

# COMMENT

THE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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## A new Graduate School for King's



DOMINIC TURNER

**A** Graduate School for Health Sciences has been established in King's for postgraduate students in the Health Sciences.

There are around 2,000 postgraduate students on taught and research programmes in the six health Schools: Biomedical Sciences, The Dental Institute, Health & Life Sciences, Medicine, Nursing & Midwifery and The Institute of Psychiatry. The Graduate School is designed to enhance the student experience through the highest standards

of supervision, training and programme management and development.

Professor Norman Staines, who has been appointed the first Director of the Graduate School, has been involved in graduate education at King's since 1981, and researches in the immunology of arthritic disease and food allergy. Each of the Health Science Schools have also appointed Heads of Graduate Studies with school responsibility for their taught courses and research pro-

Professor Norman Staines discusses an experiment with his PhD student Emma Read whose research is on the immunology of the gut.

Also in the lab (from left to right) are other PhD students Anastasia Dieti, Louise Healy and Kate Sharp

grammes. The Graduate School will focus on four main areas. Firstly, it aims to support students and their supervisors to improve progression and completion rates of postgraduate research (PGR) students; secondly, it will develop programmes for students to

develop their transferable skills; thirdly, it will market postgraduate study programmes in health sciences at King's and, lastly, will work with the six Schools in the evaluation and development of graduate programmes.

Norman Staines is understandably enthusiastic about the new Graduate School. 'I am confident that the new School will quickly develop an identity that complements that of the six health science Schools and the College,' he commented, 'whilst enriching the postgraduate student experience. We aim to be student oriented and the work of the Graduate School will be guided by the needs of its membership.'

There will be a series of presentations to introduce the new Graduate School:

10 February  
Guy's Campus, Lecture Theatre 1, New Hunt's House at 16.00

12 February  
Denmark Hill Campus,  
Gainsford Lecture Theatre  
at 16.00

13 February  
Waterloo Campus, B5, Franklin-Wilkins Building at 16.00

The meetings will consist of short presentations, led by Professor Staines, and a Q and A session. Staff and students from all campuses and Schools are warmly invited to attend.

**KING'S**  
*College*  
**LONDON**

**University of London**

## Principal to retire

Professor Arthur Lucas announced his retirement as Principal of King's at the meeting of the College Council held on 10 December last year. He will step down from his post when his current contract ends on 30 September this year.

Given the College's royal foundation, the position of Principal is a Crown appointment which means that Professor Lucas' retirement has to be formally approved by the Queen through the Prime Minister. This being done, the College has now asked leave to establish a Search Committee to find the next Principal.

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**Professor Lucas is one of the longest serving current Vice-Chancellors or Principals of the pre-1992 universities**

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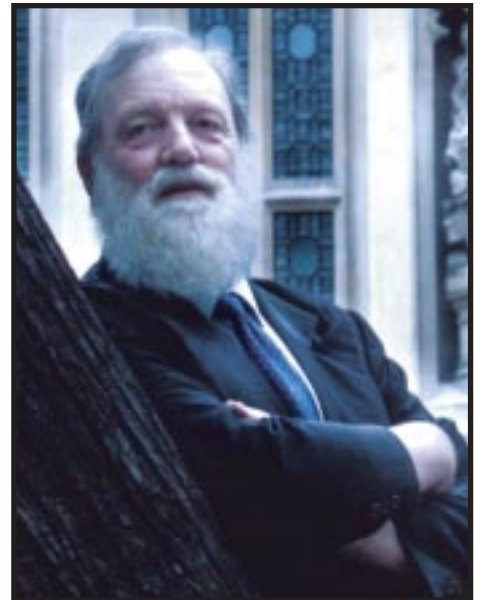
Once granted such leave a Search Committee will be set up by the Council. It is envisaged that it will consist of:

- the Chairman of Council, or if she is unable to serve, the Vice-Chairman
- four persons appointed by Council

- four persons elected by the Academic Board
- one member of the administrative staff appointed by Council
- with power to co-opt

Professor Lucas, who has been associated with the College for most of his working life, was appointed Principal in 1993. During his 11 years in office (including one as Acting Principal) he has overseen some of the most important changes in the College's history, most recently the mergers with the Institute of Psychiatry and UMDS. There has also been the £175million PPP scheme which saw the consolidation of the College's estate around three campuses on the Thames; and the purchase of the former Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, now the Maughan Library.

Professor Lucas said: 'It was a difficult decision to make to leave the College, but there comes a time when changes must be faced, and my family and I felt that this was the appropriate time for me to go. There is still much to do in the remaining period of office, and I am sure that we will all address, and take, the difficult decisions that will inevitably arise in the last months of my tenure.'



Not since Sir Peter Nobel's tenure (1952-68) has anyone held the post for so long. Professor Lucas is also one of the longest serving current Vice-Chancellors or Principals of the pre-1992 universities.

He joined Chelsea College from the Flinders University of South Australia in 1980 when he was appointed Professor of Science Curriculum Studies. He was Assistant Principal from 1987-89 and Vice-Principal from 1991-93. He also served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of London from 1997-2002.

## Master of the Rolls presents rare volumes to King's

The Master of the Rolls, the Right Honourable The Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, presented the College with the Rolls Chapel copies of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer in November.

These two rare 18th and 19th century books (the Rolls Bible was printed in 1781 and the Book of Common Prayer in 1815) were presented by Lord Phillips at the beginning of a conference on 'Law, Government, and the Public Records', organised by Professor Anne Duggan of the Department of History. It took place in the former Rolls Chapel (now

renamed the Weston Room following a donation from the Garfield Weston Foundation) of the Maughan Library.

Professor Duggan, Dr David Ricks, Head of the School of Humanities, Vivien Robertson, Site Services Manager for the Maughan Library, and Katie Sambrook, Special Collections Librarian, received them on behalf of King's.

Katie Sambrook said: 'We are delighted that these two magnificent volumes will be housed again in their original home. We will be able to exhibit them regularly in the Weston Room, where they resided until 1899.'



**Rare gift:** Vivien Robertson receives the Rolls Chapel copy of the Book of Common Prayer, printed in 1815, from Lord Phillips.

# King's honours Michael Howard

A new Reading Room was opened in the redeveloped Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives on 3 December. The Room is named in honour of Professor Sir Michael Howard to celebrate both his 80th birthday and more than 50 years' contribution to the study of war.

The Michael Howard Reading Room, designed to the highest professional standards, provides integrated access to paper, audio-visual and electronic archives for the first time. Individual scholarly work will be supported by access to Captain Sir Basil Liddell Hart's Library, as well as a seminar room equipped for teaching, 'memory jerking' conferences and presentations of audio-visual materials to a wider audience.

Patricia Methven, Director of Archives and Corporate Records Services, said: 'This is a terrific development. More and better space opens up a whole raft of exciting opportunities for encouraging the use of the Archive by

both the academic community and the wider public. For our regular readers – who have more than doubled in numbers in the last year – the new reading room offers a significant improvement in working conditions.'

Following the opening of the Michael Howard Reading Room a newly commissioned portrait of

## More than 50 years' contribution to the study of war

Sir Michael by Anthony Palliser was unveiled. Hew Strachan, Chichele Professor the History of War at Oxford University, then gave the well-attended annual Liddell Hart Lecture entitled 'Michael Howard and the dimensions of military history'.

Sir Michael's knowledge of warfare has been gained through experience and study. Having left Oxford to join the Coldstream Guards in 1943, he served in Churchill's Personal Security

Detail before earning a Military Cross at Salerno. He was twice wounded before the end of the war.

After finishing his Oxford degree, Sir Michael joined the Department of History at King's in 1947 and was instrumental in creating both the Department of War Studies and the Centre for Military Archives at the College. In 1964, he became the College's, and the country's, first Professor of War Studies. In 1970, he moved to Oxford where he became the Chichele Professor of the History of War and later

the Regius Professor of Modern History. He concluded his teaching career at Yale in 1993 as the first Robert A Lovett Professor of Military & Naval History.

The Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives, founded in 1964, was in the vanguard of repositories and museums which actively sought out private papers. Today it enjoys an international reputation for work in the field. The Centre was named in honour of Captain Sir Basil Liddell Hart in 1978 to mark the acquisition of his papers and library – the Centre's largest single collection.

Professor Sir Michael Howard (second from right) with his newly commissioned portrait. *From left* General the Lord Guthrie, former Chief of Defence Staff and Chairman of the Trustees of the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives, Baroness Rawlings, Chairman of Council and Professor Hew Strachan, Oxford University.



DOMINIC TURNER

## New heart techniques developed at King's

Doctors and scientists at King's College and Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital reported a successful new way of diagnosing and treating children born with heart defects, at a press conference in December. The team of researchers carried out a trial on 12 children with congenital heart disease using a new XMR facility that integrates magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) with conventional x-rays to help diagnosis and deliver treatment more effectively.

Every year at least eight out of every 1,000 babies born in the UK have a heart defect and about half these will require treatment. As

these children grow up they often require further procedures continuing on into their adult life.

Diagnosis and treatment of patients with congenital heart defects typically involves a procedure called a 'cardiac catheterisation', where a thin plastic catheter is inserted into an artery or vein in the neck or leg and then advanced into the heart. X-rays are normally used to guide the catheter, but only provide information about the position of the catheter and not the shape of the surface of the heart. The use of x-rays, especially in children, has harmful effects that can lead to problems later in life.

Dr Derek Hill, Reader in Medical Imaging Science, School of Medicine, describes the new method: 'It creates a better picture of

what's going on inside the child's heart. At the moment X-rays alone are used to guide the catheters into and around the heart. Doctors can get a reasonable idea of the catheter's position, but have little idea about the shape of the inner surface of the heart where they might want to place the catheter or other device.

'This is where the MRI part of the XMR system can help. Our XMR trial has been successful in giving us a three-dimensional picture of the heart and a much better idea of how well blood is being pumped through it. It's like being able to see the model of a house rather than a floor plan.'

Dr Reza Razavi, Director of Cardiac MRI

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## Continued from page 3

Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital, explains: 'The new XMR system gives us three-dimensional imaging, a way of measuring blood flow and tells us how the heart is beating – all extremely useful clinical information that helps us treat patients with greater accuracy and efficiency. X-rays alone don't offer these benefits. The use of this system also significantly reduces the x-ray radiation dose to the patient, which is particularly important in children.'

The XMR facility located at Guy's Hospital was supplied by Philips Medical Systems. It is the first of its type in the UK, and the first in the world to carry out these pioneering procedures on children with heart defects. A patient

**It's like being able to see the model of a house rather than a floor plan.**

being treated can be moved seamlessly between the x-ray and MRI imaging systems in a few seconds. Catheters can be manipulated within the heart and major blood vessels using either the MRI or x-rays for guidance.

The system was funded by grants from the Higher Education

Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Guy's & St Thomas' Charitable Foundation.

Dr Edward Baker, Senior Lecturer, School of Medicine, King's College London, and Honorary Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital said: 'The success of our XMR facility is likely to lead to all major hospitals performing most cardiac catheter procedures on children using MRI guidance within a few years. This will reduce, or even eliminate, the risks from x-rays and greatly improve the quality of information about the heart available to the doctors treating these sick children.'

The announcement of the results coincided with a one-day symposium at which world leaders in MR research and clinical practice gave presentations on the state of the art in MR Imaging and research. The day concluded with Lady Harris officially opening the new MRI Suite at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust Clinical MRI Unit and the King's Centre for MR Imaging and Intervention.

**World first:** the new XMR suite, the first in the world to carry out pioneering procedures on children with heart defects using x-ray and MRI imaging systems.

CHRISTOPHER CLOPET



## News in brief

### UL appointment

Baron Brooke of Sutton Madeville, who as Peter Brooke was Conservative higher education minister and secretary of state for Northern Ireland as well as a former local MP for the Strand Campus and member of King's Council, will succeed Lord Woolf, as Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the University of London's Council.

### LSE Director

The next Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science will be Howard Davies. He will take over from current Director Professor Anthony Giddens from 1 October 2003, when Professor Giddens will step down. Howard Davies has been chairman of the Financial Services Authority since 1997 and from 1995-1997 he was deputy governor of the Bank of England.

### Degree statistics

Provisional details of the qualifications obtained by and exam results gained by students at UK HE institutions for 2001/02 have been produced by HESA in collaboration with the Department for Education.

Key findings include: the number of first degree graduates in 2001/02 was 267,100 compared to 265,300 in the previous year. Of those gaining a first degree in 2001/02, 10 per cent obtained a first class honours award compared to nine per cent in 2000/01. Forty-five per cent obtained an upper second class honours award compared to 44 per cent in 2000/01. Fifty six per cent of first degree graduates in 2001/02 were women compared to 55 per cent in 2000/01. In 2001/02, 39

per cent of first degree graduates achieved their qualification in science of these, 46 per cent were women. For more information, see [www.hesa.ac.uk/press/sfr61/sfr61.htm](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/press/sfr61/sfr61.htm)

### Art of Dying

On Saturday 22 February, a cast of well-known professional actors will give the first public reading of *The Tuesday Group*. This play, by King's Research Fellow, Sue Eckstein, was written after close collaboration with practitioners at St Christopher's Hospice. It grew out of a European project involving colleagues from the Centre of Medical Law & Ethics and the Department of Palliative Care & Policy.

Tickets for the event are free and further details are available at: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/law/research/cmle/events.html>

### Johnny English

Look out for the College's Maughan Library on the big screen shortly. Part of the upcoming *Johnny English* film starring Rowan Atkinson was filmed there over the summer. The spy spoof character Rowan Atkinson created for the credit-card advert gets a big-screen outing. He stars with John Malkovich as the villain and Natalie Imbruglia as the love interest.

### Correction

In the last edition of *Comment* we carried a centre page spread of pictures of The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh's visit to the Maughan Library. One photograph was wrongly captioned, it was not David Puppelt about to meet the Queen, but Sebastien Clark, Information Assistant at the Maughan Library. Our apologies to both men.

# John Gearson

**Dr John Gearson** is a senior lecturer in the Department of Defence Studies at the Joint Services Command & Staff College (JSCSC) in Shrivenham. Since the end of February 2002 he has been on secondment to the House of Commons Defence Select Committee. Not only is he the first full-time policy adviser to the Defence Committee, but he is also one of only two seconded academics working in Parliament.



JO FISHENDEN

## What were you doing prior to your secondment to the House of Commons?

I was the Director of the MA in Defence Studies, one of the College's largest taught MA programmes with more than 200 students enrolled in 2002/3. Previously, I established a series of academic courses and modules for the Royal Air Force.

After undertaking my MA and PhD in War Studies at King's I was a post-doctoral research fellow during which time I acted, with Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, as a consultant to the City of London Corporation on a terrorist threat assessment following the Bishopsgate bombing. This provided a useful policy context for my academic work, helped by my previous work as a management consultant.

## How did the secondment come about?

It arose because the Committee recognised the need for a permanent specialist to contribute to its work. It was openly advertised and the competition involved a number of written tests and culminated in a board interview with the Committee Chairman and senior officials of the Commons staff.

I will be with the Committee for up to four years, which neatly fits with the likely span of the current Government's term. The post is non-political and requires complete impartiality since Committee staff work not for the Government but rather for backbench MPs.

## Can you describe your new role?

My primary role is to work as part of the Committee's secretariat, preparing briefing papers, identifying witnesses to call before the Committee, suggesting lines of inquiry and drafting reports on any aspect of defence policy that the Committee decides to consider. The role is unprecedented since the Committee has never before employed a full-time defence policy adviser. Previously, advice came from experts who were invited to act as special advisers as and when required. Whilst still using special advisers, in the past decade or so Parliamentary Select Committees have increasingly recruited full-time specialists and there are now some 20 of us supporting the work of Committees.

## Why do you think it is important that this post was established?

I see my role as not simply to add to existing Committee staff capabilities but also to broaden the scope and nature of the specialist advice to the Committee and to act as link between the parliamentarians and the wider academic and specialist community. Much of what Select Committees do is quite formal and procedure based and takes place in the House itself, but in employing an academic, the Defence Committee has been willing to consider new ideas for evidence-taking and report writing, ideas that my background at King's has informed.

## What have been the highpoints?

Last October, for the first time ever, the Committee agreed to hold a workshop outside the Commons as part of its current inquiry into the Government's 'New Chapter to the Strategic Defence Review'. It was held at King's and hosted by Professor Freedman. In a novel departure, the Committee spent a morning in the Council Room listening to off-the-record presentations from academics and considered the issues in a round table discussion

thereafter. The feedback from the members of the Committee was very positive and we intend to hold a formal evidence session at the JSCSC soon.

## How will your new experience relate to your academic position?

Sadly, the reports I write for the Committee may not count for RAE purposes, but I have continued to write as much as possible when time permits. Although I cannot publish on matters directly related to my duties for the Committee, there are still many areas of defence and security that I can write on. I continue to maintain close contact with my Department and the War Studies Group, giving occasional lectures and doing media work.

## How are you enjoying this role?

Overall, the experiences of the last year have been very rewarding, professionally and personally. Not only have I have accompanied the Committee to Moscow and to a number of less exotic military establishments in far flung parts of the UK, I have also met an extraordinary range of visitors to the House and have learnt a good deal about working to 'real' deadlines. In the House, a deadline for publication cannot slip since the members rely on our output.

Working at the House also means being available to members during their working week and so recess periods provide the only realistic opportunities for research and writing. However, the positives have far outweighed the negatives. Parliament is a fascinating place to work and the interaction with MPs, ministers and the public has been a constant stimulus. When I return to King's I hope to come back with a better understanding of the parliamentary process and the functioning of parliamentary oversight of the executive in particular, which will inform and enhance both my teaching and my research.

# New courses

## UK's first postgrad course in women's health

An innovative postgraduate taught course in women's health is being launched in March by the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery.

The course, Advancing Women's Health Care, is the first of its kind designed with a strong clinical focus to meet the needs of the UK's rapidly changing health care environment. It will provide nurses and midwives with the skills to function independently at an advanced level in promoting, planning, implementing and evaluating women's health care.

Beverley Bogle, leader of the Advancing Women's Health Care course, explained: 'The overall aim of the new course is to improve the health and well-being of women through developing and enhancing the professional role and practice of experienced nurses and midwives.'

The family planning and sexually shared infections (SSI) elements of the course will be run in accordance with the National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV (Department Of Health 2001/2002) to facilitate the development of specialist clinical skills, including advanced health assessment, screening, principles of prescribing, leadership and research.

This will play a major role in the development of a one-stop easily accessible and comprehensive sexual health service, currently lacking in most communities in the UK, particularly in the south-



Beverley Bogle

JO FISHENDEN

east. For example, women visiting ante-natal clinics often have to attend different clinics for some SSI tests and treatment and for post-natal family planning advice.

The new course will produce qualified practitioners able to offer and develop comprehensive sexual health care and services for women and their partners and children. The presence of nursing and midwifery professionals qualified to operate autonomously within the clinical setting will also limit the number of referrals to doctors and other specialists who will only be consulted if there are complications.

Other components of the course will explore the social and political issues relating to women's health, for example the role of women in society and the factors that influence the self-determination and empowerment of women. The course is also designed to address the low level of public education and awareness regarding women's health in many areas, and to break some of the taboos that still surround many women's health issues.

The new course, offered as a part-time postgraduate Diploma or MSc, is aimed at experienced nurses and midwives from diverse practice settings who are seeking to further their professional status and be at the forefront of service development and research.

## MA Contemporary Cinema Cultures

In the past quarter century, the study of film has witnessed evolutionary changes in cinematic and electronic media.

This new programme, MA in Contemporary Cinema Cultures, has been designed by Film Studies in the School of Humanities. It has been developed in recognition of the social, aesthetic, and economic importance of cinema for the history of the 20th century, and how, at the turn of a new century, television, video and the digital arts are challenging cinema to adapt and to find new forms of representation and communication.

Dr Lee Grieveson, Lecturer in Film Studies, explained: 'The rapid growth and global reach of both the film industry and the new media challenge us to comprehend how cinematic and televisual forms are changing our understanding of culture and society, and how stories are told through moving images. It is fitting that King's should offer this MA as London offers a range of cinematic experiences second to none as a rich backdrop to the

programme.'

The programme has been designed for students who want to further and broaden their knowledge of film studies as a stepping-stone either for careers in the media arts and related activities or for a PhD in Film and Visual Studies.

Courses proposed for the new MA include Formations in Film Studies: an advanced introduction to the field; Philosophy and Film; From Cinematic to Digital Cultures; New American Cinema; Art Cinema and Exploitation Cinema.

All students will also undertake the writing of a 10,000 word dissertation. Additional options will be available from associated departments at King's such as French, German, Spanish and American Studies. Students may also be encouraged to select one module from associated University of London postgraduate film programmes at Birkbeck College, University College, Queen Mary, and Royal Holloway.

For further details contact Stephanie Green, Film Studies on ext 2315 or email: [stephanie.green@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:stephanie.green@kcl.ac.uk), [www.kcl.ac.uk/humanities/film-studies/pgdegs.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/humanities/film-studies/pgdegs.html)

## National Film Theatre

DOMINIC TURNER





## King's represented at Genesis

On 11 December King's exhibited at the second Genesis biotechnology conference, organised by the London Biotechnology Network, at the QEII Conference Centre in Westminster. The College was represented by a team from KCL

Enterprises, aiming to forge links with potential partners and investors who attended.

The conference was the largest one-day biotechnology event held in the UK last year, attracting approximately 800 delegates from throughout Europe and around the

world, and offering a unique opportunity to promote the value of King's outstanding research capability to industry.

Chris Pugmire of KCL Enterprises, commented: 'This event is an excellent opportunity for us to showcase some of King's world-class biotechnology research, and to increase our profile in the sector. Our involvement with the London Biotechnology Network is an important part of the College's strategy for increasing beneficial collaborations with commercial partners.'

The College previously exhibited at the first Genesis conference in December 2001, and has developed strong links with the London Biotechnology Network, hosting two of its monthly BioWednesday networking events. A third will follow in March this year.



JULIANA O'ROURKE

## Garden prize

The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association has awarded 'The London Spade for 2003' to King's in recognition of the work that has transformed the open space that is the garden at the Maughan Library. The garden was designed by **George Carter** and the work was undertaken by **James Weston**.



JO FISHENDEN

## Teaching Fund

The College Teaching Committee invites bids from Schools to its annual College Teaching Fund, which has this year been increased to £150,000. For the next three years the competition is to be run concurrently with the allocation of a further £30,000 of HEFCE money as Teaching Innovation Grants.

The purpose of these awards is to fund innovative projects that enhance teaching at King's in accordance with the College's Learning and Teaching Strategy. The deadline for bids is 16 April. Applicants should refer to the notes of guidance which are on the web via the College Teaching Committee pages or from Harry Derbyshire in the Quality Assurance office (harry.derbyshire@kcl.ac.uk).

## Turn your radio on

Call CQ all radio amateurs and shortwave listeners: The Division of Engineering holds the Amateur Radio Callsign G0KCL. It is hoped to activate a Special Event Station to publicise King's College London and amateur radio. This station will be situated at King's and it is expected to work private stations, clubs and universities in the UK and all over the world. It is hoped that state-of-the-art equipment will be loaned from a major manufacturer to enable getting on the air.

Operators and helpers are being sought to spare a few hours to run this event which will last for about a week, but it could be longer if people are enthusiastic.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Mr Julian Greenberg in the Division of Engineering or email julian.greenberg@kcl.ac.uk

## New Year's Honours

# Honours for King's

Many congratulations to the King's College staff, Council members and alumni who were honoured in the Queen's 2003 New Year's Honours List.



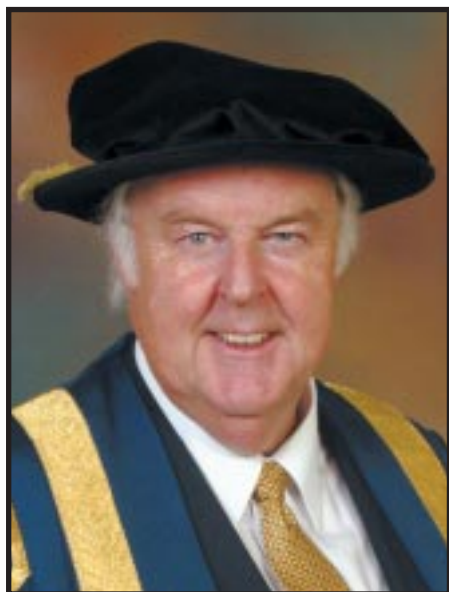
**Jenifer Wilson-Barnett**



**Lawrence Freedman**



**Thomas Lehner**



**Trevor Jones**



**Andrew Coyle**



**Una Padel**



# New Year's Honours

## Jenifer Wilson-Barnett

Jenifer Wilson-Barnett, Professor of Nursing Studies and Head of the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery, was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire (DBE).

Professor Wilson-Barnett joined Chelsea College in 1977 and was appointed Professor and Head of Nursing Studies in 1986. She became Head of the newly formed Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery in 1999.

She is Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Nursing Studies*. She has written or edited a dozen books and more than 100 papers on her specialist research interest: patients' psychological reactions to illness and health care and evaluation of new roles in nursing.

Professor Wilson-Barnett was elected Fellow of the College in 1995.

## Lawrence Freedman

Professor Lawrence Freedman CBE FBA, Professor of War Studies and Head of the School of Social Science & Public Policy, was made a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (Diplomatic Service and Overseas List) for services to strategic studies.

Professor Freedman joined King's in 1982. He was Head of the Department of War Studies from then until 1997 when he became Chair of the Board of War Studies and then Head of the new School of Social Science & Public Policy in 2001. He is one of the country's foremost defence experts and was appointed Official Historian of the Falklands Campaign in 1997.

He writes widely and his books include *The Gulf Conflict 1990-1991*, *The Politics of British*

*Defence and Kennedy's War*, *Berlin, Cuba, Laos and Vietnam* and a recent edited book on Superterrorism. He is a frequent commentator in the media and writes occasional columns for the *Financial Times*.

Professor Freedman was elected a Fellow of the College in 1992.

## Thomas Lehner

Professor Thomas Lehner, Professor of Basic and Applied Immunology at the Guy's, King's & St Thomas' School of Medicine and Chair of the Basic and Applied Immunology, University of London, was awarded a CBE for services to oral immunology and dental health.

Professor Lehner was appointed to the first Professorship in Basic and Applied Immunology at Guy's Hospital Medical and Dental School in 1987 and became Head of the Department of Immunology at UMDS. He has written more than 250 peer-reviewed papers and received many international awards and is the first Honorary Life President of the International Society for Behcet's Disease.

His research has made significant contributions in the development of a vaccine against AIDS and he established the discipline of oral and dental immunology nationally and internationally.

Professor Lehner was elected Fellow of the College in 2001.

## Trevor Jones

Trevor Jones, Director General of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, member of King's Council and alumnus of Chelsea College (BPharm 1964, PhD 1967), has been awarded a CBE.

From 1987-94, Professor Jones was a main board director of Wellcome plc, the UK-based pharmaceuticals company, where he was responsible for R&D, including the development of

Zovirax, AZT, Malarone, Lamictal and Tracrrium. He was, for 12 years, a member of the Medicines Commission of the UK Medicines Control Agency.

Now Director General of the ABPI, he is also a Visiting Professor, member of Council and President of the Capital Campaign and Chair of the Development Trust at King's; a Non-Executive Director and Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the venture capital company The MERLIN Fund LP, and Chairman of the biotech company ReNeuron.

Professor Jones was elected Fellow of the College in 1994.

## Andrew Coyle

Dr Andrew Coyle, Director of the International Centre for Prison Studies in the School of Law, has been made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (Diplomatic Service and Overseas List).

He joined King's in 1997 as Director of ICPS and for six years before that had been Governor of Brixton Prison.

Last May Dr Coyle was appointed by the Foreign Secretary Jack Straw to set up the international monitoring teams overseeing the confinement of six Palestinians in a jail in the West Bank town of Jericho. This joint monitoring mechanism was key to the deal under which Israel agreed to withdraw its forces from Yassar Arafat's compound in Ramallah.

He most recent publication *A Human Rights Approach to Prison Management* was launched by the Foreign Office last November and is widely used by UK embassies, high commissions and international agencies around the world.

## Una Padel

Una Padel, Director of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, School of Law, has been awarded

an OBE for services to prisoners and their families.

Ms Padel has been Director of the Centre since 1999. Before joining King's she worked as a probation officer before moving to the Prison Reform Trust. She went on to undertake various roles in the voluntary sector which included providing HIV education to prisoners, developing better facilities for people visiting prisoners and working with policy makers on these issues and on the role of the voluntary sector in prisons.

Under Ms Padel's leadership the Centre has grown and increased its workload. It has a research programme, runs six conferences per year, has a well-used website and produces the quarterly magazine *Criminal Justice Matters*. In 2000 Ms Padel was a member of the Laming Committee which looked at prison performance.

## The Order of St Michael and St George

The Order consists of the Sovereign, a Grand Master (currently The Duke of Kent), and includes three classes: 125 Knights and Dames Grand Cross (GCMG), 375 Knights and Dames Commander (KCMG and DCMG), and 1,750 Companions (CMG). Members of the Royal Family may be appointed as Extra Knights and Dames Grand Cross. Foreigners can be appointed as honorary members.

This award is given to 'men and women who have held, or will hold, high office, or who render extraordinary or important non-military service in a foreign country [or] for important or loyal service in relation to foreign and Commonwealth affairs'.

# King's people

## New Director

Fiona Ross joined King's in December as the new Director of the Nursing Research Unit in the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery. The Nursing Research Unit is the only Government-funded research unit in nursing. Fiona Ross, Professor of Gerontological Nursing in Primary Care, takes over following the retirement of Professor Sally Redfern.

The Unit is highly regarded for its longitudinal studies of the career destinations and pathways of nurses trained through different programmes and for its methodological development in the evaluation of changing practice in complex health care organisations.

## Harkness Fellowship

Elizabeth Davies, Senior Clinical Research Fellow in the Department of Palliative Care & Policy, has been awarded a Harkness Fellowship from the Commonwealth Fund, New York, from September 2003.

These awards provide support for up to one year of health policy research in the USA on an area of common interest for the USA and the UK. Dr Davies will be studying the success of US cancer centres in responding to feedback from patient survey

results to improve the care they provide. She aims to deduce whether and how this success may be applied in the UK. She will also analyse the recently reported national patient survey data in more detail, identifying differences between UK centres.

## 40 years on

Bob Price, Professor of Biochemistry in the Division of Life Sciences, also worked for the College for over 40 years (See *Comment* November 2002). He joined Queen Elizabeth College in September 1962 as an Assistant Lecturer and has just retired but continues his research and some specialist teaching.

## Honour for former Principal

Lord Sutherland of Houndwood, former Principal of King's from 1985 to 1990, has been appointed a Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle in recognition of his outstanding service to Scotland.

## HEFA membership

Peter Braude, Head of the Division of Women's and Children's Health in the Guy's, King's & St Thomas' School of Medicine, has been re-appointed to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

## Academy Award



Starring role: **David Rodowick**, Professor of Film Studies, (second from the right) at a luncheon ceremony at the Beverly Hills Hotel at which the he was presented with his Academy Film Scholar certificate and grant (see *Comment* November 2002). With him are (from left) Academy Executive Director **Bruce Davis**, Academy Film Scholar **Dana Polan**, and **Janet MacLachlan**, chair of the Academy's Grants Committee.

## Central Enquiries Unit

In the last edition of *Comment* we ran an article on the role and work of the College's Central Enquiries Unit. Unfortunately

in the article we referred to them as the Course Enquiries Unit, we apologise. The staff of the Unit are pictured below.



From left to right: **Mairead Carroll**, Enquiry Assistant, **Shirley Jolly**, Senior Enquiry Assistant, **Rosalina Mostafa**, Enquiry Assistant, **Debbie Lockwood**, Manager, Central Enquiry Unit, **Angela Nolan**, Enquiry Assistant, and **Judy Clucas**, Enquiry Assistant.

## Death notices

### Esther Seeds

Esther Seeds of the School of Biomedical Sciences working in Professor Clive Page's team, died on Christmas Day. Esther joined Chelsea College in 1980.

### John McLean

John McLean joined the National Institute for Social Work Research Unit in 2002. He worked on a major longitudinal study of the social services workforce which was undertaken in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. He died on 31 December.

# Pure, White and Deadly

**John Yudkin** of Queen Elizabeth College was an international pioneer of nutrition and a household name from the 1960s to the 1980s.

In 1954 Queen Elizabeth College offered Europe's first BSc degree in Nutrition, taught by the UK's first professor of the subject, John Yudkin. Yudkin had in fact arrived at the College some nine years earlier to take up a chair advertised for an expert in 'physiology, with qualifications in nutrition'. By the time he became Emeritus professor in 1971, and a Fellow of the College in 1976, nutrition was not only firmly established as a key academic subject but was also a topic about which the general public was thoroughly and entertainingly informed, thanks in no small part to Yudkin's own endeavours.

## His car paraded the numberplate 'NUT 1'

Yudkin's own appearance could not have been further from his description of the stereotypical nutritionist as 'a man with a beard, wearing a white coat and carrying a test tube in one hand and a rat in the other [who] is assumed not to know the first thing about food' (*This Slimming Business*, third edition, 1971). Yudkin's former colleagues and students describe instead his approachability and humour (his car paraded the numberplate 'NUT 1'); his love of good food; the simple elegance of his writing style; his knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, painting, and above all his interest in people of all sorts. After his death in 1995 his obituary in the *Independent* described how 'Yudkin was far ahead of his time with his idea of nutrition as a subject of great depth: not just the study of the composition of foods, but the importance of enjoying a variety of fresh foods, and the recognition of the psychological and social factors that cause us to choose certain foods and avoid others'.

*The Slimmer's Cookbook* (1961, written with Gweneth Chappell, a senior lecturer in food science at QEC) was the first popular slimming book with a solid scientific basis. It provided advice on recipes and diet and suggested ways of fitting sensible eating into

one's lifestyle. Yudkin's practical work on weight-loss, through his advisory role on *Slimming Magazine* and the associated Slimming Clubs, was hugely influential and continued until his retirement in 1990.

In the 1950s Yudkin had begun to challenge the hypothesis that the high incidence of coronary heart disease in the West was due to the intake of fat in the diet. In *This Slimming Business* (1958), the first of his very popular books, he argued (against current thinking) that the correct way to diet was to cut out the least nutritious elements – carbohydrates – while continuing to eat protein and fat. In 1972 his all-out attack on sugar, in *Pure, White and Deadly*, linked sugar with a whole range of other illnesses including diabetes and arthritis, and paid particular attention to its ill effects on children. In 1986 he revised the book to make it even more hard-hitting in response to many attacks on him by the sugar industry. Yudkin's advocacy of meat and dairy products did, however, become increasingly contrary to the prevailing nutritional wisdom, and he was attacked by the powerful sugar lobby for accepting funding from the dairy industry.

## The first popular slimming book with a solid scientific basis

Yudkin came from an orthodox Jewish family who had fled Russian pogroms to settle in England in 1905, and he played an important part in Jewish affairs both in the UK and in Israel. When Israel became a modern state, faced with severe difficulties in feeding its population, the new government looked to him for advice; he was also for many years an energetic governor of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Yudkin's Chair at Queen Elizabeth College had become one of 'Nutrition and Dietetics' in 1956, and it was in this form that the Department grew and developed and became part of King's College London on



At a Queen Elizabeth College entertainment the College Accountant **John Garlick** describes how 'eminent members of staff were dressed in ballet costumes, not a pretty sight, and were portrayed as being very, very naughty. Their crime had been to consume vast quantities of sugar, cream and fat and they had grown very gross. Then from the heavens descended **Professor John Yudkin**, dressed as the Good Fairy complete with wand to show them the error of their ways'.

the merger with QEC in 1985. The Department today has a powerful national and international reputation and plays a major role in the undergraduate and postgraduate training of UK and overseas students in nutrition and dietetics, in nutrition research, and in consultancy to government departments, international agencies, industry and the health media.

**Christine Kenyon Jones**



## New Down's test 'may save 200 babies'

**D**octors at King's have developed a test which can help detect more than 90 per cent of Down's Syndrome babies during the early stages of pregnancy. Around 600 babies (one in every 1,000 births) are born with Down's each year in Britain.

The test, developed by Kypros Nicolaides, Professor of Fetal Medicine and Director of the Harris Birthright Centre for Fetal Medicine

### **Dramatically cut the need for pregnant women to have invasive procedures**

at King's College Hospital, would dramatically cut the need for pregnant women to have invasive procedures confirming the diagnosis. These cause the death of more than 300 healthy babies each year.

It is thought that the new test would save the lives of around 200 babies per year.

This new test checks whether an unborn

baby has a nose bone because research shows it is missing in two-thirds of babies with Down's. Professor Nicolaides came up with the idea of the test because people with Down's Syndrome are born with flat noses. The test can be carried out with a scan around the 17th week of pregnancy.

At present 30,000 pregnant women wrongly diagnosed – via a blood test or scan – as having a baby at high risk of Down's Syndrome agree to invasive procedures that turn out to be unnecessary and carry a one per cent chance of triggering a miscarriage.

Professor Nicolaides has already revolutionised screening for Down's by developing scanning which tests the fluid-filled area at the back of the neck. This can detect more than three quarters of Down's cases. His latest study, reported in the journal *Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, suggests that missing nasal bone combined with the neck and blood testing pushes up the detection rate still further.



Kypros Nicolaides

## Drug 'may help cut number of suicide bids'

**W**ider use of a drug to help people with schizophrenia may save up to 100 lives a year and help the Government reach its target to reduce suicide, according to a study by researchers at the Institute of Psychiatry.

The Government is so concerned about suicide rates in the UK that it has said it wants deaths from suicide to be cut by a fifth by 2010. In the UK there are 488,000 people with schizophrenia and half will try to kill themselves at some point during their lifetime.

The study shows that among people with schizophrenia, an antipsychotic treatment Clozaril (clozapine) significantly reduces suicide attempts.

The International Suicide Prevention Trial, published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*, involved 1,000 people from 11 countries, who were at high risk of suicide, most of whom

suffered with schizophrenia. The study showed that treatment with Clozaril significantly reduced the risk of suicidal behaviour in these people over and above another common form of treatment.

The UK lead investigator Robert Kerwin, Professor of Clinical Neuropharmacology at

### **The Government's suicide reduction target could be reached**

the IoP, said wider use of Clozaril could save between 50 and 100 lives each year in the UK.

'We already knew that Clozaril could help people with schizophrenia, now it is apparent that the Government's suicide reduction target could be reached more quickly if this study data lead to the wider use of Clozaril in

people with schizophrenia at high risk of suicide.'

In June, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) said Clozaril should be used at the earliest opportunity for people with treatment resistant schizophrenia.

However the charity Rethink said a snapshot survey it had conducted showed one in five Primary Care Trusts had yet to implement the decision.

Paul Farmer, Rethink director of public affairs, said the new study showed the need to fully implement NICE guidance on the use of modern medicines for schizophrenia, along with social support. He said: 'If the NICE recommendations are followed, many vulnerable people with schizophrenia will be helped and fewer may try to take their own lives.'

## Ringingsuccess

**T**he autumn 2002 Telephone Campaign for the Annual Fund and the GKT Fund proved to be a great success. Two calling teams comprising 32 undergraduate and postgraduate students contacted nearly 4,000 alumni and over £35,000 was pledged to benefit the College and its students. This brings the total raised this year to more than £100,000.

The campaign was run over



five weeks in October and November last year. All the students who take part are fully trained by members of the Development Office before they begin to contact alumni.

The next campaign will take place in March this year. The funds raised from alumni, staff and friends are disbursed by the Development Trust chaired by Professor Trevor Jones CBE.

The College Boat Club at Henley in their new K85 Empacher Eight rowing boat, purchased with the help of an Annual Fund grant.

## Applications to the Annual Fund

**T**he Development Trust invites staff to submit funding applications for consideration at the next trustees' meeting in April.

The Trust will be delighted to receive applications from across the College which will either be of great benefit to a department, or will benefit a significant proportion of the College as a whole. The Trust is particularly keen to receive any proposal designed to enhance the overall quality of student life and resource provision.

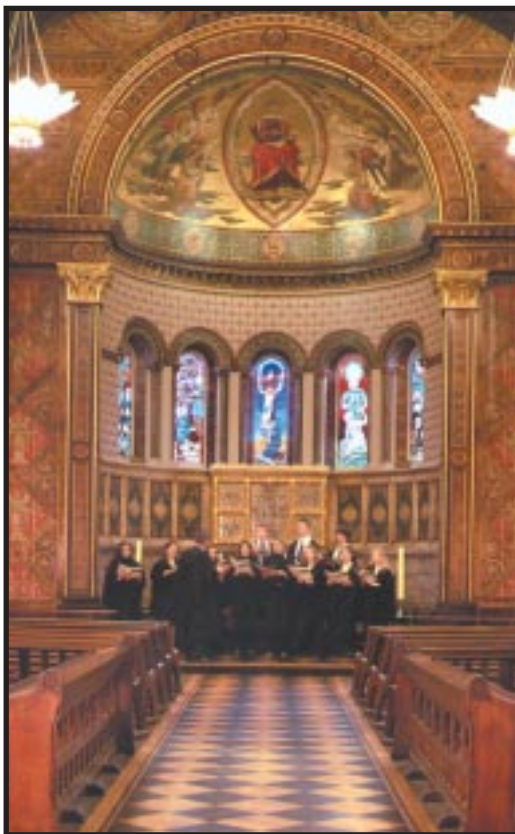
The Trust will not accept academic research projects.

The Development Office would advise against applications regarding general repair and maintenance of existing facilities where there is no obvious extension of facilities or no new facilities being made available.

An application form can be found at: [www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/admsup/devoff/funding.htm](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/admsup/devoff/funding.htm).

Should you experience any problems downloading this please do not hesitate to contact the office on 020-7848 3005, email: [annual.fund@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:annual.fund@kcl.ac.uk)

The Office is happy to discuss potential applications and offer comments prior to the deadline which is 21 March 2003. Late applications will not be accepted.



Last summer an Annual Fund grant helped send the King's Chapel choir on a tour of the east coast of America.

## Alumni events

### Classics Reunion

8 February, Greenwood Theatre, Guy's Campus

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Greek play, former students and staff are invited to a performance of the Greek Play and alumni reception.

### Dental Clinical Day

1 March, New Hunt's House, Guy's Campus

A continuing professional development day for dental alumni.

### 1950-1953 Reunion

10 May, Strand Campus

All former students are invited to a programme of events around the Strand Campus

### Management Reunion

16 May, tbc

Further information, Mandy Tapp, Management Centre tel 020-7848 4254

For more information on the above (unless otherwise stated), please contact the Alumni Office [alumoff@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:alumoff@kcl.ac.uk) or tel 020-7848 3052.

# In the news

## Ricin

The media was dominated in the New Year by the discovery of traces of the highly toxic poison *Ricin* at a flat in north London following a raid by anti-terrorist police. Several academics in the War Studies Group have provided expert analysis and comment in the news, including **Dr John Gearson**, **Dr Joanna Spear**, **Dr Malcolm Davis** and **Bill Durodie**, who have appeared on various news and current affairs programmes on stations including *Sky*, *Channel 4*, *Five*, *GMTV*, *BBC TV* national and local news, *BBC World Service*, *CNN*, *CNBC* and German television channel *ZDF*. **Professor Sir Tim Gardén**, on air on BBC TV when the news broke, was the first to comment on the nature of *Ricin* as a terror weapon.

## Stem cells

*The New Scientist* polled researchers to come up with 12 milestones to look out for over the coming year. One of these was the opening of a new stem cell bank in Britain this year, in which **Dr Stephen Minger** and his team in the School of Biomedical Sciences will be one of the first to make an 'eagerly awaited' deposit.

## Gun control

The debate on gun control has come to the forefront following the deaths of two young women caught in the crossfire of a gang shooting. *The Guardian* interviewed **Dr Ben Bowling** from the School of Law about links between rap music and gun culture. Dr Bowling also wrote a letter to the *Daily Mail* and an opinion piece for the *TES*, arguing that there is no simplistic link between violent crime and choice of music. **Una Padel**, Director of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, was interviewed on gun crime by *BBC*

*News 24* and appeared on *Kilroy* discussing child pornography on the internet.

## Smog

*The Evening Standard* reported on Environmental Research Group (ERG) data showing the high levels of air pollution in London. **Professor Frank Kelly**, Director of the ERG, said that the pollution concentrations in London were primarily the result of car emissions. He also gave an interview to *BBC 1 Breakfast TV* to mark the 50th anniversary of the London Smog.

## Panic attack

*The Lancet* published an article by **Bill Durodie** of the International Policy Institute and **Professor Simon Wessely** of the Department of Psychological Medicine, analysing public fear and panic following terrorist attacks. They argued that governments should incorporate the constructive cooperation of their citizens into emergency plans, rather than excluding them.

## BSE

An opinion piece by Magnus Linklater in *The Times* advocated the approval by Environment Secretary Margaret Beckett of a new research grant for **Professor Alan Ebringer** in the Division of Life Sciences, who has identified a microbe which he believes was responsible for BSE.

## War with Iraq

In an opinion article in the *Financial Times*, **Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman**, Head of the School of Social Science & Public Policy, wrote that there are good grounds for supposing that war can still be averted and that George W Bush will now find it difficult to stray from a multilateral path. **Professor Sir Tim Gar-**

**den** of the Centre for Defence Studies was interviewed by broadcasters including *RTE Irish Radio*, *CBS TV*, *Canada Broadcasting TV*, *US National Public Radio*, *BBC TV* and *German TV* about the Iraqi situation. He also wrote a *Financial Times* column on European security and defence policy.

## Schizophrenia

**Professor Robin Murray** of the IOP was interviewed for a feature article carried by *Vogue* on the misunderstandings surrounding schizophrenia. Cited as one of the leading authorities on schizophrenia, he advocated the use of cognitive therapy to treat schizophrenics.

## Radical Islamist

**Andrew Garfield**, Director of the Centre for Security Analysis, was interviewed for a *Wall Street Journal* article covering the arrest of Hassan Butt, a radical British Islamist who claimed to have recruited 200 people to fight for the Taliban. He drew a distinction between young British men who went to Afghanistan committed to the Islamic cause and the far larger numbers who merely dabbled, spending perhaps a few days in a camp.

## War crimes

Lawyers have warned the MOD that British troops used in a supporting role in an Iraq war could face indictment from the International Criminal Court (ICC). In a *Scotland on Sunday* report, **Dr Karin Von Hippel** of the Centre for Defence Studies said that British forces will be under close scrutiny and the powers of the ICC should not be underestimated. She was also interviewed on *BBC 10 o'clock news* about the terrorist attacks on Kenya and appeared on *GMTV* to talk about terrorist threats in the UK.

## Profile

*The Evening Standard* featured a profile of the College Accommodation Officer **Susannah Stringer**. She said that skill, diplomacy, patience and a sense of humour are needed to meet the rising expectations of students wanting the perfect place to live. But despite the heavy workload, particularly during the autumn intake, job satisfaction comes by meeting the accommodation needs of King's students.

## Food safety

**Professor Ragnar Lofstedt**, director of the Centre for Risk Management, provided an expert view for the *Independent on Sunday* about the poor public perception of food standards, concluding that trust will only be developed if risk assessors work together with regulators, communicators and other stakeholders to manage food scares as they emerge.

## Penal reform

**Baroness Stern** of the International Centre for Prison Studies took part in a discussion and public phone-in about penal reform on ABC national Australian radio. The programme looked at why the UK and Australia are incarcerating more people, the effectiveness of penal reform and the needs of victims of crime.

## Church news

*Church Going* on Radio 4 was a two-part series examining the state of the Church of England today in light of the appointment of the new Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams. The **Revd Dr Richard Burridge**, Dean of King's College, took part to unpack theologically the issues surrounding the authority and interpretation of scripture.



## KCLSU news

### NUS National Demo

The NUS National Demo before Christmas was a huge success with unpre-cedented levels of media coverage and the largest delegation from King's in over a decade.

The rain-soaked students blew their whistles and played instruments whilst cars and vans hooted and pedestrians cheered in support. The march ended with a rally just over Waterloo Bridge, where NUS President Mandy Telford and FBU leader Andy Gilchrist were both speakers. The Students' Union put King's on the map with a huge 'Access by Brains or Bank Balance?' display to cheer protestors on as the demonstration passed along the Strand. King's two huge banners were commented upon by speakers at the rally.



### Rag

In other news, in parallel to the hugely successful GKT RAG (7 - 14 February), we branded the KCL Rag Week 'SWAG RAG' this year, standing for 'Strand & Waterloo Raising And Giving', and it was held from 24-31 January. RAG needs you to raise a scandalous amount of money for our chosen charities, wherever you are!

In January, the Union launched its health awareness campaign. See the website for more information on alcohol awareness, smoking, drugs and healthy eating. And for all of you that made new year resolutions, we can help you get the ball rolling, either at the Gym, by playing in our new Sunday Leagues, volunteering and getting involved in new community projects, or by controlling your body with pilates, meditation, yoga or new sign language classes from between £1 and £3 per session.

### SRC

Nominations are also now open for next years Student Representative Council, the 'parliament' of the Students' Union, including the five full time sabbatical and eight part-time 'cabinet' positions.

### David Utting

President, KCLSU

## TV

David Utting appeared on Channel 4's *Powerhouse*, a lunchtime politics programme, discussing the Government's education White Paper.

# King's to the rescue

**R**esearch undertaken by a student on the King's MSc in Construction Law & Arbitration has been relied on by the House of Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee, inquiring recently into 'retentions' in the construction industry.

This common practice gives an employer the right to withhold a percentage (usually three to five per cent) of each periodic payment to a contractor to encourage the contractor to honour its obligations to complete the project and then to rectify any defects.

Glen Loftus, a Regional Director with construction consultancy group Maitland

QS and part-time student on the MSc, explains: 'Because of the impact on cash-flow, retentions are unpopular with building contractors and sub-contractors. It was the Specialist Engineering Contractors Group that encouraged the Select Committee to look into the area. The Group then asked King's if one of its students would research and report on the position in other countries and I took up the challenge.'

Supervised by Philip Britton, the Director of the Centre of Construction Law & Management, he drafted a report called 'Retention - is it time to let go?'. The Group sub-

mitted this as evidence to the Commons Committee.

Glen continues: 'The Committee thought that retentions should not be banned by law, but better working practices in the industry could make them obsolete. It recommended specifically that the public sector should be in the lead in these reforms.'

Glen's report not only put him in the spotlight in Parliament - at King's it won him the Society of Construction Law prize as the best MSc dissertation of 2002.

## Golden jubilee for Greek play



A scene from the 1990 performance of *Clouds* by Aristophanes.

**K**ing's is the only university in the country to stage a play annually in the original Greek language, and this year's performance will mark a landmark 50 years of productions.

For half a century a belief in the universal appeal of drama and its ability to break through language barriers has led Classics students, with the assistance of staff, to stage plays by Greek playwrights ranging from Aeschylus to Aristophanes.

An article in *The Times* in 1953 about the first Greek play was entitled 'The Beginning of a Tradition' and expressed the hope that the Classical Society would 'succeed in establishing a tradition of Greek plays in London' – a prediction that now rings remarkably true.

This year the *Hippolytus* of Euripides will be performed, and

for the first time in the history the Greek play, English surtitles will be provided.

Alessandro Schiesaro, Head of the Department of Classics, explains the appeal of the play: 'As well as providing an opportunity for those involved to immerse themselves in the Greek dramatic tradition, these plays offer the audience immediate access to the original theatrical experience. Greek plays are both drama and poetry, and only a production in Greek can do their dual nature justice.'

This year, a cast of 16 students is led by Dickon Ausden as Hippolytus. He describes why he is taking part: 'Beyond offering the lurid pleasures of dying a bloody death on stage for five nights, playing Hippolytus will, I hope, help me truly know at least this one text of Euripides, and set me

on the path to genuine knowledge of Greek.'

The executive producer is Lecturer Dr Tania Gergel. Her reasons for doing it? 'What really makes the play is the enthusiasm and dedication of the students. Many of them are learning parts in a language that they barely know – in some cases, the play is actually their first encounter with Ancient Greek – yet they still they manage to put on excellent productions, year after year.'

Daniel Hadas, says of his role as director: 'Euripides' *Hippolytus* was written 2,500 years ago in a language that is now dead. But from the 5 to 8 February, it will be alive again for a few hours, in all its glory, or as much of glory as we can give it. Directing itself is enjoyable, as it allows me to feel like a little divinity, and, as St Augustine writes to God, "all awkwardly imitate You, and thus place themselves further away from you, and glorify themselves". But my commitment to this project comes primarily from my delight in the living richness of ancient literature.'

The 1987 performance of *Ajax* by Sophocles starred the BAFTA-winning actress Juliet Aubrey when she was a student.

An alumni reunion for Classics students is being held to coincide with the performance on 8 February and Brian Sparkes, who played *Hippolytus* in the very first production in 1953, will also attend. Professor Sparkes, who went on to become a distinguished archaeologist at the University of Southampton, will give his reminiscences of the first ever Greek play.

### Hippolytus

*Hippolytus* tells of three people caught in a circle of passion and obsession. Each of them is driven by emotion – Hippolytus by his single-mindedness, Phaedra by desire, Theseus by anger – and,

for each of them, these forces drive them to disaster. Yet, behind all this is the goddess Aphrodite, determined to wreak vengeance on Hippolytus for his failure to pay her due homage. Having spurned love himself, it is the insatiable love of his step-mother Phaedra that will lead to his own downfall.

Performances will take place at the Greenwood Theatre, 55 Weston Street, Guy's Campus, on: Wednesday 5 February – 15.00 and 19.30  
Thursday 6 February – 19.30  
Friday 7 February – 19.30  
Saturday 8 February – 15.00

Tickets cost £8.00 or £5.00 (concessions) and they can be bought from the Greek Play Box Office by sending a cheque made payable to **King's College Greek Play** to: King's College Greek Play Department of Classics King's College London Strand WC2R 2LS Tel: 020-7848 2399 email: greekplay@kcl.ac.uk

*Tickets can also be bought at the door.*



Poster for the 2002 play.