Kent Innovation & Enterprise
University of Kent Innovation & Enterprise

Kent Innovation & Enterprise Launches Inspire, Challenge, Excel Programme

Technology evangelist, digital skills expert and social entrepreneur, Dr Sue Black OBE gave the inaugural Inspire, Challenge, Excel Programme (ICE-P) lecture at the University on Friday 22 September.

The launch event took place in the Woolf College lecture theatre at the University’s Canterbury campus, and was formally launched with an introduction by Kent’s new Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Karen Cox. Dr Sue Black OBE then delivered the inaugural ICE-P Lecture, entitled Inspire Challenge Excel: My Story, which charted her journey from 16-year-old school leaver to her position today in the world of computing.

Founder of BCSWomen, the UK’s first online network for women in technology, and #techmums, a social enterprise that encourages more women to use technology, Dr Black is a passionate advocate for women in tech. Her high-profile campaign to save Bletchley Park, the home of British codebreakers during World War II, and the resulting social media campaign helped secure the site’s long-term future.

ICE-P aims to create more opportunities for women to excel in their chosen area. While it runs alongside a number of initiatives already in place at the University, ICE-P stands apart from other programmes in that it is designed to bring together not just Kent staff and students, but also open up the support to the local community and businesses and bridge the gap between the communities.

This lecture marked the start of a series of events, talks and workshops that will run over the course of the next year.

For more information about the Inspire, Challenge, Excel programme please get in touch with the Innovation and Enterprise team via the contact details on the back of this newsletter.

Industrial Strategy Funding

The University of Kent is able to contribute up to 50% on the total cost of collaborative project work to registered UK companies of any size

As part of the government’s vision for a new and modern British industrial strategy, funding has been made available to the University. The funding is to promote collaborations and partnerships between academia and businesses working in defined industry sector. The five main sectors and areas of technology in which the collaborative projects may fall are:

1. Smart, flexible and clean energy technologies
2. Robotics and artificial intelligence
3. Leading-edge healthcare and medicine including digital enabling technology in health
4. Transformative digital technologies including internet of things, supercomputing, advanced modelling, and 5G mobile network technology
5. Photonics

The project can take the form of a number of different activities. Suitable types of activity are:

Time out for the Industrial Strategy
This involves an academic, technician or researcher working on a project or activity, based within the University with regular interaction with your company.

Industrial Strategy Internship
This involves an intern working on a specific project or activity with the support of a specific academic staff member, who is employed by Kent and based at your company.

Introduction of short-term paid professional placement opportunities
This is for postgraduates, registered at the University at Masters or PhD level, to undertake short term placements with your business.

Training and short courses
These will be provided by academics/researchers to your company.

If you are interested in discussing these opportunities further please contact the Innovation and Enterprise Team via the contact details on the back of this newsletter.
Hub for Innovation and Enterprise News

Kent Students compete at International Entrepreneurship Competition

This summer, students from around the world competed at the Virginia Tech Knowledgeworks Global Student Entrepreneurship Challenge for a chance to win the $25,000 grand prize and the VT KnowledgeWorks Global Challenge Trophy.

Kent Students Daniella Golden and Saga Rad, who won the University of Kent preliminary ‘Big Ideas Competition’ with the business idea “ToDo”, travelled to Virginia to present their idea as part of the Challenge. While they missed out on the top prize, won by team Cohex of Adolfo Ibáñez University in Chile, the students enjoyed the unique and invaluable experience.

Kent welcomes European delegates to an Enterprise Exchange Event

On Tuesday 4th July, the Hub for Innovation and Enterprise at the University of Kent collaborated with Enterprise Educators UK (EEUK) to hold an Enterprise Exchange event focusing upon innovative approaches to delivering enterprise education.

The one-day conference took place on the University’s Canterbury campus at Darwin Conference Suite and welcomed guests from across Europe. Guest speakers included Jolien Coenraets from the University of Ghent, Dragos-Cristian Vasilescu from Vienna University of Technology in Austria, Dr Ben Graziano from Zurich University of Technology and Prof Andy Penaluna from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Enterprise Relationship Manager, Marcus Wright from the University of Kent, began the day after a welcome from both Deputy Vice Chancellor Philippe De Wilde and EEUK Co-host Kate Beresford.

The aim of the event was to obtain a European perspective on enterprise and entrepreneurship education within universities, whilst comparing and contrasting different approaches to support entrepreneurs in universities and the local ecosystems.

University of Kent Success at Employer Awards

The University collected three awards at a recent awards ceremony organised by Enterprise Rent-a-Car.

The awards ceremony, organised as part of the Enterprise Rent-a-Car’s Annual Advisors Of The Round Table event, recognises the most successful Higher Education partnerships that Enterprise Rent-a-Car have developed in the past academic year.

Building on their existing relationship with Kent Business School and the University’s Careers and Employability Service, Enterprise have widened their connections across campus to the Employability Points Scheme and Kent Union. This year they have offered Kent students internships as Employability Points Scheme prizes, as well as sponsoring the Employability Points Scheme Awards, and collaborating on a ground breaking partnership with the University of Kent’s sports teams through Kent Union. This year Enterprise have spent 40 hours on campus working with students delivering skills workshops, on-campus interviews and attending recruitment fairs.

Universities from across London and the South East attended the event with the hopes of collecting the coveted trophies. The University took home “Best in Class”, “Business Partner of the Year” and “Innovator of the Year”, which recognises the University’s consistent high hiring numbers, overall willingness and openness to new ideas and creativity on campus and a strong mutually beneficial relationship with Enterprise Rent-a-Car.
Kent to Develop New Smart Technology

Smartlife Inc, a Manchester based SME, have been awarded funding to embark on a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) project with The School of Sport and Exercise Sciences (SSES) at the University of Kent.

Founded in 2010, Smartlife are specialists in smart garment technology. They have developed innovative textile sensors, electronics and firmware capable of detecting the body’s biophysical signals delivering insights to users via mobile apps.

Dr John Dickinson and Dr Sam Winter, from SSES, are looking forward to working with Smartlife, and with the soon-to-be appointed Associate, a postgraduate student, who will deliver the project.

The two year project, part funded by Innovate UK, will enable Smartlife to create innovative wearable technology to identify healthy and pathological respiratory patterns. This unique functionality will grow not only their sports and fitness market share but facilitate expansion into new markets such as the health and wellbeing, medical and military markets.

Human Resources Conference Back for a Third Year

The University of Kent’s 2017 HR Conference is set to raise some interesting ideas around innovative recruitment and retention practices as we explore individual and team motivation.

Now in its third year, the conference will once again encourage attendees to interact through stimulating presentations, practical sessions and networking.

Feedback from previous delegates has highlighted the value of combining speakers from academic and business disciplines and therefore this year’s event will welcome experts from the University’s School of Psychology and School of Sport and Exercise Sciences alongside speakers from award winning businesses based in Kent.

This conference is of particular interest to HR professionals and small business owners.

HR Conference 2017: Money is not a Motivator
15th November 2017
10am-4pm
Darwin Conference Suites
Price: £99

Epilepsy Care Alliance Win EHI Awards

Graphnet and its partners in the Epilepsy Care Alliance have won the Best App for Patients and Carers Award at the EHI Awards, supported by NHS England, techUK and NHS Digital, on 31st October.

The myCareCentric Epilepsy app was officially launched last September, after a collaborative project between Graphnet, University of Kent, Poole Hospital and Shearwater Systems. The project aimed to improve the treatment and quality of lives of those with epilepsy by combining wearable technologies, shared care records, machine learning and data analysis tools.

The team have also been shortlisted for the HSJ Awards later this month, and will now complete presentations and interviews to a judging panel made up of senior and influential figures from the health sector.

The winners of the HSJ Awards will be announced at the ceremony on 22 November 2017 in London.

How the Kent IT Clinic can help you become Cyber Savvy

Cyber Essentials is a new Government backed and industry supported scheme to support businesses in protecting themselves against cyber threats. The Kent IT Clinic (KITC) is offering a new service which looks at five simple technical measures which can be taken by all companies to make businesses ready to be “Cyber Essentials Certified”. KITC will conduct an onsite consultation and guide you through a questionnaire to evaluate your current cyber security proficiency. This will be your first step towards achieving the coveted “Cyber Essentials Certification” and protecting your business from cyber threats.

Areas covered in the questionnaire:
1. Secure Configuration
2. Boundary Firewalls and Internet Gateways
3. Access Control
4. Patch Management
5. Malware Protection

The KITC can provide support and guidance during the evaluation process and can provide further technical consultancy helping you protect yourself from the every growing cyber threat.

Child Protection team wins HEA Teaching Excellence award

The Centre for Child Protection (CCP) team has won a Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE) 2017.

The Centre, part of the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR), was launched in September 2012 with help from Kent Innovation and Enterprise. Set up by professors Jane Reeves and David Shemmings it aims to capture the best of contemporary technology and gaming techniques, help professionals learn in a modern and innovative way to help them protect children, and help children protect themselves.

As part of the award, CCP will receive £15,000 to disseminate its learning.
University Spotlight

An interview with the University’s new Vice Chancellor and President Professor Karen Cox.
Professor Cox took over from Dame Julia Goodfellow as Vice-Chancellor and President in August.

Q. What are your first impressions of the University?

I have found The University of Kent, its staff, students and supporters incredibly welcoming and all very positive about the University. We have a great platform for future success which has been developed over the last fifty years and we now have a University that is inclusive, international and I believe inspirational. We are working in a sector that transforms the lives of individuals as well as broader society through education and research and the work I see here at Kent does exactly that. I am very much looking forward to working with staff and students to see that continue.

Q. What challenges do you think the higher education sector will be facing in the next 5 years?

Higher Education is a fantastic sector to be involved in. It affords huge opportunity for individuals and brings benefit to all our lives from the impact of the research undertaken within Universities and the interactions with business and industry whether that be through the use of research, partnership working to solve business challenges or recruitment of future talent into a range of work places. However, there are also real challenges ahead in terms of funding and big debates about who funds what as well as the role and purpose of universities. These are debates and discussions we all need to be involved in to help shape the future of our universities and their role and purpose, not just in Kent but nationally and internationally.

Q. Inspire, Challenge, Excel was launch last month, why are programmes such as this important?

Programmes like Inspire, Challenge and Excel are important for so many reasons but mostly because they raise issues, get us talking about problems and solutions and inspire all of us to do better. We need to have issues fore-grounded before we can tackle them and this programme does all those things.

Q. Who are your role models?

I am asked this question a lot and I don’t have a straightforward answer. I have admired many people over the years who have influenced and shaped what I do and how I behave, from early influences as an undergraduate, mentors and supervisors in the world of nursing and healthcare, through to my current work as a university leader. I think we all take away insights from the numerous interactions we have with people every day and then incorporate them in to our own thinking and ways of working. I do have fictional role models though, I love the character CJ Cregg from the West Wing who went from Press Secretary to Chief of Staff as the series unfolded, its great fun to watch.

5. How do you relax?

I never know how to answer this question but I do know that I enjoy time with family and friends, cycling, gardening and walking and that they all make me happy!

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

The University of Kent has delivered higher apprenticeships since 2011, working with industry-leading employers. Last year Kent launched the Centre for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships to build on this experience.

There are many advantages to employing apprentices, from attracting and developing staff to boosting product or service quality:

Attract higher-calibre staff
Offering higher and degree apprenticeships can help your organisation attract staff from a wider talent pool, increasing workplace diversity, motivation and commitment.

Develop existing employees
Current employees are eligible to apply for apprenticeship roles, so you can develop staff with potential and improve employee retention. Existing staff can develop their skills working with your apprentice – for example, by acting as a mentor.

Fill skills gaps
As you’ll have input into our programme content, you can ensure that your apprentices develop the higher-level skills your business needs to improve performance and growth.

Boost quality
In a Department for Business Innovation and Skills survey, 72% of organisations employing apprentices said product or service quality had improved.

For more information please email the Centre for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships: apprenticeships@kent.ac.uk
Welcome to Professor Karen Cox

Professor Cox took over from Dame Julia Goodfellow as Vice-Chancellor and President in August. Joining us from the University of Nottingham, where she was Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Commenting on her appointment she said ‘I am proud to be leading such an outstanding institution as the University of Kent. I look forward to working with staff, students and alumni to ensure our university continues to develop and grow.’

Gold award for Kent in Teaching Excellence Framework

The University has been awarded a gold, the highest possible, rating in the UK Government’s Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

The TEF Panel judged that Kent delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. Out of a total of 295 higher education providers that took part in the TEF, Kent was one of just 59 providers that were rated gold.

The TEF aims to recognise, reward and improve excellent learning and teaching at higher education providers across the UK.

Kent students have major beneficial impact on the local community

Students at Kent continue to have a widespread positive impact in the Kent region in areas ranging from volunteering and charitable giving to economic impact.

Since 2010 University of Kent students have set up more than 140 companies in the area, directly the local economy and providing new employment opportunities. Other students have also contributed greatly to charities, volunteering with local charities and donating to causes. 23 tonnes of goods such as books and clothes were donated to the British Heart Foundation alone last year.

Alongside their charitable and entrepreneurial efforts, a recent report by Experian that found 28% of all spend in Canterbury comes from students at university in the city, and students reportedly spend around £250m off-campus in the region, which supports some 2,500 jobs.

University-partnered KMTV launched

The county’s first dedicated television channel became available on Freeview 7 and Virgin 159 from 5.30pm on 10 July.

The centrepiece of its schedule will be Kent Tonight, an hour-long news programme broadcasting every week day at 5.30pm.

It is available on Freeview 7 and Virgin 159 and can also be viewed online.

Alumnus Kazuo Ishiguro wins Nobel Prize for Literature

Kent alumnus (1978) and Honorary Graduate (1990) Kazuo Ishiguro has won this years Nobel Prize for Literature. One of the most celebrated writers of fiction in the English Speaking world, having been received four Man Booker Prize nominations, with his novel The Remains of the Day, winning the 1989 prize.

The Swedish Academy, who award the Nobel Prize, described him in its citation as a writer “who, in novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world”.

Ishiguro studied English and Philosophy at the University, from 1974 to 1978.
Save the Date

Kent Innovation and Enterprise hosts a varied schedule of events throughout the year. For more information about any of the events below please contact the team today.

**Inspire, Challenge, Excel Programme (ICE-P)**

**ICE-P Connect**
14th December 2017 & 1st February 2018
This is an opportunity for members of ICE-P to meet regularly in an informal environment.

**Challenge Workshop:**
**The power of language in shaping perceptions of gender**
27th March 2018
In this workshop you will explore the linguistic stereotypes about women and uncover their effect on women’s lives. You will then take a look at practices that can help counter stereotypes and their effects in the workplace.

**Other Events**

**Human Resources Conference: Money is not a Motivator**
15th November 2017
This year’s conference is set to raise some interesting ideas around innovative recruitment and retention practices as we explore individual and team motivation.
Cost: £99

**Midweek @ Medway**
6th December 2017
Innovation in Data Analytics and Digital Healthcare: The benefit of academic-business collaborations.

**Innovation Creativity and Enterprise Showcase**
26th April 2018
Bringing together some of the most exciting innovations and expertise from the university and local business.

**Spotlight on training**
“As technology replaces routine tasks, there is a pressing need for working professionals to future-proof themselves”. This interesting statement by Meredith Woo explores the idea that although advances in technology will indeed render some roles obsolete, it also provides opportunities for employees to upskills themselves in readiness for the new roles that will be created.

The University of Kent offers a far wider range of skills and training than traditional degree and postgraduate programmes, including higher and degree level apprenticeships and a full and varied short course portfolio.

Training and development programmes can also be specifically designed to meet the skills needs of your business, and can be delivered in-house on request. For more information about our training and conference portfolio please contact Kent Innovation and Enterprise.

**Training Sessions**

**The Assessment and Treatment of Adult Firesetters**
Wednesday 6th December 2017
9am – 5.30pm
This workshop offers training on best practice approaches to the assessment and treatment of adult firesetters.
Cost: £200

**HCR20-Version 3**
Tuesday 12th December 2017
9am – 5pm
Learn about best practices using the HCR-20 set of guidelines for comprehensive violence risk assessment and management based on the Structured Professional Judgement (SPJ) model.
£345 (course manual included)

**RSVP (Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol)**
Wednesday 13th December 2017
9am – 5pm
Learn about the administration of RSVP, the structured professional judgement risk assessment instrument which gives evaluators in assessing risk of, and in making risk management plans to prevent, sexual violence.
Cost: £345 (course manual included)
Contact Us

Kent Innovation and Enterprise is the University’s dedicated central 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 of the articles in this newsletter or want to find out more about working with the University please email enterprise@kent.ac.uk or phone 01227 82 73 76.

www.kent.ac.uk/enterprise