Dear alumni, friends and colleagues,

I write as the first week of the new academic year draws to a close, and we have welcomed this year’s new students to Kent. Each new cohort rejuvenates the University and reminds us of our mission to create and sustain a community which is intellectually stimulating and in which we advance knowledge through the relationship between teaching and research. This is how we transform the world for the better. Our new students are just beginning their journey with us, and by welcoming them into our community we will, together, make that community a stronger one. Many alumni have already joined us in making them feel part of the Kent family, offering their advice and passing on words of wisdom to the new arrivals as part of the ‘#hellokent’ campaign which ran across our social media channels during welcome week.

As alumni know, for the students joining us this year it is the start of a lifelong relationship with the University. The community built while living and studying at the University’s campuses will continue through both friendship and professional links and, we hope, through continued engagement with us. We take great pleasure in welcoming our alumni back to the University; you are an essential part of the Kent community.

The Kent community has had much to celebrate over recent weeks; the University of Kent is now ranked third in the UK amongst comparable institutions in the National Student Survey. We are also climbing in the league tables, coming 22nd in the Guardian and 28th in the Sunday Times, in the latter a climb of nine places on the previous year. Our popularity is well-founded on an excellent education and student experience and I am pleased to report that the University has been successful in recruiting undergraduates under the new fee system and that we continue to appeal to overseas students. The value of a high-quality university education is rightfully recognised.

The University’s success in recruitment and student satisfaction is the product of considerable dedication on the part of all members of the Kent community. We hope that alumni, too, can share our delight in this success.

I wish you all the very best and look forward to meeting you, or hearing from you, during the coming academic year.

Professor Dame Julia M Goodfellow, DBE, CBE
Vice-Chancellor
Kent confirmed as one of top universities in the UK

The 2012 National Student Survey (NSS) has confirmed Kent as a top UK university for student satisfaction. Kent was placed third among publicly funded, multi-faculty universities for overall satisfaction, with Oxford and Cambridge joint second behind the Open University.

Kent has also achieved a top 10 position for overall student satisfaction in 17 subjects, and is in the top 20 for 26 out of its 36 subject areas.

The NSS is a national initiative, conducted annually since 2005. The survey is aimed at all final-year undergraduates in higher education institutions (HEIs) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as those attending 15 out of 19 HEIs in Scotland. There are 23 core questions, relating to aspects of the student learning experience: teaching; assessment and feedback; academic support; organisation and management; learning resources; personal development; overall satisfaction; and students’ union.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Julia M Goodfellow welcomed news of Kent’s latest success. She said: ‘I am pleased that our students rate their experience at Kent so highly. Their overwhelming endorsement of the University and our academic offer is a reflection of the dedication and commitment of all our academic and professional services staff.

‘It also confirms that our continuous investment in teaching and research, undergraduate support, and residential and study environments, is recognised and valued by our many students.’
University rises to 28th in The Sunday Times University League Table 2013

The University of Kent has entered the top 30 in The Sunday Times University League Table with a rise of nine places to 28th. In the subject rankings, Kent has two subjects placed in the top 10, and top 20 positions have been achieved in eight subject areas, with a further six in the top 30.

The Sunday Times University League Table 2013 represents 126 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The main indicators used by the newspaper include teaching excellence, student satisfaction, research quality, UCAS entry points, graduate employment, fees, Firsts/2:1s awarded, and the provision of scholarships and bursaries.

In its summary, The Sunday Times referred to Kent as an institution where ‘enhancing graduate job prospects is top of the agenda’. It also described the University as having ‘an above usual number of partnerships with European higher education institutions.’

Kent was also recently described by Which? University as one ‘that provides a wealth of European and international opportunities for study, work and travel, a stimulating and effective learning community that focuses on the individual and excellent research-led teaching’.

KENT Magazine

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Julia M Goodfellow said: ‘We are all very pleased that the Employability Points Scheme has been acknowledged in this way… We offer our congratulations to all those who have helped make the Scheme such a success, and wish them all the best for the forthcoming awards ceremony.’

The winners of the 2012 THE Awards will be announced on 29 November 2012.

University to move forward with plans for new student accommodation

Over 100 members of the local community attended the University’s recent public exhibition outlining the revised proposals for the development of student accommodation and a conference centre at its Canterbury campus.

The University is currently considering all feedback received on the new proposals but, following comments received, has taken the decision to move forward with the new student accommodation, known as Keynes III. It will now work towards the submission of a planning application in October for the 780-bed student residence adjacent to Keynes II. This will address the immediate shortfall of student accommodation and meet demand for good quality student accommodation in Canterbury.

The University will continue to review its proposals for a new conference centre in the light of comments received during the public consultation and in continued discussion with Canterbury City Council and the local community.
The University of Kent is committed to working with the local community, its staff, students and stakeholders, on its future development plans.

For further details see www.kent.ac.uk/consultation2012

Institutional Strategic Plan 2012-15

The University’s Institutional Strategic Plan for 2012-15 is now available. The new Plan details Kent’s key messages for the next three years, including proactively developing our distinctive attributes, such as an inspiring education, world-leading research and regional, national and international impact. Other themes include promoting diversity and inclusivity, working with partners for mutual benefit and communicating well. You can see the Plan at www.kent.ac.uk/institutionalplan/

Kent campaign to preserve historic collection

More than 4,000 people have signed the University's online petition to persuade the Law Society of England and Wales not to break up a unique historic collection of several thousand manuscripts, early and rare books, and pamphlets. The campaign has also attracted high levels of support on Twitter.

The University, together with Canterbury Cathedral, is asking the Law Society to reconsider its intention to break up the Mendham Collection which contains about 5,000 invaluable items. The Collection is owned by the Society but has been held under the custodianship of the University and Cathedral for nearly 30 years.

During this time, it has been an invaluable academic resource not just for students and staff at the University, but has also attracted researchers from across the globe as well as in the UK.

Dr Alixe Bovey, Director of the University’s Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, said: 'I would like to thank all those who have supported our campaign, and hope that they will continue to work with us for as long as it takes for the Law Society to reverse this decision.'

Students to benefit from Kent-Santander partnership

A new partnership agreement between the University of Kent and Santander Universities UK will support international scholarships and student mobility, as well as an employability programme designed to enhance student entrepreneurship.

The agreement, through which Santander will donate £40,000 for 2012/13, was signed on 18 September 2012 by the University’s Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Julia M Goodfellow and Luis Juste, Director of Santander Universities UK.

Dame Julia said: ‘We encourage all our students to participate in our extensive range of student mobility and entrepreneurship programmes. We also provide a broad range of scholarships. Santander’s support of our activities in these areas is important to the University and I look forward to our partnership.’

Agreement for student access support plans

The University received approval in July 2012 for its plans to provide financial support for students under national arrangements to ensure students from lower income families can access higher education.

Kent is one of 150 universities and colleges to receive approval for its proposals – outlined in an Access Agreement – from the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).

The government will make funding available to students under its National Scholarship Programme (NSP). The University will match fund the NSP and make an additional £5.2 million available in 2013, rising to £7.1 million by 2015, to provide financial support to students.

Kent leads the way in economic growth

The value of universities such as Kent to the economy of the UK in stimulating growth has again been highlighted in an annual national survey.

Analysis by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) of the eleventh annual Higher Education – Business and Community Interaction Survey, published in July 2012, shows that universities in the UK contributed £3.3 billion to the economy in 2010-11 through services to business, including commercialisation of new knowledge, delivery of professional training, consultancy and services.

This latest indicator of the value of higher education to the national economy follows the University’s own research, published at the end of 2011, showing that it was now worth £0.6 billion to the south east economy.

Painter John Blackburn exhibits at Studio 3 Gallery

One of the most ‘vital and exhilarating’ English painters of modern times, John Blackburn, has a new exhibition at Kent.

Entitled And God Cryed, the exhibition is running until 14 December in the University’s Studio 3 Gallery. Admission is free and opening hours are Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.

University exhibition curator Ben Thomas said: ‘The title of the exhibition refers to the Holocaust, and is also one of a series of very personal texts deployed in a group of ‘black’ paintings executed in a variety of materials including pitch (and exhibited here for the first time)... Blackburn remains one of the most vital and exhilarating painters working today.’
Feature
A celebration of music

This autumn will provide a truly momentous occasion for the University’s many musicians and music lovers as we are delighted to be opening the doors of the magnificent new Colyer-Fergusson Building for the first time.

Designed by Tim Ronalds Architects, together with a design team that included Arup Acoustics and Carr & Angier, the building will become the location for all of the University’s concerts, events and rehearsals, finally bringing music at Kent to a dedicated venue after decades spent practicing and performing in ad hoc spaces scattered around campus! We also look forward to welcoming professional, community and school musicians to perform in the building, making the most of the state-of-the-art facilities.

With its adjustable acoustics and flexible seating permutations, the hall is designed to accommodate a whole range of music – everything from large-scale choral and orchestral concerts, to jazz, bands, chamber music and solo recitals.

The Colyer-Fergusson Building also has a suite of practice rooms and some lovely social spaces, providing a haven for those who would like to just relax. The foyer includes a small stage for informal gigs and concerts, and is linked to the Gulbenkian Theatre, sharing its Booking Office and Café Bar.

Keep an eye on our website (www.kent.ac.uk/music) for the spontaneous events which we intend to put on over the coming months to try the building out. We are delighted to once again welcome the Brodsky Quartet, who will spin their famous ‘Wheel of Four Tunes’ for a concert at the end of November, before our grand opening for our generous benefactors on the 8th December and gala concert on the 9th December – do book your tickets in good time for these events, as they are likely to sell out quickly!

This £8m building has been funded entirely from donations: a bequest from Kent philanthropist Sir James Colyer-Fergusson and a further grant from the Charitable Trust that bears his name, together with matched funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England and donations from over 200 alumni and friends of the University.

On behalf of future generations of University musicians, as well as everyone who will have the chance to enjoy this fantastic venue in the years to come, we would like to thank everyone for their extraordinary generosity and support in making this dream a reality.

“The extraordinary talent, commitment and energy of all our Kent musicians never ceases to amaze me and, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the Colyer-Fergusson Trust and all our many other donors, our musicmaking can now move to a new level in this magnificent building. It will give me such pleasure to walk into the foyer each day and see our supporters’ names on the donor board, and it is fitting to think that Sir James Colyer-Fergusson’s name will live on for evermore, with successive generations of musicians making music in his honour.”

Susan Wanless
Director of University Music

Upcoming events at a glance

**The Brodsky Quartet, Wheel of Four Tunes**
Friday 30 November, 7.30pm, Colyer-Fergusson Hall

Daniel Rowland violin, Ian Belton violin, Paul Cassidy viola, Jacqueline Thomas cello

No-one will know quite how the programme for this unique concert will fall – not even the Brodsky Quartet themselves! It will all depend on the spinning of their ‘Wheel of Four Tunes’, as the Quartet arrives ready to play any of 40 works from their exceptionally wide repertoire. This could be anything from Schubert, Beethoven or Brahms to Stravinsky. Come and help the Brodsky Quartet celebrate its 40th anniversary in what promises to be a truly extraordinary event!

Tickets £15, £7 students (to include pre-concert celebratory glass of fizz)

**Grand Gala Concert**
Sunday 9 December, Colyer-Fergusson Hall, 3.00pm

University of Kent Chorus, Symphony Orchestra, Concert and Big Bands and Chamber Choir
Susan Wanless, Daniel Harding, Ian Swatman conductors, Piran Legg baritone

Join the University’s many musicians to celebrate the official opening of the Colyer-Fergusson Building. The programme includes a specially commissioned work for the combined Concert and Big Bands by James Rae, a new piece for the Chamber Choir, Elgar’s Enigma Variations and two contrasting choral pieces – designed to show off the hall in all its musical glory!

Tickets £13.00 (adults), £7.00 (students)

Tickets available from the Gulbenkian Booking Office, Tel. 01227 769075.
On line bookings www.thegulbenkian.co.uk
It’s not all change, however, as the original buildings that students have known and loved over the years have been sympathetically modernised and refurbished to create exciting, dynamic, and state-of-the-art spaces designed to deliver an outstanding student experience.

The Faculty has also expanded onto the Medway campus, where you can now find the Medway School of Pharmacy and the School of Sport and Exercise Science, as well as facilities for the School of Computing, housed in a mixture of historic naval buildings on the site and modern, purpose-built facilities.

Investment in facilities

On the Canterbury campus, extensive work is taking place to revitalise the facilities on offer in the Schools of Biosciences, Engineering and Digital Arts and Physical Sciences.

Work on the interior of Ingram (formerly known as the Chemistry Building) began with the development of the new School of Physical Sciences laboratories in late 2011. This new-look teaching wing now includes four state-of-the-art laboratories, one of which is dedicated to forensic analysis. It also features new equipment such as computers, wireless internet access and a data projection system for clearer display of experiment results. Other new facilities include student lockers, fume cupboards and moveable benches to create a more flexible teaching space. Following the completion of the new laboratory wing, the refurbishment has continued through the rest of the building to create a fresh, modern looking interior.

At the same time, extensive refurbishment is also taking place in the Stacey Building (formerly Biosciences) with a new entrance under construction, and the updating of all communal corridors underway. The Howard Rogers Room and the tearoom are also being renovated and linked together to create a large, multi-purpose function space. The next phase of the work will see laboratories and offices modernised to the same high standards.

Finally, an ambitious project is underway to redevelop the Jennison Building, which houses the School of Engineering and Digital Arts (formerly Electronics). This modern overhaul will completely renovate the building, and provide brand new and improved laboratory and

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Scientific successes at Kent

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teaching facilities, as well as extending the foyer significantly to provide an exhibition space.

Professor Mark Burchell, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, commented: ‘These developments are much larger, brighter, more eco-friendly and better laid-out than the previous ones. We’re looking forward to sharing our new space with students, as well as with staff and the wider academic community.’

Investing in people

These recent investments in infrastructure have been backed up by significant levels of investment in new staff. In order to consolidate recent successes, this year 20 new academic positions have been created, which will see new lecturers, readers and professors join the Faculty over the coming months. With posts created in Schools including Biosciences, Physical Sciences (Chemistry and Physics), Maths, Pharmacy, Engineering and Digital Arts, and Computing, it is clear that the faculty is expanding across the board in order to keep up with student demand and maintain excellence.

The University is committed to advancing the representation of women in science, engineering and technology and is proud to be a member of the Athena SWAN Charter. Kent held its second Athena SWAN day on 10 September, which focused on the themes of addressing gender inequalities, tackling the unequal representation of women in science and changing cultures and attitudes.

Student satisfaction

Sciences at Kent recently received a glowing report from its students through the 2012 National Student Survey, with excellent ratings across the board, showing that academic schools are committed to delivering high quality programmes to students. The School of Engineering and Digital Arts was rated as the best in the UK in its field when it came to ‘overall satisfaction’, and Physics and Astronomy within the School of Physical Sciences was rated second in its field.

Recently, the University was pleased to welcome students from Brompton Academy, who cut short their summer holiday for a science masterclass at Kent. The 24 students are studying A-levels in sciences and maths at the Gillingham-based Academy. A day before the start of their school term, they took part in a series of lab-based experiments led by University staff and postgraduate students in the new laboratories.

Brompton Academy, which specialises in science and arts, is offering A-levels for the first time this year, and has been sponsored by the University of Kent since 2010. The support provided includes curriculum development, specialist teaching staff and pupil mentoring by PhD students to enrich student experience.

Patrick Robbins, Head of Science and the Sport Mini-School at Brompton Academy, said: ‘Introducing A-levels is a sea change in the culture of the school and will help us become not only more academic, but fulfill our specialisms, under University guidance. The day at Kent was an exciting opportunity for our new students to experience working in a state-of-the-art lab.’

Dr Gaby Roch, subject specialist within the University’s Faculty of Sciences, said: ‘It was a great way to help students with the start of their A-level coursework and we hope to offer other lab-based opportunities as their studies progress.’

She added: ‘I’ve never seen such an engaged bunch of students and it’s great that they came during their summer holiday.’

Given the outstanding levels of satisfaction within the Faculty, it comes as no surprise that changes to the structure of university funding have not impacted on the number of students wishing to study within the Faculty of Sciences at Kent, with recruitment well above the level anticipated, and far outstripping national trends. Kent has seen particular successes this year in Biosciences and in Physics, and looks forward to attracting large numbers of students in the coming years, following the significant investment currently taking place within the School of Engineering and Digital Arts.

Success in Sport Science

In recognition of its own recent success, the Dean of Science has welcomed the Centre for Sport Science into the Faculty as a fully-fledged School, becoming the School of Sport and Exercise Science. The Faculty looks forward to supporting the teaching and research ambitions of the School, which is well placed to support the Olympic legacy.

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Supporting future scientists

The Faculty is delighted to be working in partnership with several local schools to raise the profile of science amongst students and to encourage them to continue to study the subject at A-level and beyond.
Vitamin variants could combat cancer as scientists unravel B12 secrets

In a development that may lead to new drugs to treat cancer, scientists at the University have discovered the process by which a key vitamin (B12) is made in cells.

A team at the University’s School of Biosciences, led by Professor Martin Warren, devised a method that allows them to study how the individual steps for vitamin B12 construction are pieced together. B12 is an essential nutrient that plays an important role in the formation of red blood cells and the maintenance of the nervous system. Deficiencies are associated with anaemia, cardiovascular disorders and dementia.

Using techniques of the new discipline of synthetic biology, researchers engineered a conveyor belt of molecular machines for the construction of the vitamin within bacteria. By varying the length of the assembly line, they were able to unravel how the vitamin is manufactured.

Significantly, the team were also able to alter some of the molecular machines on the conveyor belt and change the form of the vitamin that is made. It is hoped that these novel variant forms of the vitamin will act as important new drugs to treat diseases such as cancer and infections such as tuberculosis (TB).

The team’s research paper An enzyme-trap approach allows isolation of intermediates in cobalam in (vitam in B12) biosynthesis is published in the current edition of the journal Nature Chemical Biology, the leading scientific journal in the field.

Professor Warren, Head of the School of Biosciences, said: ‘This is a really important step forward. Vitamin B12 is a nutrient that is only made by bacteria and is not present in plants. Therefore a significant proportion of the world’s population, including vegetarians, are at risk of B12 deficiency.

‘Our work will assist in the generation of better ways of making more of this vitamin available and is also permitting us to make new compounds that will literally allow us to throw a spanner in the works of infections such as TB and diseases such as cancer.’

The Kent team worked with several partners including new biotechnology company Cangenix, based at the School of Biosciences, and researchers at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). The research was funded by a research grant from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council to Professor Warren and Professor Richard Pickersgill of QMUL.

It is estimated that the Labour government of 1997-2010 spent nearly £468 million on various public educational and health initiatives to try and convince teenage girls to delay becoming pregnant or giving birth. However, Dr Johns and colleagues suggest that, rather than investing in educational programmes, money would be better spent on ‘the maintenance of at-risk neighbourhoods’. This would mean public money being diverted from existing teenage pregnancy unit policies and applied as specifically targeted supplements to local authority council tax budgets in areas with high rates of teenage pregnancy.

Dr Johns said: ‘Government initiatives since 1999 have squandered vast amounts of money, producing only a marginal decrease in teenage pregnancy to just below 40 per thousand. Current approaches are clearly ineffective.

We believe that the attempts to reduce teenage pregnancy rates through “band-aid” solutions such as increasing contraceptive and sex education provision, or emphasising moral issues around “appropriate” child bearing are unlikely to be successful if women continue to live in poverty or perceive their environments as hazardous, or have experiences in their family or neighbourhood that truncate their future expectations.

UK teenage pregnancy reduction unlikely until policy makers adopt ‘evolutionary approach’

Attempts to reduce the high rate of teenage pregnancy and motherhood in the UK – which is also the highest in Western Europe – are unlikely to succeed if young women continue to face environmental risk and uncertainty.

This is one of the key findings of new research from a team that includes Dr Sarah E Johns, Lecturer in Biological Anthropology at the University’s School of Anthropology and Conservation.

Together with colleagues from the universities of Middlesex and Portsmouth, Dr Johns investigated how an evolutionary framework might help move UK policy makers beyond an ‘intervention impasse’ on teenage pregnancy and motherhood. Among their conclusions, published in the Journal of Social, Evolutionary and Cultural Psychology, the team found that environmental risk, including factors such as crime and vandalism, is a clear predictor of early pregnancy.

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The efforts of both the current and previous governments to reduce the number of births to teenagers may unfortunately have more to do with reducing the associated costs to the government than with improving the life situations of adolescents and adolescent parents, and, until antecedents of teenage parenthood, such as environmental risk and instability are accounted for in policy decisions, the United Kingdom will continue to have a high rate of teenage pregnancy.’

Dr Johns collaborated on the paper with Thomas E Dickins, of the Department of Psychology, Middlesex University and Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, London School of Economics, and Abby Chipman, of the School of Psychology, University of Portsmouth.

Forensic psychologists’ research could lead to national polygraph testing for sex offenders

Research findings from a team of forensic psychologists at Kent could lead to the use of polygraph testing of sex offenders being adopted nationally.

Researchers from the Centre of Research and Education in Forensic Psychology (CORE-FP) conducted a two-year evaluation of a pilot scheme involving the use of polygraph testing to increase disclosures made by sex offenders to probation staff.

Their findings, highlighting the success of the pilot polygraph scheme for sex offenders, were published by the Ministry of Justice Research Series.

The pilot polygraph scheme took place across the East and West Midlands probation areas from April 2009 to October 2011. Seven other probation areas where polygraph testing was not implemented were also monitored to see if pilot polygraph testing really did increase the admissions made by sex offenders to probation staff.

The Kent researchers, led by Dr Theresa Gannon and Dr Jane Wood, found overwhelming evidence to suggest that sex offenders supervised in the pilot polygraph scheme made more disclosures about their risk.

Dr Gannon said: ‘For instance, those taking part in the pilot project made more disclosures about entering an exclusion zone or contact with children than sex offenders supervised under normal probation conditions.

‘We found that the polygraph pilot was effective for a whole range of sex offenders, and perhaps most significantly, sex offenders themselves reported finding the polygraph useful for helping them to manage their behaviour in the future.

‘We are pleased to see that our research evaluation is being seriously discussed by government ministers. The research findings clearly show that the polygraph increases communication between sex offenders and probation staff which has to be a good thing for the community.’

The Kent research team successfully tendered to evaluate the pilot scheme for sex offenders for the Ministry of Justice over a two-year period. Other members of the CORE-FP team were: Dr Afroditi Pina, Dr Eduardo Vasquez and Professor Iain Fraser of the University’s School of Economics.

Launch of new Cyber Security Centre

Greater protection of computer communications is the aim of a newly launched research centre at the University. The Centre for Cyber Security harnesses expertise across the University to address current and future cyber security challenges.

It is working with external organisations to promote cyber security, creating a strategy for wide ranging multidisciplinary research, developing skills in cyber security, and engaging with the wider community through workshops, visits, lectures and training.

Research In Motion (RIM), the company behind the BlackBerry® solution, is one of the companies engaging with the new Centre. Speaking at the launch event, Peter Beck, Senior Security Researcher at RIM, said: ‘We are delighted to be working with the University of Kent’s new Cyber Security Centre. RIM is an industry leader in delivering enterprise grade mobile security, and collaboration with external security researchers has helped us to continuously improve the security of our solutions for customers.’

Dr Eerke Boiten, Senior Lecturer in the University’s School of Computing is Director of the new Centre. He said: ‘The relevance of cyber security increases with the increased dependence of society on computer network infrastructure, and the sharply rising incidence and sophistication of attacks.

‘However, cyber security solutions cannot just be technical: the human normally ends up being the ‘weakest link’ when security policies are complex and hard to remember, or cumbersome and distracting from the core activities they are supposed to protect. The Centre brings together all aspects of cyber security related research: technical, psychological, social and legal, in order to provide a holistic approach to cyber security.’
Among initial research projects encompassed by the new Centre are two projects aimed at securing cloud-based computing services (led by the University’s School of Computing and School of Engineering and Digital Arts (EDA)), as well as others investigating social network behaviour (EDA and the School of Psychology), and monitoring police requests for personal information held by the NHS (Kent Law School).

New research highlights damaging social cost of ‘litigation culture’

New research at Kent highlights the high social cost of today’s ‘culture of litigation’ on health and education services.

The report, by Professor Frank Furedi and Jennie Bristow of the University’s School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) was published in September by the Centre for Policy Studies.

In ‘The Social Cost of Litigation’, the authors show that far from increasing safety and accountability, the culture of litigation has resulted in significant costs to the quality of services, the experience of those who use them, and the role of professionals.

Professor Furedi said: ‘Demanding recompense for accidents is now perceived, not only as a common-sense way of gaining financial compensation, but as a way of holding public services to account. But taken together, the combination of an engrained compensation culture and litigation avoidance is bleeding the health and education services dry; both financially, and in terms of their public sector ethos and professional role.’

The research shows that as of March 2011, the NHS Litigation Authority estimated its potential liabilities at £16.8 billion, of which £16.6 billion related to clinical negligence claims. However, of the 63,800 claims for medical negligence made since 2001, only about 2,000 (3.2%) have had damages approved or set by the Court. A further 28,700 were settled out of court.

Professor Furedi said: ‘If we want to put a brake on the culture of litigation and litigation avoidance in Britain, we need to look beyond ambulance-chasers and greedy lawyers to the cultural conditions that have allowed litigious sentiments to flourish as common sense. In particular, we need to challenge the expectation that professional ‘best practice’ in the public sector should be measured by the absence of complaints or litigation.’

New research reveals concerns about ‘welfare of the child’

Kent research has revealed the concerns of conception clinic staff involved in welfare of the child (WOC) assessments under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (HFE) Act.

The Economic and Social Research Council-funded research, presented and discussed at a British Library event in September, investigated how assisted conception clinics assess the ‘welfare of the child’ pre-conception, clinic staff’s views of the current law and Code of Practice guidance from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), and their opinions on the general enterprise of welfare assessments. Among those interviewed were clinicians, clinic counsellors and nursing staff.

Since 1990, infertility services have been subject to a highly complex system of regulation: the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act (1990) and accompanying Code of Practice issued by the HFEA. Controversially, in 2008, the legal requirement in place since 1990 that clinicians providing treatment take account of ‘the welfare of any child who may be born as a result of the treatment’ including ‘the need of a father’ was replaced with a new mandate: they must henceforth consider the child’s need for ‘supportive parenting’. In the light of this reform, Kent’s research aimed to investigate the ongoing role played by the child welfare assessment in practice and the impact of this change to the regulations.

Among its key findings, the research has revealed that: the HFEA’s new ‘risk assessment’ process is generally perceived by staff to be an improvement on previous procedures, although despite the time spent discussing the welfare of the child (WOC) clause during the reform process, the new law appears to have had a relatively limited impact on clinics’ previous practice; while the number of prospective patients deemed to raise ‘welfare of the child concerns’ remains small, with very few subject to further investigation and even fewer denied treatment, many clinic staff experience difficulties working out how to resolve the small number of ‘difficult cases’ they experience; staff also reported variations in, and some concerns about, the role and place of counsellors and counselling in WOC assessments.

Guided by an advisory group of experts in the field of assisted conception, the research was conducted by: Dr Ellie Lee (SSPSSR), Dr Jan Macvarish (Centre for Health Services Studies) and Sally Sheldon (Kent Law School).

Research awards list

Some recent research awards

Dr Alex Freitas (School of Computing), £103,641 from Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for ‘Predicting the volume of distribution of drugs and toxicants with data mining methods’.

Emily Graham (Kent Law School), £163,137 from the Economic and Social Research Council for ‘Balancing precarious work and care: how well does labour law respond to women’s changing work patterns’.

Dr Claire Peppiatt-Wildman (Medway School of Pharmacy), £528,134 from Pfizer (overseas) for ‘Components of the innate immune system are mediators of tissue ischemia by altering mitochondrial function and regulating microvessel tone in acute kidney injury’.

Dr Catherine Waters (School of English), £167,156 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council for ‘Journalism on the move: the special correspondent and Victorian print culture’.
Open Lectures at Kent – Inspiring the community

Since the foundation of the University of Kent in 1965 the local community has been warmly welcomed to join alumni, staff and students at regular public lectures. Over the years these events have proved popular, and are still going strong today, with the regular Open Lecture series attracting a wide audience to hear from public figures and acclaimed experts on a range of subjects.

Until recently, the University’s Open Lectures took place exclusively in Canterbury, but in March this year we were delighted to introduce a termly event at the University’s Medway Campus at Chatham Maritime – where, at the most recent lecture, Lord Moynihan, former chairman of the British Olympic Association, shared his thoughts on the Olympic legacy from London 2012.

Following the success of this initiative, we will be extending the series further over the coming months, with our first London lecture taking place in November, and intend to host events at our campuses in Paris and Brussels in the spring of 2013. We also have ambitious plans to expand this activity further afield with the introduction of international Open Lectures in the future.

Open Lectures have seen the University welcome speakers from many fields over the years, with journalist Kate Adie asking “Why be an Eyewitness?”; Helen Glass taking us on a journey into the archaeology of the Channel Tunnel; and Sir Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal, sharing a cosmic perspective on space, time and life; to name but a few. We have been fascinated to hear the views of individuals from all walks of life, including sportspeople, politicians, academics and artists – many of whom are Kent alumni or honorary graduates. We are delighted to welcome former students and local residents to the University to enjoy these lectures as part of our aim to positively contribute to the cultural life of the areas around our campuses, and the wider Kent community.

From the spring of 2013 we are pleased to be moving the majority of the Canterbury based lectures in this series to the recently refurbished, state-of-the-art lecture theatres in the Grimond Building (see page 20).

For those alumni unable to attend these events in person, we have ensured that the vast majority of Open Lectures held at Kent over the past three years have been audio recorded and are available to download from our website at www.kent.ac.uk/openlectures/audio.

“For a number of years now, we have very much enjoyed the Open Lectures so generously laid on by the University. The speakers are of national, often international, stature, and we appreciate the range and depth of their subjects. Long may the series continue!”

David and Jill Eddison
Local residents

Feedback
We welcome feedback on our Open Lectures from our alumni and the local community, and if you have any suggestions for future speakers or topics we would be delighted to hear from you!

Please either email events@kent.ac.uk with your suggestions, or telephone a member of the Events team on 01227 827829.

Coming soon!
Please see below for details of our spring 2013 Open Lecture speakers

For the full listing please see our website: www.kent.ac.uk/openlectures. All lectures will take place on the Canterbury Campus unless otherwise stated. Everyone is welcome!

16 January  Professor Judy Fudge
25 January  Professor Sir Robert Worcester
30 January  Professor Rebecca Stott
6 February  Attorney General, Rt Hon Dominick Grieve QC MP
13 February Dr Joan Woolf
6 March  Professor Anthony Stinn
7 March  Professor Mary Watkins (Medway)
27 March  Dr John Guy
3 April Dame Athene Donald

1 General The Lord Richard Dannatt speaking on ‘Leadership in turbulent times’ in February 2011
2 Dr Simon Singh, speaking on ‘Science and the media – the good, the bad and the ugly’ in March 2012
Where are they now?

Over the years the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship has enabled Kent to attract highly motivated and talented postgraduate students from around the globe to undertake world leading research at the University.

Dr Samuel Godfrey – 2007 Scholar

Sam Godfrey was awarded the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship in 2007 to help fund a PhD in Biochemistry developing a new targeted therapy for use in cancer treatment.

Over the course of three years Sam worked with a team of researchers to develop an antibody which would specifically target cancerous cells, avoiding healthy cells and counteracting the harmful side effects of radiation and chemotherapy.

By the end of his PhD, Sam and his team had proven the concept of their therapy and now several laboratories in the UK are working with the antibody that they produced, researching new therapies for leukaemia, bone-marrow transplants and gene therapy.

Following the award of his doctorate last year, Sam was appointed as a Post Doctorate Research Associate at Imperial College London – an institution renowned globally for its scientific research. Sam is based in the Royal British Legion Centre for Blast Studies, working in a team alongside other scientists, doctors, engineers and physicists, finding new methods for helping damaged nerves to repair themselves. This groundbreaking research not only has the potential for great impact in the recovery of victims of conflict, it could also have much wider impact in the development of therapies for paralysis, traumatic brain injury and Alzheimer’s disease.

“I am hugely grateful to everyone who supported my scholarship, because without those donations I could not have afforded to work towards my doctorate on a subject that I feel so passionately about. Without the funding from alumni I could not have progressed to this exciting point in my career and I cannot express eloquently enough how thankful I am.”

Dr Emma Alleyne – 2008 Scholar

Having originally come to Kent from Toronto in Canada to complete a Master’s Degree in Forensic Psychology, Emma returned to Canterbury in 2008 to undertake a PhD researching the psychological characteristics of gang-involved youth in the UK.

Emma’s research tackled an aspect of UK society previously under researched, as historically the majority of gang culture research (approximately 95%) had been done in the US.

Emma sought to answer the question of why two individuals can grow up in the same social environment and one will become a gang member and the other won’t. She conducted an extensive pilot study comparing gang and non-gang members in schools in London gathering data on 800 students between 12 and 18 years of age.

Emma is now a lecturer in Forensic Psychology at Kent, using the knowledge and skills from her studies to teach the next generation of Kent graduates. She hopes to apply the findings from her PhD to aid the current international intervention and prevention programmes targeting gangs.

Dr Kirsten Haack – 2001 Scholar

After thoroughly enjoying her first degree at Kent studying a Master’s in International Conflict Analysis in 1998-99, Kirsten was thrilled to return to Kent in 2001 to undertake a PhD in International Relations. Her research explored the role that democracy has played and continues to play in the United Nations agenda.

At the time Kirsten was contemplating a PhD, funding for EU students was scarce. It was only by being selected for the prestigious Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship that Kirsten was able to fulfil her research ambitions at Kent.

With the funding, Kirsten could study full time and work a few hours each week as a seminar teacher in the Department of Politics and International Relations. This opportunity helped her to secure her first teaching post at the Open University. Kirsten’s academic career has gone from strength to strength and in 2010 she was appointed Senior Lecturer in International Politics at Northumbria University. In 2011 she published her first book titled ‘The United Nations Democracy Agenda’.

Kirsten told us: “I cannot emphasise enough how valuable the alumni scholarship was in affording me the kind of career and life I hoped for. I hope that Kent alumni will continue to support young researchers long into the future.”
Mark was brought up in Surrey and was educated at Epsom College prior to coming to Kent where he gained a 2:1 in Politics. His first job was at the commercial station Radio Tees in Stockton where he first learned his trade, from reporting to newsreading. In 1989 he became a BBC political correspondent.

In 2005, having covered three British general elections, Mark became the BBC’s first Europe Editor. He was based in Brussels but covered a wide variety of stories, both about the European Union – such as the push for more common environmental policies and the fate of the Lisbon treaty – and within EU countries, such as the rise of UKIP, the election of Sarkozy and the economic crisis in Spain and Greece. He also reported from countries aspiring to join the EU, from Serbia to Turkey. Mark hopes that he brought a new focus on European politics and the impact it has on the lives of people in the UK.

In 2010 he became the BBC’s America Editor based in Washington and has covered the rise of the tea party, the Gulf oil spill and the killing of Bin Laden among many other stories. Mark is currently leading the BBC’s coverage of the 2012 Presidential election.

What made you decide to come to Kent?

One good reason and one bad: the main reason was because the Politics course was so wide ranging, with so much choice that it made many other universities seemed narrow and prescriptive. It meant I could avoid subjects I thought boring, like British and American politics. I was wrong in that, of course, but it has made covering them a joyful voyage of discovery!

What is your favourite memory of Kent?

I think all the gigs I went to at the height of the punk revolution, particularly pogoing up against the stage to Siouxsie and the Banshees. But it can’t be separated from my first journalistic experience – writing up reviews of those gigs for the paper Incant and putting the music page together with friends at the Maidstone printing works.

What have you been up to since graduating?

Apart from getting married and having three lovely kids? I did a course in radio journalism and have been a journalist ever since. I started off in commercial radio in Teeside, then in Leeds then at LBC/RN. I joined the BBC as a political correspondent, had a great time particularly working on Newsnight. When I felt I had mined the seam of British politics as much as I could, I became the BBC’s first Europe editor, and for the last two years I have been North America editor.

What would be your perfect day?

With the family, driving around somewhere I have never been before which has beautiful countryside. Making the beach in time for a leisurely lunch, a snooze, a read (perhaps a new Culture novel by Iain M Banks) and a swim. A massage. And then a new city, with fascinating little squares. Stumbling across somewhere lively in the evening with great music. Discovering an amazing restaurant that specialises in a cuisine I have never heard about. Coming back to a plush hotel to find I have won the lottery.

What was your first job?

I had a dreadful holiday job for the Reader’s Digest which involved opening competition answers and putting the “gold” plastic keys enclosed into a bin. But my first proper job was at Radio Tees in Stockton, reporting the news, and reading the bulletins. Including an item called “news of the moos” which was about cattle prices. I loved it.

Which word or phrase do you use most?

“A sort of vague Epicurean Humanism.”

What (if anything) would you like to change about yourself?

Most things. I’d particularly like a new body, please. I would also like it to come equipped with artistic talent, the ability to be fluent in 10 languages and an expertise in an obscure martial art. If you can arrange that, it would be great.

Which country would you most like to visit?

China. I studied it at Kent and find it the most fascinating country in the world, but I have not yet made it there.

What is your greatest achievement since graduating?

Having wonderful children.

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

Just get on with it.

Who or what inspires you?

A sort of vague Epicurean Humanism.

Where do you see yourself in ten years’ time?

Running a small beach bar somewhere gorgeous, while finally writing both ‘the novel’ and a master work on political power, but occasionally going off on incredibly exciting, fascinating and extraordinarily well paid reporting assignments. Maybe I’ll settle for being well and alive and with those I love.
News from the colleges

As always, the colleges at Kent are a hive of activity. To keep you up-to-date with the latest news, we’re introducing updates from the colleges as a new regular feature to the magazine. This month we hear from Eliot and Keynes about some recent activities and future plans...

Keynes news:  
All change!

Greetings to all! I want to introduce myself as the new Master; I’m extremely excited about my new role and the potential to build lasting relationships with current and past students.

My new assistant, Gemma Harris, and I are busy building on the legacy of my predecessor, Michael Hughes, focussing on the environment and the life of Keynes. As always we are supported by a strong college committee led by president Ryan Parsons.

This year we wish to focus on the passion of many Keynes students, the duck pond. Events we’re exploring are ‘Adopt a duck’ and ‘Duck day’ to include fun filled activities toward raising monies to renovate the much loved duck pond and to document the life of our duck family. We have already opened invitations for a Duck Warden, a role created by former master, Dave Reason, and have received a great deal of interest from our Freshers.

In addition we’re looking to develop our welfare activities and support of the arts via professional and community exhibitions, promoting awareness of particular issues. Plans are afoot to bring Bobby Baker’s internationally acclaimed Diary Drawings to the college to build awareness around mental health, and a local school-based Christmas tree exhibition.

We are of course always keen to hear news of our alumni. We will keep you informed about upcoming events in the hope that you may be able to join us, and I look forward to meeting you in the future!

Best wishes,
Sian Stevenson

Celebrating Eliot

As Master of Eliot, I have been working closely with the Estates department to enhance the look of the College and its grounds, and as part of this initiative the cloister garden has received some attention. The rose arbour has been cleared, repainted and replanted with creepers; the lime tree has been pruned; and there has been new planting around the walls. Seating will be installed to create a pleasant space for students, staff and visitors to sit and enjoy the garden. In the College entrance courtyard old notice-boards have been removed, and replaced with a series of framed posters commemorating T.S. Eliot. We also have plans to install a heritage board illustrating the history of the College by the entrance.

I am very keen to make contact with any graduates who are keen to share photographs and memories of their time at the University – please contact me via the alumni team.

Recently, a lecture was held at the University of Kent to celebrate Eliot College’s links with T.S. Eliot on the anniversary of the poet and dramatist’s birth 26 September. Professor Kenneth Pickering delivered a fascinating lecture, in which he discussed how T.S. came to write his play, Murder in the Cathedral, about the death of Archbishop Thomas Becket.

The lecture was followed by a harp recital by University of Kent student Emma Murton, and students from Musical Theatre who performed music from Cats, and other Andrew Lloyd Webber works. The event was well attended attracting local people, University students and staff, and a couple from Spokane, USA! The College plans to establish an annual ‘T.S. Eliot Day’, and we hope that alumni will be able to join us to celebrate this in the future!

Best wishes,
Stephen Burke
The lack of available space for our members to take part in activities and participate in the Union continues to be an issue. This year, our officers’ priority campaign is ‘Building Up’ and focuses on demonstrating to the University our need for a new Union building. We are asking all current and previous students here to get involved so if you think you can help us reach our goal please contact Hannah Wallington on h.wallington@kent.ac.uk.

The profile of sport has risen significantly across campus with the launch of TeamKent – an inclusive programme which brings together every single sports team to compete under one name. Through this project we hope to encourage greater participation in sport, to celebrate the successes of our athletes and to highlight the great work all our volunteers do in the local community. Find out more at www.facebook.com/TeamKent

After a hectic summer planning and preparing to welcome this year’s new students to Kent, we are now full steam ahead for term one. Welcome Week was a great success in September, with a bigger Welcome Fayre than ever before and students enjoying a wide range of activities on the campus. We saw record numbers of students joining sports clubs and societies last year, meaning that our Fayre had to grow to accommodate all of them.

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Kent Sport

Major sports redevelopment – phase two begins

The £4.8 million major redevelopment of the sporting facilities on the Canterbury campus has moved into its second phase. Graham Holmes, Director of Kent Sport and Ben Tratt, Assistant Director (Operations), officially marked the building of a covered structure at the Sports Pavilion with a sod cutting ceremony.

Graham commented: ‘It’s an exciting time for sport at Kent. Work is well underway on our major fitness suite extension, new larger dance studio and third sports hall, and now I’m pleased to officially mark the build of our covered structure. It will be a fantastic addition to our already extensive and expanding facilities.’

The new structure, which will open in early 2013, will provide three indoor tennis/netball courts which can also be used for other activities. The three remaining outdoor courts will also be resurfaced.

For the latest news, updates and photos of the sports redevelopments visit www.kent.ac.uk/sports/future

Alumni memberships

A special discounted Kent Sport membership is available to University of Kent alumni. The membership allows unlimited visits, entry to all fitness and dance classes, use of the fitness suite and all sports facilities. Members also enjoy discounts on courses, personalised fitness assessments and exercise programmes.

Kent Sport alumni memberships offer great value for money with an off-peak membership (only gym access affected) at £287 and peak at £313; a saving of £97 against a public membership.

You can learn more about Kent Sport memberships on our website at www.kent.ac.uk/sports or by visiting the Sports Centre or Sports Pavilion on the Canterbury campus.
Getting to know...

Amy Hammett, 2012 Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholar

Amy graduated from Kent in 2009 with a BA Honours in Classical and Archaeological Studies. Having completed her Masters in Ancient Egyptian Culture at Swansea University, Amy is returning to Kent as the 2012 Alumni Postgraduate Research scholar studying for a PhD in Classical and Archaeological Studies, exploring the mystery of Ancient Egyptian clay ball artefacts.

How did you feel when you found out you had been selected for the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship?

I was surprised and really excited. I always thought that only people who had First degrees got scholarships but the panel clearly responded to my passion for my research and I am looking forward to getting started and repaying the faith that they showed in me. I can't believe that alumni are so generous and I’m incredibly thankful for their support.

What is your research about?

My PhD is an expansion of my Masters research, and seeks to uncover the purposes of clay ball artefacts found at locations in Egypt. With this funding from alumni I plan to examine all the clay balls located in UK collections as well as some German collections, which was something I was not able to do in my Masters.

Research in this area has been very limited in the past, with only a few papers published on the subject. No clear practical use for the artefacts has been discovered, so my hope is that through my research I will be able to unlock their mystery, potentially uncovering a ritual that gives us insight into this ancient civilisation.

What are your goals for the first year of your PhD?

My focus is on the development of the first database of its type for the collections I’m studying. The database will include specifics about each artefact, such as location, inscription, colour, size and content. Alongside the database I will where possible create an image reference catalogue which will act as a guide for researchers when more balls are discovered in the future. I will look for as many artefacts as possible, searching for mentions in publications, looking in online museum catalogues and in some cases visiting museums to examine them personally.

I will undertake experiments to attempt to uncover who made the clay balls and why they made them, examining aspects such as the hieroglyphic inscriptions found on the surface of some of the balls and contents found within them such as hair, papyrus and linen.

So far some of the balls found have been discarded or simply ignored by archaeologists, having been misinterpreted as waste clay rather than valuable research artefacts. I will seek to uncover as many of these lost pieces as possible, all of which will be examined and incorporated into my database.

How will you use the funding you have received from the alumni community?

Without the donations from alumni I would not be able to do my PhD at Kent, as I couldn’t afford to live in Canterbury or afford the trips to and from museums. With the alumni funding I’m able to cover all my living costs here in Canterbury and come on campus whenever I need to, to see my supervisor and spend time in the library or to attend university workshops and events. There are language courses also on campus, and this month I start a German course which should prove hugely beneficial for my PhD as lots of research on Egyptology is written in German.

What are your long term ambitions?

Eventually I would like to become a lecturer and in pursuit of that goal I aim to build my reputation through writing publications for journals such as the Journal of Egyptian Archaeology. I also hope to write a book someday.

What aspect of your PhD are you most looking forward to?

I am most looking forward to putting my theoretical research into practice and examining the physical items in detail. I am also looking forward to becoming more a part of the academic community, gaining respect from my peers and making a lasting contribution to my field.
The incredible achievements of our Olympians and Paralympians this summer demonstrated just how much a person can achieve in the right environment and with the right support.

The goal of the Kent Scholarships Campaign is to help highly talented and motivated students to fulfil their academic aspirations at Kent, by providing them with the financial support they need to complete their studies.

Over the years, donations have helped to fund wide ranging, innovative research into some of the world’s biggest challenges including: deforestation, cancer therapy, conservation and gang culture. The Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship is the only University scholarship funded by Kent graduates in support of other Kent graduates, so by making a donation to the Kent Scholarships Campaign you are helping another Kent graduate to return to Kent to carry out world changing research.

The Kent Scholarships Campaign also raises money in support of the Alumni Hardship Fund which provides hardship bursaries to students who encounter unexpected financial difficulty during their degree. These students face the risk of having to drop out of university indefinitely, and a hardship bursary gives them the financial help they need to complete their degree and go on to the career they always dreamed of.

Your donation will transform a student’s life. With support from alumni like you, Kent graduate Sam Godfrey was able to return to Kent to develop a new cancer therapy treatment and since acquiring his doctorate last year is now working on life changing nerve damage repair research at Imperial College London. He singles out alumni and their support for helping to get him where he is today.

Read more about some of the students who have been helped through the Kent Scholarships Campaign on page 14.

Interested in postgraduate study at Kent? Visit www.kent.ac.uk/postgrad for more information.

Every gift makes a difference!

If 40 alumni gave a gift of just £20 each with Gift Aid, we could provide a hardship bursary of £1,000 to a student at Kent.

Help us to help other passionate individuals like Sam. Make your donation today by filling out and returning the form included with this magazine, or make a donation online at www.kent.ac.uk/giving
Over recent years, the University of Kent has made significant investment in the facilities available to its students, from the major redevelopment of four laboratories in the School of Physical Sciences, to the investment in the School of Arts in both Medway and Canterbury, and the development of the Colyer-Fergusson Music Building (see pages 6-7).

Over the summer, considerable work has been undertaken to further improve the Canterbury campus, replacing old footpaths, refreshing facades of buildings, and internal upgrades to Ingram, Stacey and Jennison as well as refurbishing lecture theatres, seminar rooms and public spaces.

Refurbishing Grimond

Designed and managed by the Estates Department, significant improvements to the Grimond Building have included the creation of two new welcoming and prominent foyers, and the upgrading of all lecture theatres and seminar rooms.

Externally, the green ‘Living Wall’ provides an inspirational focus to the building that continues with the enhancement of the surrounding landscape.

Both the Aphra and Lumley studios have also been fully modernised over the summer vacation, along with an extension to the Gulbenkian Theatre dressing rooms.

Transforming the Templeman Library

The facilities and services offered by the Templeman Library have developed considerably since its opening in 1968, with large numbers of PCs, wireless provision, group study rooms, a café, online resources such as journals and e-books, self-service and late-night opening now offered alongside the more traditional services and facilities such as a large physical book collection and quiet study and research space.

Over the years the size of the Library has increased slightly to accommodate its growing collection and the arrival of new technologies, but growth in student numbers and the increasing popularity of the Library means the Library accommodates up to 9,000 users a day during busy periods. With increasing demands for more and better space and improved facilities and resources, it is clear that redevelopment and extension of the facilities is needed to ensure that Kent can continue to provide an excellent service to students and the local community.

Work on the Templeman Library extension and refurbishment is expected to begin in July 2013, with the work completing in summer 2015 in time for the University’s 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Initial proposals for this project have now been generated and the planning application is being prepared. Work to develop the external look and feel of the building is progressing well, and the project team is now considering how the space within the extended and remodelled building should be laid out. There will be an exhibition in the Templeman Library from 12-23 November 2012 with artists’ impressions of the exterior and plans of how the internal space may be arranged.

Throughout this process careful attention is being paid to meeting the original brief for the building. A consultative group, made up of student representatives and staff will have input into the project at every stage. You can follow the latest developments about the project at: www.kent.ac.uk/is/projects/templeman
Emeritus Professor Robert F Hudson, FRS (1922 – 2012)

Bob Hudson, an exceptionally talented physical organic chemist, was Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Kent, Canterbury, between 1967 and 1985. He was born on 15th December, 1922, and died on 19th August, 2012.

Following his education at Brigg Grammar School, in Lincolnshire (1933-1940), Bob took an accelerated (18-month!) course leading to a first class honours BSc degree in Chemistry at Imperial College, London, completing his PhD degree there in 1945. He then continued at Imperial as an Assistant Lecturer until 1947 before joining Queen Mary College, London, as a Lecturer in Chemistry for twelve years (1947-1959). Having already established a number of industrial consultancies, at this point Bob took the rather bold step of leaving academia to become Group Director (Theoretical Organic Chemistry) at the Cynamid European Research Institute, Geneva, Switzerland, during the period 1960 to 1966. In the later stages of this appointment he commenced his move to Canterbury, but although he was involved with planning the original second- and third-year courses for the Honours Chemistry BSc degree and with appointing the group of Chemistry teaching staff who joined in October 1966, Bob himself did not formally take up his position at Kent until January 1967.

Professor Hudson’s early scientific work was concerned with the study of wool, and his book Wool – Its Physics and Chemistry, (Chapman Hall 1954, 2nd Edn. 1960) was co-authored with P.Alexander. However, Bob’s most significant contributions were concerned mainly with pioneering the applications of quantum mechanical methods to the study of the mechanisms of organic chemical reactions, with particular reference to the chemistry of organophosphorus compounds, which resulted in his seminal text Structure and Mechanism in Organophosphorus Chemistry (Academic Press, 1965). This line of research continued actively at Kent, involving many graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and visiting international collaborators. The outstanding quality of Bob’s work was recognised in 1982 by his election to the prestigious Fellowship of the Royal Society, to-date the only serving staff member at Kent ever to have been accorded this honour.

During his tenure as the Chair of Organic Chemistry, Bob Hudson did much to establish and foster the international reputation of Chemistry at Kent, and he held a succession of visiting professorships at Rochester (NY), Bergen, Paris, Calgary, Mainz, and Queen’s University, Ontario. He was also very active professionally, serving various terms as a member of the Councils of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and of the Dalton (ie Inorganic) and Perkin (Organic) Divisions of that Society. Between 1970 and 1976 he was also Vice-President of the Institute of Science and Technology, the professional body representing technical and managerial scientific staff.

In his personal life Bob was very much a caring family man, and he and his late wife Monica, who tragically died in 2000, are survived by their son Martin and twin daughters Sally and Mary, together with grandchildren Claire, Alison and Mark, to whom our sympathies go out at this sad time.

Those who knew Bob will remember him fondly as a cheerful, highly enthusiastic, stimulating and loveable, if sometimes irascible, colleague, who always demanded high standards both of himself and of others.

John F J Todd

Professor Vojin Dimitrijević (1932 – 2012)

Professor Vojin Dimitrijević, Yugoslav Human Rights activist, Chevalier of the Légion d’honneur, who was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Kent in 2002, passed away in Belgrade in October at the age of 81. Professor Dimitrijević was Director of the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights and a key figure in mobilising the forces of law against the violence of the regime of Slobodan Milošević.

Vojin, a professor of law at Belgrade University in 1998 when the government imposed a ‘Law of Universities’ enabling it to purge independent researchers and critics of the state, joined colleagues in striking, was suspended, and, when reinstated, retired. At that point he was able to commit himself fully to the Belgrade Centre, which he had established in 1995, and led it in its campaigns to educate the public in democracy, rights and the rule of law and to resist human rights violations in Serbia, Kosovo and Montenegro. Vojin authored and co-authored numerous books and textbooks on international law and human rights and published more than 250 articles in Serbian and English. At the time of his death friends and family were commenting on the irony that the fifth of October was the twelfth anniversary of the resignation of Milošević, a resignation forced by mass demonstrations against his rule.

Vojin became a member of the Council of Europe’s Venice Commission in 2000, joined the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague in 2001, and was a commissioner on, and then a member of the board of directors of, the International Commission of Jurists. In July 2002 Kent made Vojin, who had worked closely with Professor John Groom and myself and whose son and daughter in law had carried out post-graduate research at the university, a Doctor of Civil Law.

Elizabeth Cowie and I had the pleasure of being with Vojin and his family at the time of his death. The photograph below, taken at a family barbecue on the preceding day, indicates that the joie de vivre which impelled his full life was with him till his sudden and unexpected end.

Glenn Bowman
Earlier this year, the Alumni Office was delighted to hear from two former students, Jeanne and John Hughes from the United States, who met at Kent during a Junior Year Abroad in 1997. Joining Kent from opposite sides of the country, John from Pennsylvania State University, and Jeanne from the University of California in San Diego, they were thrown together when they shared a house in Thorndean Court in Park Wood. One of the highlights of their year at Kent was having the opportunity to meet fellow students from all over the world, and they made many lifelong friends, with whom they are still in touch today.

Now residing in California with their young sons Owen and Everett, Jeanne works as communications director for Kaiser Permanente, and John is the co-founder and president of products for technology company TubeMogul.

They were determined to return to Kent to celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary in the place where they met, and it was a real pleasure for us to help them find a keen student photographer to record their visit, and we wish them all the very best for the future. Congratulations!

If you met your partner here, have a story to share about your time at the University, or need any help in finding old friends; please don’t hesitate to contact the alumni team on alumni@kent.ac.uk. We’d love to hear from you and possibly feature you in a future issue of KENT!

Key:

D Darwin | E Eliot
K Keynes | R Rutherford
W Wolf

The year given is the year that each person commenced their studies at Kent, and the location at the end of each entry is from the mailing address we have for each individual. Please let us know if any corrections are required. To submit an entry, simply register on the alumni website and follow the links to Class Notes. You’ll be able to post updates, and search for news from your classmates. Alternatively, email us at alumni@kent.ac.uk.

1960s

Daley, Ed (Rutherford) Retired 2006. West Midlands. (03/10/12)
Massie, Pat (Rutherford) I am a carer, Governor for Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust, and active on a number of mental health and housing committees. Also an active USA member in French, German and Italian. Lincolnshire. (06/08/12)
Dalmazzo-Auckland, Sergio (Rutherford) Now retired for 7 years and still loving it! I volunteered to help out at our local Hospital radio station, and ended up as Chief Engineer and taking them on to a real FM license from Ofcom. Built two studios and all the IT and RF system. That was two years ago, still do a bit of light(!) maintenance and keep the studios up to date.
Spending even more time in France, and still working on my HiFi...last job was to take a pair of B&W studio monitors (801F) and make them active. HiFi nerds will know what that means, everyone else will be seriously underwhelmed.
About to be presented with a third Grandchild, from son this time (or rather, his lady). Life’s good. Hope it lasts! Suffolk. (01/08/12)

1970s

Ruffles, Tom (Rutherford) Living in Cambridge. Currently researching career of pioneer filmmaker George Albert Smith. My blog can be found at http://tomruffles.blogspot.co.uk/ Cambridgehire. (09/08/12)
Georgopapadakos, Michael (Rutherford) I worked for 4 years in the private and 24 years in the public domain in Greece as an analyst-programmer of electronic computers (except the 4 final years, that I worked as a simple office clerk). Currently unemployed waiting to be retired. Piraeus, Greece. (29/09/12)
Spriggs, Jim (Eliot) I’ve been living near Munich and in sight of the Bavarian Alps for over 24 years – looks like being a very long innings indeed, especially after having acquired dual nationality a couple of years ago. Married, 2 daughters, and a dirty great BMW bike. Contact me through the Development office. Türkenfeld, Germany. (17/09/12)
Wood, Simon (Rutherford) Still in the unequal struggle of manufacturing industry. Whilst body and soul remain reasonably intact I continue to play cricket and managed the Brighton Half Marathon with Graeme East in February. Getting married again in Eastbourne in June 2012 and hope to have over a dozen old faces from UKC in attendance, though a pre event football game is unlikely. East Sussex. (07/06/12)
Hughson, Lynne (Keynes) Living in Oxfordshire but escaping to France for holidays whenever we can. No longer working but finding lots to do including beekeeping! Oxfordshire. (10/06/12)
1990s

Akudi, Ismail (Rutherford) Who can forget the magic, the fun and the carefree days of UKC, the most glorious years of my life – the Park Wood Parties. What would I not give to go back, even for 5 minutes? Having a mixed bag of a career after UKC but currently working as a Business Development Manager for Software AG Professional Services in the UK. Would love to hear from anyone remembers me – most people knew me as Ish and never remembered my full name! Derbyshire. (15/08/12)

Pritchard, Graham (Darwin) I am now in the role of curriculum leader of humanities and living in Rayleigh, Essex. I am married and have a 3 year old daughter. Essex. (15/08/12)

2000s

Scott, Mich (Keynes) Mich Brown now with Shell Oil, Kent. (05/01/12)

Only Connect

Lost touch with an old friend? The Kent alumni database may be able to help. If we have a current address for them, we would be happy to forward a message from you. If we too have lost touch, Only Connect, which is printed in Kent twice a year and broadcast on the Web monthly, may get a response: And please, if you do connect, let us know.

1960s

Ron Bonner (Rutherford 1968) wltf Felicity Smith (Eliot 1970)

1970s

Frank Sturrock (Darwin 1970) wltf John Mcleod (Darwin 1970) and Paul Raffell (Darwin 1969); Nigel Watte (Keynes 1970) wltf Judith Davis (Keynes 1970); Manije Nazery (Rutherford 1971) wltf Anthea Elliott (Rutherford 1972); Stephanie Godwin (Wardlaw) (Eliot 1972) wltf William Smith (Eliot 1971)

1980s

Claire Campbell (Boulter) (Darwin 1984) wltf Gerda Van Den Bergh (Darwin 1984) and Beverley Thomas (Darwin 1984) and Elizabeth Stubbs (Darwin 1984)

1990s

Laura Gennari (Eliot 1992) wltf Giovanna Dummall (Eliot 1991)

In memoriam

Since the last issue of KENT Magazine 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.

Neil Alitchison K69
Alan Allcock R90
Veronica Craig-Mair E92
Hazel McCabe (former member of the University Court)
Professor Derek Morgan R72
Professor Locksley Smaller (former staff)
Peter Thomas K68
Daphne Zepos E77

In the last edition of KENT magazine we incorrectly listed Alan Langford E67 in our In Memoriam section. We have apologised to Alan for this error.
**Gulbenkian Theatre highlights**

www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian

**Thursday 29 November, 1.30pm & 7.30pm**

The exhibition, John Blackburn – And God Cried! from 24 September to 14 December 2012. Opening times are Monday to Friday 9am-5pm and admission is free. For more information, see http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/wordsforpictures/2012/02/02/john-blackburn-atstudio-3-gallery/

**Tuesday 11 – Sunday 23 December**

Tall Stories presents: The Snow Dragon. Billy has everything a young goat could need – and more besides. On New Year's Eve, Billy's parents tell him about the legendary Snow Dragon, who will bring him even more goodies during the night. Story-telling, comedy and songs create a magical, mysterious world for everyone aged three and up.

**Sunday 25 November, 7.30pm**

YolanDa Brown: MOBO Award winning saxophonist and Kent alumna YolanDa Brown is regarded as the emerging “voice” of mainstream Jazz in the UK.

**Sunday 2 December, 7.30pm**

Imran Yusuf: Bring The Thunder!! – a show about pursuing your dreams and ambitions with unrelenting enthusiasm and perseverance.

**Thursday 6 December, 7.30pm**

Ballet Theatre UK: A Christmas Carol. Join Ballet Theatre UK on a magical journey to the dark and twisting streets of old Dickensian London including beautifully hand crafted costumes and stage sets that conjure up the delightful world of old Dickensian London perfectly.

**Friday 7 December, 7.30pm**

Phil Cool: The World’s ONLY Stand-Up Chameleon. One of the country’s finest and most original comedians and impressionists, Phil Cool punctuates his show with a wealth of hilarious anecdotes, observations and routines that make him as funny and unique today as he was during the 80s.

**Studio 3 Gallery**

The exhibition, John Blackburn – And God Cried! from 24 September to 14 December 2012. Opening times are Monday to Friday 9am-5pm and admission is free. For more information, see http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/wordsforpictures/2012/02/02/john-blackburn-atstudio-3-gallery/

**Alumni events**

**Canterbury pub night**

Thursday 29 November, 6pm onwards. The Parrot

Kent alumni are warmly invited to join us for informal drinks at The Parrot in Canterbury. It will be a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and perhaps to meet some new ones! To register to join us, please email alumni@kent.ac.uk

**Frankfurt alumni gathering**

Thursday 20 December, 6pm – 8pm, YOURS Bars, Frankfurt

Alumni in the Frankfurt area are invited to join us at an alumni gathering in the city, where you’ll have the opportunity to meet with other former Kent students in the area. To register, please email alumni@kent.ac.uk

**London pub night**

13 March 2012, The Drift

Kent alumni are warmly invited to join us for informal drinks at The Drift in London. It will be a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and perhaps to meet some new ones! To register to join us, please email alumni@kent.ac.uk

**Paris Open Lecture and reception**

Spring 2012, University of Kent at Paris

An open lecture and reception for alumni and friends of the University of Kent in Paris. For further information, email alumni@kent.ac.uk

**Gulbenkian Cinema highlights**

**Friday 30 November, The Rocky Horror Picture Show (12a)**

**Sunday 9 December, Casablanca (U)**

**Thursday 13 December**

The Nutcracker. Live Ballet transmission from The Royal Opera House

**Friday 14 – Thursday 20 December, Great Expectations (12a)**

**Sunday 16 December, It’s A Wonderful Life (U)**

**Sunday 23 December, White Christmas (U)**

**Sunday 27 January, Bolshoi Live: La Bayadere**

**Brussels Open Lecture and reception**

Spring 2012, University of Kent at Brussels

An open lecture and reception for alumni and friends of the University of Kent in Brussels. For further information, email alumni@kent.ac.uk

**Hong Kong alumni reception**

April 2012

A reception for alumni and friends of the University of Kent in Hong Kong. For further information, email alumni@kent.ac.uk

**Malaysia alumni reception**

April 2012

A reception for alumni and friends of the University of Kent in Malaysia. For further information, email alumni@kent.ac.uk

**House of Commons alumni reception**

Thursday 18 April, The Terrace Room, House of Commons

We are delighted to announce that an alumni reception will be taking place at the House of Commons, by kind permission of Emily Thornberry MP D79. For further information about the event, email alumni@kent.ac.uk

**Athens alumni reception**

17 May 2012

A reception for alumni and friends of the University of Kent in Athens. For further information, email alumni@kent.ac.uk

**Madrid alumni reception**

June 2012

A reception for alumni and friends of the University of Kent in Madrid. For further information, email alumni@kent.ac.uk