Welcome to the ninth edition of the Medway Staff Briefing we hope you find the items included of interest. Without your stories/updates it would not be possible to continue with these briefings, so a heartfelt thank you to members of staff who have contributed material.

**Congratulations to Kent Student Award winners**

Students, staff and their guests celebrated student success at the first ever Kent Student Awards ceremony on 31 May.

Some 200 nominations across nine categories were received for the awards, a joint initiative with Kent Union. Award-winners received £400 with a second prize of £100 and a third prize of Amazon vouchers worth £50.

Tom Currie, a third-year History student, was named Kent’s ‘Student of the Year’ for his amazing environmental initiatives and hard work, including the Ecoloco event, to make the University a greener place.

Award-winning students based at Medway campus included: Brogan Sargent, Sports Science (final year) - 2nd place in the Outstanding Contribution to Sport Development category ‘for her commitment to sports development at Medway through the Medway Student Committee and netball team’.

Jemma Collins, Journalism and the News Industry (final year) - Joint winner in Outstanding Contribution to Media and Communications ‘for her campaign work, volunteering and re-launching The Medwire’.

Kieran Watkins, Journalism and the News Industry (final year) - Joint 2nd Place in Outstanding Contribution to Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity ‘for his work as the LGBT Society’s President promoting equal rights and diversity’, and 2nd place in Outstanding Contribution to College Life ‘for his all-round contribution to the student experience at the Medway campus’.

For further information on all the award-winners, see: [www.kent.ac.uk/student/kentawards/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/student/kentawards/)

**New UKM Student Social Media Officer**

Natasha Asante, a first-year Accounting and Management student, is our new Social Media Officer for the Medway campus.

Natasha is responsible for keeping students up-to-date with Medway news and events via her Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts.

If you would like Natasha to feature your event or news on the UKM Student channels, please email [ukmstudenttw@kent.ac.uk](mailto:ukmstudenttw@kent.ac.uk)
Save the date - 50th anniversary year opening ceremony in Medway

There are fewer than 100 days until the launch of our 50th anniversary year and the beginning of the exciting programme of special projects and events to mark this significant milestone. Staff, students and alumni have designed - with the support of the 50th anniversary team – a year of celebrations that will give us all, and the wider Medway community, the chance of being involved at Kent’s campuses in the UK and its centres in Paris, Brussels, Athens and Rome.

The official opening ceremony at Medway will be on 2 October and following this the 50th anniversary celebrations will be taken to our alumni community around the world. There will be projects just for Medway and many will bring staff together from across all our great locations. Check out [www.kent.ac.uk/planningfor50/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/planningfor50/) for more information about the main events that will take place throughout the year. If you are planning an event and would like to link up with the 50th anniversary please email [50years@kent.ac.uk](mailto:50years@kent.ac.uk). The team can help provide, among other things, 50th anniversary resources and promotion, perhaps on the 50th website or in the programme of events.

As we take pride in our past, we will also celebrate the present; the people that make up the University of Kent, our inspiring places and global impact. The 50th anniversary team continue to capture staff memories and why ‘we are Kent.’ The student history projects are also busy gathering stories and oral histories from staff, students and alumni. Is there someone you know that is too modest to share their memories? Maybe you could give them a nudge for us. Filming days in Medway are planned for later in the summer, ahead of the 2 October launch.

There will be something for everyone and we have already seen our students in action ahead of the anniversary year. In June a team from the University of Kent Athletics and Cross Country Club completed a 211 mile run from the Canterbury campus to the Paris centre and have so far raised over £5,000 for Pilgrims Hospice. All students will have a chance to apply for funding from September 2014 to run their own 50th Anniversary student project. The full programme of projects and events will be published shortly and if you have been impressed with the runners maybe you will join the staff inter campus cycle ride!

**Find out more:**
Website: [www.kent.ac.uk/planningfor50/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/planningfor50/)
Twitter: @UniKent50
Facebook: /unikent50
Email: 50years@kent.ac.uk
Sports scientists in the media spotlight
Medway campus-based School of Sport and Exercise Sciences (SSES) experts have been making the BBC news headlines recently.

Dr James Hopker, Senior Lecturer in SSES, featured on BBC’s Radio One Newsbeat on 13 June running tests on reporter Steffan Powell in SSES’s atmosphere chamber. The tests, putting the reporter through his paces with a football fitness test in 30 degree heat and 80% humidity, were aimed at replicating the conditions England’s footballers will face playing in the World Cup in Brazil. See: http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/27821336

Dr Hopker was also interviewed by BBC Medical Correspondent Fergus Walsh for a report on the health benefits of cycling that was broadcast on 24 April on the BBC News at 6 and all regional BBC news programmes. Dr Hopker provided expert comment on the effects of ageing on human physiology and also assessed the fitness of Fergus Walsh as part of the piece. See: http://m.bbc.co.uk/news/health-27146342

SSES also showcased its world-leading research to the public when a team from the School took part in a national event at the Natural History Museum on 11 June. Kent was one of only 47 university’s selected to take part in the event, which formed part of Universities Week 2014, focusing on how universities engage with the public to demonstrate the way research can improve people’s lives.

Dr John Dickinson and the SSES team demonstrated to hundreds of schoolchildren and members of the public how their research improves the performance of elite athletes, including professional cyclists.

It is expected that SSES will receive further media attention for its pre-Tour de France conference in Leeds (2-3 July) on the science behind elite cycling performance. The conference has already attracted a range of high profile figures from the world of professional cycling with more big names to be confirmed. Find out more at: http://www.kent.ac.uk/wcss2014/

Medway Research Festival
The three universities that share the Medway Campus are organising a ‘Research Festival’, which will take place on Wednesday the 10th September in the Pilkington Building. The purpose of this event is to hear about the work going on within the three institutions, and to further develop the research culture on the site. Further details will be announced soon. Please contact Helen Leech: h.leech@kent.ac.uk for further information.
Medway Community Scholarships

This year has been a successful launch year for our first cohort of Medway community scholars. Since September, students from a range of disciplines have been responsible for the planning and implementation of their own projects with the aim to develop the student experience and utilise their own skills to benefit the local communities in Medway.

This rollercoaster year has seen the creation and live launch of a University of Kent record label and production of an original album, a creative community day which attracted 14 local families to enjoy creative sessions in puppetry, art, creative writing, psychology and sculpture, sports development at Delce Academy, 90 ‘NEET’ college-age young people engaged in music production and composition as well as the curation of a weeklong UK screening of F.I.V.E international film festival and sensory experience for local families. These ambitious endeavours have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the communities being targeted. Reading the students’ evaluation and self-reflections it is evident that they have felt pushed to develop and learn new skills in order to overcome the challenges they have faced.

The nature of the scholarship is student-driven and success relies upon receiving quality applications from students. We are therefore keen to come and talk to your students at welcome talks or we can send you a one-page presentation slide for you to add to your own welcome and student experience presentations. Any promotion you are able to do from posters to digital screens or mentioning it to students in tutorials would help to generate awareness of the programme and in turn will help students to benefit their community and produce good news stories.
Many thanks to the award panel; Peter Hatton and Duncan Macleod, Steve Meadows, Megan Wells, Mel Clelowl and Cllr Mike O’Brien as well as colleagues in the School of Music and Fine Art and Partnership Development Office for their ongoing support and promotion of the budding scheme this year. Our next challenge is to build these successes into an ongoing legacy for Medway.

For further information or to arrange for Kenny to talk to your students please contact k.budd@kent.ac.uk or visit: http://www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships/undergraduate/index.html?tab=medway

'Salute to the 40s' Weekend – The Historic Dockyard Chatham – 20/21 September 2014

The Historic Dockyard Chatham is offering all University of Kent staff and students (and up to 5 accompanying guests) the same admission rate to the ‘Salute to the 40s' weekend as the 12 month ticket holders. Staff and students will require their University of Kent ID cards to obtain these rates. This year the 12 month ticket holder’s prices are as follows:

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<th>On The Day</th>
<th>Online/In Advance</th>
<th>12 Month Ticket Holders</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>£16.00</td>
<td>£14.00</td>
<td>£9.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concession</td>
<td>£13.00</td>
<td>£11.00</td>
<td>£8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child</td>
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<td>Add. Family Child</td>
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Concession = Senior Citizen (60+), Student and HM Forces
Child = 5 – 15 years. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
Family = 2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children

Further details can be found on the website: http://www.thedockyard.co.uk/salutetothe40s

Medway Learning and Teaching Symposium Invitation

The inaugural Learning and Teaching Symposium at Medway was held on 4 December 2013 and was very well received by the staff who attended. We would like to see the Symposium become a regular feature on the Medway Learning and Teaching calendar and welcome your assistance in making this event a success.

You are invited to a planning meeting for the 2014 Medway Learning and Teaching Symposium scheduled for the latter half of Term 1. The planning meeting will take place at **12:15 to 2pm in the Boardroom, Rochester building.** A sandwich lunch will be provided. The first part of the meeting will cover how the L&T Network can support Medway staff and the second part of the meeting is an open session for staff to discuss and share curriculum design practice.

We are keen to have representation from every Medway School. To confirm your attendance or if you have any questions, please contact j.cohen@kent.ac.uk
Summer School at Medway
This summer, the University is hosting a summer school from “Kaplan International, a leading provider of English language courses and other study abroad programs”. Up to 140 students are staying at Liberty Quays and they will be having breakfast, lunch and dinner on a daily basis in our No 1 Bistro. Kaplan’s offices and teaching space is mainly in the Medway building and the school will be with us until 9th August. The summer school generates a substantial amount of income for the University and if everything goes well this summer, we anticipate them returning next year.

Centre for Professional Practice – Researching in Partnership
Centre for Professional Practice (CPP), has worked with Kent Innovation and Enterprise to secure a research enterprise fund of £450,000 to work in partnership with Health Education England Kent Sussex and Surrey (HEKSS) on a work-related initiative aimed at improving the oral health of older persons.

Following a highly successful, award winning, pilot project, the Improving Oral Health of Older Persons Initiative (IOHOPi) is setting out to improve the oral health of older persons within the counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The initiative will commence with the priority of improving oral health and healthcare principally for those older person residents in care homes within the three counties. By raising awareness of the importance of good oral health, both for quality of life and for general health, and by introducing work-based oral health training for carers within the residential care community, the initiative’s multi-professional dental team aim to establish a sustainable quality standard for the oral healthcare of older persons.

This work is interdisciplinary and involves multi-sectorial involvement. Head of CPP Debbie Reed will work with HEKSS Clinical Lead Dr Rob McCormick, Gerodontology Lead Dr Heather Lloyd and Dental Hygiene Lead Mike Wheeler, along with a number of other members of the HEKSS dental workforce, sector stakeholders, who will contribute to the initiative, which will last for 2 years.

For more information about CPP, and their partnerships with organisations and employers, as well as the post-graduate programmes, visit: http://www.kent.ac.uk/cpp/

Finally, please forward any articles for future briefings, dates below, to d.flockhart@kent.ac.uk

**Medway Staff Briefing No: 10**
Deadline for articles: **Friday 14th November 2014**
Friday 31st October 2014

**Medway Staff Briefing No: 11**
Deadline for articles: **Friday 27th March 2015**
Friday 13th March 2015

**Medway Staff Briefing No: 12**
Deadline for articles: **Friday 26th June 2015**
Friday 12th June 2015