The University launched its 50th anniversary celebrations in style

The ceremonies, which took place at Canterbury on 1st October and Medway on 2nd October marked the beginning of a year-long programme of special projects and events across the institution, including the University’s postgraduate centres in Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome.

Continued on page 2
The University launched its 50th anniversary celebrations in style (cont)

These include:
• Innovative projects designed to shape the University’s direction over the next 50 years
• A series of inspiring lectures by University staff
• Student led history projects to showcase the University’s first 50 years
• A community open day at Canterbury in March 2015
• A public debate about Europe, hosted by the University’s Chancellor, Gavin Esler
• An alumni reunion weekend in September 2015.

The centrepiece of the celebrations was a 33m tall Ferris wheel at the Canterbury campus. The ‘Kent Wheel’ provided students, staff and visitors with a rare opportunity to view Canterbury and its surroundings from a bird’s eye point of view. The Kent Wheel will return to the campus again from Wednesday 1 July to Thursday 15 October 2015. Further information on the Kent Wheel is available at http://www.kent.ac.uk/50/

By the end of its 50th year, the University aims to have raised £1 million for the Kent Opportunity Fund which supports students working through financial hardship, scholarships and extra-curricular activities.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Mander said: ‘The University’s anniversary activities over the next year will also give everyone the opportunity to be involved in and reflect on Kent’s many successes and achievements over the past fifty years, as well as contribute to the course and direction of the next fifty.’

For more information contact 50years@kent.ac.uk

Kent appoints new Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation

Professor Philippe De Wilde has recently been appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation at Kent. Professor De Wilde’s portfolio will also include the University’s Graduate School.

Philippe De Wilde is a Professor in the Intelligent Systems, a Fellow of the British Computer Society and of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, and a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He is a Laureate of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Letters and Fine Arts of Belgium, and has held the Vloeberghs Chair at the Free University Brussels.

Professor De Wilde said: ‘I would like to welcome you to the ICE Newsletter. It’s good to celebrate Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise. Research and Innovation are key aspects of my role, and I see them as equally important. I have visited all academic Schools now, and I have noticed that they have significant impact outside academia. I am looking forward to reading their stories in future issues of the newsletter. The staff working on the projects in this publication are valuable to the University. They will thrive in the economic powerhouse that is London and the South East, and further afield. I hope you will be inspired by these stories.’

Environmental Innovation Grows in Kent

Are you an owner or manager of a small or medium sized company working in the low carbon and environment sector? Do you need expert advice to improve the environmental profile and carbon footprint of your business?

The University of Kent is one of three universities in the South East to receive funding to set up an Environmental Innovation Network (E-iNet).

The Environmental iNet helps support innovation and growth in the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) low carbon and environmental goods and services sector. The newly appointed Environmental iNet Project Manager is looking to forge new partnerships between small and medium sized companies and the University to share knowledge, expertise and know-how in the low carbon and environmental fields.

The project opens up opportunities for developing collaborative teamwork between businesses and the University in this growing sector. Companies will be able to access funding available through Kent Innovation & Enterprise, the University’s dedicated business engagement centre, to help fund project work.

The Environmental iNet project enables the University to build on its strengths in the Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences covering a broad range of environmental activities.

If you are interested in finding out more, or would like your business to be considered for this project, please get in touch with Emma Lansdell. Contact details can be found at the back of this newsletter.
Supporting economic growth

KEiBA 2014
Kent a hub for science, technology and world-leading research
Kent has been hailed as home to ‘a thriving science and technology community’ following the recent Kent Excellence in Business Awards (KEiBA).

The evening gala saw 15 businesses and individuals selected as category winners.

Carole Barron, Director of Innovation and Enterprise at the University of Kent teamed up with Dr Gary Robinson, the University’s Senior Commercialisation Manager and Pete Kenyon of Crispis lawyers to judge the Best Science and/or Technology Business category.

The panellists chose Ashford-based medical manufacturer Integrated Technologies as their category winner and were impressed by the company’s strong focus on technology and innovation and excellent growth in international markets.

Tom Cole, Managing Director of Integrated Technologies took home two KEiBA prizes including Manufacturing Business of the Year.

Carole Barron said: ‘We were pleased to see the high calibre of science and technology entries this year which demonstrated significant levels of innovation and growth. The quality of applications clearly identifies Kent as home to a thriving science and technology community.

‘The innovative design developed by Integrated Technologies gives the business a competitive edge. We were impressed by the company’s established strategies to deal with growth whilst upholding world leading research and development at the core of the business.’

Winners
Apprenticeship of the Year: Adam Calver, Allpark Ltd, Gravesend
Business Commitment to the Community: Countrystyle Recycling Ltd, Maidstone
Business Commitment to the Environment: Hadlow College, Tonbridge
Customer Service and Commitment: Sleeping Giant Media, Folkestone
Employer of the Year: European Insurance Services Ltd (EISL Ltd), Tunbridge Wells
Entrepreneur of the Year: Rob Knight, Ecoegg Ltd, Maidstone
Land Based Business of the Year: Fourayes Sittingbourne
Large Business of the Year: The Reynolds Group Ltd, Sittingbourne
Manufacturing Business of the Year: Integrated Technologies Ltd (ITL), Ashford
Winners of the Start Up Business of the Year: Gary Bartlett and Ben Bartlett of Bush Grub Science and/or Technology Business of the Year: Integrated Technologies Ltd (ITL), Ashford
SME Business of the Year: Elsatex Limited, Strood
Start Up Business of the Year: Bush Grub Ltd, Sittingbourne
Success in International Markets: ID&C Ltd, Tunbridge Wells
Tourism and Hospitality Business of the Year: Whiting and Hammond, Tonbridge
Young Entrepreneur of the Year: Bai Sancher, Hectic Lifestyles Ltd, Rochester

Initiative to improve life in Kent

A new community initiative and collaboration between the University and Kent Connects will help people in Kent improve where they live.

‘Embrace Your Space’ is a new community challenge which is inviting anyone living in East Kent to present ideas for how they could improve their community using technology.

Part of the Transformed by You initiative, it aims to bring people, communities and technology developers together to come up with innovative ways of using technology to improve their area.

The challenge is open and ideas or solutions to local issues can be now posted on the ‘Transformed by You’ website. Ideas already submitted include electronic bus timetables and a trip advisor-style app detailing how accessible places are in a neighbourhood.

The best entry will win support to take forward their solution and create it for their community.

The winning solution will be chosen by a panel of judges at an Innovation Day on 29 November at the University’s Woolf College, Canterbury campus. The event, which is open to all encourages attendance from developers who may have the skills to help with solutions to the ideas.

For more information visit the Transformed by You website, www.transformedbyyou.com. You can also follow the project on Twitter @transformed_by.

Helping to develop the next generation of Bio Engineers

Businesses and research environments, such as Biotechnology, are facing new challenges that require complex solutions and engineers who can design complete solutions involving complex integrated systems.

There is strong evidence of the need for bioengineers to support the growth of the sector. The European Alliance of Medical and Biological Engineering and Science (EAMBES) states the sector is vital not only for the health and well-being of European citizens; but also for the ‘wealth’ of the European economy with a growth rate of about 5-7% per year.

The University is dedicated to supporting this growth and place importance on developing qualified engineers by introducing a new course in Bioengineering.

The course draws on EDA’s established expertise in developing medical-electronic systems and on the research synergies with the School of Biosciences on topics such as cell mechanics and systems biology.

The degree will open next academic year (first cohort starting in September 2015) and will run two options: BEng Bioengineering and BEng Bioengineering with a Year in Industry.

If you believe your organisation can contribute to shaping this degree within this thriving sector, or would like to benefit from student projects, placements and sponsorships in Bioengineering, please get in touch.
Preparing students for employability

On average 81 graduates are currently applying for each graduate vacancy, making it imperative for contemporary students to achieve more than academic success whilst at University. With employers valuing both work experience and ‘real life’ skills, the Employability Points (EP) Scheme is a means to allow University of Kent students to stand out from the crowd.

The EP Scheme incentivises students to undertake extra-curricular activities, such as volunteering, part-time work, mentoring, attending events and much more. The students are then rewarded with points for their efforts. Points can later be redeemed for a range of rewards, varying from internships and work experience to vouchers and bespoke training, all offered by local and national businesses.

With 3,800 students engaging with the scheme in 2013-14, a considerable number of recent graduates have credited the scheme for enhancing their employability. Louisa Redfern of Coca-Cola Enterprises said: ‘Coca-Cola Enterprises enjoy being part of Kent’s EP Scheme and we believe we get a lot of value out of offering students opportunities with us as it enables us to raise our profile amongst a group of high calibre (potential) employees.’

Dawn Lilford, Owner of Lilford Gallery and Framers ‘I was once again happy to be involved with the Employability Points Scheme and delighted to be given the opportunity to work with University of Kent students. The three students were great to work with. They were enthusiastic, reliable, focused and charming.’

Kent’s enterprising students

The University of Kent’s emphasis on developing enterprise skills in its students is featured in a new government report on education and entrepreneurship best practice.

The University’s Kent Business School (KBS) is one of only three university case studies cited by Lord Young, the Prime Minister’s advisor on enterprise in his recently published third and final report on enterprise, titled Enterprise for All.

The case study highlights how KBS runs two modules: Enterprise and Business Start-Up which are open to all second and third year undergraduates at Kent, as well as organising a range of other activities, including an annual Enterprise Day.

In his report, Lord Young says many students now realise that starting a business is now a viable career option and that universities are ideally placed to respond to this growing interest in entrepreneurship.

Kent IT Consultancy celebrated for contributions to computer science and economic growth

A case study on Kent IT Consultancy (KITC) has been published in a white paper by the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing. The white paper entitled ‘Computer Science: Driving Entrepreneurship’ features a case study from KITC’s support from IBM and highlights the impact of students working with high-profile computing and software businesses.

The KITC, launched in 2004 is part of the University of Kent’s School of Computing. It is run by IT consultants who are students at the University of Kent. Many of the consultants have completed industrial placements for major companies such as Intel, IBM and Microsoft, giving them significant experience in both business and technical roles. The relationships between the KITC consultants and their clients are managed by full-time IT professionals and are closely mentored by staff members of the School of Computing.

KITC Manager Jason Marshall said: ‘It was great news to be featured in a white paper about Computer Science driving Entrepreneurship. All too often computer science is linked with entrepreneurship in terms of high tech start-ups driving the bounds of technological innovation, however what this article shows is that computer science also plays a key role in supporting non-technical entrepreneurship, highlighting how the KITC puts an emphasis on computer science students helping small businesses to leverage existing technology in an effective and cost efficient way to drive sustainable business growth.’

The case study is available to read online. For more information about KITC, please visit the website, www.kitc-solutions.co.uk.

Student placements why get involved?

A student placement can provide the impetus (and additional resource) required to get a new project or development off the ground. It is an opportunity take advantage of the skills, knowledge, fresh ideas, enthusiasm and willingness to learn that a placement student can bring to the workplace.

The number of student work placements at the University of Kent has continued to rise despite the economic downturn and the University has seen a significant increase in the numbers taking a business placement.

According to James Corbin, the University’s Placement Development and Employability Manager, employer benefits include improved profitability through students transferring new skills to existing staff, improving work place practices, facilitating the introduction of new technology and creating new sources of competitive advantage. Previous projects undertaken by University of Kent placement students include conducting research, website design, devising new networking methods, designing prototypes and new business development.

For more than a decade the University has been at the forefront of a Year in Industry/Business and shorter term placements for students.

Mr Corbin also pointed out that a high percentage of students return to their host company for full-time employment after graduation. ‘I think that many companies use this opportunity as a year-long job interview,’ he said. ‘This ensures that they keep the top graduates whilst benefiting from the hard work of the placement students.’

As for the economic downturn, Mr Corbin said: ‘We haven’t seen any evidence of this in our placement opportunities. In fact, it is quite the opposite as I am receiving daily calls from new companies; whether they be Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) or multinationals offering opportunities to our students.’
Kent undergraduate represents the University in world-wide competition

Disha Bansal, a 2nd year economics student won over judges at the University of Kent Big Ideas competition with her innovative idea to eliminate fraud in the micro-finance industry in India. Disha’s efforts were celebrated with prizes including an office at the Kent Enterprise Hub sponsored by Santander.

As part of Disha’s prize, she was elected to represent the University at the Virginia Tech Knowledge Works Global Entrepreneurship Challenge (VTKC) where she pitched her business proposal to a panel of seven judges.

Disha’s concept, Assero aims to eliminate the growth of fraudulent activity within the micro-finance industry in India. Micro-finance is the provision of small loans to those who lack access to banking and its related services.

Disha's innovative solution aims to use India’s extensive mobile coverage to develop a biometric authentication system to establish accountability and traceability thereby minimising losses.

Despite not scooping the grand prize of $25,000 at the competition, Disha was delighted to take part in prestigious world-wide challenge.

She said: ‘The journey has been nothing short of a roller coaster ride. I’ve had the privilege of being mentored by professionals both at the University and in Virginia Tech, had a great networking opportunity and have been lucky enough to experience the thrill of presenting on a global platform!’

For more information on Assero, please contact Disha Bansal at db425@kent.ac.uk.

Student creates virtual reality tour

A student from the University of Kent has created a virtual reality tour.

Michael Reichel, from the School of Engineering and Digital Arts, developed a 3D virtual world based on the ground floor of the Jennison Building based at the Canterbury campus.

Michael’s cutting-edge creation impressed bosses at a successful software development company and he was immediately offered a job after giving a demonstration of his project in an interview.

He said: ‘A lot of effort and dedication was invested in this project. Due to the innovative nature of the application the managers were so impressed that I was hired on the spot!’

‘Considering that in January 2014, Jennison Virtual Reality Tour was nothing more than an empty folder on my laptop, it was amazing to see the final outcome produced by April.’

The virtual reality game, which is incorporated with 3D goggles called Oculus Rift will be used by the School of Engineering and Digital Arts to support open days for prospective students.

Focus on training

In an economy now driven by knowledge, your workforce is the greatest asset to any business, and investment in focused training is vital to develop the skills and knowledge of employees.

According to a 2010 report from the Institute of Directors, 47% of Directors surveyed said that some of their employees lacked the skills needed to do the required job and 58% of Directors admitted they felt their organisation is being held back from growth by employee skill gaps. The University is dedicated to supporting the business community through delivery of a wide variety of training courses and CPD (Continuing Professional Development) programmes. The University has a strong track record of working with businesses and organisations to develop individual’s professional and personal skills.

Training and development programmes range in length and are available across each of the University’s campuses in Canterbury, Medway or Tonbridge and can be delivered in house on request. Here are some of the highlighted courses on offer:

December 2014

Course title: ‘Rosie 2’ Masterclass
Course outline: At this session you will find out more information on all the Centre for Child Protection’s simulations as well as our distance learning MA in child protection and our new standalone modules. A great opportunity to explore child protection issues and share expertise and ideas, and you will be given the chance to play ‘Rosie 2’.
Cost: £199 per person
Date: Wednesday 3rd December 2014
Time: 1.30pm-4.30pm
Venue: University of Kent, Tonbridge Centre

January 2015

Course title: Language Express 10
Course outline: These courses help prepare your organisations for international business engagement. Language Express is a programme of world language courses run by the Centre for English and World Languages. These 10 week courses are available in French, Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish
Cost: £170 per person for external participants
Date: Start week commencing 26 January 2015
Time: 6pm-8pm
Venue: University of Kent, Canterbury Campus

March 2015

Course title: 10 week evening course in Forensic Psychology
Course outline: Forensic Psychology is the study of the psychology of crime and criminal behaviour. Over ten weeks join some of the UK’s leading experts in forensic psychology and go beyond what you see on the TV shows to learn about the psychology of victims, offenders, crime investigation and rehabilitation.
Cost: £150
Date: Wednesday 4 March – Wednesday 20 May 2015
Time: 6pm-7.30pm
Venue: University of Kent, Canterbury Campus

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Kent Innovation & Enterprise. Contact details can be found on the back of the newsletter.
Kent secures £450k funding

The University’s Centre for Professional Practice worked closely with Kent Innovation and Enterprise to secure a research enterprise fund of £450,000.

The fund is 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 older persons 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 initiatives 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-sectoral involvement. Head of CPP Debbie Reed will work with:
- HEKSS Clinical Lead Dr Rob McCormick
- Gerodontology Lead Dr Heather Lloyd
- Dental Hygiene Lead Mike Wheeler
- A number of other members of the HEKSS dental workforce, sector stakeholders.

Research reveals shift in how business engages with charities

New research from Dr Beth Breeze, a University of Kent philanthropy expert, suggests business leaders are increasingly turning to charities to develop their business skills.

While 80% of senior executives surveyed by Dr Breeze, Director of the University’s Centre for Philanthropy, said they got involved with charities to ‘give something back’, more than two-thirds (68%) said it was a desire to develop their skills in a different environment that was a key factor.

Dr Breeze’s research report, titled Philanthropic Journeys, was commissioned by the charity Pilotlight. It includes a survey of over 225 business leaders and philanthropists across England and Scotland.

The research shows that structured skills volunteering through organisations like Pilotlight not only changes negative attitudes about charities but also nearly doubles people’s intention to volunteer (from 32% to 63%), significantly affects people’s desire to make substantial donations worth £1,000 or more (from 29% to 41%), and leads to a three-fold increase in the willingness to serve as a charity trustee.

Dr Beth Breeze, said: ‘Modern life is complicated - people are busy getting educated, buying a house, having families, starting businesses and dealing with innumerable other demands on their time and money.

‘Giving people the right support at crucial junctures, when they are ready to engage with good causes, can make all the difference. Many non_donors are not ungenerous but rather they lack confidence - either in their own ability to make a contribution, or in the ability of the charity to use that contribution wisely, and we need to address that.’

The research highlights the need for charities to better understand donors, especially as nearly half (44%) of those questioned were reluctant to get involved because they thought charities were badly managed. Although 80% of business people said that work commitments were a major barrier to volunteering, two-thirds (66%) of executives also revealed that they weren’t aware of the opportunities to use their skills to help charities.

Gillian Murray, Pilotlight’s chief executive, said: ‘Having worked with hundreds of senior business executives over the past ten years we have seen the incredible benefits of people using their business expertise to help coach small charities to plan and think strategically. Not only do these business leaders learn more about the challenges facing small charities they also improve their own skills, such as mentoring and problem solving, which they can then take back into the workplace.’

The report’s recommendations include a need for politicians and policymakers to shift their focus to growing life-long givers to establish a stronger culture of philanthropy in the UK and for employers to encourage staff to undertake structured volunteering opportunities that make use of their business skills.

IP website re-launch

The Intellectual Property (IP) team at Kent Innovation & Enterprise are delighted to announce their website has been revamped. The aim of the make-over was to ensure all the protected technologies available for licensing are displayed online for easy access to interested parties. The new website, which displays IP categories at the University with eye-catching imagery contains a short description of each technology including inventors’ names, IP prosecution status and contact information.

Senior Commercialisation Manager Dr Gary Robinson said: ‘We have tried to provide a user friendly window on all those currently protected technologies and would hope to stimulate interest and elicit partners for further development and exploitation.

Please use the link to visit the new website. http://www.kent.ac.uk/enterprise/practical-partnering/intellectual-property.html. For more information or to provide additional comments, contacts details are at the back of this newsletter.

Hope for those with visual loss

Kent scientists will play a major part in new research which could detect early visual loss in people with long-term conditions, such as diabetes.

Together with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, a leading Scottish medical technology company, Optos plc, and Strathclyde University, Kent researchers will help develop a new laser technology which will be able to monitor the functions of cells in the eye.

This new technology is aimed at detecting and monitoring eye disease at a very early stage. The research will create a new device which will be at the forefront of the fight to detect early visual loss.
The team at the University, led by Professor Adrian Podoleanu in the School of Physical Sciences, will provide expertise on optical coherence tomography (OCT). This builds upon its extensive research activity on imaging the eye, including being the first to demonstrate a transversal OCT image of the eye on a human in 1997.

The first clinical studies will involve the leading causes of blindness (Age-Related Macular Degeneration, Glaucoma and Diabetic Retinopathy) and are due to be completed by early 2017.

The research has been awarded £1.1m from Innovate UK and Optos to develop the new imaging technology that could show eye disease earlier than current devices can.

A successful outcome will see a further £9m invested to develop a fully licensed medical device by the end of 2018.

First steps for intelligent avatar

A ground-breaking project to support the UK’s ageing population through the use of responsive and interactive avatars has moved a step closer.

The use of the avatar, known as RITA (Responsive InTeractive Advocate), was demonstrated via a four-minute film presented at the Kings Fund’s International Digital Health and Care Congress in London on Thursday 11 September. The film demonstrated RITA appearing on a tablet device to help an elderly woman late at night.

The University of Kent’s Centre for Child Protection is heading a consortium of partners on the project, which is one of six developed from a national Innovate UK initiative that aims to create new cost-effective ways of helping elderly people to comfortably and independently live in their own homes, if desired.

RITA, which harnesses emerging technologies from the entertainment industry, brings together three primary elements in personalised care:

• a friendly face, encouraging communication and interaction, represented by a realistic and emotionally expressive virtual avatar;

• the mind, as an ‘essence’ repository for storage and organisation of all personal and memory-related information, where access is determined by the user;

• an empathetic communication system that is capable of understanding and responding to the psychological needs and emotional welfare of the user.

Amongst its many possibilities, RITA could monitor heart rate and blood pressure, remind people to take medication, and would know if they had fallen over or were in pain and alert the doctor or the emergency services. It would also be able to analyse their speech, movement and facial expression to detect their mood and respond accordingly. The system would not require computer literacy and would be no more challenging to operate than switching on a television.

The next phase of RITA is to go from proof of concept to building a working prototype. Funding is currently being sought to do this and take it forward.

Rotary Innovation Competition

Pupils from Canterbury and Faversham showed innovation and entrepreneurial spirit when they entered a prestigious competition at the University of Kent.

14 schoolchildren from Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Spires Academy and Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School in Faversham entered the Rotary Innovation Competition hosted by the Canterbury Rotary Club and Kent Innovation & Enterprise at the University of Kent.

Carole Barron, Director of Innovation & Enterprise and Dr Gary Robinson, Senior Commercialisation Manager from the University formed the judging panel with Brian Dobinson and Mark Esdale of the Canterbury Rotary Club.

Pupils were asked to think up ideas which are practical, innovative and capable of giving the greatest improvement to life and all entrants were welcomed to the University to present their ideas to the judging panel.

Verity Jones of Queen Elizabeth’s School was revealed as the winner for her Swiss Army Make-Up Knife idea and received a £300 cheque donated by the Rotary Club.

She said: “I’m very happy and very surprised to have won. I came up with the idea when thinking what would be useful objects people could use. A lot of men use Swiss army knives and I thought what would females want to use? The Swiss Army Make up Knife would mean women can carry around their makeup much easier.”

Brian Dobinson said: “This is the first time we have done something like this, it was very challenging to get schools involved but with 14 students entering the competition it was very good. We are very pleased Kent Innovation and Enterprise gave us the opportunity to do this and it encourages young people to think outside the box.”
Funding for business collaboration

Innovation Voucher
Enhance your business growth opportunities!

Develop a new project with the University of Kent and your business could be eligible for a 50% contribution towards the cost. Innovation Vouchers give your business the opportunity to improve growth and performance by tapping into academic knowledge and gaining access to specialist facilities and consultancy.

Our dedicated business support team at Kent Innovation & Enterprise will assist with applications, making it easy to spend your Innovation Voucher.

Limited funds are available and applications will be assessed as they are received, so do contact us to discuss your project in more detail. Contact Kent Innovation & Enterprise on 01227 827376 or email enterprise@kent.ac.uk

Funding opportunities
Funding to Grow your Business
Building on the success of the University of Kent’s Innovation Voucher Scheme we are pleased to announce the launch of the new funding for 2014/2015.

The University of Kent is offering more businesses funding opportunities with a new round of Innovation Vouchers. Aimed at supporting smaller project collaborations between SMEs and the University; the voucher can provide a 50%* contribution towards the cost of a project (excluding VAT).

Funding can be used for a range of projects and recent projects have included:
- Market research and analysis for diversification into new markets
- New software development; initial scoping and research for product development
- Use of scientific facilities and other resources.

All projects are subject to availability and eligibility. Further information can be found online www.kent.ac.uk/enterprise/innovationvouchers. html OR if you would like to discuss a potential project, please contact Kent Innovation & Enterprise, contact details on the back page of this newsletter.

*First time engagement only

Kent ICE LinkedIn launch
We would like to invite you to join our LinkedIn profile Kent ICE. As part of our commitment to working with businesses we are pleased to announce we will be launching new Groups created to help us engage more closely with the business community.

Kent Engaging with Business – The business development team at Kent Innovation & Enterprise can offer expert advice to improve your business growth and performance and help broker opportunities for accessing the University’s academic excellence and world-leading research.

Make your Mark – Designed to demonstrate how students can help your business including Employability Points and Student Enterprise at the University.

Environmental Innovation – Expertise, resources and facilities from E-iNet at the University to support low carbon and environmental businesses.

Please get in touch if you would like to join our new LinkedIn groups and we will ensure you are notified as soon as they are launched.

Hold the date
Make sure you keep this date free for an upcoming event from Kent Innovation & Enterprise:

Thursday 15 January
50th Anniversary ICE Showcase Event
12pm to 5pm
Woolf Building, Canterbury Campus

Join us for an afternoon of Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise, with inspiring speakers, networking and an Innovation Zone showcasing cutting-edge ideas to help your business grow.

Wayne Garvie a graduate from the University of Kent will give the 50th Anniversary Innovation Lecture. Prior to taking up his current role as Chief Creative Officer, International Production at Sony Pictures TV, Wayne was Managing Director of International Production at All3Media and Managing Director of BBC Worldwide Content and Production. He was responsible for developing Strictly Come Dancing and the popular US version Dancing with the Stars.

Please use the following link to register to the event: www.iceshowcase.eventbrite.co.uk.

For more information about this event; please get in touch using the contact details below.

Contact us
The University established Kent Innovation & Enterprise as their central entry point for business engagement to help make it easier for you to connect with the University. Whatever your ambitions may be, we will help you on your way to achieve them with specialist expertise and cutting-edge facilities.

If you are interested in any articles in this newsletter and would like to speak to us, then please email: enterprise@kent.ac.uk or call: 01227 816032.

We look forward to talking to you.

www.kent.ac.uk/enterprise
@ICE_UniKent