Black History Month

The history of the University of Kent

Kent 50th Anniversary Opening Ceremony

A newsletter created by postgraduates for postgraduates
Hello,

We hope you have been enjoying the first term of this academic year and for those of you who are new to the University we hope that you have settled in well. This is the first edition produced by our new editorial team, with some new and some old hands involved. We are the primary editors, Aino, Cathryn, Emily, Frances and Mateja and we look forward to bringing you a selection of entertaining and informative articles throughout the coming year.

In this issue we will be joining the University of Kent as a whole in celebrating its 50th anniversary and providing a host of pieces addressing this exciting achievement for the institution. These include articles on the Kent Wheel – the University’s celebratory Ferris Wheel, Templeman Ale – a new brew concocted to commemorate Kent’s half-century, Kent’s 50th anniversary ceremony, the history of the University of Kent and a selection of quotations from students past and present that have been collected courtesy of our very own Aino Isojärvi. On top of this we have a poignant piece on Black History Month as well as our regular features, Get Involved, The Face Behind the Building (Profesor Kenneth Stacey), an update on the Global Skills Award and Researcher Development Programme and a piece from our Kent Graduate Student Association (KGSA) President, Vid Čalovski.

We hope you enjoy reading this publication as much as we enjoyed writing and compiling it. It is a privilege to be at the University of Kent as it celebrates a milestone birthday and continues to climb league tables in an impressive fashion. As always, do not hesitate to get in touch either by emailing gradpost@kent.ac.uk or by visiting our Facebook group, https://www.facebook.com/groups/482353215205222/ and we hope that you have an enjoyable and productive term before the winter break!

Editors
Cathryn Andrews
MSc in Marketing
Emily Cook
MA in Linguistics
Aino Isojärvi
MA in the Contemporary
Mateja Koltaj
Masters in Law (LLM)
Frances Reading
PhD in English Literature

KGSA news
Kent Graduate Student Association
An update from your KGSA President
Hello!

I hope everyone has settled into the University of Kent and that no one is too swamped with coursework. For those of you who do not know me, my name is Vid Čalovski and I am the Kent Graduate Student Association (KGSA) President. The KGSA are the postgraduate student committee here at Kent, we represent all postgraduate students and arrange social and academic events.

At the time of writing, we have just had our Halloween pub crawl and are organising a trip to see the fireworks on Tyler Hill, which is always a great evening out. Moreover, 50 postgraduates have recently been on a day-trip to London, organised by the KGSA, which on all accounts was a success. We are looking into holding a trip to Oxford before the end of the year, so keep your eyes peeled!

The committee was elected at the end of October and for the first time in our history all the posts have been filled. This should mean that the number of events will increase, as will our campaigning and fundraising for local charities. For example, over the course of this academic year we are looking to hold regular games and film nights in Wooll College, a residential trip, day trips, fundraising events, campaigns relating to study space and getting involved in academic events. If anyone would like to get more involved, please do get in touch.

To stay up to date on our events, follow us on Twitter @KentGSA, Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/kentgsa or get in touch via email KGSA@Kent.ac.uk

I hope everyone has a productive term.
Vid Čalovski
PhD in Social Policy
KGSA President

Skills Training
The Global Skills Award Programme

The Global Skills Award is a unique programme designed to enhance global awareness and improve students’ employability in a very competitive job market, while studying for a Master’s degree.

This programme involves a series of workshops in which students are to actively take part in discussions on global issues, thereby improving students’ skills versatility. The six-month programme runs from November to April. Global issues of interest this year include topics such as ‘Are our (genetic) male bits shrinking into oblivion?’ and ‘The disappearing computer... computing from 1950 to 2050’. Other areas the workshops will cover include Cross Cultural Communication, Presentation skills, CV writing and Networking.

It is of great benefit to all Taught Master’s students, as they are able to widen their horizons about world issues and thus make an impact through their specific disciplines.

Saluadeen Amao
MSc in Networks and Security
Black History Month: Race in Time

At the University of Kent – every month is Black History month!

2014 has been the year we mark three significant anniversaries: we commemorate 100 years since the First World War, celebrate 20 years since the end of apartheid in South Africa and of course last but not least, 50 years since the opening of our University.

As we reminisce and look back at the First World War, we remember the many Caribbean and African men that came to support Britain. We also look back at the end of apartheid and remember the great Nelson Mandela who led the movement that abolished this unjust system. These legendary moments and people would be filed under the topic of black history and so it is quite fitting that the month in which we celebrate black history has just passed.

What we now know as Black History Month was initiated by Carter G Woodson in 1926. Back then it was actually a week long in the month of February and was named "the Negro History Week". It was brought to the UK a couple of years later, in 1987 by Akyaaba Addai-Sebo, Co-ordinator of Special Projects for the Greater London Council. Ever since then, October has been the designated month for the celebration of black history.

However, years have gone by and Black History Month has not evolved, we learn the same things year upon year. Every single October the same things are addressed; slavery, apartheid and the civil rights movement. Yet there are many black people that have made a huge impact or contributed to major changes are often overlooked or forgotten, to name a few:

- Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861) – One of Britain’s foremost romantic poets. With members of her family said to be part-Creole, some regard her as the first black fiction writer in British History
- Bishop Wilfred Wood (1936) – The first black bishop appointed by the Anglican Church
- Claudia Jones (1915-1960) – Creator of the West Indian Gazette (the UK’s first black newspaper) and Notting Hill Carnival
- Professor Wangari Maathai (1940-2011) – The first woman in East and Central Africa to gain a PhD in biology, who also has a Nobel Peace Prize under her belt, as well as being elected to Kenya’s national parliament in 2002.

We need to remember that Black History Month was started to show progression, as well as remembering the greats. I personally think Black History should be communicated throughout the year. As Dr John Henrik Clarke once said, “we keep calling for black history, but really history has no colour, we need to call for honest history for all the people of earth.” Black history should be shared with all, as it has universal significance, one month is not enough to convey this. It should be compulsory within all educational establishments and the national curriculum, tackling today’s challenges and unlocking tomorrow’s opportunities.

Throughout the year provided by our own African Caribbean Society (ACS) we celebrate the culture, history and achievements of black and ethnic minority communities. Re-establishing our University’s reputation, within the Kent black community, is student and ACS President, Tendai Dombojena. She feels that, “there has been an oppression of Afro-Caribbean culture. From a young age we have not been exposed to enough black culture, therefore the depiction of the black experience has been misinterpreted.”

Tendai states that, “The ACS is an integral part of the university experience for many people.” She strongly believes that the events put on by herself and her fellow ACS team will hopefully help to break down barriers and resolve some of the existing race ideologies by creating a better understanding of diverse groups.

The ACS provides career network opportunities, as well as a social hub to meet new people outside of your course. Already this term has been filled with various events. In September there was an amazing presentation by international law firm, Clifford Chance. In October there was an Empowerment event, Bank of England talk, Debate night and a film night that brought everyone together while watching one of the most iconic films. Events to come include more film screenings, ACS Come Dine With Me, more debate nights, talent shows, career workshops, mentorship schemes and so much more. These varied events are for all students – everyone is welcome!

We all know there is still some way to go to achieve world equality but our University is heading in the right direction. Please join us and support our ACS team’s efforts by participating in the events to come. You can find out more about how you can get involved by using the links below.

Twitter: @UKCACS
Facebook: Kent ACS
Email: UKACS@hotmail.com

Rhea Agard
MA in English and American Literature
The University of Kent at Canterbury, as it was formerly known, was granted its Royal Charter in 1965 with the Duchess of Kent appointed as Chancellor. Just 500 students were enrolled at Eliot College, named in honour of the poet T S Eliot, who was the only college opened to new students. In 1966, the University opened its second college, Rutherford, named after physicist Ernest Rutherford. The year 1966 also saw the start of the University’s first radio station, UKC Radio, run for and by students. The venture did not last, although it was resurrected in 2007 as Canterbury Student Radio (CSR), in conjunction with Canterbury Christ Church University.

The year 1968 marked an important stage in Kent’s history with the opening of Keynes College, in honour of the economist John Maynard Keynes, and the University’s first degree congregation, which was held on campus in Eliot College. The Cornwallis building and the Sports Hall were also opened in 1968 along with the Templeman Library, thus paying tribute to Kent’s first Vice-Chancellor. The original Templeman building was extended in 1974, again in 1995 and is currently undergoing a development project to extend and refurbish it.

Kent’s contemporary arts centre, the Gulbenkian Theatre, might seem like a modern development but it actually dates from 1969. However, the addition of the spectacular Colyer-Fergusson Music Building in 2012 has brought it into the 21st century. Other buildings dating from this period include the Registry, the Senate, and Darwin College, Kent’s fourth college, all of which were founded in 1970.

The next decade in Kent’s history saw the opening of the Park Wood student accommodation village in 1980. Two years later, as part of the University’s policy to widen access to higher education, the School of Continuing Education’s Centre at Tonbridge was established offering part-time degrees and short courses to residents of West Kent and the surrounding area. The University later received the royal seal of approval when in 1987 Her Majesty the Queen formally opened the new Computing Laboratory extension at Canterbury.

A year later the Grimond Building opened its doors, followed by new halls of residence Becket Court in 1990, and Tyler Court in 1995. Three years later, Canterbury students wholeheartedly welcomed the opening of the new campus nightclub, The Venue, which is still going strong.

The new millennium saw an extension to Keynes College completed in 2001, comprised of a magnificent 360-seat lecture theatre and additional student accommodation. The University’s Medway campus in Chatham, a collaborative project with Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich, was inaugurated by Her Majesty the Queen during a visit with the Duke of Edinburgh in 2002 and opened to students three years later. In 2003 the University was renamed the University of Kent in recognition of its new and anticipated locations beyond the Canterbury campus. Kent’s Graduate School was established in 2008 and Woolf College, named after the writer Virginia Woolf, welcomed its first students as the only college dedicated solely to postgraduate accommodation and study space.

As it celebrates its 50th anniversary the University has just installed its sixth Chancellor and it has an impressive 19,000 students and 3,000 staff. Unique in its global outlook and self-appointed position as ‘the UK’s European university’, Kent holds two Queen’s Anniversary Prizes and several top 20 positions in national university league tables. Its current students can eagerly await the fantastic Templeman Library development that is scheduled for completion at the end of 2015, along with the Turing residential hall. So next year, why not take a ride on our very own Kent Wheel, survey the outstanding 300-acre campus from mid-air, and congratulate yourself on becoming part of the University of Kent at this very special time in its history.

Louise Willis
MA in Comparative Literature
Eye-catching

The Kent Wheel comes to campus to mark the University’s 50th anniversary

The beginning of term saw something new on the horizon of the Canterbury campus. Before our very eyes, the Kent Wheel was constructed. Situated on the lawn between Rutherford and Eliot colleges, the Wheel has a stunning backdrop as it looks over the city of Canterbury.

The 33 metre tall wheel with 24 ‘pods’ is certainly one of the biggest (in every sense of the word) attractions of the 50th anniversary. It is unique, eye-catching, and an experience not to be missed for students and members of the local community.

One of the questions I was asked most during the first couple of weeks of term was ‘have you been on the wheel yet?’ So I knew I would definitely be missing out on something if I did not have a ride. After all, how many students get to see their University from a bird’s eye view (other than from looking at the panoramic images in a prospectus)?

I have always appreciated how beautiful our Canterbury campus is. We are perfectly situated for a fantastic view which overlooks the magnificent Cathedral and city centre. But the views from the wheel were something else – they were just spectacular! Luckily, we have had some wonderful autumn weather this term. I rode the wheel on a beautifully clear day which resulted in fabulous panoramic views of the whole of the University, the city of Canterbury and the surrounding countryside.

A ride on the wheel lasts around ten minutes. The pods circulate round several times before the ride is over. Due to the height of the wheel, the anticipation of reaching the top each time was very exciting. Going round just once would not be enough to take in the views. There was just so much to see!

All in all, £4 well spent, as profits from the tickets sales are going into the Kent Opportunity Fund, which supports students by providing scholarships to enhance their academic studies, and bursaries to help those experiencing financial difficulties.

Emily Cook
MA in Linguistics

Cheers!

A pint of Old Templeman Ale to celebrate the 50th anniversary

University of Kent postgraduates celebrating the institution’s 50th anniversary, or simply going out for a drink across campus, might have noticed the fantastic appearance of a special pale ale called The Old Templeman.

It was commissioned by Kent to add to the occasion of the University’s landmark birthday, and it was named after a key feature of the Canterbury campus – the Templeman library.

The name was chosen last year by International Business student Damyana Stoyanova, who won first prize in a competition by Kent Innovation and Enterprise called ‘Name the Ale’, and this great initiative is just one reason why you should try it.

What better time to name a drink after our library, too, as it is going through a period of redevelopment, making it fit for the next generation of aspiring students coming to the University, and turning into a modern place of learning at the heart of the campus from which we can all benefit.

But, far from setting out to remind you of all those ‘all-nighters’ spent in the library researching, writing assignments, or catching up on work ahead of classes, the Old Templeman Ale’s quality comes not only in the sense of community the ale gives us, but in its light and refreshing taste, which is the most important factor for any postgraduate who wants to unwind after a long day of teaching, writing, or researching.

Also, as ale choice is limited on campus, this is an excellent addition to the selection of drinks on offer, and one you will notice immediately when you get to the bar, as its bright blue branding shines out among the range of other bottled beers.

And sure, ale is probably not going to be every student’s preferred choice of drink, but this is something to try, and a flavour to taste, for a limited time only, as it has all been micro-brewed ahead of the 50th celebrations and is exclusively ours to enjoy while it lasts.

So why not have a glass of it when you are next on campus, and see what you think?

The Old Templeman, brewed by local company Shepherd Neame, is available exclusively at bars across the University of Kent, including K-Bar, Origins, and Mungo’s, and can be bought at £16 for a case of 8, or £3.60 each, while stocks last.

George Hopkin
MA in Eighteenth Century Studies
Memories of Kent

“The teaching at University of Kent was highly professional, and the political, international atmosphere definitely widened my cultural horizons. Not to forget the social activities, especially the Law Society, which encouraged me to make friends with other people studying the similar course.”

Alex McCarthy, Eliot 2014

“...A wonderful three years. What do I recall? A barely finished room upon arrival (N2E7). If I wanted a society I founded it – Camera Club. Transport Society. I recall the first dinner – two shrivelled tiny lamb cutlets and little else. First lunch – half a cup of soup mix.”

Andrew Howard, Eliot 1965

“I remember applying for my course and never thinking I would be accepted. And then when I got my acceptance letter, I cried with happiness. I’m excited for the upcoming year!”

Elizabeth Nield, started 2014

“...Founding both the Labour and Conservative societies in order to get a £50 rant from each for a launch party. Tasting sherry with Professor Brian Keith-Lucas. The first time I saw my wife-to-be, Diana Cohban, in the Eliot refectory breakfast line.”

Andrew May, Eliot 1965

“The excitement I felt entering the Templeman Library for the first time. The Special Collections area was a delight, and to have access to so many books. Graduation day for a retired man was so special. I am disabled so I found study helped me through long nights of pain. Thank you.”

Richard Bidgood, Keynes 2001

“My MA at the University of Kent was one of the best years I have had. The combination of a small English city, woods and meadows, plus the amazing professors that would never fail to entertain. I’ve met crazy, fun and possibly some of the best people there.”

Baiba Antonovica, Woolf 2013

“The University of Kent offered a diverse range of activities. Never did I experience a dull moment, because there was always something to do. I made new friends and met great people during my studies. I can’t believe it ever had to end.”

Rob Watson, Eliot 2014

Kent 50th Anniversary Opening Ceremony

A night of recognition, dancing and celebration

On the night of October first, hundreds of students gathered on the lawns of Rutherford and Eliot as fireworks lit the sky, marking the opening of Kent University’s 50th year. The display, which awed students and staff alike, was the culmination of a vibrant evening of celebration.

The centerpiece of the evening, the Kent Wheel towered above the festivities, bright white against the city backdrop. While many students and guests queued to ride the wheel for spectacular views of the sunset over Canterbury, others gathered to explore a variety of tents and activities. Students directed many of the evening’s events, with the School of History available to record student memories and photographs as a 50th anniversary segment to the History Project, a long term mission that seeks to document the development of the University. Students were eager to recall their favourite Kent moments and contribute to the ever-growing project, as well as participating in the #WeAreKent selfie competition. The competition highlights the hashtag used to unite the Kent community on Twitter, and serves to reflect the communal nature of the celebration, which impacts not only the Canterbury campus, but also encompasses Medway, Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome. This inclusion is reflected in a variety of events scheduled to take place across the campuses in the 2014-15 year, all of which can be viewed on the Kent website. The University encourages student contributions to the events and celebrations.

In Canterbury, the Kent Salsa Society kicked off the entertainment with a lively performance exhibiting the skill of their leading members. They were followed by music from Ben Russell and the Charmers and Stranded at the Jivin’.

The performances spanned a wide range of songs from recent decades, inspiring positive energy and a variety of dances among the guests. Large crowds gathered in front of the stage, creating a natural dance floor that spanned the hillside. While lounging on the grass waiting for the fireworks and enjoying the music, many students raised a glass of Old Templeman Ale, brewed by Shepherd Neame specifically for the Kent 50 year celebrations.

As the night darkened and the countdown came to a close, the fireworks began, dwarfing the wheel and commanding attention. The display rained down over the crowds as the explosions echoed between the buildings. It was a stunning spectacle, which incorporated a wide variety of fireworks, mixing size and colour for dramatic effect. Students whistled and cheered as reds and yellows coated the sky, sparkling in and out of view. While it takes a lot to impress the average university student, Kent certainly made this night a celebration to remember.

Mixing recognition of the past with anticipation for the future, the evening was a powerful statement of the success of the University and the achievements of its students. Congratulations on 50 years, Kent!

Cathryn Andrews
MSc in Marketing
Face behind the building

Professor Kenneth Stacey

Named after the founding Director of the School of Biosciences and Professor of Microbiology, Professor Kenneth Arthur Stacey, the Stacey building is home to the School of Biosciences at the University of Kent. Cutting edge research has been carried out here throughout the years since the School’s establishment in 1970, focusing primarily on essential biological processes at the molecular and cellular level. The building houses state-of-the-art research facilities such as the Biomolecular Science, Protein NMR and Cell Image Analysis facilities, in order to facilitate the School’s internationally-recognised research programmes in Protein Science, Cell and Developmental Biology, and Biomedicine Research. However, behind the development of the Biological Sciences at Kent was a scientist who dedicated himself to the success of the School of Biosciences, helping pave the way to success for numerous Kent alumni who have advanced to academic and industrial scientific careers, and notably was a scientist full of generosity.

Professor Stacey was born in Brighton in 1927. Soon after the Second World War he completed a BSc in Chemistry at Queen Mary University of London and explored organic chemistry for his PhD at Imperial College, London. Prior to Stacey’s appointment at the University of Kent, he undertook scientific research at various institutions throughout the UK in the 1960s including the renowned Medical Research Council (MRC) Microbial Genetics Unit in Hammersmith and at the University of Sussex. In 1970, Stacey was selected as the founding Director of the then Biological Laboratory where he worked until 1982. He also served as Dean of Natural Sciences and was an early affiliate of Eliot College at Kent. The School of Biosciences soon became one of the most fruitful departments in the UK under his management and Stacey is remembered by many at Kent for his legacy in helping the department to bloom.

Unfortunately, on Saturday 27 March 2010, Professor Stacey passed away peacefully at the age of 82. Soon before his death, Stacey was informed that the Biosciences building was to be renamed the Stacey Building to commemorate his legacy as the founding Director. He was overjoyed that the Biosciences department had chosen to make such a dedication. On September 17 2010, a building dedication ceremony was conducted by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Dame Julis Goodfellow, followed by an official plaque unveiling in honour of Stacey in the presence of his former colleagues and family members including his wife Rosalie. During the day of the ceremony, a series of scientific talks entitled the Inaugural Stacey Symposium were given by the leading UK Bioscientists from Warwick, Oxford and Cambridge Universities who worked alongside Stacey and recognised his involvement in launching their thriving careers. The talks were a pleasant blend of microbiological scientific findings, recollections of the early days of the School, as well as Stacey’s impact on his colleagues’ careers. The events of this day marked an important milestone in the School of Biosciences’ history. After the success of the first symposium, a second Stacey Symposium transpired in 2011 entitled ‘Kent Women in Biosciences’ and then in 2013 entitled ‘Careers outside the laboratory’.

The magnitude of Stacey’s legacy at Kent can be deemed notable. In 2012 The Stacey Fund was established with generous support from Biosciences alumni. This fund is enabling Stacey’s efforts to inspire young budding scientists to be continued and to allow students from low-income backgrounds to have a chance at undertaking valuable laboratory work experience around the world during the university vacation periods which greatly enhances their career prospects after graduation. Last year, The Stacey Fund permitted a team of six undergraduate students to participate in the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition (iGEM) with a design for a new biological machine to detect nitric oxide gas.

“The Stacey fund allowed me to complete the project to a high standard, providing both laboratory bench fees and money to keep me afloat during the summer. The money allowed me to officially represent the University of Kent at the European Jamboree where our results allowed us to achieve a bronze medal reports.”

Michael Coghlan
iGEM participant

For the very first time, the 2014 National Student Survey has ranked the School of Biosciences as first for Biochemistry, third for Biomedical Sciences and ninth for Biology, as well as being placed in the top 20 for career prospects in The Guardian University Guide 2014. This is a massive achievement for the department. Professor Stacey was generous, dedicated and devoted. He undeniably went the extra mile to ensure such staggering success for the School of Biosciences.

For more information regarding research in the School of Biosciences please visit: www.kent.ac.uk/bio/research

Natalie Electra Karaminas
MSc in Biotechnology and Bioengineering

For the very first time, the 2014 National Student Survey has ranked the School of Biosciences as first for Biochemistry, third for Biomedical Sciences and ninth for Biology, as well as being placed in the top 20 for career prospects in The Guardian University Guide 2014. This is a massive achievement for the department. Professor Stacey was generous, dedicated and devoted. He undeniably went the extra mile to ensure such staggering success for the School of Biosciences.

For more information regarding research in the School of Biosciences please visit: www.kent.ac.uk/bio/research

Natalie Electra Karaminas
MSc in Biotechnology and Bioengineering
Get Involved

Kent University Real Ale and Cider Society

Undergrads refusing to do the reading for your seminars? Dissertation declining to write itself? Sounds like you need a drink.

At the Kent University Real Ale and Cider Society (KURACS) we try not to take things too seriously. We try to offer you a way to let off some steam with a great group of people in a relaxed environment, whilst also giving you the chance to try some of the best beer and cider Canterbury has to offer. And as if that wasn’t enough, we’ve negotiated discounts in some of the best places in town.

The KURACS calendar revolves around our weekly Tuesday night pub tours where we visit some of Canterbury’s best pubs. Because of the sheer volume of watering holes Canterbury has to offer, and the unique nature of our membership, every Tuesday night is different from the last and no two drinks need be the same. Alongside our mainstay pub tours we run a wide array of other events to keep you busy throughout the year, including: our Whitstable Rambles where we walk the picturesque route to Whitstable before sampling their best pub shaped offerings; Bonfire night and end of year parties, filled to brim with carefully crafted homebrew; and trips to beer festivals, most importantly Dover’s White Cliffs Festival, where there’s more beer than you could imagine.

We also have a very skilled Master Brewer whose job it is to help anyone who is interested in brewing their own beer and cider; lending society equipment, and his wealth of experience, to interested members, so anyone can try. We may also soon be collaborating with some professional brewers to bring our beer, and the society, to a wider audience.

We would love some of you to come and join our already thriving postgraduate contingent and, best of all, at KURACS we’ll all have about having a good time so we welcome anyone; ale aficionado or Foster’s favoureur, scholar of scrumpy or King of Koppaberg, drinker or non-drinker, to our events.

Join our Facebook group – Kent University Real Ale and Cider Society.

We hope to see you there,

Ellis Crispin
President of KURACS

Skills Training

Researcher Development Programme

The Researcher Development Programme got underway this term, beginning with a workshop entitled, ‘Kickstart your PhD: Guidance, Skills, and the Researcher Development Assessment’, open to all first year PhD students. The programme is designed for all full-time and part-time postgraduate research students and postdoctoral researchers, and includes a series of workshops that aim to increase employability and boost the transferable skills of participants. Workshops this term have included one-day sessions on developing creativity via approaches such as Lateral Thinking, and a Myers Briggs Type Indicator workshop aimed at identifying participants’ preferences for energy, information, decision-making, and improving communication with others of different personality types. Upcoming workshops include One-to-one Writing Tutorials, Approaches to Teaching, and sessions focused on launching an academic career. All sessions can be booked in advance via the online booking system https://bloom.kent.ac.uk. For any queries relating to the RDP, please contact Carla Doolan (skills@kent.ac.uk) or Dr Jo Collins (JPCollins@kent.ac.uk) in the Graduate School.

Hannah Huxley
PhD in American Studies

Postgraduate Academic Ambassadors

Every Wednesday afternoon, postgraduate students from the University of Kent mentor A-level students at Brompton Academy. Emily Saintas talks about her experience as a postgraduate Academic Ambassador...

Mentoring biology at Brompton Academy for the last three years has changed my life. I believe that the support we give the students through their subjects gives them belief and affirmation in themselves. We support through interactive lectures, one-on-one mentoring and small workshops, when you take the time to solve a maths problem with them, make understanding the cell fun or help them to understand a chemical reaction this translates as someone believing in their potential and pushing them to achieve their goals. Without a doubt the work we do at Brompton makes an impact to each and every student we reach.

Emily Saintas
PhD in Biology

PhD in American Studies