. The refurbishment started over a year ago with a student design competition, won by Edward Powe (Keynes 2016). The work was enhanced by the generosity of alumni, who supplemented the fund allocated by the University for this project.

Other projects and developments at the College include art exhibitions, outreach to the local community and initiatives associated with mental health. Since the beginning of the academic year, Keynes has proudly hosted a number of events linked to these topics. "What's Eating You?" was a brave and revealing exhibition by artist and former student Elle-Louise Payne, detailing 'one woman’s recovery from the grip of anorexia’. This was followed by a memorable exhibition of works by two local, professional artists: David Hayward, with ‘Hints & Incidents’, and Angela Rumble with ‘Uncertain Places’. Finally, Keynes successfully celebrated Equality Week with an event entitled ‘it no more’. Organised by Beverley Isibor, current President of the Student Committee, this collaborative event invited students to construct a symbolic wall in which each brick represented something negative or oppressive they would like to see ended. Beverley subsequently organised an equally successful, larger-scale event on mental illness and the stigmas attached to it.

We look forward to hosting more such events and we would be happy to hear from anyone with creative ideas or who would like to contribute. Our contact address: keynesmastersoffice@kent.ac.uk

Eliot
50th Anniversary TS Eliot Memorial Lecture
On 22 October Eliot College and the School of English were delighted to welcome Professor Terry Eagleton to the campus to give the 2015 TS Eliot Memorial Lecture. Professor Eagleton is a noted literary theorist and critic, and an author of over 40 books including Literary Theory: An Introduction. A large audience in Woolf Lecture Theatre listened to Professor Eagleton speaking to the title 'Eliot and the Red-eyed Scavengers' which was on the theme of Eliot’s The Waste Land, one of the most influential poems of the 20th century. The event continued in Woolf foyer where Professor Eagleton spoke to guests and signed books.

The TS Memorial Lectures date back to 1967 when WH Auden gave the first, an occasion some of our first students attended. Over subsequent years the University, working with Faber & Faber, was able to attract a number of noted intellectuals such as Helen Gardner, Conor Cruise O’Brien, George Steiner, Seamus Heaney, Tom Woolf, Helen Vendler, David Mamet, Marilyn Hacker and Mark Ford to give the Lectures. A number of the Lectures were edited into books and published by Faber & Faber.

Stephen Burke, Master of Eliot remarked: “I am delighted that Professor David Herd and his colleagues from the School of English have worked with Eliot College on this event, and particularly as they were able to attract such a good speaker. In the early days of the University the School of English and Eliot College had a close and very productive relationship, and I hope this event marks a revival of this. David has already been in touch about inviting another famous writer for the 2016 Lecture.”
Shan Morgan

Darwin 1973, French

I was lucky to graduate at a time when jobs were easy to get – I joined the Civil Service as a stop gap and never left. The best careers advice I was ever given was never to underestimate the importance of working with bright and committed people. I’ve been lucky enough to do that throughout my career.

After a series of jobs working on youth and adult employment and training programmes, I gravitated increasingly towards jobs with a European or international dimension, including at the British Embassy in Paris as well as several postings to Brussels. Eventually, I transferred to the Foreign Office and was sent off on my dream job – Ambassador to Argentina and Paraguay.

When I was first appointed, I’d never set foot in Latin America and couldn’t speak Spanish. But the FCO gave me intensive language training, and I spent four fascinating years in Buenos Aires before returning to Brussels at what is a genuinely historic moment in the UK’s relations with the EU.

I’ve been asked what I think is my greatest achievement. I’m going to cheat and pick two. First, crossing the Andes on horseback as part of a re-enactment of the feat performed by one of Argentina’s independence heroes. It was an amazing experience, intensified by blizzard conditions and led by the Governor of the province. Given the tensions over the Falklands, it was perhaps not surprising that there were local demonstrations against my taking part in such an emotive event. At the end of it I thought “if I can do this I can do anything”.

And the second? Being awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Kent in 2014 which has led to a renewed involvement with the University and a sense of coming happily full circle, back to a place that gave me such a great start in my life.”

“The best careers advice I was ever given was never to underestimate the importance of working with bright and committed people. I’ve been lucky enough to do that throughout my career.”

Shan Morgan is the Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union, and represents the United Kingdom in the Council Committee responsible for negotiating all policy and legislation covering employment, social policy, health and consumer affairs, competitiveness, transport, telecoms, energy, fisheries, environment, education, youth and culture. Here she shares her thoughts on her time at Kent, her career path, and achievements:

“It was the open weekend for potential undergraduates that made me choose Kent: there was a fantastic welcoming atmosphere, and I really liked the modern and informal style of the campus. It all felt very new and exciting when I arrived at Darwin in 1973.

I’d applied to study French and English, but at the end of a varied and stimulating foundation year in humanities, I opted for straight French, which involved a year as an assistant teacher in a school in a rural French town. It was a wonderful experience (which also taught me that I’d never make a teacher) and the start of a long love affair with France and French.

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“The best careers advice I was ever given was never to underestimate the importance of working with bright and committed people. I’ve been lucky enough to do that throughout my career.”
What Katy did next...

After finishing her thesis, 2011 Alumni Postgraduate Scholar Katy Upton got in touch to let us know where she is now and what life after Kent has meant for her so far.

Having recently had my PhD thesis bound I have had some time to reflect on everything which has gone into creating a 200 page book. This is one of the greatest achievements of my life and I am very proud of the work and effort which has gone into my research, as well as eternally grateful for the support I have received throughout. I submitted my thesis back in July and I can hardly remember those last few weeks of writing and traveling down to Canterbury to submit my final copy!

Shortly afterwards I applied for a job at Chester Zoo as a Curatorial Assistant working alongside the Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates. I was successful in my application and started working at the Zoo in August. I jumped straight into my role spending my first few weeks working on the Mountain Chicken studbook and have been involved in the preparation of the long-term management plan for this species. It may come as a surprise but the Mountain Chicken is actually a type of frog – so named because its meat tastes like chicken! Its critically endangered, and the studbook is basically a database of all the mountain chickens in captivity and their family history. This means we can genetically match individuals to ensure they are bred with unrelated frogs and so will produce the best offspring and ensure their survival.

This has been very interesting work, getting to see how the captive population of these species is managed including pairing individuals based on the best genetic matches to help sustain the population in the future. In November I was lucky enough to travel to Prague where I was involved in the same process but for the Komodo Dragons.

I have been doing this job for seven months now and am thoroughly enjoying it. I regularly get to spend time working behind the scenes with the reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and fish and even had a brief cameo in the TV programme The Secret Life of the Zoo. After successfully defending my thesis at my viva in September I had three months in which to complete my corrections.

This was a difficult process while working full time and enjoying my new-found freedom, no longer having to work long into the evenings running statistical analysis on my data. However I pushed through and had my corrections accepted in January, submitting my final thesis shortly afterwards. My next plan will be to write up my chapters as publications to share my work with other researchers.

I am currently really enjoying my time at Chester Zoo and hope it will continue long into the future. I still have loads to learn about the roles zoos play in species conservation, however, from what I have seen at Chester I believe we can achieve great things. None of this would have been possible without the support I received from alumni and friends of Kent through the Postgraduate Alumni Scholarship. Thank you all for your generosity!
Kent Union
In March, Kent Union announced the results of the 2016 Leadership Elections. This year 4,633 Kent students voted on who they would like to represent them.

Our 2016/17 officers are focused on improving the services available to students on campus. They want to improve library provision and study space, grow support for international students and get greater recognition for students’ volunteering. They also want to build upon college affiliation, developing stronger college identities through improving events and activities. We’d like to extend our sincere congratulations to all the winners, and look forward to working with them throughout the next academic year.

Varsity
This February, Team Kent participated in the annual Varsity event in Canterbury. Team Kent performed valiantly, securing an overall 24-13 victory. Highlights from the week included landslide wins in Women’s Lacrosse (19-1) & Swimming (98-56), Men’s Rugby 4s (22-0) and American Football (24-0). Our sports club gives up hundreds of hours of their own time each year, not just to train and compete but also to manage and run their clubs on very tight budgets. Congratulations to all of Team Kent!

Fundraising
RaG (Raise and Give) have continued to host fantastic events, raising large amounts of money for local, national and international charities. In recent months, Kent RaG have organised events such as the ‘Colour Dash’ on 19 March, which raised money for Pilgrims Hospice, and ‘Kent Lip Sync’, which raised money for the Aspinall Foundation. It’s fantastic to see so many people getting involved, and we are excited to see what they come up with next!

International Showcase!
Eleven Kent Union societies recently competed in the annual International Showcase, an event designed to celebrate different cultures. Students gave some great performances, including Bollywood dancing, singing and our first ever traditional Vietnamese dance. The audience voted on their favourites and the Tamil society were crowned the winners with their innovative body popping dance performance.

Kent Sport
ENAS visits Kent Sport at the University of Kent
The European Network of Academic Sports Services (ENAS), who are responsible for the strategy for sport for European universities, met at Kent Sport on 25 April.

ENAS is a non-governmental, international alliance with a common interest in the promotion of sport and physical activity within higher education.

At Kent we recognise that sport promotes the social, mental and physical wellbeing of our students, teaching skills such as teamwork, leadership and community values. Sport helps to attract, recruit and retain students, and helps to strengthen our alumni network. Through sport we strive for and celebrate talent, excellence and all achievements. ENAS works towards these same aspirations for universities across Europe.

Graham Holmes, Director of Sport, said ‘We were delighted to welcome ENAS to the University of Kent and are pleased they will be able to help promote the University to a wider audience.’

Kent Sport Zurich exchange
Over the last two years Kent Sport has developed a relationship with the University of Zurich. Last year members of Kent Sport staff visited Zurich to see the sports facilities on a fact-finding exercise and to exchange ideas for best practice.

In October 2016 Kent Sport will be returning to Zurich to deliver English sports, including cricket and rugby, which the traditional Swiss audience would not usually experience. In future, representatives of the University of Zurich will visit the University of Kent to showcase their own sports.

University staff and alumni plan for Rio
Kent Sport Assistant Director Mel Clewlow will be heading to Rio to work at the Olympics in August. A double Olympian herself and following her experience as commentator during the London 2012 Olympics, she is looking forward to contributing from the BBC commentary box in Rio; and cheering on Kent alumni representing Team GB such as Susannah Townsend and Natasha Brennan.

2016/17 Kent Union Officers
Rory Murray, Union President
Dave Cocozza, Vice President (Education)
Clara Lee Vice President (Welfare)
Elliott Shell, Vice President (Sport)
Ruth Wilkinson, Vice President (Activities)
In memoriam

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.

Tricia Brinton (Eliot, 1965)

Umberto Eco (Honorary graduate)

Professor Robert Gibson (Former staff)

Eileen Hall (Rutherford, 1965)

Janet Hodgson (Former staff)

Anne Holton-Krayenbuhl (Eliot, 1968)

Eileen Hall (Rutherford, 1965)

Umberto Eco (Honorary graduate)

Tricia Brinton (Eliot, 1965)

Janaki Mylvaganam (Eliot, 1977)

Shaukat Khan (Honorary graduate)

Rory Kent (Rutherford, 2010)

Horace Plowright (Former staff)

Brian Porter (Former staff)

Michael Sheringham (Eliot, 1966)

Johanna Van Veen (Rutherford, 1992)

Thomas Williams (Darwin, 1969)

Master for 20 years, a feat that will certainly never be equaled. In 1995 he became an ordained priest in Church of England, and served in the University Chaplaincy, and for many years after his retirement from the University in 2002 as a part-time priest in St Stephen’s Church. Derek will be mourned by his colleagues and by many alumni of the University of Kent, for he was both an inspiring teacher and an understanding College Master who would offer help to any student, or member of staff, who needed it. Supported by his wife, Christiane, he presided over the College, creating an atmosphere in which academic staff, college staff and students alike felt part of a genuine community. At a time when College Masters were an integral part of the central government of the University, Derek played an important part in the running of the college system and ably chaired the committee which liaised with the campus trades unions. His contribution to the University during its formative years was immense.'

Janet Hodgson

Peter Hatton, a former colleague in the School of Music and Fine Art has written the following tribute:

‘Janet Hodgson, who has died aged 56, was a highly regarded artist and teacher who is remembered with much affection and respect by those who had the good fortune to work and collaborate with her and by those who were taught by her. Janet has been a personal friend and colleague for at least 26 years.

Janet made a huge contribution to the Event and Experience Design course almost since its inception in 2006, working as an Associate Lecturer on a range of modules across all three stages. She was a part of the development of the campus within the Historic Dockyard from the one programme (EED) to Music joining the School of Arts and Fine Art moving from Canterbury to the eventual formation of the School of Music and Fine Art.

Janet was also member of the art+archaeology group and regularly worked with archæologists and historians. Just as archaeologists dig the earth she dug up figures and histories associated with the site, bringing to life ghosts from the past. She made costume dramas to help us resolve or find a different way to use the past to inhabit the present and locating fragments of alternative models of memory and power relations for the future.

Her diligence, determination, commitment and stamina in making work happen are legendary. She also brought these attributes to her teaching, collaborations and friendships, along with a withering critique and brilliant sense of humour!’

David Humphreys

Following the death of David Humphreys, Daniel Harding, Deputy Director of Music reflects on his impact on music at Kent:

‘It was with sadness we heard the news over Christmas that David Humphreys had passed away at the age of 93. David’s memorial service in Barham was a chance to reflect on a remarkable life and career lived to the full.

David was a terrific supporter of music at Kent, having come to the University to read History after retiring from a career as a lawyer Choral singing was very much a part of David’s life, and he sang with the University Chorus as well as other choirs around Kent and in London. As a benefactor, his generous support gave countless students in the Chamber Choir the opportunity to perform in the historic and sonorous surroundings of Canterbury Cathedral Crypt each year, in a memorial concert for David’s wife, Julia. Always a vibrant presence, he would regularly find himself enthusiastically drawn in to the group photographs taken at the end of each concert, which gave him the opportunity to meet the choir, to talk with them, something that David, always a ‘people-person,’ did with clear relish and much enjoyment. In 2012, the Crypt concert was a special celebration of David’s 90th birthday.

This year’s Crypt concert fell on the occasion of what would have been David’s 94th birthday, and this year’s choir, Minerva Voices, fittingly gave a performance of Vivaldi’s joyous and celebratory Gloria, in a concert which was dedicated to both David and to Julia. A tremendous character, an enthusiastic supporter of the musical life of the University, and a great friend; he will be much missed.’
What's on

Events

**Gavin Esler In Conversation**
The Chancellor Gavin Esler, invites you to join an evening of conversation with a leading public figure in a relaxed format – with audience participation encouraged! The events take place at the Canterbury campus, free parking is available on campus after 17.00 and at weekends:

- **Sandi Toksvig OBE, Writer, Actor Presenter and Comedian**
  Tuesday 4 October 2016

- **Bernard Cornwell OBE, Author**
  Monday 17 October 2016

- **Dame Diana Rigg DBE, Actress**
  Monday 28 November 2016

Music

**Wednesday 29 June, 19.30**, Colyer-Fergusson
Hall, Trevor Pinnock and Friends

Trio sonatas by Purcell and music by Croft, Corelli, Dowland, Kapsberger, Dalza and Handel.

- **Matthew Truscott** – violin
- **Sophie Gent** – violin
- **Jonathan Manson** – viola da gamba
- **Thomas Dunford** – theorbo
- **Trevor Pinnock** – harpsichord

Gulbenkian Theatre

**Friday 24 June 2016, 19.30** Highfliers and Confidence present an evening of vibrant and dynamic new dance in this double bill, which will capture and inspire audiences of all ages. Bursting with energy and appeal, Highfliers (an initiative of Magpie Dance) offers you the very best in inclusive contemporary dance, as they perform stunning new choreographed by Ben Duke from Lost Dog Dance. Confidence present exciting community performances from their repertoire by dancers with and without learning disabilities. Tickets: full £12.50, GulbCard member £10.50, student £8.50 student GulbCard member £7.50

- **Sunday 17 – Tuesday 19 July, The Snail and the Whale.** Tall Stories (creators of the Gruffalo and Room on the Broom stage shows) are proud to present their latest exciting collaboration with Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. A tiny snail longs to see the world, so she hitches a lift on the tail of a humpback whale. But when the whale gets beached, how will the snail save him? Follow the tiny snail’s amazing journey, as seen through the eyes of an adventurous young girl and her seafaring father...

- **Sunday 7 August 2016, 14.00, The Canterbury Tales.** Grab a blanket, pack your picnic and settle in for this outdoor performance by The Pantaloons. A cast of just five actors present every single one of Geoffrey Chaucer’s timeless tales in under two hours. Join the pilgrims for puppetry and poetry, music and magic, talking chickens and burnt bottoms. Fast-paced, physical and funny, this show is pure medieval mayhem for the whole family. Tickets: full £12.50, GulbCard member £10.50, student £8.50, student GulbCard member £7.50

- **Saturday 28 – Sunday 29 August bOing!**
  **International Family Festival.**
  A weekend of brilliant performance, film and creativity for all ages. Tickets: entry to bOing! is free for everyone, some events are ticketed ranging in price from £1-£6

- **Sunday 4 September 2016, 14.00, The Rattler**
  The true and original story of Rumpelstiltskin. Every year, around this time, the people of Hobsmoor gather to hear Hob and his band of players retell the legend of the Rattler, a cautionary tale on wanting and manipulation. The Rattler is a new interactive retelling of Rumpelstiltskin. Each performance begins with a series of music and craft workshops and a colourful pageant. As the festivities unfold with lively, folk-infused music, puppetry and inventive storytelling, you are invited to help bring this age-old tale to life. Tickets: full £8.00, group £6.50, child £8.00, baby £1.00

- **Thursday 21 July and Wednesday 14 September, Faulty Towers the dining experience.**
  This globetrotting show is truly quite legendary, selling out in places like Edinburgh Fringe, Raffles Singapore and Sydney Opera House. It returns to the Gulbenkian on 21 April 2016, but be warned: early booking is essential! The audience become diners in the Faulty Towers restaurant and are served by Basil, Sybil and Manuel, pretty much anything can happen – especially with only a third of the show scripted. The fun starts as guests wait to be seated, then hurries along in a tour de force of gags and belly-laughs. Expect shambolic service and a ’70s-style 3-course meal in ‘a two-hour eat, drink and laugh sensation’ (Daily Telegraph). Tickets £40 (inc. 3 course meal)

- **Sunday 2 October 2016, 19.30 The boy with tape on his face is TAPE FACE.** Join TAPE FACE as he conjures uproarious and moving tableaux using only the most everyday of objects and the most popular of songs. Total sell-out at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe for four years in a row, four sold-out UK tours, a smash hit run in London’s West End, a critically acclaimed marvel around the world. Tickets £16

- **Sunday 30 October 2016, 19.30 Midge Ure has a career that spans over 40 years – from his ‘pop band’ beginnings, ‘almost’ joining the Sex Pistols, the electronic groundbreaking work with Visage (Fade To Grey is still voted #1 in its genre across Europe), via the mainstream success of Ultravox to the twists and turns of his solo releases. For the shows in 2016 the plan is to touch on the broad reach of his recorded output with the ‘Something From Everything Tour’… a show that covers at least one song from every album he has released from the Rich Kids in 1977, via Visage and Ultravox, to his solo albums such as the Gift, Pure and Answers to Nothing.

University events calendar

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