Welcome & Welcome Back from the Head of School

A warm welcome – or welcome back – to all students and staff in the School! New calendar years often start with excitement and curiosity about what the future holds. We look back to the past and think about what we want to achieve or experience in the future. The same is true for new academic years – staff and students are relishing novel challenges and looking forward to new and exciting modules, projects, and research. The University’s 50th anniversary gives us a special opportunity to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. There will be lots of events and celebrations throughout the anniversary year, so please do take every advantage to celebrate together and learn new things.

In August I took over as the Head for the School of Psychology and so I am especially looking forward to this academic year. I jumped at the opportunity to apply for the position of Head because Kent Psychology is such a vibrant, diverse, and inspirational academic community. Psychology strives for excellence – in internationally excellent research, award winning teaching, graduate prospects, and delivering a superb student experience. This is reflected in our outstanding league table position, and in our consistent ambition and desire to do better. Students are at the heart of this research community, and our proudest achievements are a result of working as a team. The new academic year has started with great achievements – as you will read in this newsletter – and all members of the School can be confident about looking forward to the future and enjoying all the steps along the way. I am always eager to hear about people’s ideas and experiences within the School so please do feel free to get in touch with me (psychos@kent.ac.uk) about anything - or stop to say Hello as you see me around Keynes.

With best wishes for a happy and productive term!

Georgina Randsley de Moura
Head of School

Student Enterprise Award

In April 2014, first year students studying SP311: Business Psychology - An Introduction welcomed visitors from Kent Innovation and Enterprise (www.kent.ac.uk/enterprise/), Kent Union (www.kentunion.co.uk/), and local businesses. The students had been working in groups throughout the Spring term to use theories and research in Organisational Psychology to address real world issues facing organisations. Example topics included: “In the days of financial crisis workplace stress is a growing concern. How can we better manage well-being?”

Introducing David, Kristof & Marta

Lecturer in Developmental Psychology, Dr David Kelly was appointed in August this year. David completed his PhD at the University of Sheffield where he studied the development of the other-race effect in face processing. Following this, David took up a 2 year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Glasgow where he studied cross-cultural differences in face processing and perception before moving to Royal Holloway, University of London to work on a 3 year project investigating the role of eye movements in atypical language development.

David is interested in various aspects of cognitive development with a particular focus on the first year of life. He primarily uses eye-tracking to study visual development and face processing in early infancy. To find out more about David’s work, go to: www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/people/kellyd/.

Dr Kristof Dhont joined the School of Psychology’s team of lecturers in July this year. His research focuses primarily on the role of dispositional and situational factors in intergroup relations and the prediction of prejudice. Kristof investigates the extent to which individual differences in social-ideological attitudes (e.g., authoritarianism and social dominance orientation) and cognitive factors (e.g., need for closure) contribute to the development and maintenance of prejudice and how prejudice can be reduced through positive intergroup contact.

Kristof also investigates the impact of contextual factors such as societal intergroup norms and threat on ideology and intergroup attitudes, the intergenerational transmission of prejudice and ideology, and the psychological factors that motivate people to support social change. Take a look at Kristof’s staff profile for publications and more: www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/people/dhontk/.

At the beginning of this month we welcomed cognitive psychologist Dr Marta Ponari. So far her research has mainly focused on emotion processing and embodiment. During her PhD Marta investigated the role of facial mimicry in facial expression recognition using behavioural paradigms as well as transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS).

After her PhD, Marta worked as a Research Associate at the Department of Experimental Psychology of University College London. There, her research focused on the role of emotion in language processing in both native speakers and second language users. Marta has been using behavioural experiments, eye-tracking and functional MRI on adults, but also experiments on typically developing children, children with autism and specific language impairment. Read more about Marta’s research interests here: www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/people/ponarim/.

In This Issue

Welcome from Head of School 1
EASP Summer School 2
BPS Cognitive Section Meeting 2
Student Achievements/ What’s On 3
Welcome Week/ Enterprise Award 4
Employability Points 4
Recent Publications & Congrats 5
Applied Evening/ MSc Away Day 6
And much more...
Every two years, the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP) hosts a two week long summer school for PhD students. Students are selected from some of strongest centres of social psychology in Europe, the USA, and Australasia. They gather together for keynote talks and seminars, and are also led in smaller specialised workshops by tutors who are leading researchers in their fields. In these workshops, students work together to design research projects - several of which have led to major publications. The roll-call of previous EASP Summer School tutors is a who’s-who of the most prominent social psychologists, including Robert Zajonc, Philip Zimbardo, Harold Kelley and Susan Fiske. The 2014 EASP Summer School took place in Lisbon, from 17-30 August.

As befits Kent’s position as a leading international centre of social psychology, we had not only one but two students, Rael Dawtry and Giovanni Travaglino, represented at the Summer School. Rael took part in a workshop on Epistemology and Methods in Social Psychology, hosted by Klaus Fiedler and Leonel Garcia-Marques. Giovanni took part in Mike Hogg and Jose Marques’s workshop on Social Identity, Influence, and Deviance in Groups.

Rael Dawtry said that he had an “enjoyable and productive two weeks at the EASP Summer School in beautiful Lisbon. Sun, sand, sangria… and of course some excellent science in between. A highly inspirational and fruitful meeting”.

Continuing in a tradition established by Gerd Bohner and Dominic Abrams (2000), Robbie Sutton also represented Kent as a tutor, running a workshop on the Social Psychology of Justice with Helder Alves from ISCTE in Lisbon. His students each designed two research projects, one for each week of the workshop, and several are already producing promising results in initial studies.

With all the hard work (scheduled events running from 9:30 am to 9pm most days), we also took time sample the magnificent culture, nightlife, and beaches of Lisbon. And to make friends: historically, the Summer School has been a place in which lifelong friendships have been forged. More than just a bonus, friendship creates the trust and understanding that makes collaborative research possible. It also facilitates a sense of fun, shared curiosity, and shared achievement that motivates researchers to keep going, through all of the insane working hours, frustrations and disappointments that they must face.

The 31st Annual meeting of the BPS Cognitive Psychology Section was held at Nottingham Trent University. During the three-day conference, researchers shared their work in a series of parallel lectures and posters. Various cognitive and face processing topics were covered at the event. There were keynote addresses and symposia under the following headings: Binocular processing during reading; Working memory and attention; and Keeping your eye on the rail: Gaze behaviour of horse riders approaching a jump. Richard Harris, University of York, received the Cognitive Section Award for his paper on neural representation of facial expression.

I was grateful for the opportunity to attend the conference, because I have gained an insight to how research is conducted and presented. It was an honour to give my first presentation just before Dr Charlie Frowd from the University of Winchester. Being given the thumbs up from Professor Andy Young of University of York for an excellent presentation will be an unforgettable moment too. The conference has definitely given me more confidence in my work and I highly recommend it to all Cognitive Psychology PhD students. Being able to ask questions in the presentations has improved my understanding of the content, and listening to the suggestions of others is also of benefit to attendees.

I really enjoyed the event and look forward to attending more in the future. The next conference will be held in the University of Kent from 2-5 September 2015 chaired by Professor Robert Johnston.

Stage 3 student Hannah Tummon, had this to say about the event:

The many symposia at this conference ranged from face processing in a forensic context to reasoning, decision making and problem solving. There was a keynote lecture each day, including the Broadbent Prize Lecture where Professor Graham Hitch presented research which inspired the working memory model and subsequent findings which have extended the theory since its inception. Two poster sessions were also held, mostly consisting of research conducted by PhD students; however I was fortunate to present my own research I completed during my Research Experience Scheme in my second year. This was a fantastic experience for me and the feedback I received for my poster has given me some great ideas to consider whilst doing my final year project this coming year. I look forward to helping with the organisation of the next BPS Cognitive Section conference.
More Student Achievements

In 2013/14, some of our stage one students were awarded prizes for achieving superb results. Simone Capp was awarded the Rotary Prize, and Jodie King, Kamyla Marques, Maria Norman Bermudez, and Francesca Simpson were all awarded Social Sciences Faculty Prizes. Well done to all!

At the XIX Biennial International Conference on Infant Studies in Berlin earlier this year, some of our former and current undergraduate students presented their research.

Under the supervision of Dr David Kelly, Research Experience Scheme student, Rachel Weaver, produced work which led to a conference poster presentation on the topic ‘Are infants sensitive to face-voice gender congruence?’.

The presentations, authored by former final year project students, were titled: Children’s high-fidelity imitation of tool vs non-tool actions. Erika Nurmsoo; Angelique Eydam; Victoria Leahy (FYP student in 2011/12); Tanslea Burton (FYP student in 2013/14); and Early social learning: Theory and method in imitation research. Angelique Eydam; Victoria Leahy; Elena C. Cuffari; Erika Nurmsoo.

Recent graduate Tanslea Burton describes her research findings below.

In my final year, I researched over-imitation in children, a phenomenon that sees them copying adult actions so closely that they will even imitate acts irrelevant to achieving a goal. For example, when children are shown how to retrieve a reward from a puzzle box they will copy actions that are obviously unnecessary, such as drawing on the side of the box. It is proposed that this learning strategy has evolved due to the number of tools in our environment whose properties and function are unclear. For instance, it would be impossible to know the purpose of a television remote control, and how to use it, just by looking at it. Copying carefully is an efficient way of acquiring knowledge about the artefacts around us. Based on this theory, I looked at whether children would be more likely to over-imitate actions using a tool rather than a hand. I found that this was only witnessed in older children of four and above. Three year olds tended to over-imitate hand and tool actions equally.

The opportunity to present my undergraduate research at an international conference was a thrilling experience and one that will surely enhance my CV.

The School of Psychology is delighted to announce that new Caitlin Baker, a new postgraduate student, was awarded one of the University of Kent International Scholarships for Taught Masters Students.

Caitlin wrote the following about why she decided to come to Kent and the application process.

Hello, my name is Caitlin Baker. I am from America. I have come to study the Master’s in Developmental Psychology at the University of Kent. Thanks to the International Scholarship for Taught Master’s Students, my goal of studying here has become a reality.

In deciding where to attend graduate study, Kent stood out the most to me. It offers an array of opportunities and support to its students, which seem hard to find elsewhere. The School of Psychology puts a strong emphasis on instruction informed by the most cutting-edge research and novel research produced by its notable faculty. Access to various types of psychological equipment and connections with the local schools aid the students in conducting their own research. Programs like Core Academic and Employability Skills (CAES) and Student Learning Advisory Service (SLAS) provide many students with the assistance they need to succeed academically at university. With programs like the Global Skills Award and Employability Points, the university thoroughly prepares its students for careers after graduation. Finally, the school’s location is integral to expanding one’s education beyond the classroom, because major hubs of culture and education are just a couple hours away by boat, train, or plane. Because of all these benefits, I was motivated to study at the University of Kent.

The application process for the International Scholarship was considerably short. After accepting the university’s unconditional offer, I was prompted to write a short essay between 750 – 1000 words on three topics: why did you choose your degree program, why did you apply to the University of Kent, how will Kent help prepare you for your future career? The essay was submitted online, and it took about 2 months for judging to take place. Recipients of the scholarship were notified in late July via email.

What’s On

There’s so much going on in the School of Psychology in 2014/15. For the month’s activities at a glance, see our events calendar: www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/events/index.html.

The School of Psychology’s radio show ‘Brain Bites’ returned on 7 October. The show featured Dr Barbara Masser who is a social psychologist at the University of Queensland, Australia. She gave a fascinating insight to her research on blood donation behaviour and gender stereotypes in the criminal justice system. Discover more commentary from around Kent on current Psychology trends on the first Tuesday of each month at 5pm by tuning in on 97.4fm or by listening online at www.csrfm.com. You can listen to previous shows (on the topics of ageism, conspiracy theories and dyslexia) at soundcloud.com/brainbites.

Dr Lydia Kearney kicked off Café Psychology this year with a presentation titled ‘Social Anxiety: What Can We Learn From Cognitive Psychology?’. Café Psychology is a series of talks led by lecturers on a range of topics related to research in the School. Talks will be on alternate Mondays 5-6pm, and are open to all Kent psychology undergraduate and postgraduate students. Details of forthcoming talks will be circulated by email and you can keep up-to-date using the School’s events calendar.

Research Seminar Series recommenced on 9 October with a talk on the title ‘Ordering letters in the brain: How, when, where and why does orthographic coding occur?’ given by Jon Andoni Duñabeitia from the Basque Center on Cognition. These events are open to staff, postgraduate and final year students. For the full autumn 2014 programme, go to: www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/events/seminars/index.html.

Don’t forget that we’re also running Academic and Professional Development Workshops; Final Year Project Workshops; and regular Core Academic and Employability Sessions for MSc students.

Kent Psychologists in the Media

Following a presentation at the annual conference of the British Psychological Society’s Social Psychology Section in September (news summary: bit.ly/1q1sKrb), International Business Times quoted Professor Karen Douglas in an article titled ‘9/11 and MH370: Conspiracy Theories Emerge Whether There is an Explanation or Not’ (bit.ly/1i5v03D).

Dr Hannah Swift took part in a discussion about happiness which aired on BBC Radio Kent on 11 August. Hannah explained different reasons why many people report being happier in later life and spoke about her research on the paradox of wellbeing. To read the full paper, please go to: bit.ly/1q6xCWY.

Professor Joachim Stoeber’s research on sexual perfectionism research was referred to in Psychology Today earlier this year. To read the online article, please go to: bit.ly/1pVhf1f. Read the full research paper in the Kent Academic Repository: kar.kent.ac.uk/33687/.
Welcome Week 2014 in Pictures

The 2014/15 academic year got off to a flying start with an abundance of welcome week activities designed to prepare and integrate new undergraduate and postgraduate students.

In addition to the usual informative talks and tours, the School of Psychology offered its new undergraduates an optional welcome week lecture on Child Development and Clinical Psychoanalysis this year for the first time. The lecture, which was given by Dr Mike Forrester, Dr Lydia Kearney and Professor Janet Sayers, was a big hit with our new students. Likewise, the annual treasure hunt allowed teams of students to explore campus and get to know each other - it also resulted in some great photos!

For the new MSc and PhD students, welcome week launched with an introduction from the Head of School followed by a Postgraduate Research Symposium. At the symposium, PhD students in their second and third year presented their work to the new intake through posters and talks. The presentations were also judged by a panel of staff who awarded John Sabo with the prize for best poster and Emma Barrowcliffe with the prize the best presentation. Well done to both and everyone else who took part! Our new postgrads really utilised this event as an opportunity to take inspiration and to mix with staff and students. Master’s students also met with their course directors in programme-specific sessions, and were briefed on careers and employability, ethics, student welfare, IT provision and much more.

As is usual, the School of Psychology rounded off the week’s activities with a free BBQ in Keynes Courtyard. It was really fantastic to have an informal chat with you all and we’re really looking forward to the rest of the year! More pictures on page 6

Employability Points

Chioma Amadi: Employability Points Case Study

Chioma Amadi, a Psychology Master’s Student, signed-up to the Employability Points Scheme in order to be rewarded for the extra-curricular activities she had completed whilst at the University of Kent. Having completed First Aid training, the Global Skills Award, whilst also being both a Psychology Course Rep and a Student Ambassador, Chioma soon found herself with an impressive 400 points.

With intentions on starting a career as an Educational Psychologist, Chioma cashed in her points to attend a British Sign Language training course and also a 2-week work experience placement within the Learning and Education Department at Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust. With thousands of visitors attending the Dockyard in peak season, Chioma worked closely with staff to plan and implement bespoke experience for school groups and family bookings. Working with children between the ages of four and eighteen, Chioma gained experience in interacting with the guests and ensuring they had a memorable experience.

Reflecting on her experience with the EP Scheme, Chioma has not only gained a range of skills through the extra-curricular activities she undertook but also valuable work experience with children which will progress her career prospects: “Tallying my points on myfolio helped me with organisation and reflection on activities I was taking part in. The reward pack has a variety of options to suit students from all types of degrees. The EP Scheme staff also work with you to provide the best work experience, shadowing or training for you. I would encourage everyone to sign up. It really is worth the effort.”

Continued on page 6

Student Enterprise Award Continued

The winners of the prize - Team 2- presented a newly defined model (The CARE model), which could be used to address the question of how companies can retain good quality staff to maintain competitive advantage. The poster synthesised relevant academic material and presented this in a clear and thoughtful way for practitioners - a great skill for students to gain regardless of their future career choices. Kent Innovation and Enterprise were so impressed with the quality of the work all the groups produced. The students were motivated and worked hard to apply psychological knowledge to real world organizational issues. The pressures of group work were handled maturely and students, staff, and visitors had great fun at the event.”. The poster is currently being displayed on the M corridor undergraduate noticeboard so do have a look next time you are passing.
Recent Publications


Congratulations As of 1 October 2014, the following staff members were promoted: Dinkar Sharma and Ayse Uskul to Reader and Karen Douglas and Robbie Sutton to Professor. Congratulations to all!

Congratulations to Dr Mario Weick who has been awarded £582.80 by Telefonica UK for a project entitled “O2 Workshop”. Mario is the PI and Professor Yannis Georgellis and Dr Maddy Wyatt from KBS are Co-Is.

Congratulations to Emma Barrowcliffe and Serena Vanzan on being awarded Psychology Associate Lecturer Teaching Prizes for 1st and 2nd highest student ratings for the 2013-14 respectively. Both made outstanding contributions to teaching last year and we were pleased to present them with Amazon vouchers as prizes.

Congratulations to Dr David Williams and his colleagues in The Centre for Cognition, Kinesthetics & Performance on winning a University of Kent 50th anniversary grant to establish The Beacon Institute. A collaboration between Kent’s Gulbenkian Theatre, Arts and Science academics across the University of Kent’s three Faculties, a developing network of national and international collaborators and a range of non-higher education partners, the Beacon Institute project realizes CKP’s ambition for a flagship organization to pioneer interdisciplinary creative arts practice and research.

Congratulations to Dr Rachel Calogero who was made a Fellow of the Academy for Eating Disorders and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (Division 9 of APA).

Congratulations to Dr Hannah Swift on being appointed a Research Fellow for the Eastern Academic Research Consortium (Eastern ARC). Hannah will be working with colleagues in SSPSSR and others to strengthen the consortium and our research profile in quantitative social sciences.

Congratulations to Dr Emma Alleyne who has been awarded £3,449 by the Faculty Research Committee for a project entitled “Adulthood animal abuse: What do we know and where do we go from here?”. Congratulations to Drs Lindsay Cameron (PI), Afroditi Pina (Co-I), Rachel Calogero (Co-I) and Professor Robbie Sutton (Co-I) who have been awarded £12,333 by the Office of the Children’s Commissioner for a project entitled “Children’s experiences of gender: Literature review and scoping study”.

Congratulations to Drs Georgina Randsley de Moura and Ana Leite who have been awarded £4,274 by the Social Science Faculty Research Fund for a project entitled “Unethical leaders and moral decline”. Continued on page 6
Applied Evening

At the beginning of this month, students in the second and final year of the Applied Psychology and Applied Psychology with Clinical Psychology degree programmes were brought together for an important information event.

During the Applied Evening, placement providers gave insight to the different sites students could gain access to, and Applied degree students in their final year of study presented posters which summarised their experience of being on placement.

Below are some photos taken from the event.

Welcome Week in Pictures Continued

Employability Points Continued

...Through the Employability Points Scheme, students are awarded points for undertaking extra-curricular activities. These points can be cashed-in for prizes ranging from paid-internships and project placements to work experience, vouchers and bespoke training. For more information please see www.kent.ac.uk/employabilitypoints or contact the EP team via employabilitypoints@kent.ac.uk.

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

• Careers and Employability 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: 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).

Congratulations Continued

Congratulations to Drs Sarah Hotham, Kate Hamilton-West and Dinkar Sharma (Co-I), who have been awarded £3,493 by the Social Science Faculty Research Fund for a project entitled “The effect of a mindful eating intervention on dieters’ susceptibility to food cues and weight loss”.

Congratulations to Professor Norb Kerr who has been awarded the highest INGRoup honour, the Joseph E. McGrath Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Study of Groups. This award is presented to an individual whose work has shown an enduring commitment to advancing the interdisciplinary science of team or small group behaviour, dynamics, and outcomes.

Congratulations to Dr Ayse Uskul who led the organisation of a small group meeting in July titled ‘Culture and Psychology: Insights from the European Context’ funded by the School and the European Association of Social Psychology. The 3-day meeting that took place in Leuven, Belgium was attended by 30 early and late career researchers and led to fruitful discussions on cultural psychological theory, its application, and plans for European-wide grant applications.

MSc Away Day

In response to feedback from postgraduate students last year, the School of Psychology organised an Away Day for Master’s students at the Horsebridge Arts Centre in Whitstable. The day, led by Dr Lindsey Cameron in her capacity as Director of Graduate Studies (Taught), was entitled ‘Getting the most out of your MSc’. In addition to socialising with each other and the academic staff involved in MSc teaching, the students learned about the different opportunities available to them in the School and they had two former MSc students talk to them about how their postgraduate degree fits in with their long term career goals.

The Away Day was really well received and we hope to run more in the future!

Congratulations

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 Turnham.

School of Psychology,
Keynes College
University of Kent,
CANTERBURY,
Kent. CT2 7NP

Email: C.Turnham@kent.ac.uk
Telephone: 01227 824775