Students v. Staff Rounders Match

If you were at the Pavilion on the University Sports Field at 6pm on 16th May 2008, you would have had the pleasure of watching the Department of Psychology’s inaugural STAFF-STUDENT ROUNDERS MATCH.

As one of the Umpires for the match, **Georgina Randsley de Moura** has sent in her account of the action:

After initial fears of the match being rained off, two full teams braved the elements and joined in the fun and games. There were 16 members of staff (captain: David Wilkinson) and 17 students (captain: Amalia Thornicroft) playing and there were 3 innings for each side. The weather remained dry throughout the match but the ground was very slippery underfoot and there were many grass stains all round!

The rules were based on those of the National Rounders Association but actually only a few ground rules were established, not least of which dropping the bat, as there was only one – this very nearly started the whole event off in a nasty accident early on with the bat flying out of Afroditi’s hands on her first hit of the ball!

In the end the score was 36 to the staff and 35 to the students – a very close run thing! The score on FULL uninterrupted rounders was rather different (2 to the staff and 6 to the students). I am sure that next time a student umpire will also be present, I tried to be very impartial (perhaps even rather favouring the students at times!) but it was hard to keep an adequate eye on some of the staff members who kept cheating – moving the posts; rugby tackling etc. You know who! On the whole a great time was had by all – lots of hilarity and rather too much wine in K bar afterwards (or was that just me?). I am sure that this will be repeated in the future!

Thanks to everyone for being involved and especially to **David Wilkinson** and **Ros Beeching** for organising the event and to **Georgina Randsley de Moura** and **Amanda Bates** for umpiring. In the next issue, we will be featuring some mystery shots!

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**Guardian League Tables 2009**

We are delighted to report that Psychology at Kent is now in the top ten universities in the latest Guardian Leagle tables. The universities above Kent are:- Oxford, UCL, St. Andrew’s, Exeter, Glasgow, York and Bristol.

Along with this good news, we can also report that the response rate for the recent **National Student Survey** was a staggering 75% for Psychology at Kent, whilst the overall University rate was 69.39%. Well done to all the final year students! Let’s see if the current second years can better that next year!
Gossip Competition

Your chance to guess which senior member of the Psychology Staff appeared on TV recently in connection with the model, Naomi Campbell?

A clue for you - the person concerned is a Social Psychologist and was interviewed by BBC News 24 and CNN, following an incident involving the model who was on board a British Airways flight to Los Angeles. All the passengers had boarded the plane when Ms. Campbell was informed that one of her two cases was missing. It has been reported that over 28,000 bags have become separated from their owners and it’s unfortunate that the model’s bag was one of the many that went missing in the fiasco at Heathrow’s newly opened Terminal 5 which cost £4.3 billion to build. British Airways took the decision to resolve the matter by insisting that she left the flight and then called the police to forcibly eject her. She was arrested on suspicion of assaulting a police officer but then released on bail pending further enquiries.

When asked about the incident, the academic concerned said:-

I know nothing about it.

Which is a sure indication that even a null finding can be ‘significant’. However, when asked to describe the mood on the plane, the academic said:-

The passengers were all very calm and nobody complained. The Captain kept thanking us all for being so patient and tolerant.

Anyone wanting to have a guess, should email Lizanne (l.allcock@kent.ac.uk). Another clue for you is that the academic concerned is mentioned separately in this newsletter!

ESRC Collaborative (Case) Studentship

Congratulations to Dominic Abrams who has been awarded an ESRC Collaborative (Case) Studentship for 2008. The project title is: “Analysing changing public attitudes to equality and intergroup relations”.

Faculty Small Grants

A number of members of staff have been successful in obtaining a Faculty Small Grant, so congratulations go to:-

Rachel Calogero
Lindsey Cameron and Sofia Stathi
Karen Douglas
Hannie van Hooff
Ulrich Weger, Brian Meier and Tim Hopthrow

Four Weddings and a Baby!

This summer sees four weddings in the Department of Psychology and the arrival of a baby! Congratulations all round!

Lindsey Cameron and James Cane are getting married in Aberdeen at Norwood Hall on the 1st August and, as they are getting married in Scotland, it goes without saying that James will be wearing a kilt! Norwood Hall was built in 1881 on the site of the 15th Century Pitfodels Castle; it’s a Victorian Mansion which is set in 7 acres of secluded gardens and woodlands, so an ideal setting.

Most of you will know Lindsey is a Lecturer in the Department and James is a postgraduate currently in his third year of his PhD.

Georgina Randsley de Moura and Tim Hopthrow are getting married on 5th September in the Cathedral Crypt.

As many of you will know, both Georgina and Tim are Lecturers in the Department and are Social Psychologists.

Many congratulations go to Tendayi Viki on the safe arrival of Jacob. Jacob was born on 6th May and is doing really well. For those of you who do not know him, Tendayi is a Senior Lecturer in the department and is also the Chair of the Ethics Committee, as well as being convenor on SP538 Psychology of Criminal Behaviour.

Four Weddings and a Baby!

Theresa Gannon is getting married to Jim on 1st August at The Three Tuns, Staple (featured above). Theresa is a Senior Lecturer in Forensic Psychology

Jane Wood is getting married to Steve on 24th August at the Smugglers Restaurant in Birchington (pictures above and below). Jane is a Lecturer in Forensic Psychology.
Media Coverage

Recently on BBC Radio 4, Kent’s very own Dominic Abrams and Tim Hopthrow were interviewed for some episodes of a five-part series in which Claudia Hammond looked at the psychology of team dynamics. By visiting groups around the country and talking to leading academics, she found out what makes successful teams tick and Dominic and Tim were on hand to give experts’ views!

The second in the series features our two Kent academics and it was about Morris men and featured ‘Big Gary’, ‘Shoulders’ and ‘Fiddler’ - all members of the Jockey Morris Team from Birmingham. They were filmed whilst preparing for Plough Day which is one of the most important dates in the Morris dancing calendar. Dominic was able to comment on how they use uniforms and nicknames to develop a strong group identity and how they cope with the inevitable mickey-taking that they experience as a team?

The fourth programme sees Claudia meet the girls from Bishop Lydeard’s U12 football team and Dominic is consulted regarding the developmental stages children go through as they learn to become part of a team. Dominic was asked:

How do children learn the rules of good teamwork such as loyalty, fairness and selflessness?

The football team are a successful side who won the Somerset County League last season but they’ve fallen to fifth place and in the programme they faced a difficult match against rivals Frome, currently number two in the league. Consequently, the programme follows the team to see if they will be able to put their newly found team skills into practice to win the match?

In the last of the series, Claudia finds out what goes on behind the scenes of Dirty Dancing, the West End musical at the Aldwych Theatre in London which has a backstage crew of 65 including sound, lighting, choreography, wardrobe, automation, stage hands, dressers and musicians. There is even a whole department devoted to wigs.

Tim Hopthrow is on hand to assess how the presence of an audience affects team performance and why the size of your team is paramount to its success. There is a huge number of tasks to co-ordinate during the three hour show including dressing the actors in 500 different costumes and firing thunderbolts and lightning!

Nuffield Foundation

Hannie van Hooff and Mark van Vugt have been awarded a Nuffield Foundation Undergraduate Research Bursary for a project entitled “Attentional Biases in human mate preferences - evidence from electrophysiological brain measures”. The undergraduate who will benefit from the award is Helen Crawford (2nd year).

Recent Publications


Grant Success

Congratulations to Lindsey Cameron who has been awarded a small grant from Race Equality Sandwell to enable her to carry out a project entitled “Testing persona dolls in nursery settings in Smethwick”.

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As most of you know from the last newsletter, Angie Maitner, a staff member in the Department is doing a trek in Peru for Anthony Nolan. Please support her efforts. A portion of proceeds will sponsor her trek, but a minimum of 60% of funds raised will directly fund research and donor support.

A.Maitner@kent.ac.uk http://www.justgiving.com/angelamaitner

The Anthony Nolan Trust is charity number 803716.

Angie has provided the following update:-

I continue to offer my sincerest appreciation to everyone who has donated thus far! We’ve now raised £2,000; only £1,000 to go! The first £2,500 is due on 28th June, so if you were considering donating, please do so as soon as possible.

It’s been a successful few days! On Saturday, we held a birthday party with a raffle (of items donated primarily by local businesses including 925 Silver, Canterbury Pottery, the Shake Shed, Waterstones, and Fudge Kitchen; special thanks to Gosia for donating some of her beaded jewellery) and silent auction (of photos taken while training in and around Canterbury). I’m so grateful to everyone for their attendance and generosity and to Maggie, Frans, and Christopher for helping get everything ready. In total, we raised £360 in one night!

On 3rd June, we put on a pub quiz in K bar on campus where we also raffled off an iPod shuffle. Thank you to Lindsey for supplying a host of questions; this American knows very little British Trivia and writing 50% of the questions was hard enough! Also thank you to Lindsey and Sofia for helping collect donations, to Sofia for keeping score, and a very special thank you to Tirza for serving as quizmaster. K bar ‘donated’ the space and offered drink specials and a prize for the winning team. This event raised £260.

We’re heading to the home stretch on this part of the challenge, but as always, if you know anyone who might be interested in contributing, please feel free to pass this message on!

I’m not going to lie, I’ve had a few slow weeks with free time spent organizing the fundraising events and preparing to jet off to back-to-back conferences in the Netherlands and Croatia. But for a quick total: I walked 125 miles in the month of May throughout Turin, Italy, and in and around Kent.

Pictured below is the Superga in Turin, taken by me.

We had one week of beautiful weather that facilitated this total, and are otherwise back to rainy English weather.

Warm regards,
Angie

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**Kent Psychologist**

We welcome contributions from both staff and students for future issues. If you would like to write an article or have any news you’d like to share, please contact Lizanne Allcock.

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**New Dean of Graduate School**

Congratulations to Diane Houston who will be taking up the position as the new Dean of the Graduate School from 1st July 2008.

Diane has been Head of the Department of Psychology since July 2006. She is a social psychologist who has published widely, particularly on culture and cognition, the psychological dimensions of social diversity and on psychological perspectives on work, employment and parenthood. She is Chair of the Social Psychology Section of the BPS and member of the Academy of Social Sciences. In 2003-7, she was seconded as an advisor to the Ministers for Women and Equality (Patricia Hewitt, Jacqui Smith, Tessa Jowell and Megg Munn) in the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Graduate School will be housed in the new Virginia Woolf building where work began in the summer of 2007. It is hoped that the residences will be available for student occupation from September 2008 and completely ready by December 2008. The new Graduate building will not only offer ensuite accommodation for 544 graduate students but also a 500-seater lecture theatre and state-of-the-art seminar rooms.

Each year nearly one in five of Kent’s student registrations is a graduate student (18.6% in 2007/08).

We wish her well in her new post and thank her for her hard work whilst Head of Department.