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

School of Music and Fine Arts News

Barbara Morris Prize benefits students in Skills Enhancement Week
The £5,000 Barbara Morris Prize for Learning Support is awarded for outstanding achievement in supporting learning. The School would like to congratulate Dr Paul Fretwell, Director of Learning and Teaching and Employability and Events Coordinator, Ann Howe who are joint winners of the Barbara Morris Prize for Learning Support 2013, along with the Student Support Team at the School of Arts at Canterbury, for their dedication and input into the 'Skills Enhancement Week' in February, 2013.

The judging panel were impressed with the team's employment-focused student support, as the Skills Enhancement Week clearly enriched the student's experiences and provided a model which could be emulated across other Schools. It was also deemed an excellent example of external engagement, benefiting both students and the University, through collaboration.

Prizes were awarded by the Vice-Chancellor at a dedicated lunchtime ceremony on Thursday 3rd October in Darwin Conference Suite, at the Canterbury campus. For further information see Kent News Item.

Launch of Student Guide
Over the summer, the main Kent webpages targeting the needs of current students were relaunched as the "Student Guide" – www.kent.ac.uk/student

This is the main landing page for students to gain access to key online services, discover latest news and what's on, find their way around the Kent website and learn what services and facilities has on offer. This replaced what existed before as the 'Student Portal'.

The Student Guide was developed by Corporate Communications and Information Services in consultation with students. New functionality includes a ‘Medway theme’ allowing students to view Medway specific news, events and key services.

So far, the Student Guide has received excellent feedback from students and traffic to this site is very high. Do tell your students and colleagues about the Student Guide - feedback has also suggested that staff find it very useful too!
Medway Activities and New Community Scholarships – Kenny Budd

This summer, an appointment to the new post of Student Activities and Scholarship officer was made. Kenny Budd a recent Kent graduate and previous Kent Union sabbatical officer will be working within the Medway Master’s team to help deliver and develop the offer of extra-curricular activities accessible to students based at Medway. The ‘Medway activities’ scheme which has been established for several years provides a wide range of activities including free transport to free sporting activities, nightclub visits and cultural events and daytrips. The service is also available to University of Greenwich students who pay the cost price for transport.

“The overall student experience continues to be of key importance to our students, this especially includes life outside the classroom. There’s a lot for students to enjoy in the Medway region and ‘Medway activities’ helps to make these more accessible, affordable and safe by providing a team of student staff who look after our students when out on trips. This is more important than ever this year as Canterbury-registered students residing at Liberty Quays catalyse the comparison between facilities and the variance in experience at each campus.”

Increases to the shuttle bus service linking the two campuses has been expanded this year making University facilities at each site more accessible to students regardless of their residence.

In addition to the Medway activities program, Kenny is also responsible for the development of the new Medway community scholarship scheme. The new award supports students to develop projects which engage positively with the local community in a wide-range of areas including sport, music, art and performance. The award which is currently in its first year is open to all students registered at Medway and aims to engage students to use their skills and University experience to benefit local communities as well as offering a scholarship which targets Medway students explicitly.

“One of the most exciting elements of the community scholarship is that the scholar has the freedom to propose a project that they are passionate about. Specific goals and objectives are set-out in conjunction with Kenny and with approval from the scholarships board. Although the scheme is new we have already had positive engagement and received several applications. I’m sure that by the end of the year we will have some fantastic good-news stories, have positively influenced the aspirations of local people and helped students to cultivate skills which will improve their employability.”

The scholarships are still open to applicants and more information can be found at [www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships) under the ‘Medway’ tab or by contacting k.budd@kent.ac.uk.

Medway Learning and Teaching Symposium

There will be an inaugural Learning and Teaching Symposium at Medway on 4 December 2013 (week 10) offering short presentations on a range of topics.

The Symposium will run on Wednesday afternoon, starting with lunch at 12.30. Professor Nick Grief will introduce the Symposium at 1pm and there will be five 30-minute sessions run by staff
from across the University. By offering short summary sessions, it is hoped that staff who may otherwise not have time to attend will be able to participate.

Sessions will include a short presentation of around 20 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions. This allows staff to network and to discuss the various topics with a range of presenters.

The Symposium is being organised under the auspices of the Learning and Teaching Network (LTN: www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/networks/ltn/) which holds events for staff who work with students, particularly in a teaching or other learning support role. Most LTN sessions aim to inform teaching and teaching related practices, while some sessions provide information about the policies and procedures connected with the administration of academic programmes. LTN events are broadly structured around the six categories used in the NSS questionnaire: teaching; assessment and feedback; academic support; organisation and management; learning resources and personal development.

This is a new format for presenting learning and teaching events at Medway, and it is hoped that it will be a successful way to provide staff with Medway-campus events. All staff who feel that the sessions are relevant to their work are welcome to attend and bookings can be made via cpdbookings@kent.ac.uk.

More information is at http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/networks/ltn/#medwaysymp1

**Fair Success**

Responding to suggestions from students who requested a careers-related fair at the Medway campus, the University of Kent Careers and Employability Service teamed up with GK Unions to run the Medway Student Futures Fair on Wednesday 6 November 2013. The Pilkington Building Open Space was filled with 47 stands from a wide range of organisations. They provided information on career paths, industry sectors, volunteering, employability skill development and postgraduate study options. Organisations included Medway Council, ACCA, ICAEW, CILEx, Sound and Music, Nucleus Arts, Demelza, Projects Abroad and GradsKent. Over 350 students attended and their feedback has been very positive. Exhibitors also praised the student-helpers, declaring they were “fantastic.” A big thank you to everyone who helped to make this event such a great success!
Mentoring in a Changing Environment
There is a growing recognition across the University of the potential for mentoring in supporting and developing members of staff. A new Mentoring Network was launched in the Spring of 2013, and has met twice more, to provide opportunities for members of staff from across the University to learn more about mentoring and its values; to discuss and share experiences and good practice and, hopefully, to build new mentoring relationships by bringing together potential mentors and mentees.

The network meetings have been well attended involving a range of staff groups and schools/departments from across the University from both Canterbury and Medway. 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.

Learning and Development would like to continue to build the profile of mentoring and the mentoring network with staff at Medway and recently hosted a mentoring “drop in” session for staff interested in mentoring, as a Mentor, Mentee or both!

For more information about Mentoring in general, please go the Learning and Development Mentoring pages at: http://www.kent.ac.uk/hr-learninganddevelopment/mentoring/index.html Additionally, if you would like to find out more about the network or would be interested in attending a “drop in” session at Medway, please contact Jena Dady on ext 3395 J.Dady@kent.ac.uk.

We would also be interested in hearing from members of staff who have any positive stories/experience to share about mentoring.

New improved Campus Shuttle service - http://www.kent.ac.uk/campus-shuttle/
The Campus Shuttle service now incorporates the current Liberty Quays Coach services and, in response to popular demand, a new weekend timetable.

Key changes include:
- All services will stop at Medway Campus, Liberty Quays, Keynes and Darwin Colleges.
- The timetable will run 7 days a week with a once every 2-hour service operating at weekends.
- Saturday services will run until 1am from Medway and 2am from Canterbury.
- Services will use either the 29-seat coach or the 53 seat previously only used for Liberty Quays.
- Seats can be reserved to travel from any stop up to 11pm the night before.
- Seats cannot be reserved on the day of travel but, if seats are available, you can walk-on and show the driver your KentONE ID Card.
- Liberty Quays coach cards will no longer be required or valid – a KentONE ID card will be sufficient.
News from Research Services

Research Grants awarded to Staff based at the Medway Campus from 1st May – 20th November 2013

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
Music & Fine Arts

Shona Illingworth: Lesions in the Landscape: Claire and the Island of Hirta (Wellcome, £129,400)

(Fiona Illingworth)

FACULTY OF SCIENCES
Sports and Exercise Sciences

Dr James Hopker: The Use of a Self-Paced VO2 max Protocol for Assessing Maximal Oxygen Uptake in Post Myocardial Infarction and Pre-Operative Care of Patients with Cardiovascular Disease (EKHUFT, £53,046) (EKHUFT, £53,046).

Dr John Dickinson: The Long-Term Ergogenic Effect of Long Acting β2-Agonists (WADA, $160,000)

(Dr John Dickinson)

Dr Glen Davison: The effects of chlorella pyrenoidosa supplementation on immune function and upper respiratory symptoms following an acute bout of exercise (Sun Chlorella Corporation, £TBC)

Medway School of Pharmacy

Dr Scott Wildman: A Proof of Concept, Longitudinal, Comparative, Observational Study of Urinary Epithelial Cell Infection in Renal Transplant Patients and Asymptomatic Controls (Kidney Research UK, £28897)

(Dr Scott Wildman)
Dr Andrea Manfrin: To evaluate patient’s feedback and GPs views on I-MUR service provided by Italy (Federazione Italiana Ordini Farmacisti, £9,000)

Dr Peppiatt-Wildman: Delineating the cellular mechanisms of cisplatin-induced nephrotoxicity (Kidney Research UK, £198,252)

Dr Peppiatt-Wildman: To investigate the response of pericytes, including changes in morphology, function and fate, in response to well-known profibrotic stimulus, angiotensin II (Biogen Idec MA Inc, £53,307)

Mrs L Dodds: Development of a simple process or tool which can be used by patients/carers and HCP to identify medicine-related issues in functionally able stroke/TIA patients (NIHR RDS, £350)

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research

Dr Dawn Lyon: The Social, Historical, Cultural and Democratic Context of Civic Engagement: Imagining Different Communities and Making Them Happen (ESRC, £64,099)

If you would like to discuss your research plans, but are not sure who to approach, please contact your Faculty Funding Officer as a first point of contact, as below:

- Humanities Lynne Bennett l.bennett-282@kent.ac.uk extn 4799
- Sciences Helen Leech h.leech@kent.ac.uk extn 7957/8850
- Social Sciences Brian Lingley b.lingley@kent.ac.uk extn 4427

For Contract and Costing Enquiries for all Medway schools, please contact Karen Allart k.a.allart@kent.ac.uk extn: 8967.

Medway Research Network
We hope to hold the next meeting of the Medway Research Network in January. This will be an informal networking event with the chance to discuss the 2014 Medway Research Festival, after the enthusiastic reception of last year’s event. Details will be circulated before the end of term.
Partnership Development Office Update

Student Ambassador Scheme
Following several days of interviews, the Partnership Development Office is pleased to announce it has recruited over 30 new Medway based student ambassadors to support our widening participation and outreach work.

Coming from a range of academic schools and at all stages in their University careers, our new ambassadors displayed excellent enthusiasm, creativity and understanding of issues relating to outreach and recruitment. Challenged with creating a ‘How to…’ presentation as part of the interview process, the applicants pulled out all the stops, teaching the interviewers how to do, amongst other things, magic tricks, origami and even a dance routine to Jessie J!

Following a comprehensive training day, the new ambassadors will be getting involved in our exciting programme of upcoming events, activities and projects across the County.

Visit Days to the Medway Campus
- 60 Access to HE Diploma Students from our Partner FE Colleges in Kent visited the Medway Campus on 2nd October to take part in lectures, seminars and discussion work. Events such as this are one of the most important ways we can promote progression by Access Students to HE and the UoK. Last year 60 students progressed from Access courses to the University and it is hoped that this number will continue to increase. The PDO plans to run a similar event in early October 2014.

- 80 AS students from Mid Kent College visited the Medway Campus on 18th September to attend lectures and seminars run by Professor Alex Stevens and our PhD Ambassadors. The students were able to gain a valuable insight into the courses that they could study as well as the type of teaching they might expect at university.

- To coincide with the introduction of Science A Levels at Brompton Academy, our sponsored school, Dr Vladimir Gubala from the School of Pharmacy ran a practical chemistry workshop for 30 students who had just started their AS course. The students loved the opportunity to get a real taste of Science at university.

Skyline Project Update - [http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/skyline/](http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/skyline/)
The Skyline Project continued during September with a highly successful exhibition of the work produced during the community and school workshops and assemblies that have been described in previous bulletins. Guests were invited to a fabulous private view on 19th September to launch the exhibition of sculptures, art work and creative writing at Brompton Academy and were shown a wonderful new film made in the sculptor, Sam Holland’s barge. Sam was also on hand during the evening to give an inspirational talk about the project following an update on progress from Lucy Rutter and Jane Anderson. Guests at the Private View included Councillor Judd, David Nightingale, Jen Wyatt and Judy Rider.
Access to Higher Education Diploma

The 2013-14 Access to Higher Education Diploma is now well underway with over 50 students signed up to study between one and three subjects this academic year. This year the University is offering modules in Psychology, Sociology, Human Biology, Creative Writing, Art and GCSE Maths with lessons held at Brompton Academy.

During October, learners undertook a four week induction period which culminated in a research and library skills session at the Drill Hall Library. Special thanks go to the Library Staff and Student Ambassadors for their sterling work in supporting the learners and introducing them to the library and its resources.

Upcoming Events:
- Chemistry AS Revision Skills – 15th January 2014
- Shadowing - Ongoing UG Ambassadors having school and FE college students shadowing them and accompanying them at lectures in Computing, Business and Social Sciences
- Ambassador Training Days – Several
- Da Vinci Days for Brompton Academy - April 2014
- Mascalls School GCSE Challenge finals - 28th January 2014

Please see below dates for 2014 editions and deadline for articles, which should be sent to: Denise Flockhart d.flockhart@kent.ac.uk

Medway Staff Briefing No: 8  Friday 28th March 2014
Deadline for articles:  Friday 14th March 2014

Medway Staff Briefing No: 9  Friday 27th June 2014
Deadline for articles:  Friday 13th June 2014