Welcome to the twelfth edition of the Medway Staff Briefing we hope you find the items included of interest.

The University’s catering team is the proud winner of a prestigious award for its CARGO bar and bistro at Liberty Quays, Medway.

The award for ‘Best Bar Concept: Operated by the In-House Team’ was presented as part of the 2015 U Dine Awards. The awards, organised by the Menu Innovation Network, recognise and reward universities that are embracing and delivering the latest high street food and beverage trends to their students.

Since its opening in September 2014, CARGO has received a number of positive accolades. Its central location is a first for the University – combining the ‘high street experience’ with the care of a university outlet.

In keeping with its maritime base, CARGO’s nautical and industrial-style interior was designed by the architects Stiff + Trevillion (whose clients include Wagamama and Jamie Oliver), while the name CARGO was chosen by Kent students in an online poll.

Keith Williams, Kent Hospitality’s Head of Trading, said: ‘What makes CARGO so special is not only the functional, visually and ergonomically attractive design that clearly differentiates it from the competition; it’s the close knit team that run the unit on a daily basis.

‘The team go that extra mile to offer exceptional customer service, taking time to truly understand the needs of their mixed customer base and it’s paying huge dividends in terms of developing a loyal following.’

Footsteps Project
The Footsteps Project gives staff, students, alumni and friends of the University the opportunity to engrave a brick with a message that will then be set on the Crab & Winkle Path by the Templeman Library on the Canterbury campus. Over 170 bricks have been sponsored through The Footsteps Project so far, raising over £10,400 towards the Kent Opportunity Fund.
The Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) Annual Report
The Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) Report 2013/14 and 2014/15 Work Plan for Staff and Students has now been published. The full report can be accessed via www.kent.ac.uk/hr-equalityanddiversity/annualreports/annual-equality-report.html

Athena SWAN Awareness Day
The second Medway Athena SWAN Awareness Day took place on 7 May. Staff from both Medway and Canterbury attended, including those from the recently Bronze Award winning Schools: Biosciences, Computing and Pharmacy.

The Athena SWAN Working Group would like to thank all those who attended, for contributing to a lively and thought provoking discussion of the initiative. The Keynote Speaker, Lenna Cumberbatch gave a hugely enjoyable presentation, which was both thought provoking and accessible. Her speech was followed by a panel discussion, which was led by Mark Burchell, Dean of Sciences. Mark was joined by Iain Cumming (Head of the Medway School of Pharmacy), Louise Naylor (Director of the Unit for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching), Tracey Lamb (EDI Manager) and Lenna.

The lively debate continued into the workshop sessions, which focused on career planning for early career researchers, and promotion. In fact sessions overran, due to the enthusiasm of participants, and the importance of the issues being debated.

Transgender Awareness e-learning module
There are an estimated 500,000 trans people in the UK (Home Office statistics) and as part of our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment for all staff the Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity team would like to encourage you to access our new training module. This course aims to provide guidance on understanding;; supporting and working with trans colleagues and includes a range of video case studies and interactive quizzes. To access the resource visit the EDI Website at: www.kent.ac.uk/hr-equalityanddiversity/elearning

Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) – Medway Campus Update
The EDI staff team held a range of events during May at the Medway Campus. This included an induction training session for EDI Representatives. The event was organised following significant growth in the number of reps based at the Medway Campus. The session focused on the importance of this role to the University in helping to foster positive relations and also in communicating good practice with their colleagues. Further information about EDI representatives and the EDI Network can be accessed from www.kent.ac.uk/hr-equalityanddiversity

Monday 11 May saw the fourth annual day walk take place, the first to be held at the Medway Campus, which focused on visiting the Dockyard location. The Day Walk is an initiative arising from the Disability Staff Network, aiming to better understand the campus experience for disabled members of staff or students. The walk was led by Disability Staff Network Co-Chair Professor Keith Mander, and facilitated on the day by Lee Montgomery, Facilities Manager.
Friday 15 May also saw International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO) marked at the Medway Campus as the rainbow flag was proudly flown 18 May-25 May from the Rochester Building. The rainbow flag has been the international symbol for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities and social movements around the world since the 1970s.

On 20 May the staff Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, Women’s and Disability equalities networks alongside the University Chaplaincy Service and the EDI Network hosted a round table event. The event was attended by approximately 19 staff members and the afternoon provided an excellent opportunity for discussion, information sharing and engagement with the work of the equalities networks. The EDI staff team would like to thank all of those who contributed to this event either by hosting a round table or as a participant.

GK Unions Student Advice Centre
The GK Unions Student Advice Centre provides impartial, non-judgemental and professional advice to Greenwich and Kent students on a range of issues:

- Academic Discipline and Appeals
- Finances
- Housing
- Overseas issues
- General Advice on Welfare issues, consumer right, employment and discrimination.

We are based in the Pilkington Building and can see students by appointment or at a drop in session. We also run an advice line (01634 888855) and provide email advice (advice@gkunions.co.uk).

Please direct your students to contact us if you think we can help them in any way.

In addition please contact us if you would like us to speak to your students about our service at your week zero events.

Finally we would also be grateful for any other suggestions you may have as to how we raise our profile on campus to make sure students are aware of us when they need help.
Jill Plows (Manager) 01227 824209
Paul West (Senior Student Adviser) x 8882
Lesley Clifton (Student Adviser) x 8899

No: 1 Bistro
The Bistro will be closed from Friday 26 June until late August so that staff can cater for the summer language school.

Complimentary tea/coffee will be available to staff in R2-04 throughout this period.

Cargo will be open from 12 noon each day offering a full meal and beverage service to staff and students and the Touchdown Café at Rowan Williams Court is open from Monday to Thursday 8.00 to 18.30 and on Fridays from 08.30 to 16.00.
PhD writing retreat - 22 June to 23 June 2015
This year the first Medway PhD writing retreat was organised by the Student Learning Advisory Service and supported by the Medway Dean’s Office. The retreat took place over two days at Brenley farm near Faversham. Four PhD students took part; Jadwiga Krzeczek (SSPSSR) who is researching student transitions out of university; Liam Barnard (SMFA) who is analysing the impact of world music; Emily Hayday (Sport and Exercise Science) who is researching the Olympic legacy on four emerging sports; Richard Pendry (School of Journalism) who is writing a critical history of war reporting and the retreat was facilitated by Louise Frith (SLAS) who is researching students’ experiences of peer mentoring.

The retreat is a chance for researchers to get away from the demands and distractions of work and life to focus on their reading and writing. It also offers a supportive environment for students to get motivated to write and provides an opportunity to discuss the craft of writing. All attendees found the retreat useful and many exceeded their goals for writing.

An outcome of the retreat was the recognition that a weekly writing café for PhD students could be established and SLAS is currently in the process of arranging this. It is hoped that the Medway PhD writing retreat will become an annual event, so if you are interested in attending next year or if you would like to find out more about the PhD writing café please contact Louise Frith: ljf@kent.ac.uk

Summer BBQs for staff to celebrate Kent's special birthday
All University of Kent staff are invited to a lunchtime BBQ hosted by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, to celebrate Kent’s 50th anniversary year.

Individual registration is required for the BBQs, which will take place on the Registry Lawn in Canterbury on 1 July, 12.00 to 14.00, and outside No. 1 Bistro in Medway on 3 July, 13.00-15.00.

There will be good food and drink, free to all who attend, and the chance to find out how new staff can join one of Kent’s colleges: Darwin, Eliot, Keynes, Medway, Rutherford, Turing and Woolf. There will even be a sorting hat to help those who can’t decide! In Canterbury, at 13.30, all staff will have the chance to be in the Big 50 photo.

Canterbury BBQ registration – https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/vice-chancellors-50th-anniversary-staff-bbq-canterbury-tickets-17351507827

Medway BBQ registration – https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/vice-chancellors-50th-anniversary-staff-bbq-medway-tickets-17351578037