The new £5 million home for Kent Law Clinic and Kent’s mooting programme

The new £5 million home for Kent Law Clinic was officially opened in October by the Deputy President of the UK Supreme Court, the Rt Honourable the Baroness Hale of Richmond, and principal benefactor The Honourable Charles Wigoder.

The Wigoder Law Building is also home for Kent Law School’s moooting programme with a dedicated Moot Room on the first floor. The ground floor provides extended accommodation for Kent Law Clinic, with new facilities including a lobby and seating area for clients, an expanded shared working space for staff and students, and a greater number of interview rooms and offices.

As well as offering free legal advice and representation to people in the local community who cannot otherwise afford to pay for it, the Law Clinic enhances the education of students at Kent Law School through direct experience of legal practice. Under the direction of Clinic Director, Professor John Fitzpatrick, law students have helped clients gain millions of pounds in compensation in employment law cases and brought landmark cases in asylum law which have been of huge benefit to subsequent claimants.
A top 20 UK law school

Kent Law School is ranked as one of the top 20 law schools in the UK in all three major subject league tables for 2017 following the publication of The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide. The latest national university ranking places Kent Law School 14th out of 100 law schools in the UK. Kent is consistently rated as one of the leading law schools in the UK; earlier this year the School was ranked 15th in the UK in The Guardian University Guide 2017 and 19th in the Complete University Guide 2017. Kent is one of only 12 UK law schools that is placed in the top 20 of all three league tables (a position shared by only 10 out of 24 Russell Group universities). The School is also ranked among the top 150 institutions in the world for Law in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2016.

Law Clinic wins damages for tenants

Tenants who were evicted by their landlord after making a complaint about a leaking boiler were awarded £2,500 compensation after their case was taken up by Kent Law Clinic solicitor, Vivien Gambling and second year law student Uzochi Ejiomfor (pictured). The tenants Attila Lant and his partner Eva Nemeth had lived in the rented property for a period of over eight weeks before they moved out, in conditions of extreme damp, sodden carpets, and a partial collapse of the kitchen ceiling. They had originally been sued for £4,000 damages to the property by the landlord and owner of the rented house, Judith Wilson but the case was thrown out at the hearing at Canterbury Crown Court on 12 September.

Prestigious alumni appointments

Kent Law School alumnus and Honorary Professor of Law at Kent the Rt Hon Sir Terence Etherton has been appointed as Master of the Rolls by The Queen and alumna Dr Lucy Scott-Moncrieff CBE has been appointed a new Commissioner for Standards by the House of Lords. Dr Scott-Moncrieff is an Honorary Graduate of Kent and a former president of the Law Society of England and Wales. Both Dr Scott-Moncrieff and Sir Terence are also patrons of the Kent Law Campaign.

Gold Award for internationalisation

Kent Law School’s commitment to internationalisation has been recognised with a Gold Award in the University of Kent’s inaugural International Impact Award scheme. Internationalisation covers the recruitment and student experience of international students at Kent, the international mobility of students and staff, and the development of effective research links and partnerships with other research intensive universities around the world.

Law student wins $5K in international entrepreneurship competition

First year law student Rayyan Sorefan was one of two Kent students to win the People’s Choice Award in the Virginia Tech KnowledgeWorks Global Student Entrepreneurship Challenge in the US. Rayyan, and Politics student Cesare Dunker, won the $5,000 award with their idea ‘eLog’, an app described as ‘the world’s first company delivering humanitarian technological aid to refugees coming into Europe.’ The app seeks to help government departments process the asylum claims of groups of migrants more quickly and more efficiently; the app enables migrants to provide evidence of their journeys through the use of geo-tagging, photo-recognition and time-mapping.
Law students win scholarships to Brussels Summer School

Kent Law School students Nawsheen Maghooa and Julia Kirchmayr were awarded a scholarship to attend a two-week European Summer School in Brussels. Nawsheen, a final year LLB student, and Julia, a final year European Legal Studies student, were two of 10 students selected for scholarships for Kent Summer Schools that took place in Brussels and Paris. The Summer School in Brussels was hosted by the Brussels School of International Studies and centred on the theme of ‘Europe and the World’. Nawsheen and Julia (pictured on a trip to the European Parliament) enjoyed a programme that included guest lectures, seminars and debates delivered by academics, policy-makers, diplomats and European civil servants.

‘Winter School’ in Brazil

A one-week ‘Winter School’ in Brazil gave six law students from Kent the chance to learn more about emerging trends in international and consumer law. Second-year law students Theodora Akrivou, Dan Bradbury, Jessica Cespon Chiu, Mihai Covrig, Jessica Luu and Nusrat Khan enjoyed classes taught in English delivered by international experts from the UK and US as well as Brazil. Hosted by the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) in Porto Alegre, the programme was designed for undergraduate and graduate students as well as young professionals from Brazil and all over the world. Although students attended during their summer vacation from Kent, the programme took place in Porto Alegre during the Brazilian winter (which runs from June to September).

Kent LLM students visit London & Luxembourg

Opportunities to visit London and Luxembourg were enjoyed earlier this year by Kent LLM students studying the one-year Master’s in Law programme. A group visit to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Luxembourg included attendance at a Grand Chamber hearing before 15 judges and a ‘Legal Treasure Tour’, organised by Kent Law School academics Professor Amanda Perry-Kessaris, Dr Lisa Dickson and Dr Sophie Vigneron allowed students to spend the day at The British Museum in London examining objects with a culturally and historically significant legal dimension.

Law School alumnus delivers talk at British Embassy in Kosovo

Kent Law School alumnus Alban Brahimi, who came to the UK from Kosovo with his family in the late 1990s, was selected to deliver a talk on the rule of law by the British Embassy in Pristina. The talk was one of three that comprised the ‘Brit Talks’, a series of lively discussions designed to inspire students about the work of Kosovars abroad and hosted by the British Ambassador in Kosovo Mr Ruairi O’Connell. Alban, who graduated from the Law School’s Medway campus in 2012 with a 2:1 in Law, was selected from amongst a number of Kosovars living in the UK and working in the legal profession, who submitted an application to the Embassy.
More than 440 degrees of success at graduation!

The annual Congregations ceremony for graduating law students was held in the historic, vaulted nave of Canterbury Cathedral in July. Those graduating this year included 22 joint honours students, 328 single honours students, one student with a Postgraduate Certificate, one student with a postgraduate Diploma, 84 students with a Master of Laws degree, and 10 students with a Doctor of Philosophy degree. Medway law students Emily Thompson, Melissa Moon and Michael Millin received their undergraduate degrees in a Congregations ceremony held at Rochester Cathedral. The University also awarded three Honorary Doctor of Civil Laws degrees to: Ambassador Ivo Daalder (former US Permanent Representative to NATO); Herman Van Rompuy (the first President of the European Council); and Sandra Peake MBE (Director of victims’ group Widows against Violence Empower). An Honorary Doctor of Letters degree was awarded to the Hon Dame Linda Dobbs DBE in recognition of her pioneering role as a non-white woman in the senior judiciary.

Graduate Research Conference sparks lively debate

Kent Law School’s annual two-day interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference in June sparked lively debate as scholars explored the overarching conference theme: “Who needs law?”

The conference is an annual celebration of the research being undertaken by the Law School’s postgraduate students. Also participating were graduate scholars from Kent’s School of Psychology and the School of European Culture and Languages, and visiting presenters from law schools at SOAS University of London and the University of Manchester. Contributions were also welcomed from the Centre of Mathematics and Applications at the University of Lisbon.

The conference featured four panels: Questions of Public International Law; Questions of Gender and Feminism; Questions of Private International Law; and Questions of Humanity and Human Rights. Fourteen papers were presented on topics ranging from climate change and the right to water in India, to transgender people’s rights and Cypriot Depositors in the European Court of Justice. In addition, there were two sessions enabling LLM students to present plans for their minor dissertations and to receive constructive feedback, in a supportive environment, from doctoral students and staff.

The focal point of the conference was the annual Clive Schmitthoff memorial lecture delivered by Professor Neil Brooks from Osgoode Hall Law School in Canada and entitled ‘Rising Income and Wealth Inequality: What’s Commercial Law Got To Do With It?’ Organising committee member Stephen Crawford said: “Professor Brooks provided an impassioned and entertaining examination of the potential role of Commercial Law in tactics wealth inequality, perhaps also inspiring some of the next generation of budding tax lawyers to further the cause of income redistribution.” Also on the organising committee were students Maya Athanatou, Hannah Lennox and Jodie Satterly. They were supported by the Deputy Directors of Graduate Studies, Dr Sinead Ring and Dr Jose Bellicio.

During the conference, the Kent Centre for Law Gender and Sexuality’s annual prize for the best paper on law and feminism was awarded to Flora Renz for her paper ‘Bathrooms that Matter: Gender Regulation in Public Restrooms and Trans “Rights”’.

Training contract success

Kent Law student James Mapley was in the enviable position of being able to choose from one of three offers for a training contract this summer; a position which he attributed in part to support he received through the Law School’s Professional Mentoring Scheme. James was assigned to mentor Mike Potts at the beginning of the second year of his Law LLB studies at Kent after learning about the Mentoring Scheme at an annual professional networking event for mentors and mentees in London. More than 100 UK and international mentors are registered in the Scheme, many of whom are alumni. They volunteer their time over the course of one academic year to help students develop their understanding of the legal world and to navigate the application process for both work and study. James and Mike were in regular contract throughout the year they were paired together, with Mike happy to advise and assist as James undertook five weeks of summer schemes at three different firms and embarked upon the process of completing training contract applications.
Kent Law School students Jas Cheema, Melanie Lafresiere, and Tom Bishop secured a top ten finish in the 11th LAWASIA International Moot Competition held in Sri Lanka after reaching the quarter-finals in August.

Accompanied by the Kent Law School Deputy Director of Mooting Johanne Thompson, the team travelled to Colombo to tackle a complex moot problem involving a dispute over the distribution and branding of Ceylon Tea. Jas, Melanie and Tom (pictured with Johanne), competed against teams from across the southern hemisphere, including from China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, and Thailand.

Johanne said: ‘This competition has been invaluable in terms of skills for the students. They have gained an insight into an increasingly globalised world learning different styles, cultures and approaches to legal practice. They were able to observe and perform against some of the best mooting teams from mostly across Asia. Not only did they gain skills professionally and personally, but they were also able to forge links with the students and legal professionals globally – this in turn will improve their employability status amongst fellow lawyers in an increasingly competitive profession.’

Tom valued the chance to meet students from other cultures and to moot against ‘some of the best minds Asia has to offer.’ He said it was ‘an undoubtedly worthwhile experience.’

Melanie said: ‘The Law Asia Moot Competition has been by far the most enriching experience I’ve been part of throughout my two years at Kent. It has been an amazing opportunity to meet great legal minds coming from all around Asia as well as to discover new ways of advocacy.’

Jas said: ‘In terms of personal academic development, I learnt to study differently – that is a new way of teaching and approaching problems. This in turn gives you a sense of independence and self-reliance.’

The annual moot is organised by LAWASIA, an international organisation of lawyers’ associations, individual lawyers, judges and legal academics in the Asia Pacific region; the chair of its Moot Standing Committee is Kent alumnus Raphael Tay, a partner at Chooi & Company in Kuala Lumpur.

Kent Law School runs an intensive and wide-ranging mooting programme; in recent years the Law School has entered teams in the OUP/BPP Moot, the English Speaking Union Moot, the Jessup International Law Moot, the Oxford French Law Moot, and the UK Student Law Association Moot.

What is mooting?

Mooting involves arguing points of law in a simulated courtroom setting using hypothetical facts often based on a real case. It offers an excellent opportunity to apply legal knowledge and develop advocacy skills. Mooters work in teams of two to prepare their case either for the appellant or the respondent and to present their arguments to a bench of judges.

An extra-curricular module in mooting is open to all second and third year students with a series of ‘mini moots’ run in conjunction with the Kent Law Temple Society for first year students.

Students who participate in mooting will benefit from the facilities of the new Wigoder Law Building which includes a dedicated Moot Room. Designed to replicate the interior of a courtroom, the new room will enable students to hone their advocacy skills in a realistic and professional setting.
The Wigoder Law Building

The Wigoder Law Building, the new £5 million home for Kent Law Clinic and for Kent Law School’s mootering programme, was officially opened by the Deputy President of the UK Supreme Court, the Rt Honourable the Baroness Hale of Richmond, and principal benefactor The Honourable Charles Wigoder in October.

This contemporary two-storey building delivers three times the space of the current Law Clinic office that it replaces, and in addition provides a new, bespoke and elegant moot court for the benefit of students keen to develop their advocacy skills. The new Moot Room has 71 seats; 5 chairs for judges, a bench for mooters seating 6 and 60 public seats.

The Kent Law Campaign (the £5 million campaign to raise funds for the building) was first launched to the public just under three years ago, at a gala evening at The Gherkin on 6 November 2013.
Kent Law School staff and students are grateful to The Hon Charles Wigoder and to all the individual donors and organisations for their generous support and much valued contributions to the Kent Law Campaign.
Research

Bingo under threat and in need of regulation

A hundred years after the first mention of bingo, as ‘housey housey’, research carried out at Kent Law School warns that safeguards are needed to protect its future. Already the game and its distinctive environment, as a social and community experience, are threatened by automated variants of bingo, and the revenue earned from slot machines. The findings of The Bingo Project’s three years of research were presented at a conference hosted on Kent’s Canterbury campus entitled ‘All Bets are Off: Reflecting Critically on Gambling Regulation Within and Across Borders’. Reader in Law Dr Kate Bedford, who led the research, has a personal understanding of bingo as a social and community experience, are threatened by automated variants of bingo, and the revenue earned from slot machines. The findings of The Bingo Project’s three years of research were presented at a conference hosted on Kent’s Canterbury campus entitled ‘All Bets are Off: Reflecting Critically on Gambling Regulation Within and Across Borders’. Reader in Law Dr Kate Bedford, who led the research, has a personal understanding of bingo as a social game played mostly by working class women, having been introduced to it as a child: www.kent.ac.uk/thebingoproject

Conference exploring time, law and regulation

An international conference exploring the relationship of time, law and regulation was hosted on Kent’s Canterbury campus in September. ‘The New Legal Temporalities: Discipline and Resistance across Domains of Time’, explored time’s fraught relationship with law, governance and ordering; the use of time in projects of discipline; the significance of time to resistance; and the creation of new temporal horizons. The conference was the final event for the three-year Regulating Time Network, funded by the UK’s Arts & Humanities Research Council. The Network, comprised of an interdisciplinary group of scholars, was co-ordinated by Kent Law School Reader in Law Dr Emily Grabham and Dr Sian Beynon-Jones, a Lecturer in Sociology at the University of York. www.kent.ac.uk/law/time

UK’s Critical Legal Conference at Kent

The UK’s Critical Legal Conference (CLC), was hosted on Kent’s Canterbury campus in September by a team of academics from Kent Law School. With a theme of ‘Turning Points’ the annual gathering of international legal scholars took place exactly 30 years after the first CLC conference was first launched at Kent in 1986. This year’s organisers unearthed a number of early CLC documents in the Kent Law School archive including documents relating to the formation of the CLC and a copy of the Call for Papers in 1986.

Existing surrogacy law reform is crucial

A conference organised by Kent Law School surrogacy law expert Dr Kirsty Horsey heard Baroness Mary Warnock say she has changed her mind about surrogacy. Baroness Warnock wrote a report in 1984 which led to the Surrogacy Arrangements Act of 1985 and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act of 1990. At the London conference, entitled Surrogacy in the 21st century: Reflecting assumptions, reforming law, Baroness Warnock (pictured with Dr Horsey) said the ethical problems she associated with surrogacy in the 1980s have changed and that we should look again at surrogacy as ‘we now feel far less threatened by “unorthodox” forms of family than we did thirty years ago’. Dr Horsey has described the current law – particularly the rules relating to legal parenthood following surrogacy – as out of date and nonsensical, culminating in an inability to protect the best interests of children born through surrogacy.

New book on judging and legal reasoning

A new book authored by Kent Law School Professor Geoffrey Samuel examines judging and legal reasoning in a concise format accessible to law students and researchers at all stages of their studies. Taking three distinct perspectives, A Short Introduction to Judging and to Legal Reasoning (published by Edward Elgar) considers what legal reasoning has been; what legal reasoning is from the view of judges and jurists; and what legal reasoning is from the view of a social science epistemologist or humanities specialist.

New book examines law and time

A new book by Reader in Law Dr Emily Grabham offers a fresh and lively examination of the relationship between law and time. In Brewing Legal Times: Things, Form and the Enactment of Law (University of Toronto Press), Dr Grabham draws on perspectives from actor-network theory, feminist theory, and legal anthropology to consider how legal temporalities are ‘brewed’ in UK and Canadian Law. Case studies include debates about ‘progression’ and ‘likelihood’ in the context of HIV law, ‘work-life balance’ in labour law, and ‘transition’ in the context of transgender legal rights.
Legal submission published on Iraq Inquiry website

A legal submission by international law experts at Kent Law School has been published on the Iraq Inquiry website. The submission, written in September 2010, lists 18 points made in respect of Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter and its implications for the interpretation of UN Security Council resolutions. Authored by Professor Nick Grief, Dr Yutaka Arai, Sian Lewis-Anthony and Kasim Sheikh, the submission was made in response to an open invitation for experts to comment on the issues of law arising from the grounds on which the UK Government relied for the legal basis for the 2003 military invasion of Iraq: www.iraqinquiry.org.uk/other-material/submissions-international-law

Free public lectures

International legal issues in the news are the focus of a series of free lectures from the Centre for Critical International Law (CeCIL). In the first, held in November, Dr Sophie Vigneron examined the historical destruction of cultural heritage for religious and/or political purposes. Next year on Tuesday 7 March, Professor Nick Grief will deliver a lecture entitled Beyond Law’s Limits? Holding Nuclear-armed States to Account in the International Court of Justice and on Wednesday 31 May, Dr Darren Dinmore will deliver a talk entitled State of Emergency: On Turkey’s Gülenist Purge and the Defence of Human Rights. All the CeCIL events in this series take place in The Friends Meeting House, 6 The Friars, Canterbury at 7pm (with tea, coffee and light refreshments available from 6.30pm). They are free and open to all.

Two awards for outstanding learning support at Kent Law School

Dedicated staff in Kent Law School’s Skills Hub and Student Advice Office have been recognised for their provision of outstanding learning support to law students in the annual University Teaching Prizes. Both teams have been awarded a £1,000 Barbara Morris Prize for work which has been deemed to demonstrate excellent practice and which has been shown to enhance the student experience at Kent. The School’s Skills Hub team, comprised of Law School graduates Callum Borg, Jonjo Brady and Katia Neofytou (pictured above), work in collaboration with Skills Hub Director Dr Kirsty Horsey (Senior Lecturer) and Ben Watson (former Law Librarian and currently Accessible Information Project Lead with Student Support) to provide practical guidance and tailored support to law students. The School’s Student Advice Office is staffed by two Student Advisers, Hattie Peacocke and Dr Paul Hubert, along with two members of professional service staff, Joanne Harvey and Jude O’Connor (pictured above). Together, the team works closely with academic staff to monitor attendance and academic progress and to provide confidential and personal academic support to law students. Earlier this year, Student Adviser Hattie Peacocke was named ‘Best Academic Adviser’ in the Kent Union Teaching Awards 2016.

Law School postgraduate office team praised for administration excellence

Kent Law School’s postgraduate office team has been praised for its warmth and efficiency in a nomination for the University’s Administration Excellence Award. Together, the team comprising Lynn Risbridger, Postgraduate Office Manager; Stephen McLaughlin, Postgraduate Admissions Officer; Karen Finch, Postgraduate Clerical and Admissions Assistant; and Siân Robertson, Clerical Assistant were also credited with ensuring that postgraduate students at the Law School have an excellent experience during their studies.

Leavers and joiners autumn 2016

This year we were sorry to bid farewell to: Amanda Banfield, Sam Betts, Máriaed Enright, Stephen McLaughlin and Lucy Welsh. We warmly welcome: Lecturer Dr Hayley Gibson, Dr John Heieck (Brussels), Student Success Officer Nicola Molttram, Postdoctoral Researcher Dr Clare Parker, Postgraduate Recruitment Officer Pauline Rogers, Lecturer Dr Nayeli Urquiza and Lecturer Dr Asta Zokaityte. We also welcome Professor Francesco Salvini, a Visiting Fellow at Kent Law School until January 2017.

Staff promotions: Our congratulations to: Dr Emilie Cloatre and Dr Gibenga Oduntan on their promotion to Reader and to Dr Luis Eslava on his promotion to Senior Lecturer. We also congratulate Dr Emily Grabham on her appointment as Deputy Head of Kent Law School.

Visitors

We are grateful to all our visiting scholars for their contributions this year, including: Professor Mark Antaki (McGill University), Dr Olivia Barr (Melbourne Law School), Professor Mario Biagioli (UC Davis), Professor Thomas Bustamante (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais), Professor Joanne Conaghan (University of Bristol), Professor Marianne Constable (UC Berkeley), Professor Kathleen Davis (University of Rhode Island), Professor Didier Fassin (Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris), Professor Peter Fitzpatrick (Birbeck Law School), Samantha Frost (University of Illinois), Professor Rosemary Hunter (Queen Mary University London), Professor Markus Krajewski (Universität Basel), Professor James Martel (San Francisco State University), Dr Julie McCandless (London School of Economics), Dr Dave McDonald (Criminology, University of Melbourne), Professor Mandy Merck (Royal Holloway), Professor Stuart Murray (Carleton University), Professor Chantal Nadeau (University of Illinois), Dr Genevieve Painter (McGill University), Alain Pottage (London School of Economics), Professor Nan Seuffert (University of Wollongong), Dr Olvera Simic (Griffith University), Professor Christopher Tomlins (University of California) and Marc Trabsky (La Trobe Law School).
Student Society News

Kent Law Temple Society
Pranav Sahni, President 2016-2017
Kent Law Temple Society (KLTS) is proud to be the bearer of a sublime legacy enshrined in the values of fidelity, fraternity, community and equality. For over three decades, our society has strived to provide students of all creeds, interests, degree programmes and backgrounds with an extracurricular experience that is second to none. This year, we have revised, updated and expanded our mooting programme from a seasonal tournament to a round robin competition with the aim of offering all our members a practical opportunity to apply their legal knowledge and skills in a professional yet temperate environment. Our members can participate in this programme by purchasing our Mooting Card for £4; the card entitles all holders to participate in this programme by purchasing our Mooting Card for £4.

Our traditional focus on advocacy, networking, training and careers awareness will be supplemented and reinforced by inviting guest speakers from legal practice, academia, commerce and public service who will highlight the incredible diversity in ideas, qualifications, beliefs and skills that make studying and pursuing the law across multiple jurisdictions an aspiration for so many of us.

Whether you wish to be the next corporate titan, civil rights activist, criminal defence attorney, diplomat or international prosecutor; our society promises to be a broad church with events which shall pique everyone’s interest in an atmosphere of camaraderie and solidarity. Please connect with us on email or social media and I look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Kent Student Law Society
Giovanna Koulonti, President 2016-2017
A warm welcome to all new and existing members of the society and thank you to all current committee members for all their hard work. The Kent Student Law Society (KCLS) has had a very successful start in the 2016-17 academic year with record sign ups and turnout to our events. Fresher’s Fayre was a fantastic opportunity to connect with first years and it is great to see that most of them are establishing a connection with the society.

Our Annual Law Fair has been well attended for one more year and because of that we are planning more networking opportunities for our members in the second term along with our signature event, the Annual Dinner at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge in February. November is the busiest month of KCLS, as it is filled with talks from solicitors and education providers. We will also be hosting skills based workshops on Interview Presentation, Commercial Awareness, Frist Impressions and Training Contract Applications.

Our Society welcomes law students and non-law students with an interest in law hence, most of our workshops and events are designed to cater for both.

The main focus of the Society for one more year is employability and the career prospects of our members after their degree, for this we would like to especially thank the Employability Points Scheme and our sponsors.

Kent Critical Law Society
Aastha Aggarwal, President 2016-2017
Kent Critical Law Society (KCLS) is a quintessential student law organization which promotes the aims of critical law and legal studies. We interrogate the social, economic and political dimensions that shape the legal doctrine and the contemporary society.

This term, we have successfully been able to bring to the table some important issues and have examined them with a critical eye. We pride ourselves in being able to instil students with the techniques and importance of critical thinking skills. KCLS has thus embarked on the path of providing members with invaluable skills and enhancing their university experience.

The term started with receiving overwhelming interest from both law and non-law students at the Fresher’s Fayre. Serving the interests of both, we have organised events by collaborating with both legal and non-legal societies. The highlight of the term has been the ‘Trip to the Houses of Parliament’ in collaboration with ELSA Kent where students were given a guided tour and an opportunity to put questions to the MP from Canterbury (Mr Julian Brazier). One of our events also focused on ‘Brexit: What’s next?’ to explore the political and economic fallout and raise commercial awareness. Jointly with UKC Amnesty International and Kent Palestinian Solidarity Group, we organised an event on ‘Social Media and Censorship: Free Speech Conundrum’. We hosted Ms Tanya O’Carroll who shared her research on censorship and surveillance online especially on social movements and the restrictions laid on them. Mr Hanif Qadir also shared his personal experiences on radicalisation via social media.

For the rest of the term, we have a series of intriguing events planned such as: ‘Who owns the moon?’, and ‘Hard to Believe’, a
documentary screening based on the organ harvesting industry in China. We welcome more student participation in the upcoming events and at our annual conference which will take place on the Canterbury campus on 18/19 March 2017.

European Law Student Association (ELSA) Kent
Benedetta Veneruso, President 2016-2017
The European Law Students’ Association (ELSA) has always sought to foster a professional atmosphere that incorporates the international essence of Europe’s communal identity as a tool for the creation of diverse, yet educational opportunities. The purpose of which is to harness these diverse experiences and leverage them into opportunities that provide our members with a chance to discover the wonders of other cultures and the multitude of different legal systems and governmental structures around Europe. For instance, in October students who took part in our annual trip to Westminster were afforded the opportunity to immerse themselves in the storied history that is Great Britain. Students from all over the world were suddenly face-to-face with a legal institution that has single-handedly influenced the foundations and structures of an entire global commonwealth. Also, as a follow up to our visit local MP Julian Brazier and talk about the daily role and responsibility of a person in his position. ELSA is also bringing STEP (Student Trainee Exchange Program) to Kent once again. STEP is a great initiative that provides young people the ability to acquire professional experience in an international situation, better preparing them for the rigors of a future in International Law. In addition, in the coming weeks students will be able to participate in ELSA Day; the theme of which will be to spread awareness and foster discussion on the current European refugee crisis and global human rights.

Kent Canadian Law Society
Gabriela Kratchanov, President 2016-2017
The Canadian Law Society (CLS) is extremely excited for the 2016-2017 school year. The committee has planned many events, meetings, and activities in order to give its members the most productive and fulfilling year possible.

Founded in 2010, our mission is to help those who seek to become lawyers in Canada. In order to achieve this goal, we work closely with our local MP Julian Brazier and talk about the daily role and responsibility of a person in his position. Also, as a follow up to our visit local MP Justin W Yuen, a former CLS President who currently works at a top criminal law firm in Toronto, will be coming to Kent to facilitate an information session about his return to Canada and be a key panel judge for our Canadian negotiation and moot. The winner of ‘Best Mooter’ will attain the opportunity to shadow Justin during a criminal trial in Toronto. Another alumna, Tony Hibbitt—a student at law with BLG (another top law firm in Canada)—will also be in contact to talk about her educational experience and journey back to Canada. Finally, with the help of Justin, we are establishing an alumni donation fund with the goal to financially help the CLS be as successful as possible.

The CLS is very enthusiastic about the coming year, and we look forward to continuing to help build the best experience for Canadians in Kent for years to come.

Nigerian Law Society
Olalekan Adebayo, President 2016-17
On behalf of the executive members. I welcome you all to the Nigerian Law Society! This society is open to all at Kent and we encourage students and staff from all nations to join us. In this academic year, we are committed to providing some important events and a program which includes: talks on Nigerian corruption, poverty and human sustainability (November/December 2016); a lecture on the Nigerian legal system, judiciary intervention and legal process (December 2016); Kent Law School and Nigeria Pro-Bono Network Initiative Program; a debate on African legal problems and developments (January 2017); a visit to the UK Houses of Parliament (February 2017); a visit to the UK Supreme Court (February 2017); a Nigerian Night and Intercultural Day (March 2017); and a visit to the International Court of Justice (June/July 2017). Also planned is a Nigerian Delicacy Project for Student Welfare (NDPSW vision 2017)

Aside from alumni week, we will also be sending a team of Canadians to the inter-university Canadian negotiation at Exeter and the inter-university moot at Leicester. Moreover, despite the numerous academic opportunities and advantages the CLS provides, there is also a social aspect to the CLS, as we coordinate fun social outings throughout the year.
You’ve secured a prestigious scholarship that will enable you to undertake the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC). Congratulations! Can you tell us more about this award?

I was awarded a Major Scholarship from The Honourable Society of Lincoln’s Inn which would enable me to pursue the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) this September. Each year the Inn awards about 100 scholarships from over 1500 applications. I was fortunate enough to make it to the short list of 250 persons to secure an interview and then to be awarded a scholarship. The scholarship covers my tuition costs for the 9 month postgraduate course. The BPTC is the professional qualification needed to enable me to pursue the Bar Professional Course (BPTC) this September. Each year the Inn awards about 100 scholarships from over 1500 applications. I was fortunate enough to make it to the short list of 250 persons to secure an interview and then to be awarded a scholarship. The scholarship covers my tuition costs for the 9 month postgraduate course.

Can you tell us why you chose to study your law degree at Kent?

I live in Kent with my parents and hence Kent Law School was the best choice that was nearest to me. That said however, if I had the opportunity to choose again with the option of going elsewhere I would definitely choose Kent. The experience has been amazing, I have learnt a lot and I have met some really great people including outstanding academics.

During your time as a student at Kent Law School, what have been the highlights for you?

Meeting Per Laieng is at the top of the list, what an amazing fella! But seriously I enjoyed being involved with the law societies at Kent especially the Kent Student Law Society. The law societies have given me the opportunity to explore the fun side of entering the legal profession as well as networking with professionals who are in practice. I was also involved in the Kent Law Clinic in my first and second years particularly with the Criminal Justice Team. The Law Clinic gave me the opportunity to see the law in action as a student and helped me to make the firm decision to definitely become a lawyer. Assisting in various ways to raise money for the new law clinic and the moooting chamber through the Kent Law Campaign has also been a highlight for me. The first 5K I have ever run in my life was through the campaign and my medal still hangs over my bed.

As a former President of the Kent Student Law Society, how important do you feel it is for students to become involved with one of the law societies at Kent?

There is no doubt in my mind that some of the things I have achieved external to my law degree have been as a result of my involvement with Kent Student Law Society (KLS). I have been a committee member of KLS since my first year until I graduated. The law school prepares us for the academic side to a legal career; the law societies however, help students to access the professions in a more practical way. They provide opportunities for students to network with professionals and receive practical advice about how to make applications for work experience. Initiatives such as the mock interview scheme that KLS started with Furley Page Solicitors this year really helps; this year two of the students who got places on the mock interviews went on to get real interviews at the firm and secured Vacation Schemes which can lead to Training Contracts. The law societies are important and all students and staff at the law school should cherish them.

Would you recommend Kent Law School to prospective students? Why?

Without hesitation! There is no doubt that KLS is one of the best law schools in the UK. The academics in the law school take their work seriously and are very engaging. The challenge of being asked to think critically seems daunting at first but once you get the hang of it it naturally becomes a part of you. I cannot imagine studying law with a black letter approach now and that is one of the benefits of studying law at KLS. KLS offers unique opportunities that cannot be found elsewhere such as a thriving programme in Alternative Dispute Resolution which students take along side their degrees and the police mock trials in conjunction with the Magistrate’s Association of Kent and Kent Police.

What advice would you like to share with law students at Kent?

Enjoy the experience: work diligently but smartly. Make friends, I cannot emphasise how happy I am to have met some amazing people at KLS, some of whom will be friends for life. Do more than academics, it will benefit you in the long run and keep an active written diary of all of the things you do. When I had my scholarship interview I had to give full details of all of the things I said I had done on the written application form and my diary of events was very handy then.

And finally, where do you see yourself in ten years?

Guevara J Leacock QC maybe, but seriously I hope that I would have established an excellent sustainable career at the Bar.