Welcome to the Summer 09 issue of KENT, the magazine for alumni and friends of the University of Kent.

Once again, we have much to celebrate. Earlier this year we received the results of the government’s Research Assessment Exercise which saw us ranked among the UK’s elite research-intensive universities with world-leading research in all three faculties, and we now have six subject areas in the top ten of the disciplines nationally. As a direct result of this success, the University was among the top ten universities in England for additional research funding and was awarded an almost 50% increase in research funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

In this issue of KENT, we take a look at the University’s European activities in Paris and Brussels, and we also include a feature to mark 50 years of the Gulbenkian Theatre. The University has also launched its scholarship fundraising campaign – more details on p17.

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On the academic side, a Graduate School Board will be established in the overall governance of the University. This board will be a Senate-level committee which will, for example, ensure that students not only get the best levels of support from within their subject areas, but also develop knowledge and skills across disciplines. It will also determine whether the University deals directly with students in allocating the accommodation and in all pastoral matters. All graduate students are members of Woolf and are offered accommodation in the building. With as other colleges at Kent, there is a College Master, Nancy Gaffield, and a College committee to represent students’ concerns. The Woolf common room and foyer refreshment area provides a place for students to meet and socialise.

The Graduate School in July 2008. The College is owned and operated by a private company, UPP (University and Private Partnership), but the University deals directly with students in allocating the accommodation and in all pastoral matters. All graduate students are members of Woolf and are offered accommodation in the building. As with other colleges at Kent, there is a College Master, Nancy Gaffield, and a College committee to represent students’ concerns. The Woolf common room and foyer refreshment area provides a place for students to meet and socialise.

The Graduate School will also provide a social focus for graduate students. It has set up a graduate website and is about to launch a graduate newsletter, the Grad Post. The School will also encourage student initiatives. ‘We will be very much supporting initiatives for graduate students, such as conferences and mini training events – things that the students want to do themselves,’ says Houston. ‘It’s all part of creating that community.’

Professor Diane Houston
Diane was born in Edinburgh and was an undergraduate student at Dundee University. She first came to Kent as a PhD student in 1989. After a period at the University of Illinois, she was a lecturer at the University of Sussex and then returned to Kent to take up a lectureship in Psychology. Between 2003 and 2007 she was seconded to the Department of Trade and Industry as adviser to the Ministers for Women and Equality. Diane’s main academic focus is social psychology and the interface with sociology and social policy. In particular, she has concentrated on psychological perspectives on work, employment and parenthood. She took up her appointment as Dean of the Graduate School in July 2008.

Further information on the Graduate School and links to information about postgraduate study at Kent is on the Graduate School website, www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool

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The graduate community is focused on Woolf College. This is the first new college at Kent for over 35 years. The College is owned and operated by a private company, UPP (University and Private Partnership), but the University deals directly with students in allocating the accommodation and in all pastoral matters. All graduate students are members of Woolf and are offered accommodation in the building. As with other colleges at Kent, there is a College Master, Nancy Gaffield, and a College committee to represent students’ concerns. The Woolf common room and foyer refreshment area provides a place for students to meet and socialise.

The College has already brought significant advantages for graduate students. ‘I think it has been very good in terms of having a sense of graduate community at Kent,’ Houston says. ‘For the first time, instead of being dispersed across the campus, postgraduates have actually been put together. They have a College committee like all the other colleges, and it’s putting on social events specifically for graduate students. They are all getting to know each other, which has given them a real sense of community.’

Further information on the Graduate School and links to information about postgraduate study at Kent is on the Graduate School website, www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool

Politics lecturer is one of Britain’s most powerful Muslim women
In an initiative launched by the government-funded Equality and Human Rights Commission and The Times, Dr Gulnur Aybet, a lecturer in Politics and International Relations has been listed as one of the top 20 most powerful Muslim women in Britain today.

The first annual Muslim Women Power List, which honours Muslim women in Britain who have accomplished outstanding achievements in their field and have made key contributions to society, was selected by a jury including Baroness Sarah Hogg, Chairman of the BBC’s and former advisor to the Prime Minister and Michael Binyon, Senior Diplomatic Editor of The Times.

Dr Gulnur Aybet joined the Department of Politics and International Relations in 2001. She previously held research and teaching appointments at the University of Nottingham and at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey, and later this year will be the south-east Europe Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars at Washington DC.

University welcomes £1 million funding for Cultural Olympiad
The University is a part of a consortium of 13 universities that has secured £1 million funding from the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) to deliver a series of cultural events, known as the Creative Campus Initiative, in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

An additional £1 million match-funding will be contributed by project partners, making the total funding the largest ever regional award to a university consortium to support cultural activity. Together, the universities – all based in south-east England – will create a major touring exhibition in response to Olympic and Paralympic values and deliver workshops with local primary and secondary schools on community history, to teach people about the Games.

Hannay to deliver inaugural lecture
The Woolf College Inaugural Lecture was given by Lord Hannay, Chair of the Board of the United Nations Association-UK (UNA-UK) in his talk, entitled, Energy security and climate change: what role for Europe?

Lord Hannay discussed why only a united response to these two challenges will protect the interests of European countries and enable Europe to play a proper role in solving global problems, and why the two challenges are closely linked together.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Julia Goodfellow said, ‘We are honoured to welcome Lord Hannay to the Canterbury campus. Woolf College is at the heart of our new Graduate School, and it is only fitting that we had someone of his calibre and experience to deliver its inaugural lecture.’

In recognition of his outstanding service to rhinoceros conservation and national development. The MBS is awarded annually in recognition of outstanding and distinguished services rendered to the nation in various capacities.

President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya awarded the MBS to Mr Okita-Ouma in recognition of his outstanding service to rhinoceros conservation and national development. The MBS is awarded annually in recognition of outstanding and distinguished services rendered to the nation in various capacities.

Moran of the Burning Spear awarded to DICE alumnus
Benon Okita-Ouma, an alumnus of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), has been appointed a Moran of the Burning Spear (MBS); one of the highest citizen awards in Kenya.

Film composer on campus
James Bond composer on campus
James Bond composer David Arnold, whose credits include James Bond films Quantum of Solace, Casino Royale,Die Another Day and The World is Not Enough, paid a visit to Music Technology students at the University’s Medway campus and took part in a Q&A session with music journalist Tommy Pearson.

David Arnold is one of the most popular and successful film composers in the world today. He has been the composer for the James Bond series since 1997’s Tomorrow Never Dies. This isn’t the University’s only link with the James Bond films – alumni Neal Purvis and Robert Wade were scriptwriters for Quantum of Solace, Casino Royale, Die Another Day and The World is Not Enough.

As a result of the recommendations of the Roberts Report in 2002, universities are paying greater attention to transferable skills training,’ says Houston. ‘This element of postgraduate study was originally arranged within separate faculties, but we’ve coordinated it within the Graduates School. We’re aiming to develop this training in a University-wide programme and it will be an important part of the Graduate School’s responsibility.’
KENT News

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Academicians of the Academy of Social Science recognition

Richard Crisp is Professor of Psychology and the Head of the Department of Psychology. His research interests focus on reducing prejudice and the psychology of social and cultural diversity. This work pays particular attention to the potential benefits of exposure to diversity in groups and societies.

Grand designs on local school

Nineeen second-year students from the Kent School of Architecture (KSA) presented their designs for an extended school building to their ‘pupil-clients’ from Kent’s Longfield Academy. The project, launched last autumn, has involved the Longfield Academy pupils from the start and they were invited to attend the session to give feedback on the students’ proposals. Initially, they had explored the architecture of their school together with the KSA students, before drawing up a brief for adapting and extending it.

During the course of the project, the KSA students received a mentoring session with architecture Justico + Whiles.

University’s total number of Academicians to 19.

Based in London, the Academy of Social Sciences aims to promote social sciences in the UK for the public benefit. Members of the Academy include learned societies and 500 individual social scientists.

Julia Twigg is Professor of Social Policy and Sociology at the University’s acclaimed School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research. Her work has largely focused on questions of care, the body and age, though she has also written on food – her doctoral study was on vegetarianism.

Ms Ivens graduated from Kent in 1996 working on a best-selling weekly magazine. Some of the key moments in her career – such as a flying visit from her offices in New York to visit her 20-year-old son in his room at New York University’s campus, and a second spell of Associate Editor. She also worked for the Mirror Group and had a second spell of working on celebrity magazines when they met the Daily Mail’s then Editor on her first day – an experience that Philip Mohr has described as one that has ‘already opened several doors to major opportunities’.

Senior broadcasting and journalism expert Marion Ivens, a Kent graduate, made a flying visit to the University, as Assistant Editor of Daily Mail, before becoming Deputy Editor of OK! in London, subsequently launching the US edition of OK in 2005.

Ms Ivens is also the author of seven best-selling books, including A Modern Girl’s Guide to Etiquette and A Modern Girl’s Guide to Getting Hitched.

University honorary degrees

Veteran broadcaster Sir David Frost and renowned geographer and social theorist Professor David Harvey received honorary degrees at the autumn degree ceremonies held at Rochester Cathedral. The eminent scholar Sir John Enderby was also awarded an honorary degree at a degree ceremony at Canterbury Cathedral. Sir David Frost received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (Dlitt) while Professor Harvey and Sir John both received the degree of Doctor of Science (DSc).

Top editor delivers masterclass

Students at the Centre for Journalism have a taste of the high-powered world of celebrity magazines when they met the editor of the American edition of OK!

Sarah Ivens, a Kent graduate, made a flying visit from her offices in New York to the Medway campus to deliver a masterclass which saw her recalling some of the key moments in her career – such as launching OK! in the United States while still in her 20s – and handing out tips and advice about how to handle the pressures of working on a best-selling weekly magazine.

Kent web project honoured by London 2012 Inspire programme

A ground-breaking new online resource created by staff at the University of Kent has been awarded a prestigious Inspire Mark – the badge of the London 2012 Inspire programme.

The website, which will provide a wealth of information, contacts, production support and expert advice for the outdoor performance sector across the country, is the brainchild of Gavin Carver, Course Director for the University’s Creative Events degree.

The COPOR project – which stands for Celebratory and Outdoor Performance Online Resource – has been developed by staff from Kent’s web team during the past year, and is due to go live this summer.

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Deputy Vice-Chancellor Denise Evert said, ‘The University of Kent is already working to help local people and businesses cope with the recession, and we welcome the opportunity to join forces with other universities in the region in this way’.

The local economy will shortly receive a boost from the new Canterbury Innovation Centre, currently under construction on the University’s Canterbury campus. Due for completion in October 2009, the Centre will provide high-tech incubation space and support for entrepreneurs. Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and the East Kent Spatial Development Company, it is part of the University’s strategy to encourage innovation and enterprise within the University and to make it more attractive for graduates to stay and work locally.

Student company named as one of the 20 best e-startups in Europe

A start-up company formed by postgraduate computing students at the University has been named as one of the 20 best e-startups in Europe.

Chootta Ltd, formed in 2008 by Sebastian Marion, Pulitha Liyanagama and Philipp Mohr, entered Seedcamp 2009, an annual event that brings together Europe’s top young web-based technology entrepreneurs and a world-class network of experienced developers, investors and mentors. After some fierce competition, Chootta was selected by Seedcamp as one of only 20 companies that would attend its pinnacle networking event in London at the end of April – an experience that Philipp Mohr has described as one that ‘has already opened several doors to major opportunities’.

Chootta’s main product is Comufy, an innovative web-based platform for controlling multiple communication channels. Sebastian Marion explained: ‘People are losing control of their communications because of the increasing number of accounts they have to manage such as social networks (including Facebook, MySpace, Bebo, Orkut and LinkedIn), instant messengers (including MSN, Skype, Yahoo and ICQ), email messaging and phone communications (including mobile, office and home phones). This problem is very likely to keep growing but Comufy will allow the receiver to control how they want to receive their communications – for example, depending on who the sender is or the time of the day.’

For further information on Chootta or Comufy go to: www.comufy.com

New festival to celebrate University multiculturalism

Students, staff and the public took part in a brand new four-day festival at the Canterbury campus. WorldFest included drama, music, dance, film, comedy, food and fun from around the globe as well as the chance to have a go on an ice rink specially constructed outside the Gulbenkian Theatre. Other highlights included: the Global Voices workshops and shared performances; a specially commissioned piece by Accidental Collective, Kent’s own live art and performance group; a series of films at the Gulbenkian Cinema including a showing of North Face; and a performance by the Irish band CrashRaa.

Preparations are now underway for this year’s ArtsFest, scheduled to take place on Saturday 13 June. Hundreds of people are once again expected to visit the Canterbury campus for a range of music and entertainment performed by University societies, schools and the community. Further details at www.kent.ac.uk/music/ArtsFest/index.html

Social science recognition for Kent academicians

Professor Julia Twigg and Professor Richard Crisp have been elected Academicians of the Academy of Social Sciences. Their election brings the Academy’s total number of Academicians to 19.

Based in London, the Academy of Social Sciences aims to promote social sciences in the UK for the public benefit. Members of the Academy include learned societies and 500 individual social scientists.

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Imagine taking a one-year postgraduate degree where you spend the autumn term in Canterbury, the spring term in Paris and then qualify for your MA by writing a dissertation on a topic of your choice. That is exactly what University of Kent is now offering prospective students from the UK and around the world, thanks to our University of Kent at Paris (UKP) postgraduate programmes. To qualify, you need a relevant first degree, a passion for French, literature, art and all things cultural, and of course, from a first-class academic and professional standards. The modules will be taught by staff from the University of Kent and other guest lecturers, so there will be consistent academic standards and assessment throughout the year. Students will also have access to study centres and libraries in Paris with substantial English-language resources and they may if they wish continue with French language classes. The University of Kent at Paris is a major strategic initiative designed to expand in future to incorporate new programmes from other subjects in the Humanities. It complements the University of Kent at Brussels, which specialises in the social sciences and is now happily celebrating its tenth anniversary. The UKP postgraduate programmes offer the opportunity to acquire a valuable postgraduate qualification in one year, while working in England and France and studying the culture and history of Paris in beautiful surroundings at the heart of the city. The UKP MA will increase our students’ international and professional networks and open new professional opportunities, but these programmes will also offer a memorable and life-enhancing experience.
In the 1960s, I came to the University of Kent as founding Professor of English from Durham, where I had directed plays at the lively theatre owned by the university there. It was a period of great excitement for drama in Britain, before TV took over, and when a number of immensely inventive writers effectively put to sleep the middle-class plays of authors like Terence Rattigan, and revitalised the stage with kitchen-sink drama and the theatre of the absurd. In the 1960s, the outbursts of the angry young men gave way to the more mature and exciting dramas of writers like Harold Pinter and Tom Stoppard. On coming to Canterbury, I was elected to a committee of the city council that was hoping to replace the dreary converted cinema that served for a civic theatre in the city. We studied designs and visited a number of recently developed theatres, some of them replacements for ones damaged or destroyed in the Second World War. This way we learned about the common mistakes made by architects. The architect and I put up a proposal to the Gulbenkian Foundation for a pioneering project. However, with the encouragement of Dr Templeman, the Chancellor, a historian from Durham, where I had directed the old Marlowe, and the Vice Chancellor, Dr Templeman, a historian by training, seemed to think of a theatre simply as a place of entertainment, and eagerly set to work to see if he could come up with an inexpensive custom design. The result was the elegant octagonal theatre with a trapezoid stage now such an important feature of the campus. The University architect, Bill Henderson, was a contemporary and friend of the Leicester city architect, and eagerly set to work to see if he could come up with an inexpensive custom design.

I was co-opted on to city committees by Reg Brown, a gifted comic actor and friend of the Leicester city architect, and successfully. The University architect, Bill Henderson, was a contemporary and friend of the Leicester city architect, and eagerly set to work to see if he could come up with an inexpensive custom design. The result was the elegant octagonal theatre with a trapezoid stage now such an important feature of the campus. The Vice Chancellor, Dr Templeman, a historian by training, seemed to think of a theatre simply as a place of entertainment, and initially was less than lukewarm about the project. However, with the encouragement of the Dean of Humanities (Guy Chiver), the architect and I put up a proposal to the Gulbenkian Foundation for a pioneering low-cost theatre, and were rewarded with a substantial grant towards the cost. Dr Templeman was impressed and obtained the additional funding for the Gulbenkian Theatre, with comfortable seating for 342 people, excellent acoustics (two experts spent months on aspects of the interior design) and a sophisticated 60-way switchboard for lighting, the whole costing in total about £100,000.

After a slightly rocky start – the first production – the Theatre proved an enormous success. This was stimulated by Reg Brown, a gifted comic actor and graduate of the Rose Bruford College, who took over as Director the following year. A low budget he managed to help faculty and students to stage a great variety of plays and shows, from Shakespeare to musicals and operas, often participating himself, as well as bringing in occasional professional companies. The Theatre became increasingly busy, and in turn helped us to bring about the introduction of degree courses in drama and theatre, which were launched in the 1970s. By this time, it was also becoming something of a cultural centre for the University. Participation in theatrical productions flourished under the inspired and inspirational direction of Reg Brown. The annual summer opera became a cornerstone of the University’s arts year. Combining outstanding professional singers and musicians with local amateur performers, supported by a student chorus the improbable and then the impossible was attempted on the Gulbenkian stage. La Boheme, La Traviata and Die Fledermaus, to name just three, were produced to widespread acclaim and sell-out success. Encouragement, advice and appropriate directorial criticism was handed down by Reg Brown to an entire generation of young actors, scene painters, make-up artists, musicians and stage hands. Many careers started on the Gulbenkian stage during this period reflecting its strong focus on nurturing home grown talent. I took over as director in 1994 just as the professional programme began to burgeon and the opportunity to diversify the programme arrived. Stand-up comedy and folk music soon became established. With encouragement from Professor Freedman, and funding from the Arts Council, contemporary dance, physical theatre and animated theatre soon joined the mix. The Gulbenkian had evolved into a presenting theatre, like the Leicester Phoenix, and was now providing the best in touring drama, music comedy and dance for a wider audience in East Kent and beyond. The likes of Actors Touring Company, The National Theatre, Jasmin Vardimon, Shobana Jeyasingh, the Albion Band and Bill Bailey all became regular visitors. But this shift had not been at the expense of student and local companies who still produce their own shows in, as far as I know, an unbroken line from the Theatre’s earliest beginnings. We’ve just got a lot busier. New opportunities to develop a family-friendly programme...
The Gulbenkian Theatre
40 years on (continued)

became the springboard for an education initiative involving workshops and schools which continues today. The Gulbenkian was increasingly showing a public face from 'atop the hill' reflecting the University’s role as a cultural and intellectual focus for the region.

For a 343-seat venue, we added an extra seat when we replaced the originals in 1997), the Gulb is exceptionally intimate. Whenever I show visitors round the Theatre, I take them on the stage and marvel at the relationship between the performer and the audience. Those early hours spent on interior design are repaid at every performance. There’s just not a bad seat in the house! The purple paint on the auditorium walls is unchanged since 1969. This is unlike the café bar, which is unrecognisable from its origins. The programme is distinguished by its small size, the level of talent and experience of the participants and a curriculum that aims to incorporate academic rigour alongside softer skills like leadership, negotiation or networking. Typically, a Kent MBA participant has between eight and 13 years’ work experience and comes from a wide range of sectors and nationalities, with students from 17 countries in the current cohort.

This year, Kent Business School celebrates 20 years of business education and management development (1989-2009). The School reached a new milestone by being elected a member of the prestigious European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) in Brussels, coinciding with our excellent results in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) which places us in the top third of all UK business schools. Our flagship programme, the Kent MBA, received the Association of MBAs (AMBA)-accreditation four years ago and has now consolidated its reputation as an important resource for experienced managers in Kent as well as gaining international recognition.

The Gulbenkian Theatre
20 years of business education

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In January, Kent Business School launched the Kent MBA in Athens, recognising the importance of the MBA as a vital part of the executive education provision. Partnered by the Hellenic Management Association, specialists in management development, the AMBA-accredited programme is delivered in English by Kent Business School academics who fly out to deliver the modules in a weekend modular format. Participants are Greek executives who can also opt to fly to the UK to join the MBA class in Canterbury on a week-long course. This is also an attractive option for executives from neighbouring countries who are a short flight away from Athens.

For the past four years, MBA participants from the University of Deggendorf in Germany have been able to complete a module on Performance Management and Improvement in Canterbury. This creates additional opportunities for Kent MBA students to network with MBA participants in other European countries.

The benefits of an individual and to an organisation of an internationally recognised programme such as the MBA are obvious, but what about short executive education programmes? This year, Kent Business School has launched a new portfolio of management development courses which cover a wide range of topics. Some are designed specifically for senior managers such as Crisis Leadership, Finding the Value in your Supply Chain or Strategic Management. Other courses are designed for managers of functional areas such as Future Marketing, Working Smarter with Consumers or Improving Operations Contribution to Competitiveness. The Professional Postgraduate Certificate in Management gives organisations the opportunity to provide their graduate trainees with Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This also provides credits towards a Master’s degree and can include a work-based project.

Similarly, the Kent Leadership Programme, now recruiting for its fourth cohort, can provide credit towards a Kent MBA. This innovative programme was designed for Kent County Council and is aimed at building leadership capacity and developing resilient leadership and global awareness. The programme includes a residential module in Brussels, a crisis leadership simulation and a strategic project that will impact the services and communities of Kent.

For more information on executive education, contact Angela Ransley, Head of Executive Education, Kent Business School on + 44 (0)1227 827726 or by email KBEInfo@kent.ac.uk.

The New Management Development Portfolio is available on the website at www.kent.ac.uk/kbs/execed
University awarded 10th largest increase in government research funding

Following the recent review of the quality of research conducted by British universities, the Research Assessment Exercise, the University of Kent has been allocated an increase of 46% a year in research support funding by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. This is the 10th largest increase in cash terms, amounting to an extra £3.8 million next year, and the fourth largest increase in percentage terms amongst the top ten.

This result is recognition of the performance of Kent in terms of the quality of research conducted by its academics, the value of grants it has won, and the performance of its postgraduate research students. The University now wins more than £13 million a year in competitive research awards from the UK Research Funding Councils, the EU, and from charitable and business sources. It conducts research across a wide range of areas including Kent Business School, Biosciences, Physics, Computing and Electronics as well as in the Social Sciences and the Humanities. These results reflect sustained investments made by Kent over the last decade in staff, building, laboratories and equipment. At the same time, the University has maintained its commitment to ensuring that its students benefit from teaching by top researchers. In the latest National Student Survey, Kent was rated first in the south-east. The Quality Assurance Agency audit in 2008 confirmed the quality and standards of the University’s degree.

Social policy expert presents research findings to PM

Peter Taylor-Gooby, Professor of Social Policy, presented his research on current developments in public attitudes to a breakfast meeting at Number 10 Downing Street. The meeting was also attended by Liam Byrne, Minister for the Cabinet Office, and chaired by Ed Miliband, Minister for the Department of Energy and Climate Change. During the meeting, the Prime Minister emphasised the challenges faced by the British government, such as recession and climate change, at a time when the financial crisis limits the available resources.

In the course of the discussion, Professor Taylor-Gooby presented the Prime Minister with some of his recent research on the impact of recession on public attitudes to migration, climate change policies, trust in government and social welfare, and also on general social values, which had been requested earlier by the Prime Minister’s Strategy Unit. This work grew out of Professor Taylor-Gooby’s analysis of how citizenship values are changing in a more globalised world, originally presented in his book Refreshing Social Citizenship which argues the case for extending public consultation and reducing social inequalities, particularly at the top end, in order to help build the kind of public trust that is needed in difficult times.

Lord Rooker said: ‘John Batchelor at the University of Kent has developed a circular antenna that looks like a button on a pair of jeans but which is designed to communicate in two modes around the body and away to other devices. With touch panels integrated into sleeves in fully washable garments, the potential is very significant.’

University of Lords recognition for research at Kent

Research at the University received a special mention in the House of Lords when Lord Rooker used the discoveries of Dr John Batchelor, Senior Lecturer in Electronic Engineering, as an example of how advances in science and technology are important for business and the economy, as well as providing an inspiration for young people to enter these sectors. Lord Rooker used the example of Dr Batchelor’s development of an aerial the size and shape of a button on a pair of jeans that works at the frequencies used for wireless computer networking. The research has been very well received and has even resulted in enquiries from NASA.

House of Lords’ recognition for research at Kent

DICE success with Darwin Initiative awards

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced that the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), based in the Department of Anthropology, has been awarded four grants by the Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species. The Darwin Initiative was announced by the UK Government at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and DICE has been among the main recipients of the funding for projects as varied as conserving axolotls in Mexico to reintroducing paradise flycatchers in the Seychelles. The latest round was announced to coincide with celebrations of the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birth. In this round, DICE has succeeded with three out of the 30 new project awards and one out of 13 post-project awards. Its new projects include: Dr Richard Griffiths, Dr Alison Rosser and their team working in Madagascar to examine the dynamics of the international trade in species of chameleons that occur nowhere else in the world; Professor Stuart Harrop and his team working in Sumatra to examine how Islamic religious beliefs and local customary practices can be integrated with sustainable management of globally important rainforests; and, in Vietnam, Professor Nigel Leader-Williams, Dr Douglas MacMillan, Dr Alison Rosser and team will study local hunting patterns of the ungulates that occur nowhere else but the Annamite Mountains of Vietnam and Laos.

By working on a range of projects, from the nature and consequences of conspiracy theories to the social psychology of climate change, the RES students have improved their analytical and communication skills, and gained important insight into academic research.

Dr Ulrich Weger, Lecturer in Psychology and co-ordinator of the Scheme, said: ‘Students who would like to get hands-on insights into ongoing research projects will find this a welcome opportunity. Those who seek to work on their methodological,
Giles collection part of world’s largest online cartoon archive

The largest collection of British social and political cartoons is now online at www.cartoons.ac.uk, thanks to the work of the British Cartoon Archive (BCCA) housed at the University. The project funded by JISC, a joint committee of the UK further and higher education funding bodies, will enable free access to over 120,000 images from 250 leading cartoonists including work by Ralph Steadman, Martin Rowson and Steve Bell. A key part of the archive comprises the Carl Giles Collection (1916-1998) and includes original cartoons, sketches, letters and documents from arguably the most famous cartoonist of his generation and creator of the much-loved ‘Giles Family’.

The new online database is freely available and contains cartoons from the 18th to the 21st centuries providing valuable insight and contains cartoons from the 18th to the 21st centuries providing valuable insight into the changing political and socioeconomic landscape of the UK.

The launch of the new website coincided with a Giles exhibition ‘Giles – one of the Family’ running at the London Cartoon Museum, complete with desk, drawing board and annuals and a recreation of Giles’ studio. Both the exhibition and the website cover the entire career of Giles, from his early days in the 1920s through to the 1980s. He will be based in the Student Learning Centre and ready to start coaching. The guidance he offers is wide-ranging, from tips on writing essays, reports and dissertations, to making presentations, carrying out research and even writing applications for work placements.

Simon has published four novels and his short fiction has also attracted critical acclaim, with his story ‘Jocks’ shortlisted for the Mammoth Book of Best British Mysteries (2008). He succeeds BBC broadcaster and award-winning travel writer Jonathan Gregson as the Royal Literary Fellow for Kent’s Medway campus.

Why we don’t mean what we say
A group of Kent students from the School of European Culture and Languages (SECL) has organised the second annual undergraduate conference in English Language and Linguistics entitled English and Pragmatics entitled English and Pragmatics. The keynote speech titled: Why don’t we mean what we say? Or do I mean, why do we not mean what we say? Several undergraduate students also presented papers on a variety of themes, including ‘The Modern Perceptions of Cross-Cultural Pragmatics’ by Maria Hickey, a first-year student in SECL’s English Language Unit and part of the conference committee, said: ‘The response to the conference was fantastic and we were able to welcome sixth-form pupils, university students and members of the public from across the south-east.’

Why don’t we mean what we say?

The primary aim of this atlas is to act as a contemporary reference source for the Channel’s marine environment and to provide decision-makers with the necessary information to help in the management of marine ecosystems and living resources, including 16 fish species. It has long been considered essential that France and the UK have a common vision for the protection of these ecosystems and for the utilisation of their shared marine resources, which are presently suffering the consequences of decline in certain species.

Stuart Harrop, Professor of Wildlife Management Law at DICE and Project Leader of the previous two phases of CHARM, said: ‘The English Channel is the world’s most crowded shipping lane, and also contains vital marine and other extractive resources, such as gravel and aggregate, of great economic importance to Europe. Policies and laws in this context relating to fisheries, resource use, water quality, pollution and shipping derive from international and European Union sources in addition to UK and French regulation.

‘With all of these pressures, close and informed collaboration between the UK and France in this complex geographical and regulatory area is vital to protect the Channel’s resources. The Atlas is a single and dynamic source designed to present information to help in the management of the Channel to be utilised sustainably and thus to be maintained for future generations.’

The financial support afforded by this scholarship has enabled me to concentrate on the valuable research work that I have undertaken in order to enhance and deepen understanding of the phenomenon of gang culture. I am thrilled that I was able to play a part in the telephone appeal. This allowed me to say “thank you” in a tangible way to all those Kent alumni whose generosity is contributing to my academic pursuits. It has deepened my sense of fellowship and I trust that I have been able to encourage alumni to continue this worthy tradition of providing scholarships so that many more students, like me, will benefit in the future from the support that I am now privileged to enjoy.

The appeal has been a resounding success, with alumni donating an incredible £27,000, with a further £11,000 still to come in.

Steven Pollard D97 was thrilled to be able to support the Kent Scholarships Campaign:

It’s important for me to be able to give something back to Kent and give other students the same opportunities I had. By giving to the scholarships campaign, I am able to directly support talented students and make a real difference to their lives.

Kent’s Scholarships Campaign launched!
The University of Kent’s first major scholarships campaign launched in March. Our aim is to offer more talented students the chance to study at Kent to undertake groundbreaking research, encourage more international students and support students suffering from financial hardship.

To kick start the campaign, 30 students at Kent undertook a telephone fundraising appeal in March. Over a three-week period they spoke to over 2,000 alumni, sharing experiences and memories of Kent past and present.

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Why don’t we mean what we say?

Top writer becomes University’s Royal Literary Fellow

Simon LeVay, a novelist and short story writer, has been appointed as the University’s new Royal Literary Fellow. He will be based in the Student Learning Advisory Service in the Unit for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching at the Medway campus.

His remit is to provide students with advice on and support in all aspects of their writing, through one-to-one coaching. The guidance he offers is wide-ranging, from tips on writing essays, reports and dissertations, to making presentations, carrying out research and even writing applications for work placements.

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Please join other alumni and friends of Kent who are supporting scholarships.

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The special agreement between Sky News, the University of Kent and the Friend family was set up to provide a lasting memorial to the life and career of Bob Friend, the original face of Sky News and one of the most instantly recognisable news presenters of his generation.

Kent Union is currently celebrating the success of being ranked 80th in the Sunday Times’ ‘Best 100 Companies to Work For’ list 2009. This is a great achievement and shows the high level of workplace engagement from the 150 career and 400 student staff working for Kent Union.

Kent Union has also recently won a Silver Sound Impact award from NUS Services Limited (NUSSL). This award is granted to Unions which make an active commitment to reducing their carbon footprint and increasing efforts made to make students aware of the environmental impact they have. Since winning this award, Kent Union has been reviewing its procedures across all outlets and services, looking for ways to decrease their reliance on the environment and hope to win gold next year!

Plans are underway for a new produce store being built at the end of Eliot causeway, next to Blackwell’s bookshop. The store will be built from sustainable materials, with photovoltaic windows and woodchip burners to provide heat and energy. The store will be opening in April 2010 and will sell freshly made sandwiches, local and organic produce as well as a range of baked and fresh goods.

You can now hire bikes on campus from Kent Union! In December 2007, we were delighted to be awarded funding from the Annual Fund for a project which has the aim of helping students to become more active while they study. We currently have five bikes available to hire, plus all the safety equipment to go with them.

We were also granted funds for a brand new Student Advice Centre Casework system, which is now up and running. The new system will allow the Kent Union advisers to store all client details about their case, making it far easier to get results and more efficient for both students and staff. The system could cut down administration time by around 25%, meaning they can increase the amount of appointments offered to students and have the time to deliver pro-active advice on relevant issues such as budgeting, housing and immigration.

Plans are underway for this year’s Summer Ball being held on Saturday 6 June on Giles Lane Car Park. Already confirmed to play is Dizzee Rascal, a multi-award-winning, chart-topping artist who is generating a lot of buzz around campus and there are still loads of acts to be announced. Visit www.kentsummerball.co.uk for further information.

For more information about Kent Union, visit www.kentunion.co.uk

Louise Shaw R02
Marketing Manager
Kent Union

Kent Union is celebrating becoming the first students’ union to be included in the Sunday Times’ ‘Best Companies to Work For’ list 2009. Kent Union was ranked number 80 in this prestigious list alongside companies such as Microsoft, Beaverbrooks and Boots Opticians.

In addition, the Union has claimed the Best Bar None Regional and National Winners award from NUS Services Ltd for the third consecutive year running and it has also received a prestigious environmental award. The Sound Environmental Impact Awards is an accreditation scheme to help students’ unions do their bit for the environment. Now in its third year, over a million initiatives put in place in their unions through the awards.

Sky’s the limit for University’s first journalism scholar

Journalism student Alan McGuinness has been awarded the inaugural Sky Bob Friend Memorial Scholarship. The new annual award, named after late Sky News presenter Bob Friend, rewards one of Kent’s students studying at the Centre for Journalism, based at the Medway campus.

Alan, 19, competed against his fellow students in a rigorous three-stage selection process, in which candidates had to prepare a paper outlining their multimedia treatment of a news story, demonstrate their prowess in current affairs, spelling and grammar, and face a panel of judges representing Sky News, the University and the Friend family.

As the winning student, Alan will have his first-year tuition fees paid by Sky, and can look forward to a four-week work placement at Sky News later this year.

He formally received his award from Professor Tim Luckhurst, Head of the Centre for Journalism, and John Ryley, Head of Sky News, at a ceremony at the University on 9 February. Mr Ryley also delivered the first Bob Friend Memorial Lecture, an event which helped celebrate the 20th anniversary of the launch of Sky News.

Did you receive a scholarship to study at Kent?

Please let us know the difference your scholarship has made to your life by calling Sara Scriven on 01227 824745 or emailing s.n.scriven@kent.ac.uk

History scholarship launched

A new postgraduate scholarship has just been launched thanks to the generosity of Paul Dyer, Non-Executive Director and co-founder of Maidstone-based Towegate Partnership, Europe’s largest private insurance organisation. Paul, who graduated from the University with a BA in Politics, launched the scholarship with a talk and an exhibition of his personal flintlock collection. More than 40 staff and students from the School of History, recently ranked second out of 83 history departments nationwide in the government’s 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), attended the launch. For further information on the History scholarship, contact J.A.Waller@kent.ac.uk
Karen Day D94
Biochemistry with Medical Bioosciences

First job: Teaching in London.

Nancy Gaffield
Lecturer, English Language Unit
Master of Darwin and Woolf Colleges

Favourite book: *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel.
Place of residence: A small hamlet called Garlinge Green.

Biggest influence: My mum.

Favourite song: ‘Hailsham’ by Leonard Cohen. I particularly like the version by Jeff Buckley.

Most embarrassing moment: Being wrongly arrested for setting off a firework, which another student did.

Enduring memory: Realising that they were right behind me.

Mark Edmondson K82
English with African and Caribbean Studies

Favourite book: *Hangover Square* by Patrick Hamilton. I have recently had my debut novel, *Making It*, published. It is about a naive young entrepreneur who is drawn into a murky world of corporate crooks and swindlers where he has to learn fast in a murky world of corporate crooks and swindlers where he has to learn fast in order to survive.

Place of residence: 35a Broad Street, Canterbury.

Howard Griffin
Head of Computing and Communication
Kent School of Architecture

Favourite book: *The Stand* by Stephen King. A very long but gripping story that, unfortunately, didn’t translate to the silver screen very well.

Place of residence: Margate. Trust me, it’s going to be a shining beacon for the county one day!

Favourite bar/pub: Bar Local, Barcellona. They were kind enough to host my first photographic exhibition off these shores, and I make a point of going there every time I am in town.

Enduring memory: Spooking behind someone’s back, then realising that they were right behind me.

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Favourite bar/pub: City Arms.

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Who's What Where

The complete ‘Who’s What Where’ is available online at www.kent.ac.uk/alumni

Key:
D Durden
E Eclat
K Keynes
R Rutherford
I Location: The location at the end of each entry is from the mailing addresses we have for each individual. Please let us know if any corrections are required. To submit a Who’s What Where entry, email alumni@kent.ac.uk

1960s
Cockill, Richard (R66) Sue and I became grandparents for first time in May 2008. Piers is doing well. Best wishes to all Kent alumni past and present for 2009. West Midlands. (17/12/2008)

Hancock, Chris (E66) I am now living and working (no thoughts of retiring) in San Diego. Quite amazing to me that I moved here after 18 years in New Hampshire. Southern California is quite different! However, I spend as much time sailing as I am able, which is most weekends. Hard to beat that! San Diego, USA. (12/09/2008)

Horne, Stuart (K75) A few years after leaving UKC, I moved to the United States. First working in New Jersey, then moving to Silicon Valley in ’87. I’ve been in this neighbourhood ever since. I married Julie in 1995 and we have two kids (both born in the US). I’ve been involved with the commercial aspects of high-bandwidth Internet backbones for around 15 years, having worked for companies in California and abroad. I have fond memories of Canterbury and still own a RSA 500cc motorcycle from my university days! I’m easy to find online – just search and say hello. Scotts Valley, USA. (08/02/2009)

1970s
Fulda, Vivienne (R76) I now have two new identities. I completed my PhD in 2006. I use the title Dr at work – several pupils have asked which surgery I work at. My other new title is nanny. Our daughter and her husband had a girl in 2009, who is a great joy. Many days with her are very special. Our son will graduate from Imperial College London in 2010 and then since have been teaching at Collyer’s Sixth Form College in Horsham, Sussex, where I’m Assistant Principal. I like it, so I have stayed. Married in 1984 and have two boys, currently 11 and 14. Still enjoying martial arts. Sussex. (13/01/2009)

1980s
Davis, Graham (R87) Having graduated from Kent in 1987, I left unsuccessfully to be an accountant with Ernst & Young and then finally ended up in software testing. I am now the Director of Testing Services for Planit Test Management Solutions, a software testing consultancy based in Sydney and Melbourne. Australia. I have been in Australia for over ten years and now have three lovely children, Harry, Lucy and Amelie. Would recommend the move down under any day! Sydney, Australia. (01/10/2008)

1990s
Fukutome, Akira (D90) After graduating, moved to Japan and somehow lost my ticket back to the UK. Have been working in human resources for the past 12 years. Married Kayoko Kato (E92). Yoh, our son, was born April 2008. Would love to hear from old friends. Yokohama, Japan. (03/02/2009)

Shoraten, Anthony (K90) Am still living in Worcestershire but will be moving early 2009 over the border to Gloucestershire. Chemo has come and gone, my hair stayed in place (what’s left of it), and the scar on the tum has all but disappeared (no more tales of tiger wrestling alas)! I’m very unfit at the moment and am in need of a trip to the gym, but all in all everything is coming along nicely. Business will be back in earnest from January, and I’ll be employing staff over the coming year. I had to put studious on hold, but now that I’m well again I’ve applied for an MA starting September 2009, which I’ll have to fit in with work. It seems I have another change to life now. Consequently, I’m doing all those things I should have been doing all along – theatre, concerts, travel, even creative stuff (I write the odd article for a local magazine). I can’t tell you how much I’m looking forward to the coming year. Worcestershire. (17/12/2008)

A’Court, Darren (D97) Shortly leaving local government as I have (finally!) reconciled myself with the Church of England and have been ordained. Serving as a curate in Weymouth and enjoying it a great deal. Married to Joanne with three children (Jack 9, Emily 5 and Lucy 4), so pretty busy all-round! I would love to hear from anyone who I encountered at Kent and other cities in France, and also do voiceover work. Still love it as much, if not more than, 20 years ago and Strasbourg is my home! Just as sporty as I used to be and love travelling and sharing both passions with my partner. Strasbourg, France. (05/02/2009)

Stubbings, Tim (E69) I work as a professional photographer (having started taking snaps for UKC’s Information Office back in 1992!). Worked in London for seven years and stopped doing that in April 2006. Married to Pauline (Dewson) R89 since 1995 and have two daughters, Kate 6 and Lucy 2. Lived in Whitstable since 2002 having been in Canterbury, Ashford and separately in London, Eastbourne and Brentwood before that! Still in touch with Nicky, Masey and Sam (Michiel R89) Kent. (15/01/2009)

Tilley, Pauline (E36) I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me. A brief explanation of how I know you would be appreciated due to a brain injury I sustained when I was teaching English as a foreign language. Somerset. (13/01/2009)

1990s
Williams, Mike (E59) Awarded PhD by Exeter University in August 2008 for his thesis entitled Medieval English Roodscens with special reference to Deven. Retired, living in Wiveliscombe, Devon. Most recent publication, Mrs Ames’s Angel (short stories), (Wellington, 2008). At present, writing the history of the Whitty, Redcar, and Middlebrough and Whitby rail lines – all the way from Whitby to Loftus line. Somerset. (03/11/2008)

1970s
Mills, Jane (E86) I have just been appointed Associate Professor (Teaching and Research) in the School of Communication, Charles Sturt University, Bondi, Australia. (28/01/2009)

Seville, Ed (R68) Continuing as an independent railway consultant in networks for both submarine telecommunications and offshore renewable energy technologies and associated goldfish farming, but life seems to be getting more hectic with all those offshore wind farms and other marine based renewable energy technologies! Celebrated the big 60 last year and was joined by several old national sciences reprobates: The Rutherford & Physics Department party committee! Strikes again! Would be great to hear from other committee members: Ray Lovell, Lyn Dawson, Hans Kappes and anyone else who is still suffering those OCR party hangovers! We had a great time at URC too! Essex. (08/01/2009)

1960s
Horne Perrin, Ella (E83) After spending the move down under any day! Sydney, Australia. (12/09/2008)

Lucy and Amelie. Would recommend the move down under any day! Sydney, Australia. (01/10/2008)

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Here are some of the events planned for the next few months. A full calendar of University events is available at www.kent.ac.uk/whatson.

11 June
Creative Industries Alumni Reception
Waterstone’s Piccadilly

12 June
40 Gulbenkian Years
Gulbenkian Theatre
www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian

13 June
ArtsFest
Canterbury campus
www.kent.ac.uk/artsfest

18 June
Medway Public Lecture: 25th anniversary of Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust
6pm, Pilkington Building, Medway campus

20 June
Open Day, 10 – 3pm
Medway campus

4 July
Benefactors’ Garden Party
(by special invitation) Canterbury

4 July
Open Day, 10 – 3pm
Canterbury campus

14, 15, 16 July
Graduation ceremonies
Canterbury Cathedral

17 July
Graduation ceremonies
Rochester Cathedral

15 September
Athens Alumni Reception
Official Residence of the British Ambassador, Athens
www.kent.ac.uk/alumni

10 October
Open Day, 10 – 3pm
Canterbury campus

17 October
Open Day, 10 – 3pm
Medway campus

22 October
Hong Kong Alumni Reception

18 November
Graduation ceremonies
Rochester Cathedral

20 November
Graduation ceremonies
Canterbury Cathedral