Kent Psychology
School of Psychology
University of Kent
Newsletter Vol 4 No 4
October 2010

Not one... not two... but... thirty-six iPads!

During the summer, the School of Psychology took delivery of 36 iPads! This is a brand new initiative led by Dr Tim Hopthrow which makes large scale data collection more efficient and environmentally-friendly. Experimental Officer Jason Marshall has also developed a fantastic programme which sorts the data and means that the system will be springing into action very soon!

Psychology at Kent Rated 1st for Students Satisfied in the NSS 2010!

The School of Psychology would like to thank its students for making Psychology at Kent number one for students satisfied in the National Student Survey 2010.

An impressive 97% of you agreed that overall you were satisfied with the quality of the course. This result puts Kent above very esteemed competitors in the UK for Psychology.

The NSS is an important survey as not only does it give students the opportunity to voice their opinions about their experience, but it also informs prospective students about where to apply. These results will also impact upon our position in league tables of UK Universities which are recognised by graduate employers.

As well as telling us how satisfied you are with the course overall, you also expressed that staff are good at explaining things and are enthusiastic. You also agreed that our course is well organised and that you have been able to contact staff when you needed to.

We appreciate the positive feedback you gave regarding teaching, academic support, learning resources and personal development, and we will also use your responses to make improvements. We endeavour to continue to introduce new initiatives and to listen to your views to maintain the high standard of academic excellence and student experience Psychology at Kent has to offer.

ESRC Open Competition Winners

Kent Psychology graduates Ruth Lamont and Rachel Moore were both successful in obtaining very prestigious studentships from the Economic and Social Research Council Open Competition this summer.

The studentships, which will fund their Master’s and PhD programme with our School, are extraordinarily difficult to secure as many applications are received from high calibre students from different disciplines at excellent institutions.

In addition to celebrating Ruth and Rachel’s amazing accomplishments, the University was elated to announce that two more Kent graduates were also awarded this studentship.

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Social Cognition Network and Training Scheme (SCONET) Consultation Seminar 2010

Social Cognition and Social Neuroscience were the hot topics of discussion at the SCONET consultation seminar which ran this September. The conference, which was organised by Mario Weick and Roger Giner-Sorolla, was supported by the ESRC whose purpose is to support the training and networking of early career researchers and doctoral students in Social Cognition in the UK.

Participants were given the opportunity to present their work and discuss their research with international experts in one-to-one consultations and also to attend research talks from the experts. The photos below were taken at the various events that took place over the three day conference.

From Vrije Universiteit in Brussels, Frank Van Overwalle gave an insightful talk entitled ‘From action understanding to mind reading: The role of mirror and mentalizing neural networks in social cognition’.

David Amodio, from New York University, gave an exciting talk on ‘What’s being controlled in ‘prejudice control’?’ on the final day of the conference.

Kai Sassenberg from the Knowledge Media Research Center, Tuebingen gave an interesting presentation titled ‘On the attraction of Power’.

Poster presentations throughout the conference allowed visitors to gain a quick insight into a spectrum of research. Posters included: an ‘Insight into the processes of imagined contact in reducing prejudice’ by Kent PhD student Michele Birtel; ‘Are ‘Thinkers’ ‘Chokers’? Examining the role of cognition in sports performance outcomes’ by Sindhuja Sankaran of Cardiff University; ‘Automatic coping mechanisms in committed relationships: Increased interpersonal trust as a response to stress’ by Nicolas Koranyi of Friedrich-Shciiller-University.

Activities also included several individual consultations with experts including Simone Schnall, Michaela Wanke and Klaus Fieldler among others.

The organisers and attendees were very pleased with the event and would like to thank all those who took part!

Research Seminar Programme Autumn 2010

All seminars take place in Keynes Lecture Theatre 4, Thursdays at 4pm, unless otherwise stated, and last for about 1 hour. All University staff and postgraduate students are welcome to attend. Refreshments provided.

14 Oct - ‘Word Learning: Fast and Slow Mapping’, Dr Jessica Horst, University of Sussex
21 Oct - Dr William Maddux, Insead, Paris
28 Oct - READING WEEK
4 Nov - Dr Harriet Tenenbaum, Kingston University
11 Nov - ‘The Time Traveller’s Life’, Prof Neil Macrae, University of Aberdeen
18 Nov - ‘On the roles of motivation and emotion in legal judgements’, Dr Karl Ask, University of Gothenburg
25 Nov - ‘Beyond Victim Derogation and Blame: Just World Dynamics in Everyday Life’, Dr Mitch Callan, University of Essex
2 Dec ‘Look, the frog is glorping the rabbit: Cross-linguistic investigations into how children learn the meaning of sentences’, Dr Carol Rowland, University of Liverpool
9 Dec - tbc

Postgraduate Research Symposium 2010

The School of Psychology held a Postgraduate Research Symposium in Welcome Week which involved oral presentations from rising third year PhD students and posters from second year doctoral students. New research students were also invited to attend the event to get a taste of the diverse interests within the School as well as tips on presenting their own work.

The prize for best talk went to Sarah Hotham (pictured above) for communicating her research clearly and effectively - well done Sarah!

Congratulations to Bonny Hartley who the judges decided should collect the prize for best poster which had great graphic design and readability.
**Academic Study Support & Final Year Project Workshops**

**After last year's success, the academic study support drop-in sessions will continue to run this year on a regular basis.**

**Talk to part-time teachers on a one-to-one basis about anything including statistics, essay writing, practical reports and exams.**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Workshop Details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring Term</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 18</td>
<td>Tues</td>
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<td>Wk 23</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>1-4pm</td>
<td>N1.04 - DATA ANALYSIS DROP-IN SURGERY</td>
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<td>Wk 2</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>10am-12pm</td>
<td>N1.04 - Advice on your Project Proposal</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>10am-12pm</td>
<td>N1.04 - Ethics App lication Online</td>
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<td>Wk 8</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>10am-12pm</td>
<td>N1.04 Study design, questionnaires, manipulation checks</td>
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**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Jane Wood who has been awarded £28,525 from Kent Probation for a project entitled “Through the Gate”.

Bonny Hartley’s PhD research received great media attention in September. Bonny finds that by four years of age, girls think they are cleverer, more motivated, better behaved, and more successful than boys, and by the age of seven or eight, boys agree with them, believing they’re worse than girls. When reminded of these gender stereotypes in an experimental setting, boy’s performance on SATs-type tests declines.

Bonny’s work was highlighted in the Guardian, Independent, Telegraph, Mail as well as on overseas websites and several radio shows. Well done Bonny!

**Recent Publications**


Welcome Week 2010

A few weeks ago the School of Psychology welcomed its new cohort of students with a number of Welcome Week activities. After familiarising themselves with Keynes College, undergraduate students had talks from the Student Advisor, Head of School and Director of Learning & Teaching to kick off the week. There was also an introduction to the School’s IT provision and students met the Psychology Society committee members.

After various University-wide events and invitations to join experiments, the School of Psychology ended Welcome Week with its traditional treasure hunt and free BBQ. Below is a picture of the winning team of treasure hunters with School Administration Manager Lizanne Allcock. The first year students worked together to take photographs of various locations all over campus, along with cuddly their mascot, in the fastest time.

Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Dr Dinkar Sharma (pictured below), got chatting to students outside KBar.

New postgraduate students and staff also took the opportunity to get to know each other over a burger in the courtyard.

Well Done to the 2010 Prizewinners!

Lisa Tallis, Rasa Mikelyte, Natalija Duszynska-Stanley and Alexander Barber were all awarded the Faculty Prize for outstanding results in the Stage 3 examinations this year - congratulations to all of you on this considerable achievement!

The Rotary Prizes are given to five students within the Faculty of Social Sciences each year who obtain an excellent result in Stage 3 examinations; Rachel Moore was one of the well-deserved recipients in 2010 - Well done Rachel!

We are pleased to add that these students are among a remarkable 49 students who were awarded first class honours earlier this year and some have also joined us for postgraduate study this year - welcome back to Psychology at Kent!

Need Help/Advice?

If you have any personal or academic issues that may affect your ability to study you can talk to Lisa Clark, Student Advisor for Psychology.

Please email her at: psychadvisor@kent.ac.uk

There is a range of services available to all Kent students including the following:

- Careers Advisory Service
- Disability and Dyslexia Support Service
- International Students
- Counselling
- Chaplaincy
- Medical

Plus many more...

You can find more out about Student Services from the following webpage: http://www.kent.ac.uk/guidance/

Any Suggestions?

If you have any comments or suggestions for the staff in the School of Psychology, then you can feed these back to us by using our suggestions box located outside the Psychology Student Office (Keynes M1.13).

Kent Psychologist

The School of Psychology’s Newsletter is for students and staff. 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 Carly Bloomfield.

School of Psychology,
Keynes College
University of Kent,
CANTERBURY,
Kent. CT2 7NP
Email: C.Bloomfield@kent.ac.uk
Telephone: 01227 824775