Welcome to the eighth edition of the Medway Staff Briefing, we hope you find the items included of interest. The next edition will be posted to Campus Online on Friday 27th June 2014. Please forward any articles to d.flockhart@kent.ac.uk by Friday 13th June 2014.

**Athena SWAN**

The Athena SWAN Working Group is pleased to invite all Medway staff to attend the first Medway Athena SWAN Awareness Day on Wednesday 2nd April 2014 at 9:30 in the Rochester Boardroom.

The University of Kent has committed to the Athena SWAN initiative, which aims to advance the representation of women in science, technology, engineering, medicine and mathematics (STEMM). You can find out more about the initiative, activity at Kent, and see a programme for the Awareness Day on the new Athena SWAN website: [http://www.kent.ac.uk/human-resources/athenaswan](http://www.kent.ac.uk/human-resources/athenaswan)

The programme for the day will include a speech from Professor Sarah Spurgeon about her experiences of studying and working in a traditionally male dominated field and a panel discussion during which you are welcome to ask questions and share your experiences.

There will be interactive workshop sessions and Peter Clarkson will share his experiences of being an Athena SWAN panellist.

To secure your place, please contact Jess Cockell [J.L.Cockell@Kent.ac.uk](mailto:J.L.Cockell@Kent.ac.uk)

**Nominations open for new Kent Student Awards**

The University, together with Kent Union, has launched a new awards scheme to celebrate student achievement in extra-curricular areas of university life.

The ‘Kent Student Awards 2014’ aims to attract nominations in nine categories representing outstanding contributions to the University through arts and culture; community spirit; sports development; entrepreneurship; the environment; media and communications; international/multicultural initiatives; equality, diversity and inclusivity; and college life. In addition, one of the winning students from these categories will also receive the ‘Student of the Year’ award.

Presented at a gala dinner in May, winners and runners-up will receive cash prizes, official recognition from the University and unique opportunities to gain new experiences as students and alumni. Runners-up will also receive a prize and all nominees will receive a certificate to recognise their contribution.

Nominations can be made by 28th March 2014 by students themselves, staff or members of the public. You can find out more about the award scheme, administered by Student Services, at [www.kent.ac.uk/studentawards](http://www.kent.ac.uk/studentawards)
Medway Induction Event for New Staff
Learning and Development will be holding a Medway Induction Event for New Staff on Wednesday 11th June 2014 at the Medway Campus. Staff that have recently joined the University but have not yet attended an Induction Event are welcome to attend.

Further details about the event will be available shortly, but please do contact the Learning and Development team in the meantime with any questions ldev@kent.ac.uk.

TÖNE festival – 20th – 22nd June 2014
This summer 2014 marks the first edition of a cultural event that aims to be both challenging and celebratory. TÖNE: a meeting of Sound and Light was instigated by two lecturers at the School of Music and Fine Art and is a festival of sonic and visual arts that explores the spaces, forms and durations that exist within and between these two overlapping fields. The festival centres on the Midsummer weekend of Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd June with a pre-festival programme that builds towards this weekend, from Monday 9th June onwards. TÖNE will activate and investigate sites along and around the Medway river at Chatham, with hubs at Sun Pier House, Fort Amherst, 64-66 High Street and the Historic Dockyard.

The festival’s programme of performances, installations, broadcasts and public forums is drawn from the creative and critical vision of its Artistic Directors Dr Claudia Molitor (University of Kent) and Dr Julie Louise Bacon (College of Fine Arts, Sydney). The line-up of nationally and internationally acclaimed artists reflects long-standing associations and new collaborations.

The festival takes place as the Sun rises to its zenith in the Northern hemisphere, a fact highlighted in the 2014 theme ‘A Meeting of Sound and Light’. 2014 also marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. With its broad range of new commissions TÖNE invites audiences to explore and reflect on the aesthetic and political resonances of the military and maritime location of Chatham and the surrounding area, and the season.

Find out more through the website: http://www.tonefestival.com/

Medway Research Lunch
The three universities that share the Medway Campus are planning to organise a ‘Research Festival’ later this year, to hear about the work going on within the three institutions, and to further develop the research culture on the site. As the first step towards this we would like to hear your views on such an event.

To this end we will be holding a buffet lunch on Wednesday 23rd April between 12-2pm in rooms R2-09 and R2-05 in the Rochester Building. This will be an opportunity to meet others from across the Campus, but also to have an input into the shape and programme of the Research Festival.

Please contact Helen Leech (h.leech@kent.ac.uk) for further information or to confirm attendance.
Research Collaboration in Healthcare across Kent & Medway

KentHealth is organising a meeting on the Wednesday 30th April in the Rochester Building to discuss the establishment of a partnership for healthcare research in Kent and Medway.

A number of partnerships between NHS Trusts and local Universities have recently been established (e.g. Bristol Health Partners, Liverpool Health Partners and Birmingham Health Partners). All have the objective of making significant health gains and improvements in service delivery by integrating, promoting and developing regional strengths in health services, research, innovation and education. Such partnerships often complement the regional Academic Health Science Networks (AHSN) by helping identify the researchers, bringing them together and then facilitating the research necessary to underpin innovative changes in practice. The local AHSN then provides the vehicle to translate that research into practice and spreads best practice across a wide geographical area.

The meeting will discuss the establishment of a Kent Health Partners consortium to mirror these initiatives. The aims would be:

- To bring together stakeholders in healthcare research across K&M to develop a co-ordinated research and innovation strategy and to generate significant health gain and improvements in service delivery.
- To encourage new partnerships in healthcare research across K&M and provide a vehicle to bring partners together for collaborative activities in research and in research training.
- To promote new initiatives in healthcare research and innovation and disseminate good research practice across the region.
- To promote and publicise the K&M research strengths within and outside the K&M region.
- To work with the KSS AHSN to foster the embedding of K&M research and research evidence across KSS.
- To develop the track-record and critical mass from working together to bid for central funding to establish healthcare research centres within K&M.

The membership would include the research leads from all the K&M NHS Trusts as well as Local Authority and CCG representation.
Good News Stories from the Press Office
Tour De France: Sport Science are leading on a conference to coincide with the Grand Depart in Leeds in July. For more information see: http://www.kent.ac.uk/sportsciences/wcss/index.html

Media appearances (for any engagement with the media, please contact the Press Office)
- Dr Glen Davison, of the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences, was featured in the Kent on Sunday Series with his tips for getting back into shape after Christmas.

- Prof Samuele Marcora’s research on mental fatigue has appeared extensively in the media, including the New York Times, Huffington Post and Runners World. He has also appeared on BBC Radio 2’s ‘All in the Mind’ being interviewed on the same topic. You can listen again at: bit.ly/Marcora

- Prof Samuele Marcora was filming in the Kent Sport Science labs at Medway Park on 19th March 2014 for an episode in the news series of Guy Martin: Need for Speed on Channel 4. It is due to air September time.

Medway Learning and Teaching Symposium
The inaugural Learning and Teaching Symposium at Medway was held on 4 December 2013. Staff had the opportunity to ask questions about particular aspects of their work and to see how different Schools managed common areas of difficulty.

Comments from the Term 1 Symposium:
“this format is great as I wouldn’t be able to attend long presentations for all topics!”

“it was all useful information”

“the overview format is very efficient and all the material are available on the web if necessary”

We are currently planning for the next Medway Learning and Teaching Symposium which we anticipate will be held in December 2014.

Schools will be contacted shortly and invited to attend a meeting to discuss the format and content of future Learning and Teaching Network events. If you would like to participate in the Symposium or contribute to the planning, please contact J.Cohen@kent.ac.uk

The Symposium is organised under the auspices of the Learning and Teaching Network which holds events for staff who work with students, particularly in a teaching or other learning support role. For more information on events or for notes from previous events see www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/networks/ltn/
Evening All
You may have noticed rather a lot of police officers in the Rochester Building recently and wondered why they were there. It wasn’t a raid!

On 3rd and 4th March, we hosted the latest series of mock trials designed to give Kent Police cadets experience of giving evidence in court. Local magistrates presided and 13 KLS students from Medway and Canterbury were the advocates. The only difference was the venue – Dartford Magistrates’ Court and Maidstone Crown Court were unavailable this time, so the Boardroom was transformed into a courtroom. Very realistic it was too, as the photo shows. Thank you Steve and other colleagues from Estates!

Everyone involved - the police trainer, the cadets, the defendants, the magistrates and their legal adviser (court clerk) - were very complimentary about the venue and the catering, and full of praise for the many Medway staff who helped to make the event so successful. The students all said that the experience had greatly enhanced their learning, much more than simply reading books or even observing court proceedings could have done. In at least two of the cases the student advocates managed to get the cases against the defendants dismissed by the magistrates. The police cadets will no doubt remember that in future their documentation will need to be more precise if they want a conviction!

The Kent Branch of the Magistrates Association kindly provided a shield for the best student advocate, which was won by Alex Courtnage.

University hosts seminar on risky substance use among young people
In January, the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research hosted a seminar for professionals on reducing risky substance use among young people. The seminar was organised by the drug prevention charity, Mentor as part of their Adepis education project.

The audience heard talks on the latest trends in multiple substance use and recent developments in prevention. Professor Alex Stevens of SSPSSR presented the results of the RisKit project, which has been working in schools in Kent and Medway to help young people reduce the risks they are most worried about. A participatory consultation identified these risks as alcohol, drugs, sex and fighting. The RisKit programme, which is delivered by the charity KCA, has shown promising early results in reducing alcohol and drug use among 14-16 year olds.

Partnership Development Office Update
In January 2014 the Partnership Development Office organised 3 highly successful and innovative events on the Medway Campus:

Student Marketing Challenge
The first was the Student Marketing Challenge held on 14th January in collaboration with the School of Business and led by Andrew Fearne, built on the success of a pilot event held for the first time last year. The launch saw nearly 70 6th form students from Thomas Aveling and Strood Academy coming to the campus for an interactive day involving academic staff, University students and the owner of a local business, Simply Ice Cream based in Ashford. Following the launch the students have been working in their schools to research ideas to market. They will return to present their ideas to a panel of judges here at the Medway Campus in April. It is hoped this will become an annual event with more schools participating.

AS Chemistry Skills
The second event held on 15th January was an AS Chemistry Skills day for 35 x Year 12 students from 4 local schools supported by the School of Pharmacy. The students were treated to an academic lecture by Dr Vladimir Gubala, followed by a hands-on practical and seminar linked to spectroscopy a topic in their A Level syllabus. Feedback was excellent and the teachers were asking us to organise a similar event for next year.

Mascalls Science Challenge
The last of these new innovative events was a Science Challenge for Mascalls GCSE students. 16 students came to the campus to compete against each other in 3 challenges. They had already had University of Kent Student Ambassadors talk to them in their school about the courses and skills needed to succeed at University. On the day on Campus the teams had a maths quiz, forensic science practical Challenge and a physics debate. All the science content was very relevant to their GCSE syllabus in each subject but in a format very different to a school setting.

Is Kent Right for You
On the 21st February 40 prospective students came to Medway for - Is Kent Right for You. All students from our Partner and KMPF Schools and Colleges who have applied to Kent are invited to this day. We have one at Canterbury and one at Medway. Many of the students are nervous about the prospect of coming to University and this is an opportunity to allay their fears and make them excited by the thought of the opportunity of coming to Kent. Evaluation shows this to be a very effective tool for conversion for these applicants. A very enjoyable day with our Student Ambassador’s doing an excellent job.

Upcoming Events:
- Da Vinci Days for Brompton Academy - April 2014
- Mid Kent College visit - Friday 2nd May 2014
- World Languages Day - Monday 30th June
- Robot Challenge Day - Tuesday 1st July
SSPSSR Criminal Justice/Criminology Employability Conference - Medway

SSPSSR hosted the Criminal Justice/Criminology Employability Conference on Wednesday the 5th of February 2014 as part of their annual Employability Month with over 40 students attending the afternoon conference.

Special guest speakers, which included alumni, were invited to give students an insight into their relevant career paths and to share personal experiences such as the ex-offender’s story of what it’s like going through the criminal justice system.

The aim of the event was to give students a clearer idea of the career paths open to them upon graduation with their SSPSSR degree.

Guest speakers included representatives from:

Ministry of Justice, SO15 Counter Terrorism Command, Youth Justice Board, Medway Youth Offending Team, Learn2Listen, and Kent Probation.

What the students said:

“So amazing. Their stories and presentations were great. Chris & Jason were so inspirational and really great to talk to!”

“All of the talks and employers were brilliant, particularly Learn2Listen. I enjoyed the talk from the Youth Offending Team and the MET police as they are the fields I am looking into joining. They all spoke of relevant and interesting topics about their jobs, and gave realistic expectations of joining those areas, as well as tips to help gain employment.”

“Excellent event! Really great and informative! Has helped me decide which career path I would like to follow.”

Please click on the following link which will take you to a video of the event:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmyXxiAtv7w&list=UUngtwPSCuGOD89VukCtVlow


EQUIP Project Launch 2014

The Evidence-informed quality improvement programme (EQUIP) is the latest change programme from the Higher Education Academy (HEA) and aims to help higher education providers take an evidence-informed approach to quality enhancement.

The Social Sciences EQUIP project arose from a desire to improve the experience of assessment and feedback for all those involved. The project will be looking a wide range of data from various sources generated at school, faculty and University level. The project aims to provide tools to enhance assessment, to develop access to examples of best practice and through this hope to support and promote transparent, consistent and coherent assessment practices in Schools; to encourage collaboration across assessment stakeholders, and to promote reflective practice.

On 19 February, the EQUIP Enhancing Assessment in Social Sciences project was introduced to staff across the university. The background to the project was discussed and staff had the chance to view the type of online resources which are currently being designed. Planned resources include:

- Assessment design wiki
- School assessment mapping resource
- Student assessment mapping tool

Around 30 staff came along to hear about the project and there was plenty of discussion about the proposed resources, the formats that would be useful to staff and suggestions for ways to link new assessment design resources to existing practices.

To find out more and get involved email: equipinfo@kent.ac.uk

Learning and Development Awards Ceremony

The Learning and Development Awards Ceremony took place on Tuesday 11th February 2014 in the Darwin Conference Suites. Kent Hospitality provided and sponsored a buffet lunch for all award recipients, their guests and presenters.

The ceremony was very well attended by members of staff with approximately 130 awards presented, making this the largest Learning and Development Awards Ceremony to date.

David Nightingale, the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, spoke at the event and congratulated the award-recipients on their hard work over the year. Awards were presented which ranged across a wide spectrum from accredited professional qualifications such as AAT Accounting awards, to the University of Kent Erasmus Staff Placement participation award. Certificates of participation were also presented to cohorts of staff who have attended the University’s leadership programmes during 2012 and 2013. A list of all staff achievements during the last year can be viewed on the Learning and Development web-site: https://www.kent.ac.uk/hr-learninganddevelopment/documents/local/awards/List%20of%20Awards.pdf
Kent’s Respiratory Clinic to support GB Boxing

The University of Kent’s Respiratory Clinic[^1] has been selected to screen the entire GB Boxing team.

Following the success of work undertaken by Dr John Dickinson from the University’s School of Sport and Exercise Science[^2] in advance of the 2012 Olympic Games, the latest project will involve in-depth analysis and screening of GB Boxers for exercise induced asthma (EIA).

The research[^3] will provide information to athletes and the team’s coaches to help reduce respiratory issues occurring during their training and competition.

The University of Kent’s Respiratory Clinic, which has a permanent base within Medway Park’s sports facility, conducts research and consultancy around the prevalence, diagnosis and treatment of EIA and dysfunctional breathing problems during exercise.

The latest screening activity with GB Boxing is scheduled to take place throughout March at the English Institute of Sport, Sheffield. It is likely to extend to support the athletes throughout 2014 and into the run up to the Rio Olympic Games in 2016.

[^4]Dr Dickinson[^5], Respiratory Physiologist at the Respiratory Clinic and the University’s School of Sport and Exercise Science, said: ‘We’re delighted to be working with GB Boxing to provide athletes and their coaches with important information to assist with improving their performance, both when training and in competitions. The prospect of assisting GB Boxers in the build-up to Rio 2016 is an exciting one.’

Dr Dickinson has been leading testing of Britain’s elite athletes in this area of expertise since 2003. His experience includes testing over 1,000 elite athletes, spanning all Olympic and many professional sports, such as rugby and Premier League football, as well as celebrities for Sport Relief.
What are the Medway Community Scholarships?
The Medway Community Scholarship is a new award being offered to Kent students at the Medway campus. It is an extracurricular scholarship opportunity offered by the University where individual students are given support to run projects that benefit the local or student community. Applications are accepted from all subject areas and modes of study.

The projects are devised and proposed by the students who are responsible for delivering their outlined objectives as well as evaluating the impact of their project. The scheme is an excellent personal development opportunity, in addition to providing financial support; students are mentored throughout their project by the Student activities and scholarship officer.

The scheme also provides a platform from which to communicate and celebrate the development of new and existing positive engagement between the University and the Medway community as part of an ongoing commitment to raising aspirations of those in the Medway area.

Tell your students about the Medway Community Scholarships
We will shortly be taking applications for the 2014-15 Medway Community Scholarships and would like to encourage you to tell your students about this opportunity. Kenny Budd, Scholarship Officer, is also available to come and talk to your students about Medway community scholarship opportunities.

This year’s scholars
Our first scholars’ projects are well underway. Projects include:

- Alan Mash, a Music Tech student, is helping local young adults who are interested in the music industry to create portfolios and highlighting the development opportunities they can take.
- Kay Underdown, a first year student from SSPSSR, is organising a creative community open-day on the 3rd of May in the Medway building where local schoolchildren and their families can learn new creative skills, including puppetry and creative writing.
- Nadia Perrotta, a student from Medway’s School of Music and Fine Art, is organising a sensory film experience as part of the F.I.V.E film festival between June 22nd and 26th at the Historic Dockyard site.
- Greg Hummel and Daniel Stephens, two students from the School of Music and Fine Art are working to develop a University record label.
- Matilda Allerfeldt, From SSPSSR and GK Unions netball club, is using her experience in competitive sport to help a local school teach sport and get school children engaged in competitive sport.

Find out more on the scholarship webpages: (www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships) or email: medwayscholarships@kent.ac.uk.
Mentoring - “Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction”  – John C. Crosby (1859-1943), US Politician

Choosing a Mentor

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<td><strong>The Organic Approach</strong> - individuals identify a potential mentor and make an individual approach.</td>
<td>Use of profiles - mentoring profiles, available from the mentoring webpages have been developed to match up mentors and mentees. Completed profiles should be sent to Learning and Development, <a href="mailto:ldev@kent.ac.uk">ldev@kent.ac.uk</a>  The information provided will be used only to match up mentors and mentees, and will be treated as confidential.</td>
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<td><strong>The Mentoring Network</strong> – creates an opportunity for individuals to meet and identify potential mentors and mentees, working with members of staff from across the University who share an interest in mentoring.</td>
<td><strong>Other University Programmes</strong> - mentoring is used to support some formal programmes, e.g. School Administration Mentoring Scheme for members of staff newly appointed to the school administrative teams; the PGCHE, school-based mentors are allocated to each participant.</td>
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**Mentoring Network**

Launched in the spring of 2013, it provides opportunities for members of staff from across the University to:

- Learn more about mentoring and its values
- Discuss and share experiences and good practice
- Ultimately build new mentoring relationships by bringing together potential mentors and mentees.

Network members are invited to come along and share their understanding and experiences of mentoring; learn from live case studies; interact in group exercises focusing on supporting the active development of mentoring across the University.

**“Introduction to Mentoring” workshops**

To find out more about mentoring, join one of our “Introduction to Mentoring” workshops. They will cover the general background to mentoring and some of the skills and benefits of being a Mentor and Mentee.

For further information on Mentoring, the Network and supporting Workshops, please visit the Learning and Development Mentoring Webpages:  [http://www.kent.ac.uk/hr-learninganddevelopment/mentoring/index.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/hr-learninganddevelopment/mentoring/index.html) or alternatively please contact Jena Dady, Learning and Development Adviser J.Dady@Kent.ac.uk, Ext: 3395.