



INTOUCH

.....
Autumn/Winter
2019

THE INVESTIGATION ISSUE

KING'S
College
LONDON

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WELCOME TO *INTOUCH* AUTUMN/WINTER 2019 – THE INVESTIGATION ISSUE



Each and every student arrives at King's with a curious mind. Curiosity is well placed in the library and the lecture hall, and in many cases this inquisitive nature grows into a career that changes lives. King's has a history rich in discoveries that are evidence of this. In the 1950s, a breakthrough, which was made possible by the work of Dr Rosalind Franklin at King's, led to the discovery of the structure of DNA. We continue to lead the way in all types of research, investigating the secrets that DNA can hold. This research is helping to fight crime and improve health outcomes for people in all walks of life. You can explore some of this work on page eight, where we go 'Inside King's' and meet our cover star, alumnus and forensic researcher Dr David Ballard.

At some point in our lives, each one of us will undergo a medical investigation of one kind or another. For some of us, these can be life-changing moments. In our 'King's Impact' article on page four, we look at the headline-grabbing highlights from the cardiology units of two of our King's Health Partner hospitals, seeing how their work is impacting patients' lives.

Notable successes like these are what inspire so many of our students to apply to King's. But, for some, coming to King's presents financial challenges that cannot be overcome alone. In 'Students at the Heart of King's' on page 12, we meet Erin, who was supported by the King's Hardship Fund. Many of you in our global alumni community have chosen to donate towards the Fund, and you can hear from Erin how your donations have enabled her to pursue a career in academia. Through the Fund, we seek to foster the curious minds of our students and encourage them to investigate what the world has to offer them.

Putting together this 'Investigation' issue of *InTouch* has been another fantastic opportunity to explore some of the fascinating work taking place here at King's. As we move towards the end of the year, we are looking forward to sharing more in-depth stories from King's, and we are exploring new creative and digital ways of sharing these stories with you. You can read more about our plans for the new online version of *InTouch* on page 24. And finally, as always, we welcome your feedback, so please do drop us an email or comment on our social media accounts – we'd love to hear from you.

Best wishes,

RACHELLE ARTHEY
EDITOR

JOIN THE CONVERSATION BY JOINING OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITIES:

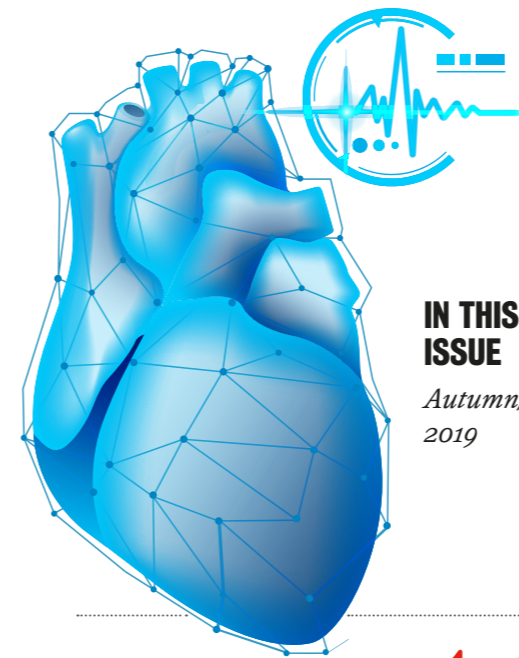
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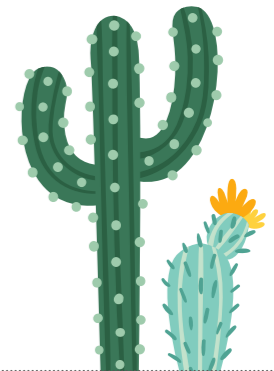
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PARENT POWER WINS GUARDIAN AWARD



Last autumn's *InTouch* featured Parent Power, a King's widening participation programme run in collaboration with Citizens UK. In it, we spoke to Kaela-May and her mother Miata Noah, who told us how being involved in the scheme is helping them overcome barriers to getting into university.

Parent Power trains parents of students from under-represented backgrounds to work towards improving university access in their local communities, helping reduce educational inequality.

Thanks to the brilliant work of Miata and her fellow parents, the programme has been a great success and was recently recognised in The Guardian University Awards, winning in the social and community impact category.

KING'S LAUNCHES NEW AIR QUALITY SUPERSITE



The state-of-the-art air quality supersite, located in King's Honor Oak Park sports ground, allows researchers to gather long-term and intensive, higher-quality data on the content of harmful urban air pollution. It is part of a £6m investment into three new air quality supersites established by the Natural Environment Research Council.

The site will help to improve our understanding of different sources of air pollution and determine whether they originate from emissions within London, such as traffic or residential wood burning, or from further away. It also includes

new instruments that detect a variety of greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting chemicals. The site can help the UK comply with the legally binding targets set out in the Climate Change Act.

Dr David Green from the School of Population Health & Environmental Sciences at King's says: 'This new facility dramatically improves our capacity to understand the sources and processes leading to the build-up of these harmful pollutants in our atmosphere. This will help further our understanding of the current health impacts and how effective present and future policies are at reducing these.'

KING'S RANKED FIFTH IN THE WORLD FOR SOCIAL IMPACT



King's has been ranked fifth in the world in the 2019 *Times Higher Education* University Impact Rankings, a pioneering initiative that recognises and celebrates the social and economic contribution of universities. The ranking recognises King's commitment to the service of society.

Professor Jonathan Grant, Vice President & Vice Principal (Service), says: 'King's has a long and proud

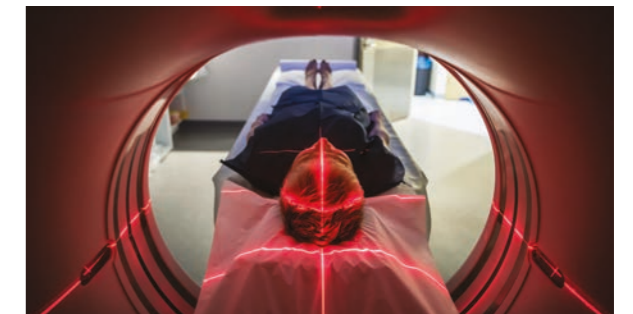
history of serving the needs and aspirations of society and these results reassert our commitment to service and social impact.'

One example of this commitment is the recent launch of King's Civic Challenge, a new annual competition that empowers students, staff and alumni to work with our local communities here in London to come up with imaginative solutions to local problems.

Learn more and get involved at:

[kcl.ac.uk/London](https://www.kcl.ac.uk/London)

A BREAKTHROUGH IN PARKINSON'S SCREENING



King's researchers have made a major breakthrough in the early detection of Parkinson's. Professor Marios Politis, Lily Safra Professor of Neurology & Neuroimaging, and his team at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience have found the first evidence of the central role that the brain chemical serotonin plays in the earliest stages of Parkinson's.

The results suggest that changes to the serotonin system could act as a key early warning signal for the disease, opening the way for the development of new screening tools for identifying people at greatest risk. Early detection is essential in protecting people against the worst effects of the disease, so this research promises to have significant benefits for treatment in the future.

LATEST UPDATES

GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

The average heart will beat over two billion times across its lifetime. But if this vital organ encounters difficulties, the results can be devastating; 180 people die of heart disease every day in the UK alone.



Here at King's, we are working to improve outcomes for cardiology patients. One of the unique features of King's is the partnership between the university and King's Health Partners hospitals. Our research translates world-leading science into advances in clinical practice, making a difference between life and death for many of the patients our clinicians treat. This article highlights just a few of the important projects currently being undertaken.

DETECTING HEART ABNORMALITIES IN BABIES

Some heart conditions require the earliest possible intervention. When a heart problem is suspected in a baby before birth, the mother will be referred to a foetal cardiologist. The details of a baby's heart problem can be difficult to diagnose with ultrasound alone, but to date there have been no other reliable alternatives.

Our research team – including Dr David Lloyd, Dr Kuberan Pushparajah and Professor John Simpson of Evelina London Children's Hospital, and Professor Reza Razavi, Vice President & Vice Principal (Research & Innovation) and Director of Research at King's Health Partners – has developed new techniques using MRI scans performed in pregnancy to produce high-resolution 3D images of babies' hearts in the womb.

Professor Razavi says, 'This work is already being translated into a clinical service at St Thomas' Hospital. It allows a firm diagnosis to be made and so provides clinical teams and parents with the certainty to prepare for the birth of the child, ensuring prompt treatment that improves outcomes.'

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PUT CARDIOLOGY RESEARCHERS TOGETHER WITH COSMOLOGISTS?

A collaboration between King's Cardiology and the Institute of Cosmology & Gravitation has received a grant from the Science and Technology Facilities Council to undertake research into using artificial intelligence (AI) in diagnosing and treating people with cardiac arrest. Drawing on the cosmologists' expertise in this field, Specialist Registrar in Cardiology Nileshe Pareek and his team, supervised by Professor Ajay Shah, have developed a novel method of predicting culprit lesions (blocked arteries) following cardiac arrest. Nileshe says, 'The decision-tree model we have produced outperforms all previous methods. We are now looking to integrate this into future trials at King's to validate the model further and improve our accuracy in predicting blocked arteries.'

King's is continuing to build the cardiology team to look specifically into AI research. We have also secured funding for a cardiology 'hackathon' early next year. A hackathon, an event where a group of experts convenes to tackle a specific problem, is a concept more common in data science and cosmology than in health sciences. This one will bring together experts from both fields to try to produce a practical solution to a cardiology problem in just 24 hours.



Dr Nileshe Pareek

📌 The decision-tree model we have produced outperforms all previous methods. We are now looking to integrate this into future trials at King's to validate the model further and improve our accuracy in predicting blocked arteries. 📌

DR NILESH PAREEK

It allows a firm diagnosis to be made and so provides clinical teams and parents with the certainty to prepare for the birth of the child, ensuring prompt treatment that improves outcomes.

PROFESSOR REZA RAZAVI



PATIENTS PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH

Our cardiac research team aims to offer every patient the opportunity to take part in research. The more patients we can involve, the more we can build up data, leading to more accurate prediction methods and more effective treatments.

One important example of this is the ARREST study. Researchers are examining whether those suffering from cardiac arrest outside of a hospital setting are best served by being transferred immediately to a Heart Attack Centre or to the nearest Emergency Department, as per current guidelines. This study could help us to establish whether early transfer to a specialist centre with access to facilities to treat the cause of the arrest, including unblocking of the arteries, improves survival compared to current standard treatment. All London hospitals have been invited to take part in this study, and it has now rolled out to 31 centres across London.

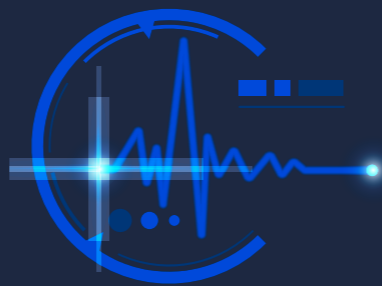
Technological advancements can also have significant impact on patient outcomes. Trials have now begun, for example, on TriCinch, a repair valve that allows a percutaneous treatment (access through the vein at the groin) without the need for a potentially dangerous surgical intervention when the tricuspid valve needs to be replaced.

In other cases, surgery is still required. Surgery to repair the mitral valve is traditionally carried out through the extremely invasive method of sternotomy, where the sternum is cut completely from the collar bone to the bottom of the breastbone. A team led by Ranjit Deshpande (principal investigator) and Abigail Knighton (lead research nurse) is trialling a new, minimally invasive procedure that allows the valve to be repaired using a much smaller cut on the side of the chest. This less invasive approach to heart surgery can drastically reduce surgical trauma on patients.

SAVING LIVES

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the UK. Research projects like those mentioned in this article are making a real difference to the outcomes of patients.

Thanks to the support of our alumni, donors, and philanthropic organisations like the William Frederick Haines Foundation, we are closer than ever to discovering life-changing treatments and early detection methods that can mean the difference between life and death.



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Ukraine

Iryna Iarema (*MA International Peace & Security, 2016*) is from Ukraine. She is an expert in environmental policy as well as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) security and risk mitigation.

Having earned her BSc and MSc in natural sciences at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Iryna began her career at Ukraine's Ministry of Environment and later joined the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

'I soon understood that, to advance in my career, I needed knowledge in international studies, law or politics. That's when I decided to go to King's.'

Iryna specialised in international law and conflict; CBRN terrorism; and the science and security of nuclear and biological weapons.

After graduating, she moved to the US for a nuclear security research internship at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, before returning to Kyiv to join the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine.



Iryna is now in her dream job, working for the United Nations on its CBRN programme.

Iryna recently attended the first King's alumni event in Ukraine. 'I was happy to take part in our first event. The alumni community consists of bright and friendly individuals, who work in completely different fields: business, politics, education, etc.

Finding true friends, and like minds for a joint initiative, or just getting relief after a busy working day are reasons for joining a local alumni group. And, as we say, "Once King's – Forever King's!"



A NUCLEAR PAST

Ukraine is known for its nuclear history. In 1986, while under rule of the Soviet Union, it was the location of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster. Iryna told us, 'Ukraine has never given up nuclear energy, even after the Chernobyl disaster. This is partly because people saw the reason for the tragedy as the regime rather than nuclear energy itself. The disaster rightfully provoked international attention to the importance of ensuring the safe and secure operation of nuclear installations. It also helped develop a policy of transparency – something I started to explore at King's. With the official handover to the Ukrainian authorities of the New Safe Confinement structure, which shields the destroyed reactor of the Chernobyl power plant, Ukraine can start clean-up works that were not possible before. It is also symbolic that the construction project in Chernobyl is the largest-ever international cooperation in the field of nuclear safety. Today, Chernobyl is also a nature reserve, solar farm and site for prospective nuclear waste storage.'

KING'S ALUMNI GROUPS CAN BE FOUND AROUND THE WORLD. CONNECT WITH LOCAL ALUMNI NOW:

 alumni.kcl.ac.uk/branches

DNA: The life force of PLANET EARTH

In 1952, the inauspiciously entitled 'Photo 51' was taken at King's by Dr Rosalind Franklin and Raymond Gosling, a PhD student. 'Photo 51' is probably one of the best-known photographs in the history of science, as it provided confirmation of the structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) – the driving force of all life on earth.

Following in the footsteps of Franklin and Gosling, King's continues to lead the way at the forefront of DNA research.

KING'S FORENSICS

King's Forensics sits within the Department of Analytical, Environmental & Forensic Sciences. Located in the Franklin-Wilkins Building, it is now home to three internationally accredited forensic laboratories, including laboratories such as the Drug Control Centre (Anti-Doping); the City of London

Fingerprint laboratory; and the DNA laboratory (also endorsed by the Ministry of Justice). Forensic Genetics within King's Forensics has a wide scope, including family identification, criminal intelligence and disaster identification.

In recent times, the role of DNA in forensic evidence-gathering has become known through crime fiction in both books and on TV, but in science there is not 'the world before DNA and the world after DNA'. The science is constantly improving, with King's at the cutting edge. A team led by Denise Syndercombe Court, who is Professor of Forensic Genetics, and Dr David Ballard (MSc Forensic Science, 2000), who is a postdoctoral researcher in the same research group at King's, is developing the use of massively parallel sequencing (MPS), which allows forensic scientists to bring even degraded or limited DNA samples to the standards

required for criminal investigations. MPS technology allows a greater number of genetic markers to be analysed and with that comes increased sensitivity and therefore enhanced credibility.

“We now have an error rate of about three years, on average, of being able to predict how old someone was just from a spot of blood.”

DR DAVID BALLARD



Professor Denise Syndercombe Court



Dr David Ballard

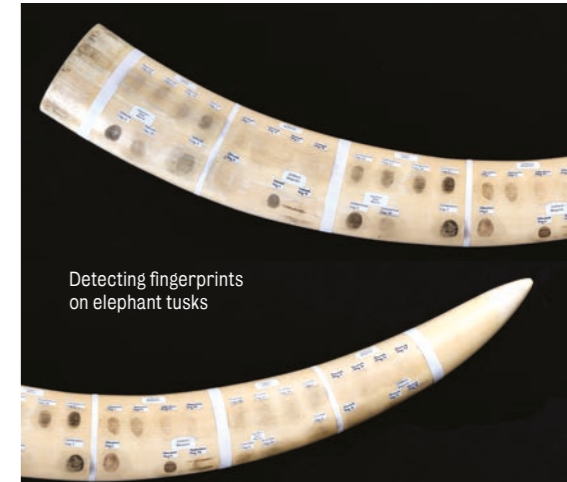


Dr Leon Barron

FIGHTING CRIME

The Forensic Genetics group is developing a series of methods to provide accurate chronological age from small blood samples. The group working on this has established a limited series of age-related markers leading to the development of an artificial intelligence-driven model that can identify the age of an individual from blood samples left at a crime scene. The group is now researching other markers that could make the process even more accurate.

Dr Ballard told us: 'If you find a blood spot at a crime scene and you don't know who the perpetrator is, the one thing we can tell you now is that, even though your DNA sequence doesn't change across your life, there are various modifications to it over the years. We now have an error rate of about three years, on average, of being able to predict how old someone was just from a spot of blood.'



Detecting fingerprints on elephant tusks

TAKING TECHNOLOGY INTO THE WILD

A team led by Dr Leon Barron, a forensic scientist within King's Forensics, has also developed new technology (in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service) to detect fingerprints left by poachers on elephant tusks.

Dr Barron told us: 'Traditional technology can already do this, but it has to be done within two days. By using microscale powders, much more comprehensive detail is possible and, crucially, tests can be run up to 28 days after tusks are recovered.'

This breakthrough has been successfully integrated with the DNA profiling work being led by Professor Syndercombe Court as, using advanced techniques, DNA can be extracted from the fingerprints left on the tusks. Arrests have already been made using these methods. The fingerprint technology is now being applied to pangolin scales and rhino horns and it is expected that, in the future, it will be applied to tiger claws, sperm whales and hippo teeth. The City of London Police is now working with wildlife crime units in Africa to develop fingerprint databases of those involved in, or believed to be involved in, wildlife crime.

THE NEXT BIG DISCOVERY

Professor Syndercombe Court is clearly excited by the work being carried out at King's:

'We are doing things that most laboratories cannot do. Even today, there are many new developments in the DNA pipeline. One of those is looking at how to differentiate between primary and secondary DNA. If someone touches you, say by shaking hands, and they then go on to touch something at what becomes a crime scene, it could be that your DNA has been picked up by the other person and is then found at that crime scene even if you had never been there. Being able to identify and therefore eliminate secondary DNA from a crime scene would be immensely important.'

« We are doing things that most laboratories cannot do. Even today, there are many new developments in the DNA pipeline. One of those is looking at how to differentiate between primary and secondary DNA. »



Professor Gerome Breen



GLAD TO INVESTIGATE ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

Depression and anxiety are the most common mental health disorders across the world and estimates suggest one in three people in the UK will experience symptoms during their life. Worse, current treatments are not effective and about 50% of those getting treatment will not recover. The Genetic Links to Anxiety and Depression (GLAD) study, funded by the National Institute for Health Research and led by Professor Gerome Breen and Professor Thalia Eley, at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience at King's, is a groundbreaking research project. By studying both genes and environmental factors, the study will produce novel results to help our understanding of the conditions and improve treatments.

Using psychological data (from patients' questionnaires) and biological data (from their DNA samples), as well as linking data with patients' medical records (with their fully informed consent), the study will be able to look at any patterns of severity of conditions, recovery and whether genetics impacts them.

Professor Breen told *InTouch*:

'Previous work has indicated that about 30–40% of the risk for both depression and anxiety is genetic, with environment accounting for the remainder. So, while genetics is not the biggest risk factor, it is important we investigate it alongside the environment. GLAD is designed to be the largest re-contactable study group for mental health, aiming to recruit 40,000 people to the study, and we hope to enable a new wave of interconnected studies and clinical trials into anxiety and depression.'

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

The areas highlighted in this article are just a small part of the innovative work King's is involved in. The understanding of the uses of DNA in a wide variety of fields will continue to develop and King's will remain a leading player in the race for ever-greater knowledge.

FIND OUT MORE:

kcl.ac.uk/lsm/research/divisions/aes/research/kings-forensics

gladstudy.org.uk

THE GIFT OF HOPE

Dr Monica Malik (Geography, 1992) is an economist with an interest in development. We talk to her about the importance of education, her desire to give back and why she has set up a scholarship for refugees.

Education and development have always been important to Monica Malik. Now working as Chief Economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, she is the author of several books and articles on economies and development in the Arab Gulf Region.

'The one thing I've really appreciated throughout my life is my education,' she says. 'I loved every minute of my time at King's. It gave me a fantastic foundation. If you have an education, whatever happens, you have some form of supporting yourself. Not everyone is lucky enough to have this access.'

I've always wanted to make a difference – to give back. I want to help people who have experienced challenges, to give them the skills and tools to support themselves and make improvements to their lives. Education can do that.'

Driven by this vision, Monica contacted King's to find out how she could help. 'I knew I wanted to support refugees, initially from the Middle East, though the programme has become wider. King's helped me find the best programme and my initial gift went towards Sanctuary Scholarships to support undergraduates with refugee or forced migrant status. I then set up the Dr Monica Malik Sanctuary Bursary for postgraduate students from a refugee background to study subjects such as Medicine, Dentistry or Law.'

On a simple level, I hope I can help facilitate a dream for them, to achieve a postgraduate degree,' she explains. 'But I also want to give them hope.'

« I've had a lot of kindness in my life. I think it's important to do the same for others. »

DR MONICA MALIK

To feel that they are not alone and that there is someone to support them. It has been so meaningful for me to get to know the students that I've helped and to hear their stories. It's very moving to have that connection.

To anyone considering how they can help, I'd say, 'Speak to King's!' That's what I did. Whatever you can give, do it – it's really rewarding.'

Reflecting on the value of giving, Monica says, 'A lot of people have supported me. I think this is why I want to help. I've had a lot of kindness in my life. I think it's important to do the same for others.'



Monica with scholarship recipient Simon Ossai

KING'S GLOBAL ALUMNI COMMUNITY:

SETTING STUDENTS ON THEIR PATH TO SUCCESS

Today's students face financial struggles that were unprecedented just a few years ago. While London offers a truly unique student experience in terms of activity and culture, the rising cost of living means that many students are forced to work multiple part-time jobs alongside their studies just to afford essentials such as food and rent.

Those who can't juggle working with lectures risk being left behind in their studies or dropping out of university altogether. In the last issue of *InTouch*, we met Midwifery student Isobelle, who told us about the financial challenges she faced while studying at King's.

'I didn't know how I could afford to eat, let alone pay my rent or fares. I started applying for jobs, even though I had no idea how I could fit in working with my studies.

The worry was constant, and my studies began to suffer. I even failed two assignments, which was devastating. I could feel everything I'd worked so hard for slipping away.'

Isobelle's story moved many of you in the King's global alumni community to support the Hardship Fund with a gift. Your generosity will enable the Fund to support many more deserving students. Students like Erin, who, as a result of alumni support, has gone on to fulfil her life's ambitions.

“For students such as myself, the King's Hardship Fund is not simply money to ease hardship; it is a gesture that encourages you to persevere, and stops you from feeling unseen at university.”

ERIN, A CURRENT MA PHILOSOPHY STUDENT



Erin and her father

“Thank you to all the alumni who have supported me to succeed. In my area, it is not often that students achieve as much as I have. I'm so grateful for alumni support.”

ERIN

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

'I am from Lancaster and live with my father. My mother left the family home when I was 11 and then died when I was 13. My father and I have an excellent relationship and I know that, if he were able, he would provide more financial support.

When I received the money from the Hardship Fund, I was so relieved. I could cover my rent and the cost of the books needed to access my course in the very best way. The Hardship Fund makes living in London a little bit easier. It is still incredibly hard to afford to live in such a city when you cannot be given financial support from your parent, but it encourages you to work as hard as possible. If I hadn't received the funding, I would have been unable to afford rent.'

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

'To get to university, hard work has been key and the financial support has made this form of education more accessible. For students such as myself, the King's Hardship Fund is not simply money to ease hardship; it is a gesture that encourages you to persevere, and stops you from feeling unseen at university. The Fund is, in many cases, a lifeline. To come from a single-parent, working-class background and yet still be able to achieve just as much as those who are more fortunate is something that I am endlessly proud of.

Thank you to all the alumni who have supported me to succeed. In my area, it is not often that students achieve as much as I have. I'm so grateful for alumni support.'

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

'To be the first member of my family to attend university is something that has made both myself and my father exceptionally proud. I was able to graduate from King's with an excellent degree in the summer of 2018 and, since then, I have moved on to undertake an MA in Philosophy at King's. Upon graduating, it was such a relief to know that I had dedicated all of my time to studying and not having to work to afford living in London.

As I embark upon my MA, I have recently become a recipient of the Fund once again. Because of this, I need not worry so much about paying for things such as travel, rent and books. Now I am able to fully dedicate myself to my course and to making King's a better place, by taking up the role of Student Representative and Subject Ambassador.

I am able to fully experience King's and my studies so that I can achieve my goal of undertaking a PhD at King's when the time is right for me. Without the help of the Fund in both my BA and my MA, I would have been simply unable to carry on in education.

Once again, I can only say thank you to the alumni who are able to offer the much-needed help to the many students such as myself. The Fund is much more than simply a pot of money. It's a real chance at furthering one's own life and ambitions through education.'

The generosity of the King's global alumni community enables the Hardship Fund at King's to help students like Erin and Isobelle achieve their dreams. Thank you for your vital support.

WAYS TO GIVE

DONATIONS

If you would like to make a donation to the Hardship Fund, you can find a gift form and Freepost envelope included in this pack.

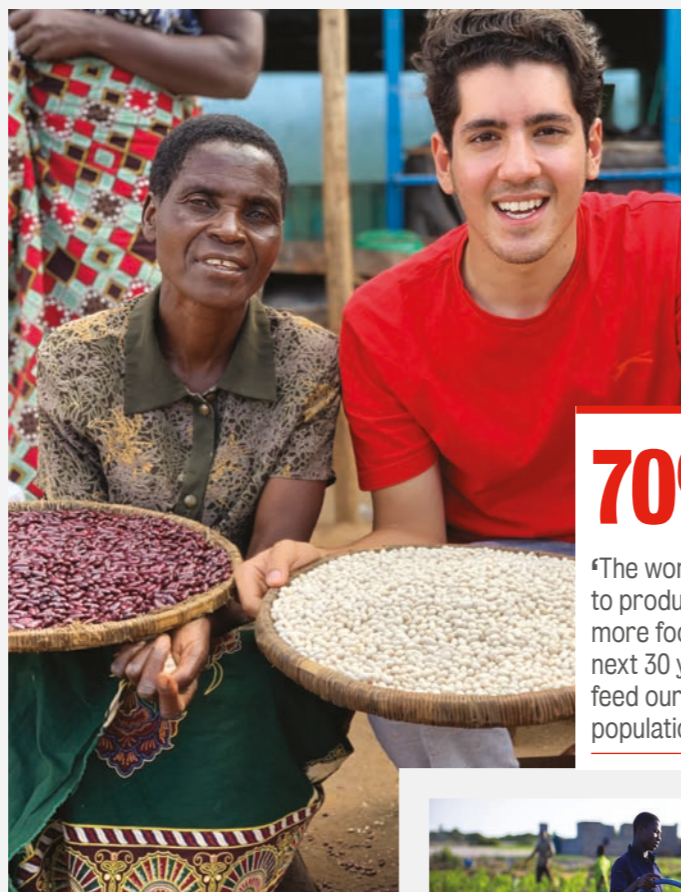
YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE AT:

 [alumni.kcl.ac.uk/
intouch-appeal](https://alumni.kcl.ac.uk/intouch-appeal)

YOU CAN CALL:

 +44 (0)20 7848 3053

SECURING MALAWI'S FUTURE ONE SEED AT A TIME



Muhammad Altalib (R) in Malawi

70%

'The world needs to produce 70% more food in the next 30 years to feed our growing population.'



Malawi is a small, landlocked country half the size of England in south-east Africa. The growing and exporting of food and tobacco has allowed the sub-Saharan country to keep its head above water, but not compete as a major food exporter.

Enter Seedlink, a sustainable agriculture start-up founded in 2018 to build supply chains by connecting rural farmers to urban markets. Its founder, Muhammad Altalib (Business Management, 2018) was raised in Malawi by his parents, who ran an NGO. He is trying to solve two problems: first, how to help farmers plan which crops to grow to combat fluctuating crop prices and, second, how to provide access to finance so farmers can improve and grow their businesses.

Muhammad knew he could build a strong foundation for his company, so he turned to his alma mater, King's

Business School. He applied and was accepted to the King's Entrepreneurship Institute's King's20 Accelerator.

Seedlink's solution is modelled on a 1970s expansion in the futures trading market, which was first used at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. A futures contract is a contract for assets, commodities or shares, bought at agreed prices but delivered and paid for later. Seedlink's long-term goal is to introduce futures contracts to small-scale farmers, but the current market is too informal and contracts remain unenforceable. Right now, Seedlink is focused on formalising the supply chain using mobile technology, allowing Malawi's rural farmers access to the formal economy for the first time. Seedlink will notify traders of available contracts via the mobile platform so they know where to collect the crops.

King's20 Accelerator is a 12-month programme designed to support 20 of

the brightest minds and best ventures from across King's. At the end of his year-long programme, Muhammad presented Seedlink to more than 100 investors at King's Entrepreneurship Institute's annual Demo Day. He shared:

'Food security has reached a crisis level, which requires significant change to our food systems. The world needs to produce 70% more food in the next 30 years to feed our growing population... and we won't achieve that unless we work together.'

Currently, Seedlink is looking for partners to bring the services they offer to their farmer network. Seedlink's value in Malawi is more than a smart business idea: it is a personal response from Muhammad to a country he calls home.

A THRIVING BRAND & BUSINESS



Gynelle Leon (Human Sciences, 2006; MSc Forensic Science, 2008) had ambitions to become a forensic scientist, but her hobby in floral design grew into something bigger. Gynelle talks to InTouch about how her time at King's helped pave the way for a business that has blossomed beyond imagination.

A GROWING IDEA

I did a part-time contemporary floral design course while working a nine to five and became an intern in a florist. I had a growing cactus collection but found it hard to locate unusual, good-quality succulents, so decided to build my dream cactus shop. I sold my flat to give me the capital to start the business, and the freedom to research and get everything up and running. I had to dive feet first into the cactus world and focus on learning everything about business and succulents.

A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

My favourite part of my MSc was the expert witness training. You learn how to hold your nerve under cross-examination. This has endowed me with incredible public speaking skills and I am confident under questioning. Library reviews have taught me how to research and prepare a comprehensive

report. Science in general teaches you to be highly analytical, to fact check, to forever question and look for new discoveries. Forensic science in particular teaches you the definition of integrity, which is invaluable when creating a strong brand.

NAVIGATING CHALLENGES

Despite doing all the due diligence of trademarking my name and making sure there was no one in my industry with that same name, I was taken to high court for a 'passing off' allegation that was completely unfounded. I won the case and was awarded the cost of my legal fees; however, the plaintiff declared bankruptcy, leaving

me in debt. I'm working hard to get my business back to where it was. I have learnt so many important lessons, like the ability to not let something negative take over – I was able to enjoy day-to-day life and not let it be at the front of my consciousness.

ENJOYING SUCCESS

My biggest success has been to create an incredible brand and a shop that's known around the world and brings so many people joy. I've written a best-selling plant book called *PRICK* that helps you choose, style and care for your cacti and succulents. It is now sold worldwide and is currently available in six languages.

My biggest success has been to create an incredible brand and a shop that's known around the world and brings so many people joy.

WORDS OF ADVICE



FEELING GREEN-FINGERED?

- When it comes to houseplants, choose plants to suit a location in your home instead of just buying a plant and trying to make it work. Do research on light and temperature before purchasing.
- Learn the names of your plants and research their needs.
- Choose a day of the week and make that your plant care day for watering and checking their health.

KEEP UP TO DATE ON INSTAGRAM:

@prickldn



A CHANGING EUROPE



Anand Menon is Professor of European Politics & Foreign Affairs at King's College London and Director of The UK in a Changing Europe. The organisation is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, and supported by King's, to disseminate high-quality independent research into the relationship between the UK and the European Union.

Anand speaks to *InTouch* about the challenges the UK faces as the Brexit deadline moves closer. This interview took place on 25 July, the day Boris Johnson became the UK's 25th Prime Minister.

A QUESTION OF OPINION

If you talk to someone in my hometown in West Yorkshire, their views on immigration might be very different to those of someone in London. But rather than look at differences, the really interesting things to look for are similarities. For instance, you can draw a dotted line between Brexit and Trump, but also Narendra Modi, India's Prime Minister.

There are real similarities in how these three campaigns were run, and the messages they used.

DEAL OR NO DEAL

We can't leave the EU by 31 October with a deal, as there simply isn't the time to put the necessary legislation through parliament. If we've left by the time this issue has come out, we have almost certainly left with no deal. In this case, the challenges for the UK are huge.

LOOKING FORWARD

It would be naïve to think there won't be significant disruption, and, in the short term, we will probably see some shortages, travel will become harder and it's likely that the pound will fall. In the medium term, our economy will suffer, as decreasing trade with our nearest and largest trading partner is bad for our economy. We will find ways of adjusting, but it will take some time. It's not clear

whether Boris Johnson wants to take us out with no deal, and *InTouch* readers can make fun of me if I'm wrong, but the gamble is, if there's disruption, who will people blame – the EU or the government? It might be that, by the time this issue is out, we are having a general election.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Doing media spots is part and parcel of the job, but I enjoy it. I get to take part in shows with all sorts of interesting people. The standout moment for me, partly because I was so nervous, was doing *Question Time*. It's not for the faint-hearted, as even the most seasoned participants are nervous. To be invited is a real triumph for the organisation – something we can be proud of.

FIND OUT MORE:

 ukandeu.ac.uk

TRANSFORMING *education at King's*

Nicola Phillips (Hispanic Studies, 1993), Vice President & Vice Principal (Education) and Professor of Political Economy, shares her thoughts on the future of education at King's.



I'm startled to say that it's 30 years since I first arrived at King's as an undergraduate in Hispanic Studies. Returning in 2017, as Vice President & Vice Principal (Education), has given me the remarkable opportunity to work with committed and passionate colleagues, alongside our students, to shape the future of education at King's. At a critical time in the university's journey, it's a privilege to lead an ambitious programme to transform how we teach, how and where our students learn, and how we'll support them during their time with us.

A LEARNED STRATEGY

Our students already receive an excellent education at King's, in a world-leading university. But our Education Strategy – developed with our community – promises even more. Our aim is that, by 2029, our students will benefit from the highest quality teaching and learning, enhanced by digital technology, in and out of the classroom, on and off campus. All students will be encouraged to learn from more than one discipline, having flexibility in the curriculum for interdisciplinary study alongside their core subject. Students' education will be enriched by greater opportunities for research, volunteering and service, guided by outstanding personal tutoring, innovative assessment and high-quality feedback. A King's education will take advantage of all that London offers, shaped by our commitment to an internationalised university experience.

CHANGE FOR GOOD

Why change? Firstly, because our world-leading academics, drawing on evidence and best practice in teaching and learning, know what a state-of-the-art education should look like in their fields. But also, in the many years since I was an undergraduate, students' (and society's) expectations and needs have changed. Our graduates need to be flexible, resilient, life-long learners, with the skills to navigate the uncertain future, working in environments shaped in fundamental ways by technology and artificial intelligence. We must equip them with the multidisciplinary insight and rounded leadership skills needed to contribute to shaping the future of society.

‘I loved my time as a King's student – the stimulation of my course, the vibrancy of London – and I've no doubt that our future students will enjoy this and so much more: an education truly to ‘inspire and improve’.’

NICOLA PHILLIPS

We are making excellent progress towards achieving our vision for a King's education. We are currently reviewing

our curriculum comprehensively to make sure that our portfolio of programmes and modules is meeting students' needs, offered to the highest standards. This strategic exercise – ‘Portfolio Simplification’ – is undoubtedly challenging, but an exciting opportunity to make space and time in our curriculum for creativity and innovation, and to incorporate wonderful new opportunities for our students.

I loved my time as a King's student – the stimulation of my course, the vibrancy of London – and I've no doubt that our future students will enjoy this and so much more: an education truly to ‘inspire and improve’.



THEN & NOW

Establishing the principles of maritime strategy

Britain is an island nation, so it is no surprise then that Britain has a rich maritime history, and fitting that King's has played a leading role in the development of an academic naval history for these shores.

In the 19th century, Professor Sir John Laughton from the Royal Naval College at Greenwich became the Professor of Modern History at King's. Here, he fused the educational needs of the Royal Navy with the emerging academic discipline of history.

Laughton also encouraged his American contemporaries, who helped establish the United States Naval War

College in Newport, Rhode Island, on the eastern seaboard of the USA, as a centre for the study of the higher direction of war and the development of strategic thought.

The Laughton Naval Unit was set up in 2001 under the direction of the first Laughton Professor of Naval History, Professor Andrew Lambert. It operates within the Department of War Studies and the School of Security Studies. Professor Lambert was keen to reflect the development of naval strategy over the years, drawing on the work of Laughton himself, but also other respected historians of the period, including Laughton's most important follower, the British historian Sir Julian Corbett. Now well established, researchers, strategic thinkers and historians from the Laughton Naval Unit have influenced organisations, governments, industry and armed forces, while engaging in a wide range of debates around the world.

The Laughton Naval Unit works closely with other research groups both in and outside academia. One key partner in its work is alumnus Dr David Kohlen (PhD War Studies, 2013).

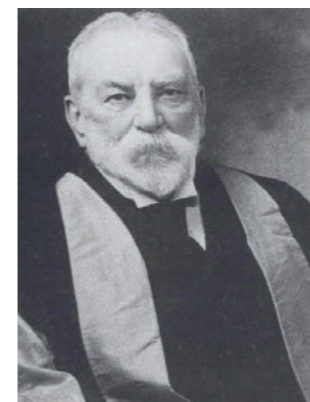
As a US naval intelligence officer, he supported coalition operations during multiple deployments in Middle Eastern waters and also ashore in Afghanistan and Iraq. Dr Kohlen studied for a master's at the Naval War College in 2007 before coming to King's to complete his PhD in 2013. He now serves as Director of the Hattendorf Historical Center at the Naval War College.



Dr David Kohlen (R) discusses the rich history of the United States Naval War College with Her Royal Imperial Japanese Highness, Princess Akiko of Mikasa (L), as Professor John B Hattendorf and Captain Yamamoto Katsuya follow from centre.

I learned that the art of being a historian centres on the science of making historical trends relevant in the contemporary context.

DR DAVID KOHLEN



Professor Sir John Laughton

Dr Kohlen described his time at King's as, 'the basic foundation for everything that I am doing now at the Hattendorf Center. Under Professor Lambert, I learned that the art of being a historian centres on the science of making historical trends relevant in the contemporary context.'

KING'S AND THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

There has been a strong relationship between King's and the Naval War College for over 100 years but, in May 2019, a formal memorandum was signed between King's and the College to establish Corbett 100, codirected by Dr Kohlen and PhD student James WE Smith on the King's side. Corbett 100 is being organised to coincide with the centenary of the First World War and the centenary of the death of Sir Julian Corbett. It will reflect on the influence of Sir Julian Corbett upon global naval strategy right up to the present day. Corbett himself understood the critical importance of analysing the past in order to identify and publicise long-term trends in national security.

CORBETT 100

Corbett 100 will run from 2019 to 2023. As well as giving prominence to the thinking of Corbett, the project will also explore contemporary questions around maritime strategy, defence policy, naval theory, seapower, trade

protection and future global strategy. There will be a host of special publications and events to bring all these issues together.

James WE Smith told us, 'Corbett 100 presents an opportunity for current and future scholarship on the past to spark contemporary strategic discussions about the practical application of the study of history in framing future naval strategy, joint service operations, and the fundamental objective in war – the attainment of a sustainable peace. Corbett 100 renews King's and the Laughton Naval Unit's heritage at the heart of the creation, development and ongoing study for naval history, maritime strategy and as the global home of war studies.'

The scholarly connections between King's College London and the Naval War College are deeply entwined and Corbett 100 is just the next step in a long-standing relationship that has done much to shape the academic landscape and further the development of naval scholarship.

King's Strategic Vision 2029, launched in 2017, leads us towards our 200th anniversary in 2029 and builds upon our history of making a positive contribution to society. Here, Dr Barrie Morgan FKC, Chair, King's College London Alumni Association (KCLA), shares his thoughts on King's history of service.

A HISTORY of service



Our vision is to make the world a better place (King's Strategic Vision 2029). The explicit focus on serving society dates from the first mission statement in 1993: King's College London is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, learning and understanding in the service of society.

RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

A university wouldn't have dreamed of defining its purpose with a mission statement prior to the beginning of the marketisation of higher education, and it is important to appreciate its context. The first research assessment exercises in 1986, 1989 and 1992, which prompted university league tables, saw King's at a low ebb compared with our traditional London rivals – LSE, UCL and Imperial College. Competition for students was increased by polytechnics being granted university status in 1992.

Polytechnics were more focused on vocational disciplines and applied research.

UNIVERSITY POSITIONING

Richard Claas, Director of Student Recruitment (we couldn't use terms such as 'marketing' and 'branding' then), and I came to the view that King's was poorly placed to compete purely on excellence. We advised King's, given its ethos, to position itself in this new world of higher education as an outstanding research-led university committed to serving society. Professor Barry Ife, the Vice Principal, condensed the essence of King's and its aspirations to a single mission sentence.

Christine Kenyon Jones, Research Fellow in the Department of English, wrote a lavishly illustrated book for the 175th anniversary – *King's College London: In the Service of Society*.

The book develops the backstory, celebrating the achievements of outstanding staff and alumni who have improved and enriched humankind. A selection of their pictures and stories are exhibited in the windows of some of our buildings. A new visual identity, created by Pentagram in the early 1990s, introduced the first version of the current logotype, which was initially accompanied by the strapline 'Founded 1829', emphasising our proud history.

A TRIBUTE TO KING'S

It is a great tribute to King's staff and students that a position born out of relative weakness has been so thoroughly embraced and embedded to the point that it is now a significant strength.

Dr Barrie Morgan FKC
Director of External Relations
King's College London, 1992–2002
KCLA Chair

THE START OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

Dr Paul Scott Collinson
and Monica Deacy



Dr Paul Scott Collinson (Geography, 1990) and Monica Deacy (Geography, 2002) met at our annual Geographers' Walk at Alumni Weekend in 2009, and have just celebrated their 10th anniversary together.

PAUL: We both did Geography at King's but 12 years apart – I graduated in 1990 and Monica in 2002. The walk was very long – almost three hours, so there was plenty of time to get to know each other. It was clear that we had loads in common.

MONICA: Paul was wearing sunglasses so I couldn't tell if he was looking directly at me or not but I was really hoping that he'd noticed me. The walks were divided into separate groups and initially I was in a different group from Paul so I thought I had missed my opportunity. However, after about 10 minutes, I spotted Paul again, so I quickly joined his group and the rest is history.

I always tease Paul about the fact that I had to ask for his number, but I was really delighted when he sent me a text the next day asking me out.

PAUL: For our first date, we met in the bar at the British Film Institute. We then walked across the river and went to the National Portrait Gallery, and then to a local pub. It was a great night. Monica texted me afterwards to say that she'd had a really nice time, which I was obviously very pleased about.

MONICA: So much of our relationship has been associated with King's and London that they both hold very special memories. There is the fountain by Regent's Park where the annual

Geographer's Walk finished and I plucked up the courage to ask for Paul's number. The South Bank is where we had our first kiss and have been on many dates since. We have always enjoyed going for walks together and making the most of life in London, so it is a special place for both of us.

PAUL: King's has had a fundamental impact on my life. I now help run the Geography Alumni Society and help lead the Geographers' Walk during Alumni Weekend each year. My Dad studied geography at King's in the early 1950s, and my brother went there too to read history in the 1990s, so it's very much in the family.

My brother and one of my best friends were both married in the King's chapel, so those days are full of special memories. And of course it will always be special for Monica and I because it brought us together.

MONICA: Studying at King's has been a life-changing experience for me. Not only did I get to study a subject that I love in a great location, but I ended up meeting Paul and we now have two beautiful children.

DID YOU MEET SOMEONE SPECIAL AT KING'S? WHETHER YOUR PARTNER OR BEST FRIEND, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT IT. SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT:

✉ forever@kcl.ac.uk

BRAIN TEASERS

QUICK CROSSWORD

- Across
- Down
3. Rankin’s inspector (5)

6. Somewhere a Frenchman keeps his guns (7)

8. Negligence rather than deliberate fraud (5)

9. Past error (7)

10. Sherlock’s weakness (5)

11. Against divine law (3)

12. Undercover agent (5)

14. An end to authority (7)

16. The kind of trail investigative journalists might take (5)

17. Truth (7)

18. Ours is ‘Investigation’ (5)
1. Penetrating rays (5)

2. Sniffing out the clues (4)

3. Weighing up the facts (6)

4. Crowd-sourced investigators (10)

5. Densely crowded (5)

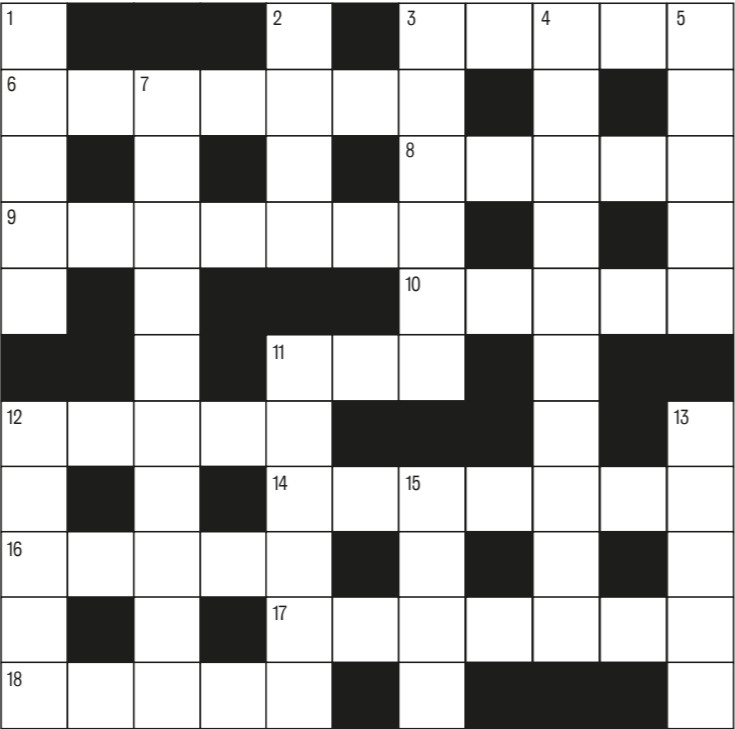
7. She solved a murder at the vicarage (4,6)

11. Beyond hunger (6)

12. Alternative spelling of laboratory dropper (5)

13. A travelling person (5)

15. A subject of non-scientific investigations (4)



LOGIC PUZZLE

A scientist is researching a recently discovered bacterium. She is growing a colony of the bacteria in a petri dish. Once a minute, each bacterium divides in two. If the colony was founded at exactly midday and the petri dish is half full at 12:32, at what time will the dish be full?

SOLUTIONS

Solutions are now available on the website for last issue’s crossword. The solutions for the puzzles on this page will be available from 30 January.

 alumni.kcl.ac.uk/puzzles



Reggie pin badge giveaway

We have 50 Reggie pin badges to give away. To be in with a chance of winning one, just contact us with your solutions by 30 June 2019. Email your solutions with ‘*InTouch* puzzle’ in the subject line.

 forever@kcl.ac.uk  +44 (0)20 7848 3053

NEW APPOINTMENTS & COMMENDATIONS

Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent OBE (Doctorate in Health Care, 2012)

Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent, Visiting Professor in Midwifery, has been appointed as Chief Midwifery Officer, NHS England. This is a new role that makes Professor Dunkley-Bent the most senior midwife in England.



Anna Lowe (MA Culture & Creative Industries, 2014)

Anna Lowe (above) has been appointed as the Youth Engagement Trustee of Tate. The appointment, made by the Prime Minister, makes Anna the youngest serving Board Member at a UK national museum or gallery.

Professor Paul Gilroy

Paul Gilroy, Professor of American and English Literature, is 2019’s recipient of the prestigious Holberg Prize. Awarded by the University of Bergen on behalf of the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, it is one of the largest prizes awarded annually to an outstanding researcher in the arts and humanities.



Dr Katherine Sleeman

Dr Sleeman (centre, above) has been awarded the inaugural European Association for Palliative Care Award for women in palliative care. The award is in recognition of her work as part of the Cicely Saunders Institute Athena SWAN team.

QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Dr Shubulade Smith (Medicine, 1991)

Dr Smith has been awarded a CBE for services to forensic psychiatric intensive care. Alumna of Guy’s Hospital Medical School (which became part of King’s Health Partners in 1998) and now staff member, Dr Smith is a Visiting Senior Lecturer in the Department of Forensic & Neurodevelopmental Sciences at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience and a Consultant Psychiatrist at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.

Graeme Biggar (MA International Security & Strategy, 2012)

Graeme Biggar, currently the Director General of the National Economic Crime Centre, has been awarded a CBE for services to national security. This award is recognition for work in his previous role as Director of National Security in the Home Office, where he worked on countering terrorism and hostile state activity.

FIND THE FULL LIST OF ALUMNI RECOGNISED IN THE QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS HERE:

 alumni.kcl.ac.uk/news-features/queens-birthday-honours-2019

A KING’S EXCLUSIVE



Our latest discount is from Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, a world-leading policy institute based in London.

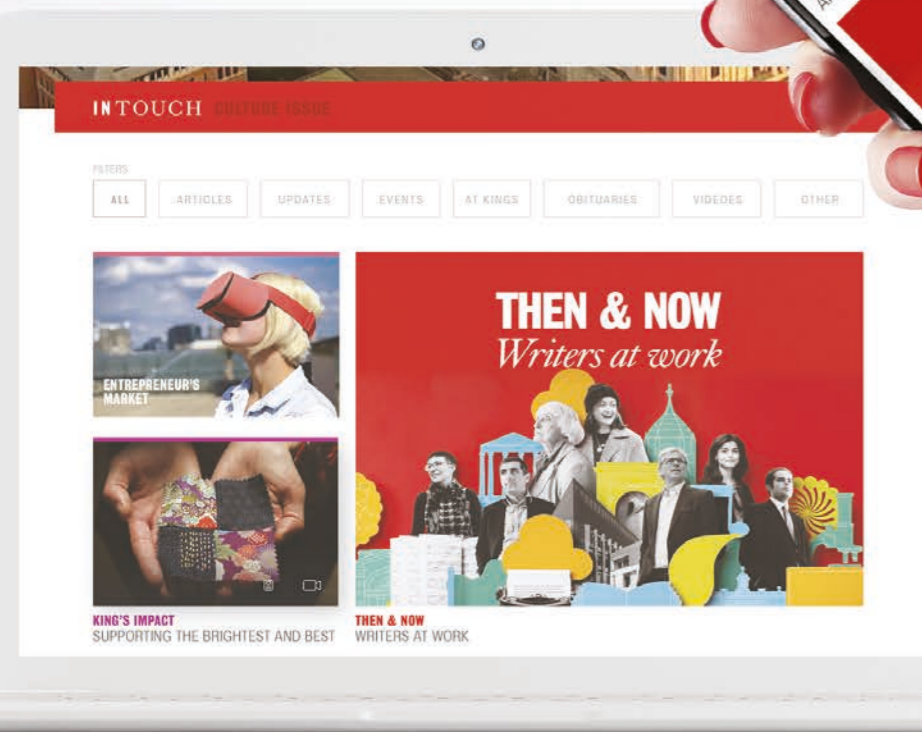
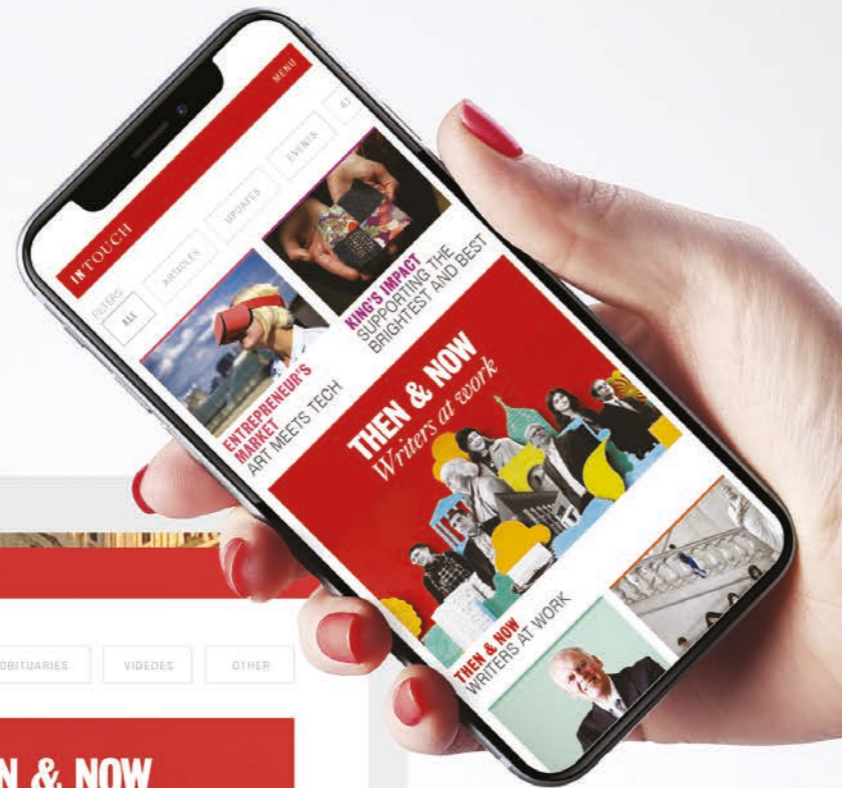
Membership includes access to high-profile events featuring leading policymakers and commentators, and access to the Institute’s library and archives.

Use the exclusive discount code JFOFFKLC to waive the £50 joining fee, where applicable.

FIND FULL DETAILS OF THIS AND OTHER BENEFITS HERE:

 alumni.kcl.ac.uk/alumni-benefits/local-and-online-discounts

INTOUCH ONLINE



As you are a valued member of the King's global alumni community, we are delighted to offer you a diverse programme of exclusive benefits. One such benefit is *InTouch*, your dedicated alumni magazine, which we have been bringing to you for over 30 years.

We are making some changes to *InTouch*, expanding our reach so that we can give you more of the stories you love. In Spring 2020, we will launch *InTouch Online*, a dedicated digital magazine. In addition to that, we will continue to send out *InTouch* in print each winter. This annual issue will be a bumper edition, featuring some of our *InTouch Online* highlights and print-only exclusives.

We would love to email you when *InTouch Online* launches, ensuring that you are among the first to see our brand-new magazine. Do we have your email address? Opt in for emails by contacting us on the details below.

We hope that you are as excited as we are about this next step for *InTouch* and, as always, would welcome your feedback, which you can send to

✉ forever@kcl.ac.uk

Visuals shown are for illustrative purposes only and are not representative of the final *InTouch Online* product.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

**DR ALEXANDRA
PENTARAKI**
(PhD, Psychological
Medicine &
Psychiatry, 2008)



Dr Alexandra Pentaraki has dedicated her career to helping vulnerable people with mental health issues. She studied psychology in Greece before taking a master's in Cognitive Psychology at the University of Essex and a PhD in Psychological Medicine at King's Institute of Psychiatry. She is now a practising clinical psychologist, a research associate and a university lecturer. She was recently nominated for a British Council alumni award in recognition of her work.

'It was my love of knowledge that first sparked my interest in psychology,' Alexandra tells us. Driven by a desire 'to make a difference', she honed her clinical and research skills, specialising in clinical psychology, neuropsychology and psychotherapy. 'I wanted to research the psychological factors relating to mental health conditions to find possible treatments. I now specialise in treating people who suffer from depression and panic attacks. I feel most proud and inspired when my clients tell me that I have

helped them overcome their issues.' Alexandra also works as an expert witness in Greek courts and the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Here, her expertise helps with psychological profiling, detecting child abuse and neglect and assisting those who have been subjected to violence and trauma. She testifies in criminal cases and assists with witness preparation. 'I am particularly proud that my work has helped protect many children from further maltreatment,' she says. In addition to this, Alexandra is

the founder and director of the Brain Matters Institute, a body dedicated to the practice, learning and promotion of psychological science for the benefit of society. She attributes her work ethic and skills to the high-quality education she received at King's.

'If I could see one big change in the world, I would find ways for everyone to live peacefully and with no abuse. Love, hope and action are the only solutions. I believe that this motto is the only way forward in life.'

Alexandra at the British Council UK Alumni Awards 2019, in Greece, with the British Ambassador, Kate Smith.

“I try to implement what I have learned at King's for the benefit of society. I want to make a difference in this world.”

DR ALEXANDRA PENTARAKI



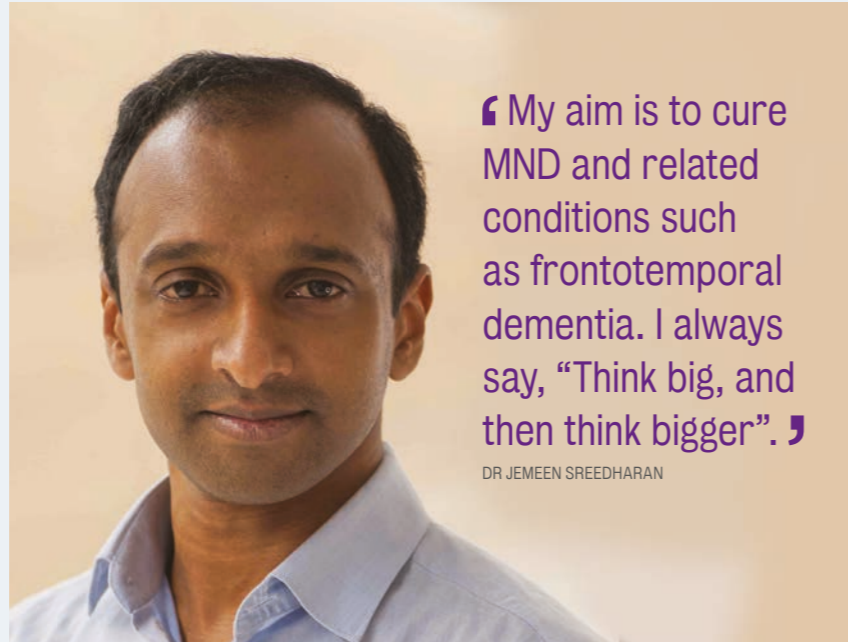
FINDING A CURE FOR MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE

DR JEMEEN SREEDHARAN
(Neuroscience with Basic Medical Sciences, 1998)

It was while studying medicine at King's that Jemeen Sreedharan first developed an interest in research. Today, he is a neurologist and his research is focused on motor neurone disease (MND). MND (also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS) is a devastating disease with no cure. Six people are diagnosed with the condition in the UK every day and it kills around 2,200 people per year.

'I was in my second year when I decided I wanted to do more than work as a doctor,' says Jemeen. 'I spent time exploring the Strand Campus library, reading about artificial intelligence and had learned some coding, and so decided to take an intercalated degree in neuroscience.'

It was while working on a neural network modelling project with the Maths and Pharmacology departments that I realised the importance of creativity and began to understand what experimentation really means. After graduating, during my junior medical training, I became interested in MND.'



‘My aim is to cure MND and related conditions such as frontotemporal dementia. I always say, “Think big, and then think bigger”.’

DR JEMEEN SREEDHARAN

It was while studying for his PhD in Clinical Neuroscience at King's that Jemeen made a major breakthrough. He discovered a gene mutation that causes MND. Jemeen went on to work at the University of Massachusetts and the Babraham Institute in Cambridge, where he modelled this gene mutation, a change in a protein called TDP-43, in fruit flies and mice.

Today, Jemeen is back at King's, leading a dynamic research group at the Maurice Wohl Clinical Neuroscience Institute. His lab has developed stem cell models to help find ways to correct imbalances in the brain and stop neurodegeneration.

'My aim is to cure MND and related conditions such as frontotemporal dementia,' says Jemeen. 'My work so far has been incredibly exciting. It has led to many discoveries that will advance the field significantly.'

Jemeen's research was recognised when he won the David Hague Early Career Clinical Investigator of the Year Award. This internationally recognised award is presented each year to the most outstanding early career researcher in the field of biomedical dementia research.



Jemeen receiving his Early Career Clinical Investigator of the Year Award

Progress at the Sreedharan Lab is dependent on philanthropy. 'Research is an expensive and risky enterprise and we need visionaries with financial resources and the ability to "spread the word" to support us.' An active fundraiser himself, Jemeen recently cycled from London to Geneva to raise money for the MND Association.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT JEMEEN'S WORK, VISIT:

[@JemeenSreed](https://twitter.com/JemeenSreed)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO SUPPORT JEMEEN'S RESEARCH, CONTACT US ON:

giving@kcl.ac.uk

THIRTEEN HUNDRED YEARS OF MEDICAL EXPERIENCE IN ONE ROOM

CLIVE ROBERTS (Medicine, 1969)

Sixty-eight people qualified as doctors from King's College Hospital in 1969 and there have been several reunion parties since. Ten years ago, a call for updates revealed the group had one knight, four civic honours, four professors, 41 consultants, 19 GPs and 12 who settled abroad.



Reunion lunch – Medicine, Class of 69

In May 2019, a 50-year reunion lunch was held in Portsmouth. Twenty-six attended, all in top spirits and still full of the same sparkle as on freshers' day. Recollections flowed freely, taking in the irreverent humour of the dissecting room, the imposed professional code of dress (tie, shirt and jacket – not leather), the medical school's London to Brighton walk, the overnight queue stretching up and down the embankment for Churchill's lying in state and our first freshers' evening. We reminded ourselves, with affection, of the austere and sometimes frightening personalities of some consultant surgeons.

One of us had been a senior student locum and had helped at the first ever UK liver transplant. We had almost forgotten that hospitals relied on student labour for all the blood-letting and surgical shaves, let alone postpartum stitching and casualty work. What experiences we have had.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOSTING A REUNION, CONTACT US ON:

reunions@kcl.ac.uk

+44 (0)20 7848 3053

WAR-TIME MEMORIES

MARGARET MORGAN (NÉE STOKES) AKC
(Geography, 1947)

At 93, Margaret Morgan is one of King's oldest alumni. Here, she shares her memories of King's during the Second World War. 'I came to King's to study geography in 1944. Teaching had only recently resumed in London, following evacuation during the blitz. The college was a very female place, as most men were away in the services. Our department had only one man who was unfit for military service and a few war-wounded returnees.'



Margaret recalls there was already a large hole in the quad courtyard from a bomb strike. 'We became used to the menacing sound of V-1 flying bombs or "doodlebugs" launched from Germany. Then came the V-2 rockets, a new and terrifying type of weapon that crashed and exploded without warning. One winter night in January 1945, a V-2 fell into the river outside King's and blew in all the windows on that side of the building.'

We arrived the next morning for the AKC lecture and spent a frozen hour in the Great Hall.

I graduated in 1947 and stayed on in the Education Department, where I met my future husband, Theodore David Morgan.'

Margaret and David married in 1953 and both became teachers, eventually living in Wakefield.

To see all the latest class notes and find out which of your classmates have been performing on stage, writing books and planning reunions, visit our website:

alumni.kcl.ac.uk/classnotes

IF YOU HAVE A MEMORY OF KING'S YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE, CONTACT US ON:

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OBITUARIES

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ANGLICAN PRIEST AND PAUSE FOR THOUGHT RADIO STAR

REVEREND RUTH SCOTT
(*MA Systemic Theology, 1999*)

Reverend Ruth Scott, Anglican priest and radio broadcaster, has died aged 60.

Ruth trained as a nurse at St Thomas' Hospital, where she met her husband, Chris, a vicar. She left nursing and, after a period as a journalist and radio broadcaster, she later returned to university, studying Religious Studies and then Theology at King's. In 1992, she became a deacon in Richmond, London and, two years later, was ordained as one of the first female priests in the Church of England. Around this time, she began contributing to *Prayer for the Day* on Radio 4 and *Pause for Thought* on Radio 2, first with Terry Wogan and later Chris Evans.



She was considered a liberal by many and devoted much of her time to bringing together communities in conflict, from Belfast to Palestine.

Her insights and reflections were enjoyed by millions of listeners and she was an inspiration and comfort to many.

PIONEERING PSYCHIATRIST WHO LINKED SEROTONIN TO DEPRESSION



Photograph courtesy of *The Daily Telegraph*

DR ALEC COPPEN
(*Psychological Medicine, 1957*)

Dr Alec Coppen, a biological psychiatrist, has died aged 96. He was known for introducing serotonin therapy for depression and was considered a pioneer.

After serving in the army in World War Two, Alec studied medicine at Bristol University and psychological medicine at the Institute of Psychiatry in London. Later, he was appointed to the UK Medical Research Council's Neuropsychiatric Research Unit.

In the early 1960s, there were few biological psychiatrists, and studying the effects of drugs on the mind was often regarded with suspicion. Alec's work focused on mood disorders and he was one of the first to link low levels of

serotonin with clinical depression. He carried out the first trial that showed that lithium was effective in the treatment of bipolar depression. This was something that had previously been questioned by the profession. Following these positive results, he became an international advocate for the benefits of lithium therapy.

Alec was widely published and received numerous awards, including the Pioneer Award in 2000 from the Collegium Internationale Neuropsychopharmacologicum (CINP). He was President of the CINP from 1988 to 1990 and President of the British Association for Psychopharmacology.

CENTENARIAN, ENGLISH TEACHER, MUSICIAN AND PRISONER OF WAR



ALAN BOLT
(*English, 1940*)

Alan Bolt, prisoner of war, English teacher and musician has died aged 100.

Alan joined the army soon after graduating and was dispatched to Cairo, where his unit was attacked and captured by the Germans. After some time imprisoned in a cage in the desert, he found himself in a prisoner of war camp in Italy.

Alan had grown up with music and it was here that his passion reemerged. He formed a camp choir that sang at church services and even with a jazz band. His arrangement of an Italian song was such a hit he earned extra rations for every prisoner. Alan was later transported to Stalag IV-B in Germany, one of the largest and most brutal camps. Here, he set up a choir and an orchestra with fellow prisoners, bartering cigarettes with the guards in exchange for instruments.

They rehearsed in a prison hut so cold that some of the instruments froze. Alan also narrowly escaped death when bullets rained down on the table he was sat at, while working on a musical score.

After the war, Alan returned to the UK, trained as a teacher and became head of the English Department and subsequently Director of Curriculum at Surbiton County Grammar School. His love of music remained and he was Musical Director of Claygate Choral Society, conducted the Phoenix String Orchestra and later, in Cumbria, directed the Cumbria Recorder Society and the Furness Bach Choir. Alan was also a keen rider and hunter and held the post of Master of the North Lonsdale Foxhounds for over 20 years.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATE AT THE TOP OF HER PROFESSION

DR LOTTE NEWMAN CBE OBE
(*Medicine, 1957*)

Lotte Newman, a GP and the second female president of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), has died aged 90.



Photograph courtesy of Tom Jenkins/*The Guardian*

Lotte was born in Frankfurt and came to London as a Jewish refugee in the 1930s. She spent many years working as a GP with her own North London practice.

Lotte championed women's roles and rights, promoting the status and professional development of female doctors, as President of the RCGP and President of the Medical Women's Federation. Her son described her as 'a great role model and a feminist almost before feminism.'

She was also Vice President of the World Organization of Family Doctors, and Medical Director of St John Ambulance. She was awarded an OBE in 1991 and a CBE in 1998.

OBITUARIES

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DENTIST AND AMBASSADOR FOR MALTA



HERBERT MESSINA FERRANTE
(Dentistry, 1966)

Herbert Messina Ferrante, dentist, sports administrator, politician and Knight of Malta, has died aged 80.

After graduating from Guy's, Herbert returned to his home in Malta to work as a dentist. There, he made a

huge contribution to both the dental and medical professions, as President of the Malta College of Dental Surgeons, as a member of the Maltese Medical Council and as a committee member of the European Dental Society.

Herbert also found time to work in sports and local politics. He became Vice President of the Maltese FA, introduced women's football to the country and met Pelé in the process. He was a local councillor for the Nationalist Party and campaigned for better dental health and improved welfare for senior citizens. He regularly appeared in the media and was well known amongst diplomatic, political and celebrity circles. He was also a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

His friend Keith McGlynn (Dentistry, 1966) said his 'flamboyant persona belied his humanitarian values and ability to just get things done and to make a difference.'

DR AJ GOSSAGE

Dr John Gossage, a member of staff in the Department of Classics, has died.

John taught at King's for over 30 years, joining as a lecturer in 1951 and rising to become a Reader. He enjoyed a wide range of interests, including Greek philosophy and Latin epic poetry. Together with WS Maguinness (Head of the Department and Professor of Latin at King's), he was an active member of the Virgil Society (founded in 1943 by TS Eliot and friends), where he was Treasurer and then Secretary, leading a very successful campaign to increase membership. He was known for his encouragement and good humour and was very popular with his students, some of whom were still in touch with him into his nineties.

PROFESSOR JACK ROWE

Professor Jack Rowe, Dean of the Dental School from 1985 to 1991, has died aged 93.

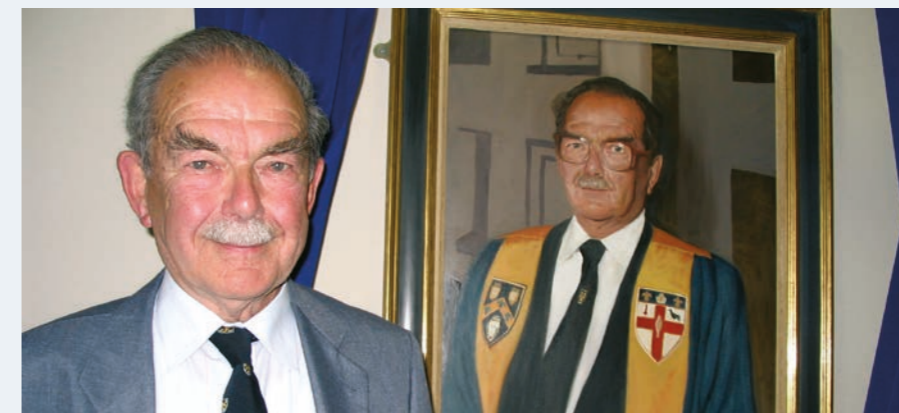
Jack studied at Guy's and, despite the interruptions of war, including living in an air raid shelter, qualified in 1948. He was appointed house surgeon to Mr Kelsey Fry before being called up to do National Service, where he spent time in the Dental Corps.

In 1965, he was awarded the Master of Dental Surgery Degree of the University of London and was the first Guy's graduate to gain this degree

via research work. In 1967, he was appointed Head of the Department of Conservative Dental Surgery and then promoted to professor in 1971.

In 1985, his colleagues elected him Dean of the Dental School and he took office on the day Guy's Dental School merged with the Royal Dental Hospital of London School of Dental Surgery.

His distinguished services to dentistry were recognised in 1993 when he was awarded the Collyer Gold Medal of the College of Surgeons.



PROFESSOR KEN YOUNG



Professor Ken Young, the founding Head of the Department of Political Economy (2010–2013), has died.

Ken joined King's as Professor of Public Policy in 2005. He was instrumental in the creation of the Institute for the Study of Public Policy, out of which the new department developed, and he founded the MA in the subject.

His research focused on urban politics and local government and he was widely published. In his later years, he was better-known for his work on the history of the Cold War and Britain's relationship with the US in the nuclear age. In 2014, he won the Moncado Prize for Military History.

He taught at many universities, including Cambridge, Bristol, Birmingham and Queen Mary University of London, where he was Vice Principal. He worked at the Policy Studies Institute, was an advisor to the House of Commons Select Committee on Environment, and was a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the Academy of Social Sciences.

MUCH-LOVED COMMUNITY GP AND AUSTIN ENTHUSIAST EXTRAORDINAIRE

MICHAEL RICHARD HOWELL
(Medicine, 1965)

Michael Richard Howell, known to all as Mike, died in early 2019 at the age of 77.

He is remembered by his medical and dentistry student friends as a most assiduous student, with an encyclopaedic knowledge of clinical medicine that he retained for his entire career. Many expected him to become a surgeon, but his interest in people and natural empathy led him instead

to become a GP, mostly on the Isle of Wight. His extraordinary concern for patients, and his cheerful and open manner, meant that he was trusted and respected by so many in the community.

Mike was also a keen enthusiast and restorer of Austin motorcars from the 1920s and 1930s and well known on the national rally scene.

(Contributions from Roger Stevens and Mike Flynn (both Medicine, 1965).)



OLIVER BLACK



Oliver Black, a Visiting Research Professor with the Department of Philosophy, has died aged 62.

Oliver read Philosophy at Cambridge and received his PhD from the University of London. After a brief spell in academia, teaching at Cambridge University and as a fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, he joined the law firm Linklaters, where he was head of the UK procurement law practice. He kept in touch with academic life and published regularly on academic topics. Oliver was also an accomplished comic writer. He was appointed a Visiting Research Professor in Philosophy at King's in 2000 and participated vigorously in the life of the department.

Anna Pastukhova-Petrenko RECOMMENDS

Anna Pastukhova-Petrenko (MA Bioethics and Society, 2016) is a science and medical journalist, physiologist and bioethicist. She has written for Forbes, the BBC, PopMech and many other publications, and is a writer and editor for popular science portal Biomolecule. In 2019, she was shortlisted by Rusnano as a Russian Science Writer of the Year. In her free time, Anna runs the travel blog purpurpurpur.co.uk.

Favourite piece of music?

Barcarolle from Jacques Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*. It's one of the most celestial melodies I've ever heard – and it even inspires me to sweep the dust from my piano (but not too often unfortunately).

Treasured childhood memory?

It's a very early memory – and I believe it might've been modified by my brain a bit over the years, but I remember being around one year old and walking wobbly around the room, holding onto the sofa with one hand. Nothing very special in it – but I remember feeling proud of being able to explore on my own.

Best advice you have received?

I'm old-fashioned and prefer to take advice from books rather than from people – hence the best bits of advice were given to me by authors long gone – and one that keeps me balanced whatever happens, good or bad, comes from *Solomon's Seal* by Edward Fitzgerald: 'This too shall pass.'

Biggest achievement?

I believe that the age of 27 is a bit too early to talk about the biggest achievements – moreover, the majority of my projects are not finished yet. But, so far, I can confidently say that I make the perfect apple cakes – at least my husband says so!

Standout memory of King's?

I have so many memories of King's that it's very hard to choose. But, the most emotional ones were my first visit to the Maughan Library, an astonishing neo-gothic building, and my graduation at the Barbican. At King's, you feel like you belong to something bigger than yourself – and that feeling accompanied me from the first to last days of my master's programme and is still with me as an alumna.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ANNA ON INSTAGRAM:

 [@purpurpurpur](https://www.instagram.com/purpurpurpur)

Maughan
Library

KING'S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS 2020

Honour your fellow alumni for their professional achievement, outstanding civic leadership or service to King's and society.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR RECOGNITION IN ONE OF 10 CATEGORIES:

King's Future Alumnus or Alumna Award
King's in Service Award
King's Local Communities Award
King's Entrepreneur Award
King's Emerging Leader Award
King's Arts and Culture Alumni Award
King's International Alumni Award
King's STEM Alumni Award
King's Global Health Alumni Award
King's Alumni Impact Award



King's award-winner Shereen Mashhadi Ahvazi (Midwifery, 2018) (L) and guest



King's Future Alumnus winner James Frater (Medicine, 2021) with host Rory Bremner FKC (French and German, 1984) and Professor Sir Robert Lechler

HOW TO NOMINATE:

Find out more about the categories, criteria and how to nominate on our website here:

 alumni.kcl.ac.uk/awards2020

Nominations will close on 31 December 2019. Winners will be chosen from a shortlist by a selection committee made up of King's representatives and alumni.



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