Dear friends,

As we move closer to the end of the autumn term, I reflect on our achievements so far this year. We recently learned that Kent is one of four universities shortlisted in the Times Higher Education Awards, for an award designed to recognise exceptional performance across UK university teaching and research. This latest good news for Kent reflects our commitment to becoming a beacon of excellence in education and research in our region, nationally and internationally. We also achieved the fourth highest score for overall satisfaction in this year’s National Student Survey, and a rank of joint first in London and the south-east, alongside Oxford and Surrey.

In September we welcome new and returning students across our campuses and in our European centres. We also welcomed Professor April McMahon who joined the University’s leadership team as our new Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education. April joins the University following completion of a five-year term as Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University and I know that she looks forward to meeting a great many alumni and friends over the coming months.

The University is dedicated to continue and develop new partnerships across the world which this year has included visits to Japan and Berlin. We are committed to working in partnership with colleagues and institutions across Europe and the wider world, and engaging with our alumni in these countries. Our In Conversation series has also gone international, and this October our Brussels centre hosted the third event of the year.

As we welcome the ‘class of 2016’ we also look back to the class of 1966, who are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. As many of you will know, 2016 is the 50th anniversary of Rutherford College and we are all looking forward to celebrating this milestone for our second college during this academic year. The celebrations will culminate in a University-wide reunion weekend on 29-30 July 2017 and I hope that many of you will join us for the event.

With best wishes,

Julia

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, DBE CBE
Vice-Chancellor and President
Kent’s wellbeing support for students commended

A recent survey by The Tab newspaper showed that Kent support for students with concerns about their mental wellbeing was the highest of the 30 they surveyed.

The survey considered how satisfied students are with the services offered, including investment received from the University, the University’s outreach and how approachable the services are.

At Kent, Student Services manages a distinct range of services for all students and staff with an emphasis on student welfare, pastoral support, flexibility, innovation, efficiency and effectiveness. Student support and wellbeing is highly visible within the University and the full range of services are clearly valued.

In The Tab rankings, Kent’s outreach, which includes how students feel about the services offered, did particularly well scoring 100 out of a 100, indicating the positive impact we are having on our students.

The high corresponding satisfaction scores also show that students found the support from the University useful, including counselling and specialist mental health advice and support, which are part of a number of services on offer to help improve student life.
Leaving a legacy to Kent ensures that you leave behind more than just a memory; something that the families and friends of those who have chosen to support the University in this way know well. Every year, our donors are remembered with gratitude by those students who they have so generously supported, and the achievements made possible by this generosity are a testament to those who chose to leave such a precious gift. Whatever the monetary value of these gifts, their true value is incalculable: they have enabled talented students to achieve their potential, pushed forward research and enhanced our facilities, which are available for generations to enjoy.

It is our great pleasure to share the stories of some wonderful donors, their families and friends, and those who have benefited from their generosity. Legacies large and small make an enormous difference to the lives of our students, and we are exceedingly grateful to the very special community of donors and those who have pledged a gift in their will.

Christine and Ian Bolt Scholarship

Jean Kenyon: Trustee

‘When I first met Ian Bolt he had been recently widowed. After becoming partners it wasn’t long before he told me wanted to create an annual scholarship for University of Kent PhD students in the humanities who needed to spend time in the USA to carry out some of their research. This was to be in memory of his late wife Professor Christine Bolt, a highly regarded historian. Ian recalled the happy times he and Christine had spent during their visits to the States for the main purpose of her own research.

‘I remember Ian attending a number of meetings at the University during 2005 and 2006 for the purpose of setting up the scholarship. There is little doubt that this process helped Ian to come to terms with his bereavement. Instead of dwelling solely on the loss of his wife, he was determined to make the future positive in a generous and constructive way.

‘Ian, of course, did not know his life would end suddenly and tragically in 2008. Fortunately by then the scholarship was established and he had known the first two of the early recipients.

‘As a trustee of the Bolt Scholarship I feel enormously privileged to be included in the interview panel when the shortlisted applicants for financial support come forward. During the last eight years I have been delighted not only by the high academic standard of the scholars but also by their oral and written presentation skills. It is one of the happiest and most stimulating days I experience each year.

‘Ian would have been overwhelmed by the success of his venture and I think of him lovingly during and after the interviews. How I would enjoy talking to him about the development of the Bolt Scholarship!

‘Christine and Ian did not have any children of their own but what a wonderful legacy they left to the accomplished humanities PhD students of today.’
Rob Newman: Scholar 2015-16

‘The financial support I received from the Christine and Ian Bolt Scholarship enabled me to complete a four week research trip to numerous archives in the USA.

‘Without this support I would not have been able to complete the trip.

‘Research trips such as this, or even shorter ones in the UK, are expensive undertakings and having been a full time student for four to seven years already, many students, including me, would simply not be able to complete their work without such generous contributions.

‘PhDs and early stage academic careers, especially in the humanities, are notoriously hard to fund at the moment. However, I, and many PhD hopefuls, would like to get into academic careers both in terms of research into new areas, and enthusing future experts through higher education teaching.

‘I understand from meeting relatives and representatives of Ian and Christine Bolt that these are goals they would certainly have approved of. Perhaps they are areas you, as potential funders, are interested in furthering too, and if so I can honestly say from personal experience that funding a student at any level, helps enormously and in many cases is essential.’

Peter Adkins: Scholar 2016-17

‘The Scholarship is of invaluable importance in realising the maximum potential of my PhD research project.

‘In addition to the fact that the Scholarship will enable me to undertake the trip to the USA, it also provides the opportunity to allow me to enhance my research and archival skills. As such, the Scholarship will directly enhance my skillsets and provide important experience in my development as a researcher and academic.

‘It is extremely rewarding to be the recipient of this longstanding and very well regarded Scholarship, especially given Christine Bolt’s academic legacy in the humanities at the University of Kent and her highly regarded standing in the discipline of history more generally.

‘It was particularly pleasing to be able to personally meet and thank trustee Jean Kenyon, as well as Christine and Ian Bolt’s niece, Professor Maria Hayward. I will not forget the very valuable contribution that the Christine and Ian Bolt Scholarship has made to my doctoral research.’

Supporting mature students

Dr Dawn Crouch: Pledger

Dawn made a pledge to leave a gift in her will in 2014, and was delighted to share her reasons with us:

‘In 1995 I retired after working for more than forty years. I had recently become very interested in the history of my little hometown of Westgate-on-Sea and I had long wished to be able to return to the academic world to study again. I applied to Kent to read for a higher degree by research and thesis and was accepted. I registered as a postgraduate student in October 1995 – as I looked at others waiting in the queue, I realised that I was three times the age of most of them! It was more than 40 years since I had been a student – before UKC was even founded.

‘The University was good to me and I spent four wonderful years enjoying it all. I was fortunate to have Professor Hugh Cunningham as my supervisor and he opened a whole new world to me by his searching questions, which led me to chasing up original sources in the most unexpected places from Coutts’ Bank to the House of Lords’ Library and many places in between.

‘I was admitted as a PhD in Canterbury Cathedral in November 1999, in my 70th year – a wonderful experience for someone who had spent her schooldays at the Simon Langton School in Canterbury, where Commemoration Day services were held each summer in the Cathedral.

‘Since then I have continued my research, which I know will be never ending! The whole community of Westgate is behind me and bring me everything from their house deeds to prized family photographs to use to help me fulfil my wish to complete the history of Westgate for the Westgate Heritage Centre, which I founded in 2005. I was honoured by HM the Queen with an invitation to a garden party at Buckingham Palace in 2014 for my services to the town and in June 2016 was made the first Honorary Freeman of Westgate-on-Sea by the Town Council.

‘I was fortunate to be able to self-fund my four years at Kent, but I know that this is not possible for everyone. I hope that my legacy to Kent will enable some other mature student to have as rewarding an experience as I did.’
Innovative research on neglected diseases wins award

University bioscientist Dr Barrie Rooney has been named Social Innovator 2016 by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) for her work on developing a test for Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT), as featured in the spring 2016 issue of KENT magazine.

The Innovator of the Year celebrates award individuals and small teams who have harnessed the potential of their research to help address real world challenges.

Dr Rooney’s work was praised for ‘engaging multiple groups to address neglected diseases’. One of the main impacts of Dr Rooney’s research has been the development of a quick and simple diagnostic method, similar to a dipstick pregnancy test, to fight a deadly sleeping sickness.

The test, which was developed in conjunction with the charity Médecins Sans Frontières and funded by the BBSRC, involves diagnosing HAT via a pin-prick blood sample.

Bioscientists win international prize for Ebola research

A team led by bioscientists from the University has won the international Fight Against Ebola Award for research that identified new insights into the deadly virus works.

The team received the award on 11 July from the International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB).

Dr Mark Wass, Senior Lecturer in Computational Biology at the University’s School of Biosciences, was presented with the Award and a $2,000 prize at a ceremony at the ISCB’s annual conference in Florida, USA.

Dr Wass and his colleagues Professor Martin Michaels and Dr Jeremy Rossman led a team that carried out research that identified ‘novel insights into the mechanism that determine Ebola disease severity in humans’.

Researchers contribute to new superconductors

Researchers at the University have contributed to research into the development of a new generation of superconductors, the materials that conduct electric current with zero resistance.

Dr Jorge Quintanilla, of the University’s School of Physical Sciences collaborated on the groundbreaking global research with researchers in the UK, Germany and China.

The ability of certain materials to conduct electric current with zero resistance – known as superconductivity – was first observed in 1911 and although the theory that explains it dates from the 1950s, there are many so-called unconventional superconductors that do not fit that theory and are currently poorly understood.

Examples of the use of superconductors include Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machines found in hospitals. More futuristic applications currently in advanced stages of development include levitating trains capable of speeds exceeding 600 km/h and ultra-fast supercomputers. The new research shows there is a new class of materials that combine useful magnetic and superconducting properties.

University concept master plan under public consultation

The University has launched the first phase of a public consultation around our concept master plan.

Kent commissioned the concept master plan from award-winning international architect planners Farrells to explore and express a vision for the future of its Canterbury campus.

This vision aims to enhance student experience and contains ideas on how best to develop the campus to meet the needs of the University as well as to deliver long-term benefits to its local communities. It also supports the University’s commitment to improving its intellectual, physical, economic and cultural connections with the city of Canterbury.

The plan is proposing to deliver the best ‘garden campus’ in the UK by creating places of quality and variety within diverse green landscapes of wide-ranging value and character.

You can view the plan at www.kent.ac.uk/masterplan

Final proposals to Canterbury City Council will be submitted in spring 2017.

Kent remains a top university for student satisfaction

Final year students at Kent remain among the most satisfied in the UK, according to the results of the National Student Survey (NSS) 2016.
In a survey designed to gather opinions from students about their experience of their courses, Kent achieved the fourth highest score for overall satisfaction, up one place from 2015. Kent’s high level of overall satisfaction also resulted in it being ranked joint first in London and the south-east, alongside the universities of Oxford and Surrey.

Many of Kent’s subjects were rated highly by our students, with 11 in the top ten and more than two-thirds in the top 20 for overall satisfaction. Kent’s top ten subjects include: Chemistry, Comparative Literary Studies, Archaeology, Anthropology, Forensic & Archaeological Science, Politics, Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry, Management Studies, and Journalism.

Positive student feedback also resulted in Kent being ranked above the national average for teaching, academic support and the organisation and management of its courses.

Professor John Baldock, Kent’s Pro Vice-Chancellor for Teaching, Learning & Student Experience, welcomed the survey results. He said:

‘I am pleased that our students continue to rate the Kent experience as one of the best in the UK. As we are always seeking ways to improve upon every aspect of our student and teaching experience, their feedback and opinions are very important to us.’

‘This NSS also supports our belief that we can provide a first class experience here at Kent. This includes excellent learning and study facilities, and a wide range of undergraduate programmes.’

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**Books**

**The Politics of Virtue: Post-Liberalism and the Human Future**

*John Milbank and Adrian Pabst*

This book analyses what the Brexit vote and the Donald Trump candidacy in the USA means for Western Politics and has been described as ‘quietly devastating’ (Jon Cruddas MP) and ‘the best political book of the last five years’ (Rod Liddle).

Contemporary politics is dominated by a liberal creed that champions ‘negative liberty’ and individual happiness. This creed undergirds positions on both the right and the left – free-market capitalism, state bureaucracy and individualism in social life.

The triumph of liberalism has had the effect of subordinating human association and the common good to narrow self-interest and short-term utility. By contrast, post-liberalism promotes individual fulfilment and mutual flourishing based on shared goals that have more substantive content than the formal abstractions of liberal law and contract, and yet are also adaptable to different cultural and local traditions.

In this important book, John Milbank and Adrian Pabst apply this analysis to the economy, politics, culture, and international affairs. In each case, having diagnosed the crisis of liberalism, they propose post-liberal alternatives, notably new concepts and fresh policy ideas. They demonstrate that, amid the current crisis, post-liberalism is a programme that could define a new politics of virtue and the common good.

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**How Running Makes Us Human**

*Vybarr Cregan-Reid*

Running is more than a sport; it’s more than exercise, and it can tell us a great deal more about the way we live now than you might imagine. Running is the poetry of motion. It reconnects us to our bodies and the places in which we live, breaking down the increasingly structured and demanding lives. It allows us to feel the world beneath our feet, lifts the spirit, allows our minds out to play and helps us to slip away from the demands of the modern world.

When Vybarr Cregan-Reid set out to discover why running meant so much to so many, he began a journey which would take him out to tread London’s cobbled streets, climbing to sites that have seen a millennium of hangings, and down the crumbling alleyways of Ruskin’s Venice. Footnotes transports you to the cliff tops of Hardy’s Dorset, the deserted shorelines of Seattle, the giant redwood forests of California, and to the world’s most advanced running laboratories and research centres, using debates in literature, philosophy, neuroscience, legal history, biology, and sports science to explore that simple human desire to run. This inspiring book is motion recollected in tranquillity.

‘Insightful and intoxicating. Vybarr Cregan-Reid’s book makes you take your shoes off and run through a world of ideas about nature.’ (Lynne Truss)
In recent years the University has driven significant investment in the arts – with a new School of Arts building on the Canterbury Campus and the opening of the School of Music and Fine Art on the Historic Dockyard at Chatham providing first-class facilities to support the work of budding Kent artists. But Kent’s influence does not end on our campuses: the work being done at the University is providing a significant contribution to the local artistic community, supporting cultural transformation across the region.

With strong links ensuring that the University is fully embedded in the cultural life of the region, the University is proud to play a significant role in the arts in Kent and beyond. Working closely with a range of partners including Canterbury Cathedral and the Turner Contemporary in Margate, our influence is helping to shape the cultural strategy for Kent, and is providing significant support in education and research in the arts and heritage sectors. University staff play a pivotal role within arts organisations in the region, and are heavily involved in developing all aspects of the arts both on the University’s campuses and in the wider environment.

Links with the community
One of the most visible ways in which the University is seen to contribute to the arts in the region is through the Gulbenkian, which has developed an innovative and diverse programme which attracts a wide range of visitors from across the local area and beyond. As well as hosting a huge range of shows including stand-up comedy, works specifically for children and theatre, the Gulbenkian is involved in working with young people directly, and commissioning projects to broaden exposure to the arts for all ages. Liz Moran, Director of the Gulbenkian explains: ‘We believe that no matter what age you are you should have access to creative work of the highest quality. We don’t think of children and young people as audiences of the future but rather audiences now. We intend in the future to develop our role as a producer and creator of work for the very young.’

ART31KENT, for instance, empowers 13-25 year olds to create and promote arts opportunities for other young people on its mission to change Kent. The project is about giving young people status as arts practitioners and technicians, as well as being activists, advocates and policy shapers. With many activities on offer – from watching and going backstage at Gulbenkian performances to learning about front of house and event management skills and participating in a wide range of workshops – the project exposes young people to all aspects of the arts, and challenges them to create their own arts activities – and this year even hosted their own stage at the Gulbenkian’s bOing! Festival. Liz shares how bOing! began, and her ambitions for the future:

‘bOing! started life in 2013 as a family day called ‘Bounce’. Having been overwhelmed by the response it generated, we worked to develop it into a bigger festival – and bOing! was launched with funding from Arts Council England and Kent County Council in 2014. This coincided with the good news that we had been successful in our bid to become a National Portfolio Organisation with Arts Council England, which provide the resource to develop bOing! even further. Central to our vision for bOing! is that it is a ‘family’ festival with a programme and activities that genuinely has something for all ages 0-110 to share, be inspired and enjoy together. bOing! also travels to other parts of Kent with Urban Playground parkour company performing in Chatham as well as in Canterbury. The festival brings international work of the highest quality to the UK alongside the best UK companies. We expect the festival to develop over a longer period in future years and to have more activity taking place across Kent with a range of partners.

The 2016 festival was our biggest ever, including a world premiere of Pinocchio by Jasmin Vardimon Company. We are fortunate to have such an internationally renowned company based in Kent. Up until now Jasmin had not created any work with children and young people in mind. We discussed this and ‘Pinocchio was born! Another first for Kent was the stunning Mirazozo Luminarium created by Architects of Air – which bought a cathedral of light and colour to campus!’

Working with local partners
Alongside work with national arts organisations, the University has close relationships with local arts and heritage organisations, working closely with the Turner Contemporary and Canterbury Cathedral, to name but two.

Recently Canterbury Cathedral hosted Questions of Space: a series of public interactive talks, walks, sights and sounds created by Faculty of Humanities staff at the University of Kent.
This unique collaboration between Cathedral staff and University artists, architects and historians helped participants to discover and learn about previously unknown, unexplored or secret spaces and aspects of the Cathedral, be they architectural, private, sacred, public, acoustic, communal or dramatic. Each of the events invited audiences from diverse communities to respond to the building afresh, and in some cases for the first time.

As well as exhibitions, the 11 events included a concert of Chinese singing in the Crypt and a stunning light projection designed to reveal the lost Gothic colours of the Cathedral. Developed by Kent’s Professor Paul Allain, Associate Dean of Research and Innovation in the Faculty of Humanities, Questions of Space drew on hundreds of years of history to ask what this space means for us today. The project supported the Cathedral’s own Heritage Lottery-funded Canterbury Journey, whose mission is to safeguard an iconic building which embodies England’s story, increase the number and broaden the range of those who journey to it, and enrich their experience.

Kent Stands up!

Alongside our work supporting the arts, Kent undertakes a vital role in recording it. The Special Collections and Archives team look after the cataloguing of several collections at the University, and have shared the development of the British Stand-Up Comedy Archive at Kent, which alongside preserving a record of the comedic landscape, also allows students to access the material for research and study.

Nurturing talent: Daniel Owusu

This year, two Kent graduates from the School of Music and Fine Arts, Daniel Owusu and Sariya Suwannakarn, were selected to exhibit their work in the Turner Contemporary in Margate, in a showcase of the talent of emerging artists from Kent, as part of the Platform Graduate Award.

The Award is organised by a coalition of visual arts organisations in the south-east, consisting of Turner Contemporary in Margate, Aspex in Portsmouth, De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea, Milton Keynes Gallery and Modern Art Oxford, and has been initiated by CVAN (Contemporary Visual Art Network South East).

One artist from each gallery is put forward to be considered for the Platform Graduate Award 2016, receiving a £2,500 bursary and a year of mentoring from an experienced art professional. We asked Daniel Owusu to tell us more about the experience.

What was your experience of studying at Kent like?
Different! Right from the open day, it seemed like a place that was very passionate about the arts, and was in an incredible location. The location in the dockyard is unique and incredibly peaceful. Being a small School means that it feels very intimate, and you’ve got the chance to be more involved with the lecturers – which was inspiring and supportive.

How were you nominated as a finalist for Platform?
The curator of the exhibition came to a presentation before our final year degree show to hear about our work, then visited the show and met with us all individually. They were very engaged with the work, and I was thrilled to be selected as a finalist in the exhibition, and have my work displayed at the Turner Contemporary.

How does it feel to be included in the exhibition?
It’s a great feeling to be selected, and is my first exhibition outside of education. I’m still waiting to see what the response is to my work! The official opening was nice, a small gathering, meeting the other artists and their families.

What’s next for you?
I was originally going to go straight on to study for my MA, but have decided to take a gap year before I do. I plan to continue my studies in Germany. I will spend the year preparing myself for that. At the moment my priority is to stay focused, and enjoy the journey.
Development of the archive

The British Stand-Up Comedy Archive – part of the University of Kent’s Special Collections & Archives – was established in 2013 with the deposit of two collections of material relating to stand-up comedy: the Linda Smith Collection: a vast personal archive containing set-lists and scripts, promotional posters and flyers, audio and moving image recordings, and props from the comedian and writer; and the John Pidgeon Collection: a collection of unique unedited interviews with comedians provided by alumnus John Pidgeon (Eliot, 1965).

After these initial two collections were received, formal creation of the British Stand-Up Comedy Archive followed shortly afterwards, as this fitted well with the collections already in place – with materials relating to popular and comic performance (such as music hall, variety and pantomime), as well as humour (through the British Cartoon Archive, arguably the country’s major archive of satirical humour). Kent is one of a small number of Universities in the UK which teaches stand-up comedy at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, so the archive is also supporting research and teaching.

Expansion through investment

In 2014, as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations, the British Stand-Up Comedy Archive was made one of the Beacon Projects, celebrating the University’s strengths and providing inspiration for future activities. This meant we could now actively collect material by reaching out to comedians and others in the comedy industry, catalogue and digitise material held on vulnerable and obsolete audiovisual formats, and hold a number of free events including lectures and in-conversation interviews.

This breadth in collecting areas means that the Archive has become a national research resource containing archival material and artefacts related to British stand-up comedy and other related art forms such as cabaret and performance poetry.

The project also included the cataloguing and digitisation of material held on vulnerable and obsolete audiovisual formats. To date, more than 60 VHS tapes, 350 audio cassettes, 70 MiniDiscs and 80 DATs had been transferred to digital file formats for long-term preservation.

Beacon funding also allowed us to hold a number of events, including an annual Linda Smith Lecture (given by Mark Thomas in 2015 and Andy Hamilton in 2016), and in-conversation events in Canterbury with a line up including Phill Jupitus, Attila the Stockbroker, Stewart Lee, and Richard Herring. Events were also held at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2015 with Susan Calman, Mark Thomas, Stephen K Amos, Nina Conti, Jo Brand, and Alexei Sayle.

Supporting teaching and research

“The British Stand-Up Comedy Archive has proved to be incredibly helpful for my research. By accessing obscure and secret interviews, documents and performances, I was able to access a wealth of valuable and breath-taking materials which wouldn’t have been possible otherwise. Certainly one the best things about my university experience.”

Matthew Hoss (Rutherford 2012)

Stand-Up Comedian and graduate MA Stand-Up Comedy

Through the Archive, Kent is the only institution in the UK actively collecting material relating to British stand-up comedy, specifically for the purposes of research, academic study, performance, and exhibition. As such it makes a unique and significant contribution to scholarship within the higher education sector, as it is the only resource dedicated to the study of the history of alternative and stand-up comedy and performance.

Since 2001 an ‘Introduction to Stand-Up’ module has been taught at the University of Kent by Dr Oliver Double, as part of Drama and Theatre within the School of Arts. Materials contained within the archive, including audio and moving image recordings, are now embedded within this module, both as primary resources for research and as sources for evaluation by students.

Students have also gone on to use material for their own research as part of Stand-Up Comedy MA degrees. The Archive also complements research undertaken by academics at Kent, including Dr Oliver Double, Dr Sophie Quirk, and Dr Shaun May, as well as cross-disciplinary research activity through the University of Kent’s Popular and Comic Performance (PCP) research centre, which brings together academics from the University of Kent from a range of disciplines.
In 2014, five final year art students at Kent's Medway campus received a £5,000 grant from the alumni-supported Kent Opportunity Fund to develop an art project inspired by the wetlands landscape in Medway, with the aim of bringing the local community and University together. Following its success, further financial support was received from the Fund to support more work in 2015, with an additional aim being to create an archive of the Wetlands Project and make the work available to all.

Nadia Perrotta, one of the minds behind the project tells us about Wetlands, her studies and how the environment has inspired her work.

How did you come to arrive at Kent?

I came to the UK from Italy in 2008, with a background as an artist, and with a qualification in early years education. I wanted to complete an arts degree and improve my work. Based on my portfolio, I was accepted to join Kent in the second year of the BA Fine Art, and studied at the Medway campus within Chatham Historic Dockyard. Kent was the perfect place for me, and following the successful completion of my degree, I have continued my studies here, going on to undertake a Master’s degree.

Finding inspiration: Nadia Perrotta

How would you describe your experience of studying at Kent?

During my studies I have been challenged to think outside the gallery. This approach of thinking about people, places and site specific work really brought together my arts and education interests. I was keen to create links outside the ‘bubble’ that can exist on campus, and create links between the School of Arts and the local community. With the support of a Medway Community Scholarship, I was able to work to transform the LV21 lightship into an interactive art project for children.

How did the Wetlands project come into being?

The location, within the Historic Dockyard, next to the water provided enormous inspiration. Working in the studio with other students led to the idea to create Wetlands. Initially working with Ben Crawford, another student filmmaker like me, on a project about Hoo, we eventually created a network of people interested in place specific art, which over time evolved into Wetlands.

What did it involve?

A small group of us started working together on projects inspired by the local landscape. We were invited to participate in the FUSE festival in Medway, bringing together a series of events inspired by the area, with funding provided through the Student Projects Grant Scheme (which forms part of the Kent Opportunity Fund), and venues and equipment provided by the Council.

Alongside FUSE, Wetlands encompassed a wide range of activities – from activities with early year’s groups and education days to a waterside treasure hunt trail and film screening. The project was completely transformative – providing recognition to us as professionals, which was incredibly empowering.

After the success of the first year, I felt that the work remained unfinished. We had gathered a strong group of volunteers and made community contacts through our work. Having worked with young children and families we were asked if we could do something involving local teenagers. We approached the Student Projects Grant Scheme again for funding – this time to expand the project, and create an archive of our work, and were successful.

We ran film workshops with local teenagers, allowing them to direct student videographers to capture film of places meaningful to them – which was then edited into film and sound installations by other student artists, who were given the footage without context, and challenged to create something from it.

You recently won a Kent Student award for your Outstanding Contribution to Arts and Culture, for your work on Wetlands, has this had an impact on you?

The award was completely unexpected, and the fact that I was nominated for it by the students that I worked with on Wetlands means the most to me. I was enormously surprised to win the award, and coming from a relatively new academic school, like Music and Fine Art, it is great to be recognised within the wider University.

As an artist, I’ve received two new commissions through Wetlands and the networks that I built through developing it, which I’m very pleased about!
Thursday 6 October 2016 was a very special day in the annals of the Kent Law School and the University – it saw the opening of the Wigoder Law Building, a new home for justice at Kent. We were delighted to welcome to the Canterbury campus The Rt Honourable the Baroness Hale of Richmond, Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom to officially unveil the new building, and also The Hon Charles Wigoder and Mrs Elizabeth Wigoder, our principal benefactors for whom the building is named.

The Wigoder Law Building will house the offices of the Kent Law Clinic and a bespoke Moot Court. Students will hone their legal skills in the courtroom, and working alongside practising solicitors in the Law Clinic will develop their knowledge and understanding of law as they provide a legal service to those in need in the community.

Standing at the first floor entrance to the new building, at the end of its elegant bridge, the Vice-Chancellor, Dame Julia Goodfellow, greeted hundreds of guests. She introduced the Honourable Charles Wigoder who cut the ribbon across the entrance to mark the availability of the new facility for law students, staff and members of the public who will use the service it provides.

Baroness Hale then formally opened the building. Speaking on the bridge she praised the achievements of the Kent Law Clinic since its establishment first in 1973, and in its current form in 1992, pointing out how impressive was the caseload of legal advice and representation undertaken by the current staff and students. She stressed the critical importance of students gaining advocacy and mooting skills as a way of preparing for a career in the legal profession and was highly complimentary of the successes achieved by Kent students in recent national and international interviewing, negotiating and mooting competitions.

There followed a reception on the Senate lawn. It was an opportunity for all concerned to celebrate the hard work that has gone into getting the building ready and to welcome students from around the world to their brand new home. Over 290 donors, law alumni, the local legal community and friends of the University enjoyed occasion.
The top floor of the building houses the mooting chamber comprising a modern courtroom fit for the largest critical law school in the country, a visiting judges’ deliberation room, a training space for visitors, a robing room, further offices and conference rooms.

The ground floor provides expanded, brighter and more accessible Law Clinic space so that more students can learn and work with more staff to help more clients. A reception area, meeting rooms, interview rooms, academic offices and an archive room complete the suite for completing casework and teaching students.

The building, which will be home to law undergraduates, academic staff and volunteer solicitors stands at the heart of the University campus as a major investment in both learning and teaching and also engagement with the community.

The new building was realised through donations from generous benefactors including alumni, trusts and foundations, friends of the University, local law firms and students and staff for which we are very grateful.

During her visit to the University Baroness Hale also gave a lecture entitled “Human Rights and Social Justice” to over 470 students, alumni and visitors in Woolf College, in which she addressed the importance of subjecting the provision of public social services to the scrutiny of human rights law.

The building, which will be home to law undergraduates, academic staff and volunteer solicitors stands at the heart of the University campus as a major investment in both learning and teaching and also engagement with the community.

The ground floor provides expanded, brighter and more accessible Law Clinic space so that more students can learn and work with more staff to help more clients. A reception area, meeting rooms, interview rooms, academic offices and an archive room complete the suite for completing casework and teaching students.

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Baroness Hale of Richmond

• Baroness Hale became the UK’s first woman Lord of Appeal in Ordinary in January 2004, after a varied career as an academic lawyer, law reformer, and judge. She is currently Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.

• After graduating from Cambridge in 1966, she taught law at Manchester University from 1966 to 1984, also qualifying as a barrister and practising at the Manchester Bar.

• In 1984 she was the first woman to be appointed to the Law Commission, a statutory body which promotes the reform of the law. In 1994 she became a High Court judge, and in 1999 was promoted to the Court of Appeal, before becoming the first woman member of the House of Lords.

Professor John Fitzpatrick
Director of the Kent Clinic

“We are absolutely delighted to be able to welcome our students into the Wigoder Law Building. The new premises provide a wonderful home for a unique learning experience – students, under supervision, studying and practising the law at the same time. It exemplifies the leading role the University has played in supporting clinical legal education in this country and in the process offering a public service to those in the local community seeking access to the justice that they need.”

Peter Czarnomski
Director of Estates at the University

“The building will add to our world-class estate, providing our law students with class-leading facilities. The building has been designed to be sustainable in its operation which further reinforces the University’s eco credentials.”
David Humphreys
Keynes 1988, Politics and International Relations with Italian

After graduating from Kent in 1991, David went on to achieve his PhD in international forest politics at City University London and eventually found himself at the Open University where he is now Professor of Environmental Policy and Social Sciences Programme Director.

What made you decide to come to Kent?
I visited the University before applying and fell in love with the campus and with Canterbury.

What is your favourite memory of Kent?
Can I have two? I acted in three productions in the Gulbenkian Theatre – a great experience. Show nights were always nerve wracking, but rehearsals were lots of fun. Also, I was studying international relations in 1989 when communism collapsed in Eastern Europe. I recall that the day after the Berlin Wall fell I had a lecture on the Cold War. It was a fascinating time, and almost every day brought new changes. I remember Richard Sakwa, who still teaches at Kent, was able to interpret what was happening, situating the latest developments in an historical context almost in real time.

What have you been up to since graduating?
While at Kent I developed a strong interest in environmental issues, and immediately after I left I took a PhD in the international relations of environmental change at City University London. I stayed in academia and am now professor of environmental policy at the Open University. Plus I have a wonderful family: my wife Colette, and children Timothy and Anna.

What was your first job?
An accounts clerk in the offices of the British Rail engineering works at Eastleigh. It was a nice job with some lovely people. I left after four years to work at sea on the QE2.

What is your favourite item of clothing, either now or in the past?
A leather belt my mother gave me nearly 40 years ago. I still wear it, but it’s needed a few repairs over the years.

Which country would you most like to visit?
I’ve travelled a lot, but have yet to make it to North Korea.

What is your greatest achievement since graduating?
My second book, Logjam: Deforestation and the crisis of global governance, won a prestigious international award. I should have received this at the annual conference of the International Studies Association in San Francisco, but due to an administrative mix up was not invited. But I can still remember how proud I felt when the news came through.

What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?
When I was younger I used to like the final verse of a Rod Stewart song: ‘Never wait, Or hesitate, Get in kid before it’s too late, You may never get another chance, For youth’s a mask, But it don’t last, Live it long, and live it fast’. It’s all about seizing opportunities, making the most from the chances that life gives you and being all that you can be. It applies to people of any age.

Where do you see yourself in ten years time?
In retirement, still taking a keen interest in the health of Planet Earth. It’s the only one we’ve got and we really do need to care for it a lot better than we do.

Why did you decide to sponsor a brick as part of the Footsteps Project?
It was a way of both making a donation to the University and signalling my appreciation to Kent for everything it gave me. The University was a hugely important part of my life, and it’s nice to know that I am now a small part of the fabric of the campus.
On top of the world

From trying a new sport that you’ve discovered at Freshers’ Fayre, to the competition of Varsity and the fun of Wednesday nights in the Venue – being involved in sport can enhance the student experience and be a great way to make friends. We caught up with two alumni whose success in their sports has inspired the nation and the next generation of athletes at Kent.
Susannah Townsend

Medway 2008, Sport and Exercise Management – Olympic Gold medallist, GB hockey

Susannah studied Sport and Exercise Science and played hockey for the University during her time at Kent.

Team GB’s performance at the Rio Games this summer was their most successful Olympics ever. At the heart of the action was Susannah Townsend. Susannah represented Team GB in Rio as an attacking midfielder on the women’s hockey team. The squad’s journey to Gold captivated the nation and the tournament final certainly kept us on the edge of our seats in the middle of the night! That epic match against defending champions the Netherlands topped a BBC poll of the nation’s favourite British moment in Rio.

The Olympic gold adds to Townsend’s Gold at the European Championships in 2015 and Silver medal from the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Susannah plays club hockey in Canterbury and regularly trains in the gym on the University’s Canterbury campus. We caught up with her on her return from Brazil:

‘When we landed and saw the tarmac full of press, and walked off the plane, it was completely overwhelming to see – that’s when it really hit home for me, what we had achieved and how we had inspired people back home.

‘We weren’t really aware of how much was going on back in the UK while we were there. The team originally didn’t go on social media because we didn’t want it to distract us from the task in hand. When we won the final we thought we’d have a quick look and our phones went absolutely crazy; to see the responses and views from people at home as to how we are promoting women’s sport especially was incredible.

‘Our aim was to get to the quarter finals. We believed one game at a time. We debriefed games but also look ahead to the next game. We knew that we were playing very well but it was almost an unspoken rule that we weren’t going to talk about it. The hockey was on in our flat but it wasn’t so much scouting out the competition as because we like watching hockey. Also, the Team GB block was so far away from every other hockey nation that we never really bumped into them which helped!

‘It set out to do this because I want to be one of the best players in the world. I want to be on the world stage and inspire other people. I love working in a team and the problem-solving that you do on the pitch. You go into the Olympics to win a gold medal. Millions of people dream of representing Great Britain at the Olympics and we have a chance to make our dreams become reality. You can do whatever you want to if you put your mind to it.”

‘We are the most superstitious team; the seat that you first sit in on the bus – that’s your seat, you never move from that seat. I regrip my stick every game, I listen to the same sort of music, and before I get off the bus I put the same song on. I’m always the first to walk out on the pitch and I always juggle the ball on my stick, thinking “now you zone in” and “now you focus”.

‘I felt a little anxious at the Spain game because losing a quarter final means that you are out and your Olympics are done. But really it was a dream tournament, it really was. There wasn’t anything bad that happened, we continued to have a good time and never really fell out.

‘When it came to the final and the penalty shoot-out, we felt prepared because we practise it all the time. The coach makes the decision who will take it. We have so much trust in what they’ve practised. Maddie Hinch is the best goal keeper in the world in my opinion.

‘It’s great for me; I take my shin pads off, take my glove off, stand there with my team and cheer every time they score a goal. It’s a lot easier for me. But they’d practised so many times that it was just another one that they had to do. But we were not aware of the 9 million people watching at all so it made it a lot easier!

‘On the final ball, I have never run so fast in my life. I can’t describe the feeling. What has just happened? We just won the Olympics! You look up and see your friends and family and the crowd and you hear all this noise and you do know in your heart that Britain is watching and Team GB at our base is watching and supporting us and we want to do it for them.

‘When you sing your national anthem with an Olympic medal around your neck there’s no better feeling as an athlete. There’s 31 of us in the squad and standing up there and we were delighted for ourselves. We got there together and I wouldn’t want to be with any other group of girls. I was beside Kate Richardson-Walsh and she joked with me – you rock up to the Olympics and win a gold medal first time; this is like my fourth Olympics!

‘People say to me; ok you’ve won an Olympic gold medal – what’s next? Surely you’ve done it? But we want to continue to build, by winning a home world cup, winning another Olympics and actually making us a dominant force in world hockey consistently. We are now second in the world. For hockey the aim is to continue to help it rise, to put a stick in a little girls hand when she’s two, three, four years old and then when I’m an old woman, I can look at Britain and say ‘I’ve done it’. I can’t describe the feeling. What has just happened? We just won the Olympics! You look up and see your friends and family and the crowd and you hear all this noise and you do know in your heart that Britain is watching and Team GB at our base is watching and supporting us and we want to do it for them.

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Natasha Brennan

Keynes 2006, English and American Literature – World Cup winner, GB Rugby

Gravesend-born Natasha Brennan came to the University on a hockey scholarship.

Kent was not originally her first choice, but on the recommendation of close friend and fellow international athlete Natalie Seymour, who was then a sports scholar, and swayed by the beautiful city of Canterbury, she chose Kent over Loughborough and enrolled in 2009.

Five years later Natasha was a World Cup Gold medallist rugby player and part of the BBC sports personality team of the year. Kent was an important part of the journey, as that is where this hockey gold medallist in the GB Youth Olympics discovered a natural talent for rugby.

Natasha took time out of her busy schedule to share her story with us:

‘I grew up playing hockey and represented England from U14 to U21 level, coming to Kent on a hockey scholarship. It took a while to get used to managing my own time, especially when after just four months at university I went to compete at the Youth Olympics in Sydney – which we won – but the support from my tutor and the School of English was a great help to make me organise my life so I could balance my study and sports.

‘The great thing about Kent is that all the sports teams socalise with each other, supporting each other at matches and I only started to play rugby through friends – the only game I’d ever seen before was the 2003 World Cup on TV.

‘I went to training and I really enjoyed it. It was just a couple of weeks before Varsity – which is a big deal – but my friend asked me to play in the team as they thought I’d be good. She talked the team into letting me play and then helped me get ready – this included practising my tackling on her boyfriend, who was then President of the Ski Club!

‘If I hadn’t come to Kent, I don’t think I would play rugby. I wouldn’t be in the position I am today. I have so many great memories of being here – winning Varsity and being Kent Sportswoman of the Year at the Colours Ball. Sports socials, Feeder playing at the summer ball – I got a guitar pick from one of them – and watching Ellie Goulding as a student playing mainstage at ArtsFest!’

‘So Varsity was my first ever full-contact game. It was intense as Kent hadn’t won for a few years. But I got a hat-trick, which was funny because I still didn’t know all of the rules. So when I crossed the try line, I would just put the ball straight down. I was told actually in the game, to put the ball nearer the posts to make it easier for the kicker! We only won by two points and I really got the bug after that.

‘I knew I had to make a sacrifice when hockey and rugby started to clash. It meant on a Wednesday I would play half a game of rugby, then run across the field to play a hockey match and then train that evening in Canterbury. After that I might even still go to The Venue!

‘When it came to the 2014 World Cup, I hadn’t expected to be in the squad as I was recovering from breaking my ankle. But because I played well in the 7s, I was called up to the 15s six nations in 2014. It was against Wales and I scored with my first touch – which was very cool, but a bit lucky too!

‘I wasn’t in the original squad, but was called up after a teammate dropped out due to injury. The tournament in Paris was amazing, with sellout crowds in the semis and finals. I didn’t appreciate what a big deal it was until we got back to London where the press were all waiting for us. Back at Twickenham stadium the welcome was sensational. It was all over the front of the newspapers, but it was particularly important for me that it was women’s sport receiving this coverage and everyone knew about it. To win a World Cup is very special. In terms of British sport it doesn’t happen very often.

‘We were up against Maclaren, the Davis Cup team for the BBC Sports Personality, so winning that was phenomenal for the sport. It was a big marker and we even got invited to the Royal Box at Wimbledon!’
Community

News from the colleges

Keynes

The summer term was as busy as ever at Keynes College, where we hosted a number of events.

We were pleased to hold the annual reception at which the Canterbury Association of Women Graduates, who have a longstanding connection to Keynes College, bestow an award on a final-year Keynes-based female student whose achievements have outstripped expectations, often in the face of some difficulty or hardship.

Another great annual Keynes event took place in May: Keynestock, the ever-successful student-run music festival, was hosted in the newly refurbished pond area.

In the same month was launched ‘Coming of Age’, a long-running exhibition of photographs of the Moving Memory Dance Theatre Company, consisting of women aged between 53 and 83 who have been working and performing together for the last six years, touring all over south-east England and beyond. Celebrating life-long creativity, the company challenges stereotypical views of old age and offers older women a presence in the world of performance, where they are rarely offered the opportunity to participate, let alone to be valued or applauded.

We were all the more delighted to host this exhibition in Keynes as the company’s artistic director is Sian Stevenson, who was the last Master of Keynes College, and as the photographs were taken by Matt Wilson, also of the University of Kent.

In June, the Former Staff Association met in Keynes for their AGM and summer event, which began with an extremely interesting presentation by Professor Richard Sakwa of the School of Politics and International Relations on the crisis in Ukraine, and ended with dinner in Dolce Vita, the lovely Keynes restaurant.

Finally, Keynes was proud to host in the new term an exhibition to celebrate Black History Month. Drawing together work from local artists, historians and articles from the University archives, this exhibition remembered and recognised the history of slavery and immigration to Britain and celebrated the artistry of traditional African hairstyles and narratives of black history, as published by student media through the decades.

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

Rutherford

The 2016/17 academic year is both the 50th anniversary of the founding of Rutherford College and of the arrival at Kent of our ‘Second 500’, both in 1966. Rutherford’s founding students and staff were taken not only from this second intake of undergraduate students joining Kent in 1966, but also from the First 500 – a number of whom moved over from Eliot at the end of its first year – and academic staff. This approach mixed the new student intake across the two colleges and created two brand new college communities.

Rutherford College’s current Master, Professor Peter Klappa, was delighted to mark the occasion of the first students and staff joining the new college at a special lecture and dinner on 14 October. Professor John Todd, Emeritus Professor of Mass Spectroscopy in our School of Physical Sciences, and Master of Rutherford August 1975 – July 1985, gave a keynote lecture entitled ‘Rutherford and Rosetta – Two Explorers of the Unknown?’.
The lecture was followed by a dinner in Rutherford Great Hall which was attended by current and former staff including Professor Todd, plus other past Masters of Rutherford including Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones, Professor Richard Langhorne and Professor Stuart Hutchinson, and a number of Rutherford students past and present.

This event was the first to celebrate this important 50th anniversary for the college – which also received a new roof during the 2016 summer vacation – and will be followed by a reunion on 29/30 July 2017 to which all alumni are invited.

Further details will be available soon but in the meantime please mark your diaries!

Stephen Burke, Master of Eliot College, attended the event and welcomed the group to Eliot. Ann MacDonald, the University’s Archivist, produced a slideshow of photos.

In July, Eliot College welcomed Canterbury Shakespeare Festival players for a second season. In 2015 the Festival performed Romeo and Juliet on the Labyrinth, and this year it was As You Like It in the Cloister Garden. The play attracted good audiences, who brought along picnics for the event. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the University in 2015 the Garden was completely landscaped to the design of two Architecture students, Tracy Hulley and Prinka Anandawardhani. Tracy and Prinka’s design has created an intimate space, reminiscent of a Tudor theatre, which is ideal for a range of drama productions. The Cloister Garden first welcomed actors back in 1966 when another Shakespeare play was performed there, and 51 years later the tradition has been revived.

Medway

In October 2016, a group of Fine Art Students from the University of Kent – Medway Campus – contributed artwork for the seminal Black History Month Art Exhibition, which was housed at the Drill Hall Library Cafe.

This formed part of a larger suite of activities which were centrally coordinated by the Student Success (EDI) pilot project, in collaboration with Kent Union and Central Services Teams.

This provided a forum for students to conduct research and produce artwork which explored the status of the black community from an adored perspective. The body of work disclosed love and ascension as well as explored the stigma that comes with having darker skin. The body of artwork took us on an emotional journey, which explores race – black and blackness – and considers how the influence of the struggles of black leaders brings us to see what victory and freedom feels like.

The work which was displayed in the exhibition served to promote cultural competence and a knowledge exchange among the students who study at the Medway Campus. The work also provoked discussion within the university community and most importantly, a sense of belonging for black and minority ethnic students on the campus. This was a very important contribution to the development of a culture of equality and diversity within the University.
Unexpected career paths

Many of you will remember the panic of impending graduation and the dreaded question ‘what next?’ For many students, getting to know what alumni have gone on to do is not just helpful, it is crucial to their graduate prospects.

By hearing alumni stories, students can learn to consider alternative options and to recognise and articulate their skillset and experience. This is why our alumni volunteers and mentors are such an invaluable resource to Kent and to current and prospective students. By providing an alumni profile, joining the University’s e-mentoring platform, the Kent Experiences of Work Network (KEW-NET), or doing a talk or event on campus, our volunteers guide the next generation of graduates and support their success.

Lesley Townsend

Keynes 2005, Comparative Literature

One such example is Kent alumna Lesley Townsend, who studied Comparative Literature as a mature student at the Tonbridge campus from 2005 to 2008. Lesley went on to work at Lloyd’s of London and is now a qualified solicitor and the first female Company Secretary for Cathedral Underwriting, a subsidiary of Lloyd’s. Not your typical career path, but one that Lesley attributes to her time at Kent and the range of skills and networks she gained whilst studying.

Since graduating, Lesley has joined KEW-NET as a mentor for fellow alumni and students, and has returned to campus on a number of occasions to share her story, her expertise and her advice for students from a range of disciplines. If you would like to get involved and support students, contact us at alumni@kent.ac.uk

What are you doing now?
I am the Company Secretary for a Lloyd’s Managing Agent.

What made you want to volunteer your time for Kent?
My experience at Kent was a life-changing one and I would like to encourage others to make the most of this opportunity.

If you didn’t attend Kent how would your life now be different?
I wouldn’t be working where I am now.

What was your earliest ambition?
To be a teacher.

What was your first job?
Underwriting Assistant in Lloyd’s.

What have you been up to since graduating?
I’ve taken a Master’s in Humanities and a Law Master’s and have progressed in my career.

What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?
You’re going to be 42 in five years’ time anyway; you may as well be 42 and have a degree.’

What advice would you give to a new student at Kent?
Read around the subject. A reading list is just a starter.

What advice would you give to a new graduate embarking on a career?
Spend the first six months listening and observing.

What is your favourite memory of Kent?
I was at the Tonbridge Centre and just loved the atmosphere there.

What do you enjoy most about your continuing involvement with Kent?
Meeting enthusiastic young people setting out on their careers.

Would you recommend Kent to prospective students? Why?
Yes for those who want a city experience without being in a large city.

Who or what inspires you?
Strong women.
Count Herman Van Rompuy, favourite of some sections of the British press, has personally been blamed for everything from the shape of our bananas to the migration crisis. In reality he is a hugely distinguished politician, former president of Belgium, and President Emeritus of the European Council. He has a strong reputation as a builder of consensus, and once famously said “Every country should emerge victorious from negotiations”.

In October 2016 he appeared in the first international In Conversation with Gavin Esler, which took place in Brussels, streamed live to New York and Canterbury and is available online to watch. Highlights can be found below…

Gavin Esler – In terms of how the European Union is seen; is it sometimes convenient for heads of government not to say how well the European Union is doing, because anything that goes wrong they can blame on you?

Herman Van Rompuy – A lot of leaders return home to tell their electorate that they are responsible for the good things and the bad things are Brussels, and do not defend their positions when we are taking decisions in the Eurozone or the Union. For example the Hungarian prime minister agreed the refugee relocation scheme in the European Council and then organised a referendum in Hungary on the matter!

European decisions are being undermined by the lack of political courage of some of the leaders. You should defend the decisions to which you gave your approval – it is as simple as that.

Gavin Esler – Britain has a low turnout in EU elections; is the low engagement caused by what citizens hear from their own governments? There is no one who checks in with them from your position.

Herman Van Rompuy – In Conversation

HVR – This is part of a larger crisis. Brexit was about Europe, but also about British society. It was a vote against policies adopted by the UK government.

The crisis of the European idea is part of something much broader. There is a malaise in society, a crisis of traditional politics, from long before the banking crisis; nothing to do with Europe specifically. Rising individualism of the last decades means people are more isolated and see the politicians, institutions, organisations and others as the enemy, far beyond Europe.

Participation rate is low across the board, for example in Slovakia it is 12%. In Belgium, it is a compulsory vote.

The big decisions of the last decades are taken by the European Council. The European Parliament is not considered in the heart of the decision making process and so the engagement with the European Parliament is less than some expect.

GE – How people voted depended on geography, age and education and the divisions shocked different groups! Was Brexit a surprise to you?

HVR – For me it is not a real surprise that societies are divided, but what is new is that kind of polarisation. For me, when I looked at the British referendum I was surprised because Britain is considered the fatherland of fair play and common sense. It shows how divided the country is. Most western European countries have this polarisation, and deep divides in society. People are living in their own worlds, not connected with the others. Is that really something new?

Again, it relates to identity. Can you be a good Briton if you are a good European? When identity becomes the overwhelming issue, it is dangerous because then you are close to nationalism – the opposite of what the EU means.

GE – Do you think Brexit will have a long lasting effect on interpersonal relationships between British citizens and those in EU countries? Is the message that you and the rest of the EU take, that the ‘British do not like foreigners’?

HVR – For the rest of Western Europe, at first the referendum was quite a shock. People felt that Europe was falling apart. It is the first time a member state is leaving! But after the shock had worn off, Brexit became rather low on the political agenda in Western Europe. Terrorism, migration, tax, economic problems etc take precedent, for both leaders and people.

See the full event online at www.kent.ac.uk/events/in-conversation
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.

Monica Aulak (Keynes 2013) 
André Benard (Honorary graduate) 
Ellen Brody Hughes (Rutherford 1966) 
Nicholas Broughton (Eliot 1986) 
Owen Chadwick (Honorary graduate) 
Antony Copley (Former staff) 
Christina Goodacre (Rutherford 1971) 
Jack Goody (Honorary graduate) 
Peter Hawkes (Honorary graduate) 
Tom Horsman (né Wright) (Eliot 2008) 
Samir Kafity (Honorary graduate) 
Sheila Mayer (Keynes 1995) 
Hilary McBride (Keynes 2012) 
David Millyard (Former staff) 
Charles Rowley (Former staff) 
Alf Smyth (Former staff) 
Daniel Trotter (Eliot 2012)

In 2014 Antony became an honorary Professor of Modern European and Indian History, which gave him much pleasure. Last year he published his autobiography, A Memoir: Historian and Homosexual: Search for a Postwar Identity. He will be much missed by those who knew him.

Trisha Brinton (née Ellis)

John Platt (Rutherford 1965) remembers Trish, who passed away on March 2016, after a long and courageous fight against cancer:

Trish was one of the First 500, arriving at UKC (as it then was) in the Autumn of 1965 to read History – a subject in which she had obtained an 'A' at A-level in an era when A-grades were exceptional. Trish had the misfortune to occupy E3-E8 in Eliot and, as I occupied E2-E8 immediately below, we got to know each other quickly. She was a very social animal and a great organiser, combining her talents to hold the position of Social Secretary of both the University Conservative and Labour Party Societies at the same time; Trish believed that the emphasis should be on the 'Party' element! However, this did not deflect her from her academic studies and she graduated in 1968 with a 2.1 in History (in an era when the majority of degrees were 2.2s.)

After University, Trish became very involved with the National Childbirth Trust as a teacher, tutor and pioneer. This continued as she worked in the Health Service teaching nurses counselling and communication skills; many of the courses she wrote are still in use today. She trained as a counsellor accredited to the British Association of Counselling and had a very successful 25 years running her own counselling service. She was one of the unsung architects of Family Mediation and was especially prominent in the set up and overseeing of the network of Professional Practice Consultants that provides an important role in supporting all Family Mediators today. She married Peter Brinton (Eliot 1966), but they divorced in 1993 and Peter pre-deceased her.

Trivia Brinton (nee Ellis) was one of the First 500, arriving at UKC (as it then was) in the Autumn of 1965 to read History – a subject in which she had obtained an ‘A’ at A-level in an era when A-grades were exceptional. Trish had the misfortune to occupy E3-E8 in Eliot and, as I occupied E2-E8 immediately below, we got to know each other quickly. She was a very social animal and a great organiser, combining her talents to hold the position of Social Secretary of both the University Conservative and Labour Party Societies at the same time; Trish believed that the emphasis should be on the ‘Party’ element! However, this did not deflect her from her academic studies and she graduated in 1968 with a 2.1 in History (in an era when the majority of degrees were 2.2s.)

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Trish was diagnosed with cancer in 2002 and underwent major surgery. Despite the impact of this, and the side-effects of chemotherapy, she continued to run her own counselling business and live a very full life. She was only 4’ 11 3/4” tall (the 3/4” was very important!), but it was almost 5 feet of solid determination and she never gave up.

I used to stay with her regularly and we always enjoyed debating assorted issues well into the night, me with a pint of beer and Trish with a glass of her beloved malt. The only drawback with visiting Trish was her driving – wherever she is now, I hope they do not have hot hatchbacks!

Her health deteriorated in 2013 and she had to give up independent living and move in with her elder daughter, Clare; our sympathy goes to her, to Rowena, her younger daughter and the extended family for their loss.

Ellen Brody Hughes

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Ellen Brody-Hughes (Rutherford 1966), one of the founding members of The University of Kent in America (UKA) has passed away.

As an active member of the UKA Board for many years, and a regular face at events around Washington DC and beyond, Ellen will be much missed by many of us. Our thoughts are with her friends and family.

Owen Chadwick (Honorary graduate)

Trisha Brinton (née Ellis)

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John Pidgeon (Eliot 1966)

We were very sad to hear of John Pidgeon’s death on 19 July 2016.

John Pidgeon was a successful journalist, author, radio producer and comedy producer. John started his career in music journalism in the early 1980s he began writing for radio, initially on music and pop, before making comedy radio programmes in the 1990s through independent production companies John Pidgeon Productions and later Gilmour Productions.

In 1999 John became the head of BBC Radio Entertainment, a post which he held for 6 years, where he supported and produced for acts such as Ross Noble, Little Britain and Flight of the Conchords. As well as original recordings from his career in radio production, John gave the British Stand-Up Comedy Archive at the University a large collection of published cassettes and CDs from the country’s most popular comedians, many of whom he had worked with; we are very lucky to have the personal comedy collection of a collector and comedy enthusiast.

Our thoughts are with John’s family and friends.
Kent Sport
Kent Sport continues to ensure that students, staff and alumni have the best possible sports facilities, activities and services available, providing users with opportunities to reach their full potential. Recent developments include upgrades to the fitness suite, refurbishment of the indoor tennis courts and completion of an exciting new facility – the Cycle Hub.

Supporting students in sport
Sport and fitness activities make an enormous difference to the university experience, developing new skills and habits that serve well for a lifetime. The University provides more than 65 sports scholarships each year to support talented individuals to develop their abilities to the full. Kent Sport wants to ensure that sporting opportunity is available to all and thanks to the generosity of alumni we are creating a student sports fund to support those in need of financial assistance to follow their sporting interests.

Congratulations to 2015-16 Scholar of the Year Leigh Wetheridge, who has achieved European and World records in powerlifting for her age and weight while working closely with the Kent Sport fitness team.

Leigh said, ‘Sport is incredibly important for students at university; while education is important the only way an individual can stay truly focused is if they have a healthy body and mind. Sport relieves stress and can promote new friendships, it is essential to have a balance between education and fun and I find that sport helps me to do this.’

Karate boot camp
The summer saw almost 100 participants join us for the third annual Ultimate Karate Fighter’s Boot Camp. Participants came from across Europe to benefit from three days of intense kumite training with alumnus Wayne Otto OBE, nine times World champion and nine times European champion, and his team of expert instructors.

Kent Union
New Student Hub in Medway
We have totally refurbished one of the buildings on campus to bring students a state-of-the-art base; here, you’ll find the GK Unions offices and reception.

Time for a bit of history: when the campus was a naval barracks, the Hub building was a swimming pool, which gives rise to the student-voted name of our restaurant and bar The Deep End! With an extensive menu being planned, there will be loads on offer on the Medway campus. It’ll be the place to be on campus, and buzzing with activity all year round!

Freshers’ Week
Freshers’ Week came and went in a flash, and there is plenty to look back on! From nights out at the Venue, to our biggest and best Freshers’ Fayre yet, it was amazing to see the student groups out in force to showcase what they can do.

Were you part of a student group on campus? Has it impacted where you are now? Why not let us know how you’re doing and tell us your story: email us at kentunion@kent.ac.uk
What will your legacy be?

“I am incredibly grateful to be a recipient of the Christine and Ian Bolt Scholarship and to carry the name of these scholars. Being chosen for this award has given me confidence in both my research and in myself and will afford me new experiences that will benefit me both professionally and personally.”

Rebecca Pope
2016/17 Christine and Ian Bolt Scholar

Leaving a legacy gift to Kent in your will can make a huge difference to the lives of future generations of Kent students. No matter the size, leaving a gift in your will is a wonderful way to lend your support.

If you would like to find out more, please return the form below in the envelope provided, or email Jenny on J.Richardson@kent.ac.uk

Thank you

Please contact me with more information about leaving a gift to the University of Kent in my Will.

First name: _____________________________
Surname: ______________________________
Address: _________________________________
Email address: ___________________________
Phone number: __________________________