We are Kent!
You said, we did...
Dear friends,

I am frequently heard describing the University of Kent as ‘going from strength to strength’, over the past few months I have been reflecting Kent’s many changes during my tenure as Vice-Chancellor, and the contributions of so many staff, students and alumni which have made the University into the inspiring, international and inclusive institution that it is today.

Over the past ten years, we have made it an institutional priority to increase both the quality and the quantity of our research. Today, 97% of our research is of international quality, and the number of research-active staff has increased by 40% since 2007. This has resulted in a 31% increase in research income, from £13m in 2007 to £17m last year. Our research awards are getting bigger, with the average research grant increasing by almost half, and we are seeing more staff applying for funding, which is a strong indicator of how well Kent is regarded among our peer group of universities.

During my time at Kent, staff numbers have more than doubled, from 1,750 in 2007 to 3,550 this year. Notably, there has been an increase in the number of women in leadership roles at the University, with a 50% increase in the number of women at Executive Group level and a 14% increase in women in senior management roles. In addition, 9.2% of our professorial staff identify as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) which is above the UK sector average of 6.7%.

Our student body has continued to evolve, with student numbers increasing from 17,300 in 2007 to 19,800; our improved standing in the UK and internationally is demonstrated in a 65% increase in undergraduate applications – from 21,500 in 2007 to 35,500 this year. With so many alumni in such a diverse array of careers worldwide, I am sure that future generations from all corners of the globe will be inspired to study here.

The increase in student numbers brings a corresponding increase in alumni; when I arrived at Kent, the University had less than 100,000 alumni, and I remember meeting many of you at my very first alumni event which took place at the House of Commons in autumn 2007. Today we have in excess of 155,000 alumni worldwide and I am privileged to have worked with so many loyal and committed Kent graduates. It has been one of the great joys of my role as Vice-Chancellor to see so many students admitted to their degrees in the spectacular settings of Canterbury and Rochester cathedrals, and to join our alumni community.

We continue to champion the importance of internationalisation among our staff and students, and have increased the number of postgraduate centres in mainland Europe from one in 2007 to four in 2017. Our existing campuses at Canterbury and Medway have changed too, with a 51% increase in the number of students accommodated at Canterbury, and at our Medway campus over 1000 students are now provided with on-campus accommodation, up from only 31 ten years ago.

It has been a privilege to work alongside so many talented staff, students and alumni over the past ten years. I am hugely proud of the things we have achieved together and I know that the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Karen Cox, will receive as warm a welcome as I did ten years ago.

For all your support over the past ten years, thank you.

With best wishes,

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, DBE CBE
Vice-Chancellor and President

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Professor Karen Cox to be new Vice-Chancellor

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Karen Cox as the University’s sixth Vice-Chancellor and President.

Professor Cox is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Nottingham. She joins the University in August and succeeds Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow who joined the University in 2007.

Professor Cox’s appointment was confirmed by the University Council on 20 January 2017. She joins us at a time of significant success, which reflects significant growth in size and stature. A consistently excellent student experience and world-class research have secured our top 20 position in the UK league tables and a growing international reputation.

Commenting on the appointment, Sir David Warren, Chair of the University Council said: ’Professor Cox has an exceptional track record, not only in academic terms but as an inspiring leader. I am sure that her extensive experience and strong leadership qualities will enable Kent to build on its already outstanding reputation in innovative and exciting ways.

‘And I have no doubt that she will be a powerful ambassador for Kent regionally, nationally and internationally. I am delighted to be able to welcome her to the University.’

Professor Cox said: ‘I am pleased and honoured to be joining the University of Kent as its Vice-Chancellor and President. I am very much looking forward to getting to know staff, alumni, and students, whether they are from the Canterbury and Medway campuses, the Tonbridge Centre, or at the academic centres in Brussels, Paris, Rome and Athens, and working with them to ensure that Kent goes from strength to strength.

‘Universities are facing a time of unprecedented change. However, as a highly successful and collegiate institution, it is clear that Kent is well-positioned not only to respond to inevitable challenges but to seize new opportunities as they arise.’

Special thanks to Lesley Farr and Neil Hopkins, Kent Design & Print, Matt Wilson, Tim Stubbings.
You said, we did...

We’d like to say a huge thank you to everyone who completed the 2016 alumni survey and shared their thoughts on how we can improve. We had a record-breaking response this year, with alumni all over the world telling us their ideas. We’ve been reading all of your comments and making some changes based on your suggestions – we hope that you like the result!

What are you most interested in hearing about from Kent?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University news</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alumni group events near you</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alumni news/profiles</td>
<td>43%</td>
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<tr>
<td>University events</td>
<td>43%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research news</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current/former staff news</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events on campus</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>News from your campus</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>News about our students</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<td>News from the Colleges</td>
<td>19%</td>
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What is your favourite content in KENT magazine?

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University news</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Features – research</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alumni news/profiles</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Features – people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Features – University updates</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>What’s on</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student profiles/news</td>
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Top five things you wanted to hear about in our e-newsletters

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>University news</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
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<td>Research news</td>
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<td>Alumni news/profiles</td>
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<td>Current/former staff news</td>
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What sort of events would you be interested in attending?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reunions</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal alumni event</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formal alumni event/dinner</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q&amp;A with speaker</td>
<td>35%</td>
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In your words…

Is there anything else you would like to see in the magazine?

“Profiles of alumni. Photos of the campus during the years – comparisons between now and then.”
Zelda Vandewiele, Darwin 1995

“What is happening around campus, pictures, I want to feel nostalgia!”
Luke Jackson, Eliot 2010

“More photos of life at Kent, and photos from over the years such as the 1970s and the 1980s. Alumni photos and stories.”
Miles Ahad, Keynes 2012

“In depth articles about research.”
Ines Medina Fernandez, Rutherford 1995

“More about your ‘regular’ alumni. By this I mean, former students who have gone on to have normal, happy lives where they are trying to use their degree.”
Francesca McLinden, Keynes 2007

“Opportunities for networking/ jobs or opportunities for alumni or staff who would be prepared to help alumni in a career field etc. The magazine is good and positive, but very much about what people have achieved and not a helping hand for those trying to achieve or even have had a career, been made redundant or unemployed and may need a helping hand!”
Zenia Squires Jamison, Eliot 1997

“A plan of the University campus so I can see what it looks like now.”
Matthew Williams, Eliot 2003

We have…

In response to overwhelming requests for more information about alumni, we have added more alumni profiles to our e-newsletters, with alumni stories shared through the ‘Footsteps Tales’ and ‘Love at Kent’. We will be increasing alumni content in KENT, and have started this with our ‘We are Kent’ feature on pages 8-11.

You’ve asked us about how you can get more involved with the University, be it through contributing to publications, attending events or sharing the benefits of your experience with your fellow alumni and students. Take a look at page 15 for more information about all of the ways you can play a part in the Kent community.

You’ve told us that you want to hear more about campus developments and see what Kent looks like today, and the next issue of Kent will do just this – we’ll show you how the Canterbury campus has changed, some of the new buildings, and a plan of campus. Look out in future issues to see our other campuses and sites – Medway, Paris, Tonbridge, Brussels, Rome and Athens!

Our winners…

Congratulations to the 2016 survey prize draw winners:
Claudia Kalindjian (Eliot 1987)
Emily Gent (Rutherford, 2010)
Jessica Parker (Rutherford, 2009)
Alexander Loo Yong Kee (Medway 2010)
Peter De La Wyche (Keynes, 1966)
Charles Bater (Mid Kent, 2013)

Over to you

You have asked us to feature more alumni stories, and we are happy to: but to be able to do this, we need your help – and your story! If you’ve got a tale to share, be it of your time at Kent, your career after you left, the friendships you treasure, or even people you’ve lost contact with, do get in touch.
We’d also love to see your photographs! Contact alumni@kent.ac.uk with your story.
Kent doubles its presence in world rankings by subject 2017

The University has been listed in 16 of the 46 subject areas covered by the annual QS World University Rankings by subject, doubling its presence from 2016. It also has increased its number of subjects ranked 200 from seven to 11.

Kent’s new subject entries are: Archaeology; Economics & Econometrics; History; Linguistics; Mathematics; Philosophy; Theology; and (subjects allied to) Medicine.

Of these, Theology, Archaeology, History and Philosophy are in the top 200. Kent’s other subjects in the top 200 are: English Language and Literature; Geography; Law; Psychology; Politics and International Studies; Sociology; and Social Policy & Administration.

The annual QS World University Rankings by Subject is a guide to the world’s top universities in a range of popular subject areas. Using data on reputation and research citations, the rankings highlight the top universities for 46 individual subjects.

Alumni contribute to The Jungle Book winning Oscar

Three University graduates played a role in helping the film The Jungle Book win Best Visual Effects at the recent Academy Awards.

El Suliman, who graduated from the University’s School of Engineering and Digital Arts with a BSc in Multimedia Technology and Design and then went on to gain an MSc in Computer Animation, was a senior animator on the film.

He worked on a range of animals in the film, studying their physiologies and skeletons to ensure realism.

Currently working in Singapore, El Suliman said that being a part of an Oscar winning team ‘is pretty amazing’, adding that ‘it’s a great feeling seeing your team’s work appreciated on such a large scale’.

He said that his studies at Kent had been ‘absolutely vital’. Since graduating, he has also worked in New Zealand as an animator.

Other Kent alumni involved were Bernard Wicksteed (animation), an MSc Computer Animation graduate, and Marlene Chazot (software developer), an MSc Digital Visual Effects graduate.

By the time the client came to the Kent Law Clinic for advice, he had been refused new benefits and his housing benefit was going to be stopped meaning he would not be able to pay the rent and would inevitably face eviction and potential homelessness.

The Employment and Support Allowance decision has been appealed. The Housing Benefit department have accepted he does have a right of residence and therefore will continue to pay the rent. The PIP claim has been granted. He now receives £112.00 per week PIP payment and has been paid a lump sum of £2,459.00 of PIP arrears. Now he has financial security and the Clinic students have helped him get the care and medical help he needs to recover.

The Clinic continues to assist with the Employment and Support Allowance appeals and will soon start on a new aspect of the case – assisting the client to make an application for permanent residence in the UK.

Law clinic uses EU law to win benefits case

Kent Law Clinic has won disability benefits for a man who lived in England from the age of three but had retained his Spanish citizenship. The Clinic’s client was brought to the UK by his parents as a child. He then worked, married a UK citizen and they had children in London.

But when his parents became elderly, at their request he returned to Spain to look after them until their deaths. When he returned to the UK he immediately obtained employment. Subsequently he became ill and was told that the only benefit he could claim was Jobseeker’s Allowance.

He was told that he had not worked for long enough to claim benefits on the basis he was unfit to work, even though he had paid tax in the UK throughout his working life. His leaving to care for his parents meant he was treated as someone who had newly arrived without a job and therefore had no right to reside in the UK, and was not entitled to Employment and Support Allowance.

The Clinic established that EU law made their client eligible for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and helped him fill in the forms. He was still recovering from a major operation on a malign tumour on his brain, leaving him in severe pain and unable to work.

Other Kent Law students have helped him get the care and medical help he needs to recover. He now receives £112.00 per week PIP payment and has been paid a lump sum of £2,459.00 of PIP arrears. Now he has financial security and the Clinic students have helped him get the care and medical help he needs to recover.

Kent one of only four UK HEIs in Alma Mater Index 2017

The Times Higher Education (THE) Alma Mater Index (Global Executives) 2017 gives a picture of which institutions are best at producing senior business leaders worldwide.

Kent came 55th in the rankings for educating two Fortune Global 500 CEOs and awarding three qualifications to CEOs. The only other ranked UK universities are Oxford (14th), Cambridge (20th) and Imperial (29th).

The revenue generated by the companies overseen by Kent-educated CEOs is $135 billion.
Overall, US institutions have educated 231 Fortune Global 500 chief executives: by far the highest number. The US is followed by China, whose universities have educated 116 chief executives; France, with 68; Germany, 46; the UK, 40; and Japan, 35.

Institutions in the Alma Mater Index 2017 have been ranked according to the total number of degrees awarded to chief executives listed by Fortune in the Fortune Global 500 2016. Where this was equal, they have been ranked according to their total number of chief executive alumni. Where this was equal, they have been separated according to the total revenue of their alumni chief executives’ companies in 2015.

Kent shortlisted for award for alumni engagement

Kent has been shortlisted in one of higher education’s leading national awards for best practice for the way we engage with our alumni.

Kent is one of three universities shortlisted in the Alumni Engagement Award in the annual Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards (THELMAs).

The award for alumni engagement will be given to the institution that ‘can best demonstrate innovation, creativity and success in encouraging alumni engagement with, and philanthropic giving to, an institution’.

The University’s submission centres on our innovative Kent Experiences of Work Network (KEW-NET). This is an e-mentoring platform which brings together its global alumni community in support of current students and young alumni through mentoring and networking.

Books

Revolt on the Right: Explaining Support for the Radical Right in Britain
By Professor Matthew Goodwin and Robert Ford

Professor Matthew Goodwin’s book was one of the 20 most influential books as chosen by leading British academics. Professor Goodwin, from the School of Politics and International Relations, joins the likes of Edward Said, John Maynard Keynes, Eric Hobsbawm and John Berger on the Academic Book Week shortlist to find the book that has been most influential upon modern Britain.

Professor Goodwin’s book Revolt on the Right: Explaining Support for the Radical Right in Britain was published in 2013 and is co-authored with Robert Ford.

Others in the top 20 included A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking, and The Female Eunuch by Germaine Greer. The competition was created to raise awareness and provoke discussion about how research has helped define British society and culture.

Alan Staton, of the Booksellers Association and member of the Academic Book Week steering committee, said the list was fascinating and covers many disciplines, looking beyond humanities to ideas and discoveries that have shaped the modern world. He said the list ‘recognises the rise of neoliberalism in the West while books such as Revolt on the Right may help to make sense of Brexit Britain in 2017’.

Revolt on the Right was awarded Political Book of the Year prize in 2015.

Exhaustion: A History
By Dr Ann K Schaffner

Today our fatigue feels chronic, our anxieties, amplified. Proliferating technologies command our attention. Many people complain of burnout, and economic instability and the threat of ecological catastrophe fill us with dread. We look to the past, imagining life to have once been simpler and slower, but extreme mental and physical stress is not a modern syndrome.

Beginning in classical antiquity, this book demonstrates how exhaustion has always been with us and helps us evaluate more critically the narratives we tell ourselves about the phenomenon. Medical, cultural, literary, and biographical sources have cast exhaustion as a biochemical imbalance, a somatic ailment, a viral disease, and a spiritual failing.

It has been linked to loss, the alignment of the planets, a perverse desire for death, and social and economic disruption. Pathologised, demonised, sexualised, and even weaponised, exhaustion unites the mind with the body and society in such a way that we attach larger questions of agency, willpower, and well-being to its symptoms. Mapping these political, ideological, and creative currents across centuries of human development, Exhaustion finds in our struggle to overcome weariness a more significant effort to master ourselves.

1 Kent doubles presence in QS World Quality Rankings
2 The Wooder Law Building, home of the Kent Law Clinic
3 Kent congregations – creating the leaders of tomorrow
4 Revolt on the Right
5 Exhaustion: A History
Feature

We are Kent!

Love at Kent

Lunar Love
Andy and I met in the Keynes TV room while watching the second moon landing. We celebrate our 44th wedding anniversary this year! Still good friends (most of the time) and enjoying retirement.

Sue Woodham née Jones (Keynes 69/Darwin 70), Andy Woodham (Eliot 68)

Love through the Role Playing Games Society
I transferred into the second year of the Computing, Operational Research and Statistics course in 1983 (after doing the first two years of a degree course elsewhere), finding myself sharing a landing in Darwin with two of my new-found course-mates, who had joined UKC in 1982. (Of the twelve people doing that particular course, three of us occupied three of the five rooms on a single Darwin landing! Perhaps the person responsible for room allocation did this to give me a bit of help joining UKC straight into the second year of a course.)

Through a collision of circumstances, in my last few months at UKC, I met the wonderful woman (Carole, née Scarbororough (Rutherford 83)) to whom I have been happily married for 27 years.

I joined the Role Playing Games Society, and one of the characters was classmates with Carole. We finally met when she came to borrow some lecture notes, and I happened to be there.

Ian Gordon (Darwin 83)

Locking eyes in Woody's
My now fiancee and I met at the postgraduate social our first week of our respective degrees (mine in creative writing - MA and his, a PhD in astrophysics, (which is funded by the Kent Opportunity Fund) in September 2014.

We locked eyes in Woody's after a game/team-building social. We were inseparable until I finished my Master's and then I remained in Canterbury to work as an editorial assistant at a magazine in Faversham and he is in the last year of his PhD currently. We are getting married in Dorset in May and we will always see the University of Kent as an extremely special place and institution.

Mya Medina and Jamie Winkham

Love in the library
My wife and I met in the Templeman library in March 1991. We've been married for 23 years now and our oldest son is now reading History at Kent, and living in Turing. We are living in kent again and I work in Canterbury (at that other university).

Jake Monk (Keynes 91)

Mungo's brought them together
I just wanted to say thank you to Kent Uni for introducing me to my husband, Barry Jackson!

We met in 2006 in our halls of residence, Eliot College. I (Biological Anthropology) worked in Mungo's and spotted Barry (Law) on the other side of the bar. After plucking up the courage to ask him out, we have had ten happy years together and now live in South London close to lots of our friends from Kent.

Rosie Jackson (née Pennington) and Barry Jackson (Eliot 06)
For the love of the law

I was at UKC from 1971 to 1974 and it was the best three years of my life. We studied hard and played hard and I adored the weekly films and political activity. We had a sit-in once a year and the Friday night discos and rowing on the river Stour and wonderful lunches in Keynes and walks on the South Downs way to Dover, it was all just brilliant! Most of all, it gave me a keen interest in the law and Law Centres and I am pleased to say that I have worked in private practice just once as an articled clerk from 1975 to 1977 and not once in private practice since then. I have worked in Law Centres all my professional life as a qualified solicitor and I owe it to UKC to give me the enthusiasm and love for the work that I do. Thank you Ian and Adrian!

Richard Hazell (Rutherford 71)

Still crazy after all these years

When a group of freshers made friends in Eliot College in 1970 – only 5 years after Kent opened its doors – few of us realized that we would still be friends nearly 47 years later. Kent University campus looked much different then; and so did we...

Ian Butcher, Rob Goffee, Colin Holden, Colin Wadsworth, Nigel McIver, Steve Calvert and occasionally others from Eliot College of that era, kept in contact despite the demands of bringing up kids, jobs, illness and life’s ups and downs, we have now come out the other end of more or less successful careers and are retired or winding down to retire, actually entering a golden age with good health (more or less), free time and a bit of cash.

We all celebrated Colin Holden’s 65th birthday; get together for fun weekends; some go on road trips together; the golfers among us will be getting together for a couple of days in Brussels where I live. Our spouses also enjoy the reunions.

In a world where friendships are often fleeting and people pass like ships in the night, it is heartening to think that friendships can survive – if you work at it – over nearly five decades.

Ian Butcher (Eliot 70)
Life after Herne Bay?

The many friends I made at UKC are a fantastic part of my time in Canterbury. They came from different and complementary worlds: the four main colleges, the many courses we shared, from CathSoc, and, not least, our soccer games (where I played with the ‘Eton Rifles’...).

However, the chief highlight, was meeting my future wife, Elena Espinosa de los Reyes (r, 80), a clever Mexican post-grad student of Economics.

I was on a weekend trip (a UKC-related one, with other students) to an interesting place, in Kent, called Allington Castle, with a real moat! It’s both really old and relatively new as it was restored in Edwardian times by an enlightened peer called Lord Conway, if I remember correctly. (Some of the BBC’s famous ‘Colditz’ programme was filmed there, too.)

To get to the point... I was relaxing in the long gallery when I noticed this striking young lady, tall, dark hair, very pretty, in a green dress with a small oranges design all over it. Elena! I was in a very comfy chair and she came and sat nearby.

She had just returned from Paris, with her mother (who was over from Mexico City), and so we started chatting about the art she’d seen over there. I should add that my mother was French, I know Paris well, and Art History was, by far, my favourite subject studied at UKC.

I soon knew I should ask for her hand. Totally convinced about that. My regret is that I did so under the clock tower, by the beach, in Herne Bay. Not a very romantic place. (Spooling forward many years, one of my daughters, also Elena, got engaged in the middle of Tower Bridge. Definitely a much better story to relate to the folks.)

The rest, as they say, is history.

There is life, and a lot of it, after Herne Bay.

Tom Wingate (Rutherford 81)
An Erasmus to remember

It's been 10 years already since I was an Erasmus student at UKC! 16th of September 2006 was the beginning of freshers' week and I had already been one week there to do the English Language course for Erasmus students. First time I left Spain and it was to study abroad... Go me!

After I finished my year at UKC in June 2007, I received my Bachelor's degree in English Studies from the University of Alicante and, in November 2007, I graduated in English Language from Kent at Canterbury Cathedral. Best place for such an important ceremony and my parents were there to see it happen. Just unforgettable.

After my Erasmus, I worked for a month back home until I saved enough to move back to the UK. I love the country and the people (despite Brexit, sorry for being so bold) and I knew I had more chances of finding a job there. I worked in Canterbury for a couple of months before moving to Kent in February 2008. I always said I'd live there when I retire, that's how much I love the city! Now I live in Germany with my boyfriend, but after all these years, I still remember my Erasmus at UKC; the people I met (still in touch with quite a few), the way I was treated, my teachers, what I learnt... To me that proves you're the best University in the UK. I am who I am because of that year! Thanks for everything, for your work and for always being there for your students even after they already left the University.

Tamara Blasco (Keynes 06)

Only Connect

I set foot in Rutherford College in 1966, at the age of 17, the first person in my Irish immigrant family to have been to grammar school and then to university. I had actually wanted to go to art school, but students got a bad press in those days, and art students were the bottom of the heap. So no point in insisting. As it turned out, my parents were too sceptical of the whole idea of higher education to make up the shortfall in my grant.

This created financial problems, even though - remember full employment? I did paid work every vacation. But my feelings were wholly joyous, delighting in the new freedom of being independent, and the groundbreaking new course 'Britain in the Contemporary World' opened a door onto an extraordinary joined up world of learning.

'Only connect', Professor Ian Gregor’s mantra (from EM Forster) was a lesson I learnt by heart. It took me into several European languages, contemporary philosophy, politics, history, literature and linked back to the visual art which fascinated me.

Life on campus was dominated by my mundane drive to get one (prepaid) square meal a day. Sitting with the public school boys at dinner in hall was a big mistake as, well practised, they could wolf the entire meal on the table in a second after grace was said. Buying books wasn’t an option, but the library was heaven, over heated and now over crowded. Subs to societies or sports facilities weren’t feasible either, but the walk down to Canterbury town through orchards was sublime.

My boyfriend, a London architecture student, got vetted by the ex-Nyasaland policemen on the gate, who kindly turned his blind eye to our ongoing love affair. Fifty years later, I’m still grateful. Occasionally the ‘guards’ would stage early hours fire drills assembled shivering on the bridge, we all tried to pretend the suspiciously large number of students present was entirely correct.

It was a good time to be young. Then.

Christina Briggs (Rutherford 1966)

Never stop learning

I graduated with a PhD in Law at Macquarie University, Sydney on 21 September 2016. The Chancellor of the University at the graduation remarked that it was unusual for someone of 82 to study and receive such an award! It seems a long time ago now that I undertook the full-time Postgraduate Diploma in Local Government in 1970-1971 at Kent and followed this with a part-time MPhil in Local Government (under the supervision of Professor Keith Lucas and Ken Poole) in 1983! I look back with affection on my time at Kent in Keynes College; running in the University Cross-Country team and playing for the University 2nd Rugby Fifteen!

Emeritus Professor David Barker (Keynes 1970)

Unly Connect

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‘Only connect’, Professor Ian Gregor’s mantra (from EM Forster) was a lesson I learnt by heart. It took me into several European languages, contemporary philosophy, politics, history, literature and linked back to the visual art which fascinated me.

Life on campus was dominated by my mundane drive to get one (prepaid) square meal a day. Sitting with the public school boys at dinner in hall was a big mistake as, well practised, they could wolf the entire meal on the table in a second after grace was said. Buying books wasn’t an option, but the library was heaven, over heated and now over crowded. Subs to societies or sports facilities weren’t feasible either, but the walk down to Canterbury town through orchards was sublime.

My boyfriend, a London architecture student, got vetted by the ex-Nyasaland policemen on the gate, who kindly turned his blind eye to our ongoing love affair. Fifty years later, I’m still grateful. Occasionally the ‘guards’ would stage early hours fire drills assembled shivering on the bridge, we all tried to pretend the suspiciously large number of students present was entirely correct.

It was a good time to be young. Then.

Christina Briggs (Rutherford 1966)
Webcamming: the sex work revolution that no one is willing to talk about

The development of the internet has completely transformed the way we do business; and the ‘oldest profession’ is no exception. In a world of online chatrooms, webcam performers can market anything from conversation to explicit sex acts. And unlike pornography or prostitution, there are virtually no laws regulating this form of sex work.

Webcamming is an easy market to enter. All it takes is a computer, a decent webcam, access to a high speed internet connection and a webcam hosting site. The hours are flexible, the working environment is safe and the salary can be very rewarding. The majority of performers are women, but there are also male and transgender performers.

On sites such as Chaturbate and MyFreeCams, a tipping system operates in public chatrooms. Here, payment is voluntary, and performers are tipped for performing sexual and non-sexual acts. This makes a show profitable for the performer, at a relatively low cost to the viewer.

In private chatrooms, performers are paid by the minute for a private show. Here, the customer can make requests for specific sexual acts to be performed. Unlike the public chatrooms, these performances tend to be highly pornographic.

In both public and private shows, performances can be highly interactive. Performers and customers are able to communicate with each other using keyboard, speech and two-way cameras.

Silence of the cams

But while consumers and producers are busy experimenting with these new capabilities, both governments and campaigners remain eerily silent. This is odd, given that the British government has increasingly taken a heavy-handed approach to regulating sexual commerce.

For example, in 2014 a new law banned certain acts from being depicted and uploaded by British pornography producers. And the Digital Economy Bill, which is currently on its way through parliament, seeks to restrict minors’ access to pornographic material online.
Yet both laws focus on recordings, rather than live streaming; in effect, they turn a blind eye to webcamming. This creates something of a paradox: performing an explicitly pornographic act via a webcam carries no repercussions, but if the same show is recorded and uploaded, the performer can be liable to a fine of up to £10,000 (US$12,500).

Another typically vocal group which has remained strangely quiet on this topic is radical feminists. Since the birth of the feminist movement in the 19th century, women involved in sex work have been portrayed as victims in need of rescue. Today, webcam performers are challenging this contrived image.

A new woman
Webcam performers are often highly entrepreneurial, and they harness mainstream social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook and Tumblr to build and maintain relationships with customers. It’s difficult for radical feminists to claim that a shrewd businesswoman – who may have thousands of fans, thanks to her clever use of social media – has been victimised by her involvement in this form of pornography.

Webcamming gives women the opportunity to reclaim profits from the traditionally male-dominated pornography industry. What’s more, they can maintain control of their image and dictate the terms and conditions on which they are viewed – all from the relative safety of their own homes. Indeed, webcamming allows individuals access to global markets, which could give women in deprived areas a chance to raise themselves out of poverty.

But portraying the webcamming industry as a sort of online utopia for sex workers does not show the whole picture. There are dangers, too. The women I spoke to for my PhD research were worried about viewers filming and sharing their performances on porn sites, or acquiring personal information which could be used to stalk or blackmail them.

Even so, the dominant role of female amateurs in the webcam industry presents a challenge to radical feminists’ claims that the production of sexually explicit material degrades women, and that women who engage in such pursuits need to be rescued.

A tidy profit
While giving women a platform to conduct sex work, webcamming also generates sizeable corporate profits. Hosting sites retain between 40% and 65% of performers’ earnings, for providing chatroom and payment services and an existing customer base.

Laszlo Czero is the former CEO of jasmin.com and current consultant to streamate.com – two leading corporations in the field. He estimates that profits for webcam hosting sites will reach between US$2 and US$3 billion in 2016 alone. Cams.com affiliate Harry Varwijk estimates that profits yielded by webcam hosting will reach $10 billion by 2020. One of the most popular webcam sites – livejasmin.com – has 40m visitors a day, and has made its founder, Gyorgi Gattyán, Hungary’s richest man.

The owners of webcam hosting sites aren’t the only ones profiting, either. Every single webcam transaction passes through – and profits – the banking system. According to Varwijk, the banking system charges between 7% and 15% for providing payment facilities – much more than the 2% to 3% they usually charge.

This is supposed to be justified by the greater risk of fraud associated with the credit cards used to pay for webcam sessions. But Varwijk, who has been an affiliate of cams.com for 15 years, said that only 0.03% of transactions that he has generated have resulted in chargebacks.

Instead of the sleazy pornographer or the shady trafficker, the webcamming industry is driven by a very different force: the mainstream corporation. With no easily identifiable victim, and an above-board financial operation, the world of webcamming has confounded lawmakers and anti-sex work campaigners alike.

For the moment, at least, entrepreneurial women are free to participate in a legal form of sex work, which they have the power to define.
How to... make the most of your alumni community

Just because you’ve finished your studies, you don’t have to leave Kent behind! There are lots of ways to play your part in the Kent community. You are one of over 155,000 Kent alumni worldwide – so why not make the most of the fantastic opportunities that being part of this network provides? Here’s a simple guide to making the most out of everything that Kent has to offer...

Most importantly, make sure that you don’t miss out on any opportunities by ensuring that we have got your correct contact details. You can sign up to our alumni community at alumni.kent.ac.uk, and manage your own details online, or email us at alumni@kent.ac.uk. By giving us your up-to-date details – and keeping them updated – we will be able to send you information about upcoming events, share the latest alumni news, and make sure you don’t miss a thing!

Every year we host a wide range of events, from campus-based lectures and reunions across Europe to formal and informal alumni events and get-togethers around the world. In the last 12 months alone, we’ve hosted alumni activities in Malaysia, the United States, France, Belgium, Italy, Singapore, Canada, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Bahrain, Oman and Jordan, as well as in Canterbury, Medway and London.
To make sure you keep up to date with the very latest news, make sure that you join us on social media! Follow us on Twitter or like us on Facebook and all the Kent news will come to you. We even have regional Facebook groups for alumni all over the world so you know what’s going on in your area.

Would you like to share the benefit of your experience with current students and alumni taking their first steps on the career ladder? Or would you like support or advice as to the best ways to achieve your career goals? Alumni can access our online mentoring platform, KEW-NET, free of charge, and are able to act as mentors, be mentees – or both!

The platform lets you take charge, deciding the type of relationship you are looking for, be it in-person meetings, advice by email, work experience opportunities or simply someone to review your CV. Moving area? Find a mentor in your new neighbourhood and ask them for tips!

Do you have a story to tell from your time at Kent? Did you meet your partner, gain lifelong friends, become inspired in an unexpected career direction? Don’t be shy, get in touch and share your story, we’d love to hear it – and so would your fellow alumni and our current students!

If you have special memories of Kent, why not consider leaving your mark on campus by sponsoring a brick in the Footsteps path and supporting the next generation of Kent graduates? See the back cover for more details…

Do you have time to spare, and would like to lend a hand? Alumni support us in many ways, from joining Kent staff at recruitment fairs around the world to share their experiences of the University, to visiting campus to give talks and lectures. Every year, hundreds of volunteers give their time to support Kent and our students and their generosity makes an enormous difference.

Make a gift to Kent and join a very special community of alumni and friends who make a real difference to our students. The Kent Opportunity Fund supports exceptional students with scholarships, provides bursaries to help those in financial need, and enhances extra-curricular life at the University through the Student Project fund. By making a gift to the University you’ll know that you are helping to change lives. Make your gift online, use the enclosed carrier sheet or give us a call and we will be happy to help.
Darwin College

Darwin College has seen some very positive changes in the past 12 months, with an appealing new common room having been opened, as well as improved facilities for the Darwin Chaplaincy. Further renovations are planned for the summer of 2017. Other developments in the pipeline include an outdoor seating and social space on the lawn adjacent to the College entrance and opposite the Darwin Conference Suite. The design of this space will be created in a prize competition for students in the University’s School of Architecture.

The Darwin Lecture and Darwin Feast are always a highlight of the College’s year, and the most recent of these was a particular success. The lecturer and guest of honour at the Feast was Professor William Whyte of St John’s College, Oxford University, a renowned historian of, among other things, University Architecture. In the lecture he explored the origins of the campus university in the UK, and the political, cultural and architectural context in which the ‘plate glass’ universities of the 1960s – including Kent – were designed and built. Professor Whyte’s very engaging lecture provided the context for numerous conversations among those who joined the subsequent Feast.

The Darwin College Student Committee also showed themselves to be capable of organising an exciting event for their fellow undergraduates. The Darwin Ball this year was titled ‘Darwin in Rewind’, and the theme was a shifting retrospective of music and student life from each of the four – and now nearly five – decades that the College has been in existence. Feedback on the evening suggests it was a great success.

Over the next 12 months plans will begin to be formulated for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Darwin College. Events for alumni will be a crucial part of these celebrations, and we look forward to telling you more as the planning progresses.

Gulbenkian

Save the date! Gulbenkian is delighted to announce bOing! International Family Festival is bouncing back bigger than ever in 2017!

Join us this August for an amazing weekend of the very best in theatre, dance, films and fun for all the family, packed with magical performances and experiences on the beautiful University of Kent campus in Canterbury. bOing! is free to enter with a mix of free and paid-for performances for all ages.

The programme for the festival is available on the website: www.boingfestival.com or phone 01227 769075.

bOing! 2017 is supported by Arts Council England, Kent County Council, the School of Arts, University of Kent and University of Kent Hospitality. Media partners include KM Group and KM Kent Online.

Keynes College

Keynes College is very excited to be hosting two ‘We are European’ exhibitions, in partnership with the Dean for Internationalisation, Dr Anthony Manning, and the Dean for Europe, Professor Roger Vickerman.

As the UK’s European university, we are proud of the wide range of activities that the University community is engaged with and the strength of European feeling among colleagues and students from across the globe. We are also very proud to celebrate our European alumni’s achievements and it is, therefore, with great pleasure that we are exhibiting Kent alumnus Eric Kaiser’s work in Keynes Atrium, as part of the celebrations for the EU’s official Europe Day in May. Eric studied for an MA in Management Science at the University from 1981 to 1983 and has since gone on to become a professional artist. The exhibition features paintings on the theme of Europe by Eric and by two of his fellow artists, Lysa Bertholom and Sophie Guinzbourg, and will be on display until the beginning of July.

The College also launched a ‘We are European’ photography competition where University staff and students were encouraged to submit photos which captured the essence of European feeling across the University. The winners of the competition can be admired in the first floor Teaching Gallery in Keynes.
Finally, a call-out to all alumni: do you have any photos from previous Keynestock festivals? The Master’s Office and the College Student Committee hope to give a sense of history to future Keynestock events by creating an archive of images and displaying a selection in Keynes College every year. Please send any photos you have to C.Konarek@kent.ac.uk, with details of the year, and any other information – or anecdotes – you may recall about the photo and the event. Thank you!

**Commemorative Event for the 100th anniversary of the Drill Hall Bombing**

The Drill Hall was completed by 1902 as part of the first phase of developing the Royal Naval Barracks in Chatham. It was constructed to provide an indoor space for Navy personnel to exercise and train during inclement weather. Often referred to as the Drill Shed, it has also been used as an overflow barracks, exhibition centre, naval store and building materials warehouse.

On Monday 3 September 1917 the Drill Hall was being used as an overflow dormitory for around 900 naval ratings when, at about 23:00, it suffered two hits from bombs dropped by German Gotha aeroplanes. One of the first of the First World War ‘moonlight raids’, it resulted in the loss of some 131 lives.

The Royal Naval Association and the Universities at Medway are planning a commemorative event to mark the 100th anniversary this September. Ceremony arrangements are still being finalised but will commemorate the 131 people who died; their names will be read in groups of 14-15 people, including their name, rank and who each person served with. Between each of the group of names a bell will be rung once. It is hoped that family members of people being commemorated will be able to attend. The official date of the event is still to be confirmed.

**Rutherford**

We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Rutherford’s first full academic year with a reunion from 28-30 July 2017. The reunion will centre on Rutherford College but alumni and former staff from across the University are welcome to attend and help us celebrate the foundation of Kent’s second college!

Following on from Kent’s 50th anniversary celebrations, the reunion will welcome alumni to the Canterbury campus once again to reminisce and catch up with old friends about your university days. While there will be focus around Rutherford College, all are welcome to join the fun!

The reunion is a celebration of the first 50 years of Rutherford College, which was founded in 1966. The start of Rutherford’s 50th anniversary year was marked on 14 October 2016 by a lecture given by Professor John Todd, and the Rutherford Reunion takes place at the end of this special anniversary academic year.

2017 also marks the 50th anniversary of the ‘class of 1967’ – this part of the Weekend will be co-chaired by John Covell 1967 (Keynes and Rutherford) and Roger Butterworth 1967 (Rutherford). For more information on this part of the weekend, email alumni@kent.ac.uk.

Although the celebrations centre on Rutherford College, alumni and friends – including current and former staff – from all colleges and years are welcome to attend. Attendees not wishing to stay on campus are welcome to participate in any of the events during the weekend.

Throughout the weekend you’ll be able to see all sorts of items pulled from the University archives, take a look inside a 1960s student room and have the chance to embark on campus tours to see what has changed over the years. We’ll also be rustling up a three-course feast in Rutherford dining hall, which promises to be a journey through the decades!

**Correction:** In the winter 2016 issue, we omitted to mention the attendance of Dr John Whym an, former Master of Rutherford College at the 2016 Rutherford lecture and dinner. We apologise for this error.

**Medway**

**New medical room for students at Medway campus**

Students across all three university campuses at Medway can now access medical treatment at a clinic in the Medway building every Thursday during term time. The clinic is aimed at ailments that need an urgent appointment. The clinic is nurse-led with GP back-up at Sunlight surgery and if the issue cannot be dealt with in the satellite clinic, they will take measures to deal with it via an alternative pathway.

We are also in discussions with a service provider to enable students and staff to be able to access sexual health advice in the medical room twice a week.
Tonbridge
At the start of 2016 a group of students from a wide variety of backgrounds spent four mornings studying postgraduate-level English and American Literature looking at the works of Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Keats and Byron. This is the first time the University of Kent has run this type of course and the enthusiasm of the students was matched by their tutor, Professor James Soderholm, who commented on the knowledgeable group and lively discussions within class. Literature was followed by Creative Writing and Contemporary Art History which was just as enjoyable and successful for students and tutors alike.

Why not consider joining us for a short course in 2017? The Tonbridge Centre has a longstanding reputation for delivering high quality courses to mainly mature students returning to study alongside their other commitments, including former Kent students and those who have studied elsewhere. Louise Willis who studied Comparative Literature comments: ‘all the tutors have been very supportive and encouraging, generous with their time and in giving comprehensive feedback’.

If you are not quite ready for postgraduate study but would like to refresh your skills, Tonbridge also offer an extremely popular undergraduate-level short course programme. Subjects for spring include Classics, Literature, Creative Writing, Music, History, Psychology, Art History and courses for self-development; there is no formal assessment.

We would love to meet our Kent alumni again. Whenever you graduated, you can be assured of a warm welcome and the opportunity to gain a critical understanding of an academic subject area and meet people who share your interests.

To find out more about the courses at the University of Kent’s Tonbridge Centre please look at www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge or contact us on 01732 352316/tonbridgeadmin@kent.ac.uk

Woolf College
Woolf College has had an exciting year so far.

There have been many popular events this academic year for postgraduate students. Things got off to a great start with the Woolf Master’s Office hosting the Postgraduate Welcome Buffet.

This was a great opportunity for all the new postgraduate students to meet and get to know each other. As the event was a great success, the Woolf Master’s Office plan to ensure that the event is run annually in future years.

This was followed in December by a festive Postgraduate Christmas Drinks Reception which was held in Origins Bar and Bistro in Darwin College. Lots of mince pies were eaten by all!

The Kent Graduate Student Association (KGSA) have had an incredible year so far, being a brilliantly active and effective student committee. The KGSA have put on many events, resulting in great engagement from the postgraduate students. The events included a Casino Royal themed night, Lunar New Year party and a screening of the Super Bowl.

The KGSA also had a very successful Christmas undertaking a number of initiatives including a Christmas Food Drive (raising the equivalent of £600 worth of food), a Gift Giving Tree (collecting over 75 presents which were given to Canterbury Salvation Army) and a Kitchen Decorating Competition (with over 200 students taking part). Furthermore, the KGSA were so dedicated that they cooked Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day for over 40 students who remained in Woolf over the vacation time. Further events such as ‘How to get a PhD’ information session and a Kent Union elections hustings were also hosted by the KGSA. The KGSA have also been proactive in representing the views of postgraduate students, campaigning for more postgraduate study spaces and improvements to postgraduate accommodation.

Woolf College has also become the new home of Gandalf the cat! Gandalf is from the local area in Blean and has become a firm favourite of Woolf residents, even being bought his own cat house and having a calendar dedicated to him full of his photos! These calendars were created and sold by the KGSA with the profits going to Last Chance Animal Shelter. So overall, a successful year with many more exciting events, campaigns, projects and initiatives to come!

The Former Staff Association
The Former Staff Association support the University and its wider community by arranging socials, fundraising events and lectures to re-connect with former Kent stuff. So far this academic year the group have visited the Turner Contemporary, Aylesham Mining Museum and the Canterbury Cathedral precincts and have arranged tours around the King’s School site and the newer Canterbury campus buildings.

They have organised a number of lectures on a range of subjects, including the little-known neutral territory Moresnet and the Italian American anarchist Luigi Galleani. The annual Christmas lunch was as popular as ever and raised funds for student hardship through the Kent Opportunity Fund. The group’s AGM is planned for 28 June and will include a talk from Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby about the link between fiction and social science, and will be opened by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education Professor April McMahon.
Kent is proud to have a diverse community of students, staff, alumni and friends. The University is committed to ensuring that all who come to our campuses and centres to study and work are afforded equal opportunities to thrive and learn, and that their unique skills and ambitions are recognised and celebrated. A number of networks and groups across the University exist to support staff, advise on policy and procedure and bring together like-minded colleagues to promote activities and issues that they are passionate about.

The LGBT+ Staff Network was formally established in 2012 and is open to all members of staff regardless of grade, function, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. The group supports Kent’s Human Resources team in their work to make Kent an inclusive and safe environment and works closely with Kent Union and the student LGBT+ Society and Officers to ensure that LGBT+ issues are represented and promoted. It also works closely with LGBT+ charity Stonewall, which the University is proud to be partnered with as one of their Diversity Champion organisations. The network recently raised over £200 for the charity as part of its LGBT History Month celebrations.

Recent activities have included a number of events throughout LGBT History Month in February, such as film screenings, discussion panels, lectures, socials and the inaugural ‘Researching the Rainbow’ Conference. The conference showcased the wide array of research being undertaken by Kent academics and students relating to LGBT+ issues and people, and included speakers from the Schools of History, English and Law, and from charities Stonewall, Porchlight and Catching Lives.

Topics ranged from queer exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art to transgender parenting identities in legal terms, and postcolonial legal repercussions of British colonial gender and sexuality social bias.

Network Chair, Kasia Senyszyn (Keynes 2004), says: ‘It has been a privilege to work with a variety of colleagues and departments to support LGBT+ people at Kent and to create opportunities to promote an inclusive and vibrant community of staff and students at Kent, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression’.

The network is now working towards plans for the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia on Wednesday 17 May, which will focus on Trans* awareness, with a workshop on terminology and support on Monday 15 May from community interest company Gendered Intelligence and a Pronoun Challenge to break down barriers and raise much-needed funds to support transgender youths. It is also looking to create a new social media campaign to promote LGBT+/straight alliances, which looks set to be launched in October 2017.

Find out more about the network’s activities and plans on their blog: http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/lgbtstaff
Beth Webster (Rutherford 97) recently won the BBC's Make me an Egghead reality TV show, and became part of the famous master quiz team last year! She graduated in 2001 from the School of Biosciences. We caught up with her and asked her to share her story.

Introduce yourself and what you are doing now.
My name is Beth Webster, I’m currently an Egghead on the BBC2 quiz show.

My day job is as Head of Safety for London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

What made you decide to come to Kent?
There were not many universities that offered the degree course I wanted to do, Kent provided all that I wanted – great course, campus location in an amazing city! I particularly wanted to study at a campus university and have everything I needed in one place – I’m quite lazy!

What is your favourite memory of Kent?
I’ve got so many! But one would be performing Copland’s Fanfare for the Common Man with as many brass players as we could muster – I played the trombone – for the Seeds for Africa Concert in 1998 I think.

What have you been up to since graduating?
I graduated in 2001 and I worked as a Healthcare Scientist in Microbiology for Public Health England (and legacy organisations) for ten years before becoming a Safety Advisor for the same organisation in 2012.

I left PHE in April 2016 to become the Safety Advisor for the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and I’ve been acting as the Head of Safety since autumn 2016.

When not protecting the staff and students from the dangers of laboratory work I became a quizzer; I applied and appeared on Mastermind in 2004 and haven’t stopped since – appearing on Pointless, Only Connect and 15 to 1 over the past 12 years. I became an Egghead in autumn 2016 when I won BBC’s Make Me an Egghead.

What would be your perfect day?
A lazy day with no appointments – warm, sunny day – start with coffee and croissants while completing a general knowledge crossword. Children playing nicely – together would be a bonus! Seeing friends then a lovely dinner with husband with a bottle of red wine and a toasty bed… OR… Quiz followed by Curry!

What was your earliest ambition?
I remember being asked in a primary school assembly what we aspired to be ‘when we grew up’; at the time I wanted to be a Forensic Scientist. I suppose I ended up doing something similar.

What was your first job?
My very first job at 15 was as the Saturday girl at Specsavers in Dover – I wanted to be an optician at the time.

Which word or phrase do you use most?
I don’t think I have one phrase I use most – I have a small library of phrases which are used on the children regularly!
1 ‘sit down and put your seatbelt on’
2 ‘go and get dressed’
3 ‘time for bed’
4 ‘no, you can’t have any more biscuits’.

What (if anything) would you like to change about yourself?
I’m (quite a lot) of a know-it-all, but I’m not sure I’d change that – my husband would disagree!
I’d like to be taller and thinner – but wouldn’t everyone!

Which country would you most like to visit?
I’d love to visit New Zealand – to view all The Lord of the Rings scenery!

What is your greatest achievement since graduating?
Professionally it was getting my H&S Diploma which I completed while heavily pregnant with our second child.

Quiz-wise – becoming an Egghead, didn’t ever imagine that it would happen to me! There were better quizzers in the competition, including good friends but I was able to prevail!

What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?
Read the questions – ALL the questions.

Who or what inspires you?
Kevin Ashman, Pat Gibson and Barry Simmons (fellow Eggheads) inspire me to become a better quizzer and to have faith in the knowledge I’ve already got!

Where do you see yourself in ten years’ time?
Hopefully, I’ll still be on Eggheads!

Realistically, I’ll probably be Head of Safety for a government department or a university.
Guinness World Record: Around the world in 300 days – on a bicycle made for two

George Agate and John Whybrow (Eliot 11) met at the University of Kent and sprouted an epic plan over a pint of beer. It started as a London to Paris bike ride, and then morphed into a world challenge. They spent two years planning the route in accordance with Guinness World Record criteria, sourcing sponsors, researching and training. It was a rollercoaster of frustration and elation.

Calling themselves the Tandem Men, George and John set out to set the Guinness World Record for the first team to circumnavigate the World by tandem.

The Tandem Men successfully crossed the finish line outside Canterbury Cathedral gates at 17.00 on Saturday 25 March 2017. On their custom-built Orbit Tandem they have cycled 18,000 miles, 6 continents and 29 countries and they achieved this in just under 300 days.

George and John have seen the world. They have been hit by a bus, entered Turkey on the night of the coup on 15 July 2016, and navigated the monsoon in India.

Highlights? Both agree it was completing the crossing of Australia’s infamous Nullarbor desert. ‘Cycling into Adelaide, the half-way mark was amazing,’ says John. ‘9,000 miles cycled, and the end of seven days in the Nullarbor desert, including stretches of over 100 miles with no human habitation.’ George: ‘We’ve been amazed by the generosity of the people we’ve met around the world. We’ve been given food, drink and beds in their homes – very welcome after many nights in a tiny two man tent.’

Lowlights? ‘Spending the night in the trolley bay of a supermarket in Austria, soaked through, and being woken at 5am by the bakery staff to move us on’, says George. For John it was the first day’s cycling in Nicaragua, unable to get local currency and having no food and water, ‘We really had to dig deep that day.’

Not only is this a personal challenge for the Tandem Men, they are also fundraising for three charities. Their aim is to raise £100,000 to be split equally between Porchlight – a Canterbury based charity, supporting homeless people; Great Ormond Street Hospital, and Water Aid.
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.

Pam Brisley (former staff)
Mike Brown (Eliot 1965)
John Earl (founding PhD student)
Joan Elmes (former staff)
Susan Kingdom (Eliot 1965)
Peter Mansfield (Honorary graduate)
Ann Peerless (former staff)
Kenneth P Poole (former staff)
John Swire (Honorary graduate)
Anthony Worthington (Eliot 1965)
Rebecca Jane Thompson (Darwin 1986)

Obituary

Reg Brown

Reg was Director of the Gulbenkian for 22 years, an unlikely achievement for one who left school with the micro-accolade ‘Bright, strong, healthy lad; suitable for manual work.’ There followed four years in the RAF, eight in repertory theatre, and then study at Rose Bruford and at Kent. The Gulbenkian post fell vacant in 1970, just as he graduated.

It was challenging. He had to attract audiences and balance the books – or he’d be out. The first Director had lasted one year: Reg was the second. Fortunately he had prodigious energy and versatility and would work with anybody. He could act, direct, sing, coach, build sets, check the accounts, even service the Gulbenkian van. He was at home with music-hall, revue, operetta, Shakespeare, Chekhov or Pinter: With Music Director Alan Laing, he started the tradition of grand opera productions with professional principals and choruses of 50 or so, drawn from the University and local citizens.

Reg had no personal vanity: to work with him was to join a team. The absence of self-publicity led some to take his remarkable achievements for granted. Those on the inside knew that he almost single-handedly saved the Gulbenkian from closure and made it thrive.

John (Herbert Russell) Davis

John was on the anthropology staff of the University of Kent from 1966 to 1990, and Professor of Social Anthropology from 1982. In 1990 he moved to Oxford as head of the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, became Warden of All Souls College in 1995, where he remained until his retirement in 2008.

Between 1958 and 1961 John read history as an undergraduate at University College Oxford, after which he moved to the London School of Economics for postgraduate studies.

In 1966 John moved to Kent, part of a group of other LSE staff and students who were to form the nucleus of a board of studies later to become the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology. John often said that he was ‘made at Kent’, and certainly this was where his best work was undertaken.

John founded the Centre for Social Anthropology and Computing in 1985, which was to place Kent at the forefront of innovations in computing applications that have now become standard throughout academia.

He will be remembered as a clever man, by turns charming, funny, intellectually incisive, and always supportive of students, friends and colleagues.

Molly Mahood

Molly was Professor of English Literature at the University of Kent from 1966 to 1979, having previously held professorships at the universities of Ibadan and Dar es Salaam. She was also Visiting Professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her many books include Poetry and Humanism (1950), The Colonial Encounter (1977) and The Poet as Botanist (2008).

In addition, she published numerous articles on poets including Shakespeare, Keats, Kipling and John Clare, and has contributed short pieces and reviews to various national and international publications including Modern Language Review, Times Literary Supplement, Times Higher Education, New Statesman and African Affairs. She was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of Kent in 2010.

Molly was much loved by her colleagues and students and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Professor Robin Sibson

Robin was Vice-Chancellor from September 1994 to August 2001 and, through a range of initiatives, established the framework for today’s University. He created the current structure of schools and departments; began an expansion of student numbers and widening participation with links to associate colleges; and developed higher education provision in Medway leading to the creation of a new campus.

In addition, he began to steer the University in its performance of the Research Assessment Exercise and was key to the development of Kent as a European university.

Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow said: ‘Robin played an invaluable role in the shaping of the University as we know it today, and we are indebted to him for his vision and foresight. Everyone who knew Robin will be deeply saddened by his death. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Heather and all his family.’

The new Sibson building was named in recognition of his invaluable contribution to the University.

The Copley Prize

The University has received a legacy from the estate of the late Antony Copley, a member of the School of History. Anthony passed away in July 2016 and his legacy will support the Copley Prize, which was founded during his lifetime and provided an annual prize to reward the best final year history dissertation.

We are hugely thankful for Antony’s decision to remember the University in his will. The Copley Prize will commemorate his life and continue his commitment to students in the School of History.
News from Kent Union and Kent Sport

Kent Sport
The University of Kent Sport enjoyed an exciting winter with Olympians, Paralympians and World Champions visiting us for Kent’s Sporting Legends event in December; and welcoming in 2017 with BUCS, another victorious Varsity and our Inter College and Intra Mural activities.

Staff continue to battle it out for this year’s Vice-Chancellor’s Cup; and we have attracted thousands of sports-minded people to campus with events such as the Pilgrims Hospices Cycle Challenge and the inaugural Kent Sport Cycling Festival, along with our growing Triathlon Camps and the annual Inter College Football ‘Old Boys’ tournament where alumni return to take on the current students.

Kent Sport continues to get more people more active more often by providing the opportunity to enjoy a healthy lifestyle, make new friends, learn skills, build confidence and achieve sporting potential. We are committed to providing inclusive fitness and sport across all our facilities.

Student experience is paramount and the new 3GX artificial pitch, the Cycle Hub and the upgraded fitness suite have all proved to be popular developments. Feedback regularly includes such comments as ‘Kent Sport is amazing. As a student with Gold membership this has enabled me to make the most out of my experience at Kent.’

The Kent Opportunity Fund now benefits sport at Kent with the introduction of the Student Sport Scheme. In the words of Susannah Townsend, Olympics Gold Champion (Medway 2014): ‘For an athlete, those little things, the one per cent and two per cent make a massive difference.’

Kent Sport congratulates alumni John Whybrow and George Agate (The Tandem Men) for completion of their epic journey, circumnavigating the world on a tandem bicycle.

For further information about Kent Sport visit www.kent.ac.uk/sports/alumni and follow UniKentSports on social media.

Kent Union
Leadership elections
Congratulations to your 2017-18 Leadership Team! After a busy week of campaigning, the student body elected the following students to lead the Union in the next academic year.

Ruth Wilkinson – Union President
Aaron Thompson – Vice-President (Activities)
Stuart Lidbetter – Vice-President (Education)
Clara Lee – Vice-President (Welfare)
Fraser Inglis – Vice-President (Sports)

Park Wood development
Over the last five years, your Sabbatical Officers have been lobbying and working hard to secure £3m from the University to redevelop the Kent Union services at Park Wood. You told us that you wanted additional social, study and activity space and we’ve done our best to secure funding to develop a modern, contemporary building for Park Wood residents and our broader membership.

This development comes on the back of the new Oaks Nursery development, Student Media Centre and Student Hub in Medway, and further supports our ambition to empower students to have a voice, fulfil their potential and get the most from University.

Campus to Campus
The Campus to Campus Cycle Challenge will see participants cycle between University of Kent campuses to raise money for the Access to Activities Fund; Medway to Canterbury, then Brussels, and finally on to Paris over 4 days, covering nearly 100 miles per day – that’s 380 miles in total!

The fund provides support to students who wish to participate in activities on campus, but are unable to financially. This academic year, £7000 has already been made available, enabling our members to pay membership fees, purchase essential equipment and contribute toward competitions, among other things, but the demand from students is higher than we are able to cater for; this year the fund was oversubscribed by over £15,000. In light of this, we have set ourselves an ambitious target – by next academic year, we want to be able to double the funding available to our members, to enable more students to take part in our sports clubs and societies. To donate, text ‘ATAF50 £5’ or ‘ATAF50 £10’ to 70070 to donate your chosen amount directly.

Varsity 2017
Congratulations to Team Kent on winning Canterbury Varsity for the 20th year in a row. This year’s event took place from 8-15 February, pitting Team Kent against Team Christchurch in 39 fixtures, from swimming to basketball. To stay up to date with all Varsity activity, like the Canterbury Varsity Facebook page, where you can see photographs from the fixtures and learn more about our Summer Varsity fixtures over the coming months!
Alumni, friends, staff and students alike have jumped at the chance to leave their mark on the Canterbury campus by taking part in the Footsteps project, and leaving a message in the celebratory pathway.

Over £35,000 has already been raised by this initiative, which supports students at Kent by funding scholarships, student projects and bursaries as part of the Kent Opportunity Fund. You can inscribe a two line message for just £50, or a four line message for £90.

To order your brick today, please complete your details on the enclosed carrier sheet, or visit: www.kent.ac.uk/50/footsteps

Thank you!