

COMMENT

THE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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DOMINIC TURNER

Royal approval: HRH Princess Anne enjoys The Principal's speech at the opening of the MRC Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry

Study, one of the major research projects being carried out by the MRC SGDP Centre. It is led by MRC Research Professor Robert Plomin, Deputy Director of the Centre, and is the largest twin study ever carried out in the UK. It focuses on childhood development of cognitive and language disorders as well as providing a data set on which several other major projects have been established.

The Chancellor was presented

Studying the interplay between genes and environment

Nature v Nurture

King's leads the debate

A new state-of-the-art building for one of the world's leading centres researching the genetic (nature) and environmental (nurture) factors affecting mental health was opened by the Chancellor of the University of London, HRH The Princess Royal on 13 February.

The Medical Research Council Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry (SGDP) Centre is based at the Institute of Psychiatry, Denmark Hill campus and was set up in 1994.

The £15 million five-storey international mental health research centre building with purpose-built laboratories will

bring together staff and resources from their previous eight locations.

Professor Peter McGuffin, Head of the MRC SGDP Centre explains their work: 'Studying the developmental causes of mental disorders is crucial to finding ways to prevent their occurrence. The goal of the Centre is to bridge the gap between nature and nurture as they interact in the development of complex behavioural dimensions and disorders.'

'The Centre focuses on common disorders that develop early in life, are amenable to studying

the interplay between genes and environment, and facilitate the investigation of abnormal development in the context of normal development.'

The three main areas of research are:

- mood disorders – especially anxiety and depression
- externalising disorders – especially disruptive behaviour and hyperactivity
- cognitive problems – especially language and cognition.

On her tour of the building, the Chancellor also heard about *The Twins' Early Development*

with a posy by eight year-old identical twins, Jemma and Jennnifer Abdul Malique Bello, who are part of the Twins Study, before unveiling a plaque commemorating her visit to this unique building.

The MRC SGDP Centre is one of two Centres and eight departments that make up the Institute of Psychiatry.

Professor Sir George Radda, Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council said: 'Knowledge of why some mental health problems occur is little under-

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KING'S
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LONDON

University of London

DOMINIC TURNER



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stood and poses a real challenge for the future as the burden of these conditions increases. Research into understanding the human brain is best approached by adopting an integrated approach and this is one of the reasons why the Centre leads in this kind of research. The Centre has an excellent reputation and is today recognised as being one of the world's leading interdisciplinary research establishments.'

The MRC has eight Centres in the UK of which two, the MRC SGDP Centre, and the MRC Centre for Developmental Biology at the Guy's campus are based at King's.

In addition to MRC support,

The Princess Royal with, left, Professor Peter McGuffin, Head of MRC Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre and Dr George Szmukler, Dean of the Institute of Psychiatry

the Centre receives funding from major charities such as the Wellcome Trust, from industry and from the US National Institutes of Health. The new building for the MRC SGDP Centre

Largest twin study ever carried out in the UK

was funded from the Joint Infrastructure Fund of the OST and the MRC.

Princess Anne meets Jemma and Jennifer Abdul Malique Bello, identical twins who are part of the internationally renowned *Twins' Early Development Study*, with their mother, Mrs Ada Eke



DOMINIC TURNER

The Future of Higher Education

The Principal Professor Arthur Lucas writes about some of the implications of the Government White Paper

THE WHITE PAPER is fundamentally about changing the long-term structure of the higher education system in England. The issue of student fees, and the mechanism for collecting them, although catching the headlines, is a mechanism to an end, not an end in itself.

I welcome the reversion to the position (pre-1997) that no UK student has to pay fees during their course.

Our strategic plan is compatible with the thrust of the White Paper, which indeed reinforces the strong commitment to achieving the excellence goals we have set ourselves.

The introduction of differential fees will need legislation. The Secretary of State for Education, Charles Clarke, has invited comments by 30 April. The College Council at its meeting this month will consider a response, following advice from Academic Board.

The Paper has set in place a number of initiatives that together will act to reduce the control of universities by treasury policies regulating the flow of money. These raise a number of key questions:

- Should King's charge a fee above the current statutory level?
- At what level should we pitch fees?
- Should we charge differentially by course? If so, on what grounds?
- What processes will we propose to the access regulator in an access agreement to 'increase the proportion of those from the most disadvantaged groups attending our leading universities'?
- When extra money becomes available, for what purpose does the College use it?

The maximum allowed fee on every undergraduate course would generate about £20 million per annum to the College provided that the Government does not reduce its contribution to the cost of teaching. A final decision will be needed by early autumn 2004 for the 2006 entry.

The White Paper also apparently encourages universities to change the nature of academic staff contracts. The omission of any reference to the roles and functions of staff who are not engaged in teaching and research is striking. The White Paper explicitly urges the development of research-only contracts, and by implication teaching-only contracts.

Making this distinction will change the nature of a university, in the extreme creating a bipartite institution, a teaching centre also having an embedded research institute. This is problematic both in terms of recruiting the best students, who will expect to come into contact with the research stars who create part of a university's reputation, but more importantly, it will be increasingly difficult to prepare the best students as the future research leaders. We could lose the inspiration that comes from being taught by leading figures, limit the opportunity to recruit the best students into research training, and inhibit the rapid 'diffusion of knowledge' into the teaching curriculum.

A copy of Academic Board's advice to Council on the White Paper will appear on the College's website in due course.

Iraq discussion

King's International Policy Institute (IPI) held a major discussion on whether the world was facing war or peace in Iraq. The open discussion, led by an internationally renowned panel of defence experts, took place in the Great Hall at the Strand campus on 17 February. The IPI held the meeting as a contribution to the growing debate within the UK about the rights and wrongs of the Iraqi crisis.

Lively, honest discussion

Eminent speakers from the College talked through the present crisis and its wider implications. More than 300 people heard Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman (Head of the School of Social Science & Public Policy), Professor Sir Tim Garden (Visiting Professor at the Centre for Defence Studies and former

Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff), Dr Wyn Bowen (Senior Lecturer, Department of Defence Studies and former weapons inspector), and Dr Charles Tripp (SOAS) discuss various aspects of the current crisis. Professor Michael Clarke, Director of the IPI, chaired the meeting.

Members of the panel then answered questions from the audience on the anti-war march that had taken place two days earlier, on the choice between continuing to contain Iraq as opposed to launching a war against it, and on the mechanics of the weapons inspection process and the technical difficulties of further inspections.

No subject was out-of-bounds and both the audience and the panel engaged in lively and honest discussion of issues that everyone acknowledged were both politically sensitive and morally delicate.

'The aim of the whole meeting,' said Professor Clarke, 'was

not to conduct a debate for or against the prospect of war, but to increase the level of understanding of the complexities of the issues and some of the moral and political trade-offs which we all now face. We decided to set up this meeting mainly because we felt the public argument was becoming so polarised, that a more considered discussion might be helpful.

'We were delighted with the number of people who came and the seriousness with which they approached the whole discussion. Nobody has a monopoly of truth or right on this issue and we hope that we may have helped everyone understand it a little better.'

Conflict resolution: (from left to right) Dr Charles Tripp, Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Professor Michael Clarke, Dr Wyn Bowen and Professor Sir Tim Garden



JANE CAPLE

King's: a partner in care

Partners in Care is a major new publication that illustrates how universities and higher education colleges educate health professionals, conduct research for the NHS and provide patient care.

The report highlights the universities' role – across a wide range of disciplines – in contributing to the nation's health and well-being, through teaching, research and patient care. Many people (from patients to politicians) are unaware of the full extent of the partnership between universities and the NHS. The report seeks to fill that gap by offering insights into how universities and HE colleges teach and educate health professionals, conduct research for the NHS and provide patient care.

The work of King's Centre for Caribbean Health and the unique and recently launched MSc in Healthcare and Ethnic Minorities are highlighted. Students will look at diseases that affect specific ethnic groups disproportionately, like sickle cell disease and hypertension. They will also look at planning and delivering services in a multi-cultural context.

Produced by Universities UK the report was launched at the House of Commons on 4 March. Mr David Hinchliffe MP, Chair of the Health Select Committee, hosted the reception.



Queen's Anniversary Prize celebrations

King's success in winning a prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education was marked at a celebration banquet in the Guildhall on 18 February followed by the Prize-giving Ceremony in Buckingham Palace the next day.

The Ceremony took place on the morning of 19 February. Prizes (a medal and certificate) were presented by HRH The Queen with Prince Philip in a full honours ceremony. The ten representatives from King's included five students from the War Studies Group.

King's was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize in recognition of the achievements of the War Studies Group as a whole, as exemplified by the Defence Studies Department's work at the Joint Services Command and Staff College over the past six years. (See *Comment* 144 for details)



Professor Trevor Jones, representing the Chairman of Council, Professor Arthur Lucas, Principal, and Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Head of the School of Social Science & Public Policy, with the Queen's Anniversary Prize Medal at Buckingham Palace

SRIF funding

King's has been allocated almost £37 million in the latest Government cash injection for science excellence. Only four other universities received more money.

Science Minister Lord Sainsbury announced that more than 150 universities and higher education institutions were to receive a £1 billion investment in infrastructure and equipment for vital research last month.

The money under the Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF) for 2004 to 2006, is allocated

by formula. Institutions are able to spend their allocation in line with their own research strategy and must submit their list of proposed projects to their Higher Education Funding Council by 30 May 2003.

Lord Sainsbury said: 'British Science is among the best and most cost-effective in the world. This injection of over £1 billion is the largest ever Government investment in our science research infrastructure and will ensure that UK science remains at the cutting edge.'

Funds can be used for:

- refurbishment of premises for research;
- replacement, renewal or upgrading of equipment;
- replacement of premises by new-build or acquisition (subject to appraisal of best value and a business case).

In this round some of the SRIF money can be used to support Arts and Humanities infrastructure.

Dr Malcolm Sims, Director of Research Support, commented: 'King's welcomes the injection of much needed cash to support infrastructure and capital projects. This supplements other new Government investment into Research Council programmes in areas of UK excel-

lence such as stem cells, proteomics and neuroscience, as well as better pay for post-graduate students and postdocs. All in all research is a winner.'

'Largest ever Government investment in our science research infrastructure'

This new fund builds on the earlier success of the £750 million Joint Infrastructure Fund (1999-2002) and the £675 million allocations to institutions in the first round of SRIF (2002-2004). More than 450 projects at over 150 higher education institutions have been supported by this investment.

DNA – the continuing story

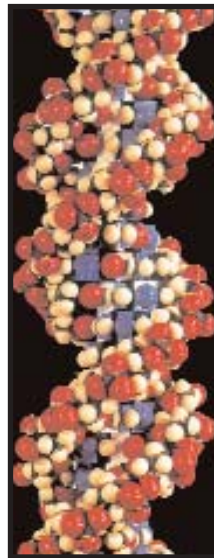
This year marks the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the structure of DNA and the description of the double helix structure in *Nature* magazine. Scientists at King's played a fundamental part in this momentous discovery and to mark the occasion the College has organised a day of events to celebrate the anniversary of this immense advance in our understanding of life.

Nobel Laureate and King's Professor Maurice Wilkins will take centre stage on Tuesday 22 April on a day dedicated to 50 years of DNA. Commencing in the building where Wilkins and

Rosalind Franklin carried out their vital research, guests will travel through time to the future of DNA. There will also be exhibitions, theatre performances and a debate to round off the day in the new King's building named after Franklin and Wilkins.

Alec Stokes

Dr Alec Stokes, a crystallographer and one of the team of King's scientists involved in the discovery of the structure of DNA, died last month. For his obituary see page 17.



Theatre performance

The Gift tells the story of the Kay family and their struggle with the genetic disorder Friedreich's Ataxia. It explores the impact gene therapy and genetic testing have on the family and the choices they make now, 15 years and 30 years into the future. It is produced by Y Touring Theatre Company and written by Nicola Baldwin.

The Gift takes place at the National Theatre (Cottesloe) at 14.15.

DNA forum

Should we decide what sort of children we have?' Eminent speakers will discuss their views on the pros and cons of DNA research and its ethical implications today and in the future.

The speakers are:

Jonathan Glover, Director of King's Centre of Medical Law & Ethics

Bryan Appleyard, author of *Brave New Worlds* and writer for *The Sunday Times*

Professor Lewis Wolpert, biologist at UCL and Fellow of King's

Suzi Leather, Chair of the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority

The event begins at 16.30 in the Auditorium of the Franklin-Wilkins Building.

For tickets for *The Gift* or the DNA forum contact pr@kcl.ac.uk. Tickets for all events are limited by the capacity of the venue.

DNA book

Ten years ago as part of celebrations for the 40th anniversary of the discovery of the structure of DNA, Dr Seweryn Chomet of the King's Department of Physics, compiled a series of essays on the discovery and the years that followed.

Entitled *DNA, Genesis of a Discovery*, the surviving key researchers each contributed an essay, and the Principal wrote the foreword. Now to mark the 50th anniversary the book is available to King's staff at a special discount, half its RRP, £10.50. The book can be ordered through Newman Hemisphere. For further information or to place an order email tex@btinternet.com

For further information about any of the events and more, visit the website www.kcl.ac.uk/dna

Exhibitions

Some of the exhibitions connected with the DNA 50th anniversary include:

Original photos and artefacts

Original artefacts, including the cameras used to take the x-ray photographs will be on display from 22 April until 1 May in the Quad Foyer of the Strand campus.

DNA online

An online exhibition will be available from 30 March entitled *DNA: the King's story*. It will present a time line outlining the sequence of events that led to the discovery of the structure of DNA. It will present and explain the key research and analysis undertaken by King's scientists. Included will be the images that allowed the cracking of the code and the equipment that made it possible.

DNA dresses

Primitive Streak DNA dresses will line the entrance to the DNA 50th anniversary event on 22 April. *Primitive Streak*, by Helen Storey, is a fashion collection chronicling the first 1,000 hours of human embryonic development. The title *Primitive Streak* is a scientific term that refers to a productive embryonic structure from which major differentiated organs of the body eventually emerge according to our genetic code. The dresses will be on display for all to enjoy for one month in the Quad Foyer of the Strand campus.

Whisper

What does it feel like to be human? Each of us has our own genetic code that makes us unique. How do we express our individuality and what gives it meaning? *Whisper* can be described as an interactive game that requires instinctive responses on individuality and how emotion informs our lives. Watch *Whisper* evolve in a pool of honey once you have played it. *Whisper* (from the larger touring work, *Mental*) is a digital collaboration between Professors Helen Storey and Malcolm Garrett.

Whisper, open to the public, will be in The Introductory Gallery, Somerset House from 22 April to 17 May.



The Division of Medical & Molecular Genetics

As the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the structure of DNA approaches, the focus on the College's work in human molecular genetics is particularly intense. The Division of Medical & Molecular Genetics in the School of Medicine has a major, longstanding, and distinguished role in this work; not only in research at the highest international level, but also in making a significant contribution to the College's teaching of genetics, and the delivery of clinical genetics services.

The Division was founded in 1960 with an endowment from the Spastics Society and a brief to undertake developmental biology research relating to the origin of childhood handicaps such as cerebral palsy and spina bifida. The Division has been led by Ellen Solomon, Prince Phillip Professor of Human Genetics, since October 1995. Professor Solomon is a senior and distinguished geneticist who has served as a member of grants and advisory committees of the MRC and Wellcome Trust, on the council of the Human Genome Organisation and the British Society of Human Genetics. She is an elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation, a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and of King's.

'My brief as Head of Division is to support fundamental research in genetic disease and to move discoveries through to clinical practice, whether diagnostic or therapeutic, as quickly as possible,' Professor Solomon says. 'In cancer genetics the major strides of the past ten or so years have been in identifying genes respon-

sible for the five to ten per cent of cancers in which the predisposition is strongly inherited. However, identification of the genetic components contributing to cases with little or no family history is the challenge of present research. It is in this area of complex genetic disease that I would like to move forward, both in my own work on cancer, and as part of a Medical School and associated Hospital Trusts with a very large patient base. We are forming links with clinical departments that treat common diseases and disabilities, many of which have not traditionally been considered the remit of clinical genetics, such as skin sciences, immunology, virology, neurology, allergy and asthma, rheumatology, dermatology and cardiology.'

'Identification of the genetic components contributing to cases with little or no family history is the challenge of present research.'

The Division comprises ten academic research groups and three NHS diagnostic/research and development groups, based principally in the Guy's Tower. There is a strong clinical/scientific interface with the adjacent Clinical Genetics Centre in New Guy's House, led by Drs Frances Flinter and Shehla Mohammed, and with researchers and clinicians from other GKT specialities.

Leading edge

The Division remains at the international leading edge of research in human genetics and achieved a 5 in the last RAE. The research strategy of the past five years has been driven by the enormous advances brought about by the Human Genome Project, and the Division now encompasses the new technologies of cell biology, molecular biology and biochemistry known as functional genomics, and also the expertise in mathematics and genetic epidemiology required for studying the inherited susceptibility often present in common adult onset diseases.

The Division has recently been awarded £6.4 million from the Wellcome Trust, as well as £2.3 million from the Charitable Foundation of Guy's Hospital and St Thomas' Hospital, for the complete refurbishment of its laboratories. This will result in a state-of-the-art environment that will keep the Division internationally competitive at this very exciting juncture in genetics.

Cancer genetics

Professor Solomon's group works primarily on the genetics of breast cancer. Laboratory studies include work on one gene, BRCA1, which is involved in familial predisposition to early onset breast and ovarian cancer. The aims of the study are to understand why mutations in this gene lead to this predisposition, and to understand how these mutations cause cells to become



Professor Ellen Solomon

malignant. The NHS DNA diagnostic laboratory analyses this gene in patients with a strong family history. Their findings inform the Family Cancer Clinic, where reassurance may be given as to risks of the disease, or advice given as to screening. The laboratory is also leading an international consortium, studying sisters with breast cancer, aimed at identifying other genes which may predispose to breast cancer.

A second area of cancer research is Acute Promyelocytic Leukaemia, in which two genes, identified in this laboratory, are disrupted by chromosomal rearrangements. With haematologist Dr David Grimwade, the laboratory is studying the basic mechanisms that cause this disruption, and its effect on blood cell biology, as well as providing molecular biology expertise for the MRC UK trials on different chemotherapeutic agents.

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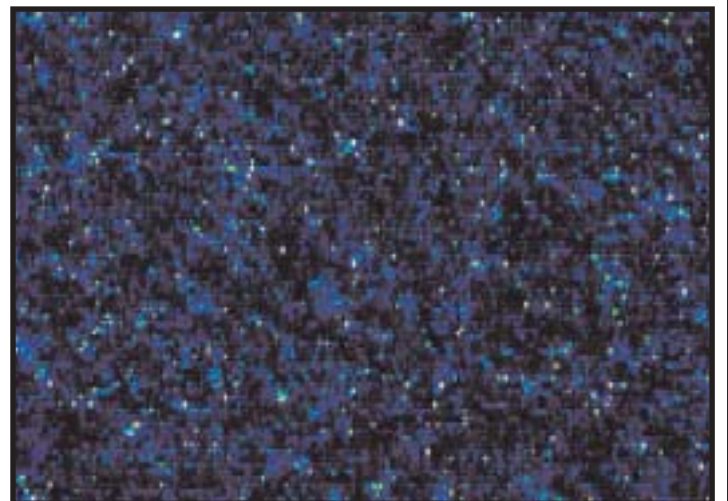
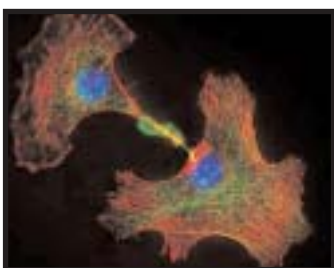
Neurogenetics

The work of Professor Gill Bates on Huntington's disease (HD), a devastating genetic neurological disorder, has led to major breakthroughs in understanding of the disease process, and for the first time to possible avenues of treatment.

'Following the cloning of the gene', Professor Bates explains, 'my lab developed the first mouse model of HD which led directly to the discovery of protein deposits in post mortem brains from HD patients. This mouse model is being used throughout the world to unravel the steps in the disease process,

Unlike most genes, certain genes are expressed solely from either the maternally or paternally inherited copy of the gene. These genes are often involved in early embryonic and neonatal development. In this experiment, 36,000 genes are screened using Microarray Expression Analysis to detect this special class of 'imprinted' genes

Skin cells expressing the Huntington's disease mutation unable to separate



World first for War Studies

King's has reached an agreement with UKeU, the UK Government-backed company set up to provide online degrees from UK universities to students worldwide, to offer the world's first on-line War Studies programmes. This groundbreaking initiative is one which the College is well placed to take because of its unique expertise in this field.

War in the Modern World programmes will be available from January 2004. They will provide students with an understanding of military campaigns and operations of the 20th and 21st centuries, in the light of economic, social, technological and political changes. Topical recent events, including the 'war on terror', will provide the backdrop to the pro-

grammes – giving the course immediate relevance for today's world.

Students will be able to take single modules, or build up credit to obtain a Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or MA. The first module will be authored by Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Head of the School of Social Science & Public Policy. All teaching and learning will be web-based and assessments will be tutor marked, including, for the MA only, dissertations.

Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman said: 'We are delighted that we can build on the War Studies Group's research and teaching success and, by working with UKeU, be able to offer the War in the Modern World programme to

a larger number and even more international group of students, particularly overseas, than we do at present.'

Potential markets for the course included members of the armed forces, both home and overseas, the interested lay person and those such as journalists who need to be well-informed in order to develop their careers. It is planned that the number of students who enrol will be in the hundreds.

UK eUniversities Worldwide (UKeU) was established in May 2001, as the initiative of David Blunkett. Its first degrees online will be launched in spring this year. For more information visit www.uk.eu

John Beaumont, chief execu-

tive of UKeU said: 'By bringing together people with a deep understanding of technology and the world of education, UKeU has been able to develop a thorough understanding of the needs of students and the way to deliver and manage online course material. This enables us to deliver solutions that maintain academic integrity and provide quality assurance for both students and awarding bodies. We now look forward to working in partnership with King's – one of the largest colleges of the University of London – in applying this experience to their War in the Modern World programmes.'

The MA will be delivered on the UkeU's learning Platform, which is being developed specially for it by Sun Microsystems and represents the next generation of e-learning technology.

King's joins global online med school

The launch of the world's first international virtual medical school, IVIMEDS, was announced on 10 February.

This ambitious venture, which will radically change the education of tomorrow's doctors worldwide, has attracted the international support it needs to make the plans a reality.

Thirty of the world's leading medical schools have joined as partners in taking forward the venture. The Guy's, King's & St Thomas' Medical School is one of the UK partners, and benefits will be collaboration in the area of development, implementation and sharing of electronic learning resources, and other curriculum support activities.

Elements of the first courses will be pioneered from August this year. The first students to enrol in IVIMEDS will start their studies in August 2004.

Professor Jeremy Ward, Director of the GKT Virtual Campus and King's representative for IVIMEDS, explained: 'The virtual school will allow students around the world to pursue a medical education through a combi-

nation of e-learning and clinical experience in local health facilities. It means that wherever they are studying – from the most remote and underdeveloped areas to high tech cities – they will have access to the best of international expertise across the range of specialities. For our own students it will also allow access to a wide range of e-learning resources which will enrich the learning experience.'

Led by the University of Dundee, the

project has partners in Germany, Italy, Ireland, Spain, Hong Kong, China, Syria, Malaysia and Australia as well as the USA and the UK. A handful of key professional bodies have also signed up to the scheme.

The first Director of Education is Professor Ronald Harden, at Dundee. He said: 'The announcement of the international virtual medical school constitutes a historic moment for global medical education. Its

blending of the best of e-technology and face-to-face delivery could provide the cost effective answer to problems including shortage of trained doctors, widening access across cultural and academic boundaries and, for rural communities, conquering the 'tyranny of distance' that discourages those with potential from going away to train.'

With the first pledges of over \$1 million now received from the medical schools the scene is set for raising funds from other sources and working on priority areas including developing the curriculum and courses, student support systems, and assessment.



Cherie Booth speaks up for children's rights

Cherie Booth QC gave a major lecture entitled *A new century - challenges facing children's rights in the UK* at King's on 23 January. She spoke to a packed audience in the Great Hall at the Strand campus as part of the British Institute of Human Rights' lunchtime lecture series.

In her lecture Cherie Booth examined the problems facing children and the protection of their rights in the UK; from poverty and education to criminal justice. Ms Booth discussed the Human Rights Act and the idea of a children's rights commissioner for England as ways of addressing these problems.

Cherie Booth QC is a leading human rights barrister and a strong advocate for children's issues. She is President of Barnardo's and Vice-President of the Kids' Club Network as well as being patron of a wide range of other voluntary organisations.



JO FISHENDEN

The British Institute of Human Rights is a charity based in the Law School. The lecture series aims to bring issues concerning human rights to a wider audience with speakers and topics selected with accessibility and public interest in mind.

Putting English on television

The challenge of making a television series about the history of the English language was the subject of broadcaster and writer Melvyn Bragg's lecture entitled *Putting English on Television*, which he gave on 17 February as part of the Humanities at King's 2002-2003 series.

Lord Bragg gave an enlightening insight into the thought processes, the intellectual and technical problems and the limitations and possibilities of writing, producing and presenting a popular series on mainstream television in the UK today.

He had previously explored the development of the English language in his Radio 4 series, *The Routes of English*. The television series, *The Adventure of English*, which builds on the radio series, gave Bragg and the series' producers an opportunity to bring aspects of the English language to life as only television can. He was convincing in his argument that the history of the English language can be successfully presented in a visual medium – something borne out by the short selection of clips from the series which he showed.

Lord Bragg believed that television could be an intellectually valid medium to communicate the humanities to a broad audience. He argued that thoughtfully produced and conceived television can reach a more diverse audience than other media such as radio, books, theatre or film.



TOM WHIPPS

Keynote speech on EU constitution



Jean-Luc Dehaene with the Rt Hon Lord Slynn of Hadley and the Principal

Jean-Luc Dehaene, Vice-President of the Convention on the Future of Europe, and former Belgian Prime Minister (1992-99), gave the 28th annual lecture of the Centre of European Law to a distinguished audience of more than 300 people in the Franklin-Wilkins Auditorium on 11 February.

Mr Dehaene spoke about the work of the European Convention and its role in the reform of the European Union in a lecture entitled *Towards a Constitutional Treaty for the European Union*. He was introduced by the President of the Centre of European

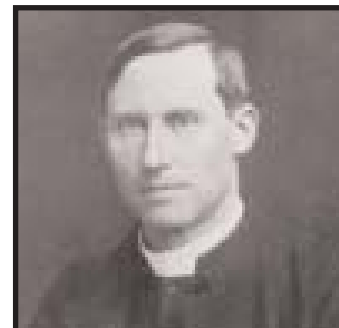
Law, The Rt Honourable Lord Slynn of Hadley.

In his lecture Mr Dehaene spoke of the crucial role of the Convention in reforming the expansion or 'reunification' of Europe and outlined the differences between the Convention and previous inter-governmental conferences which had been used in the past as forums for change.

He reported on the progress of the Convention so far and the clear but complicated challenges that lie ahead. He also thanked the UK Government for the 'constructive and substantive role' it has played in the Convention to date.

Chapel tablets

All human life (or rather, death) is here. The memorial tablets in and around the College Chapel at the Strand reflect a wide range of characters among King's staff and alumni who died during the 19th and early 20th centuries.



Perhaps the most poignant of the stories commemorated is that of Dr Samuel Rabbeth, a graduate of King's who died in October 1884 when he contracted diphtheria.

According to the *Spectator*: 'The medical world has reason to be proud of one of its members who died this week as the consequence of a really heroic act performed in the course of his professional duty. Dr Samuel Rabbeth, a young man of only twenty-seven years, senior residential medical officer of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, found, on Friday fortnight, that a child of four years of age, on whom a tracheotomy had been performed to relieve the breathing, must die of diphtheria unless a suffocating membrane was sucked away through a tube; and he risked and lost his life through diphtheria in the attempt to save the child's – which he did not succeed in saving at all. The risk was not one which professional etiquette in any way required him to run; but he ran it in the enthusiasm of his love for service, and he ought to be remembered as one of the noblest martyrs of duty.'

Five other tablets in the Chapel commemorate King's doctors who died from diseases contracted while on duty: showing just how much of a professional risk this was in the 19th century. Dr Denis McDonnell MRCS died from an infection while he was Assistant House Physician at King's College Hospital

in 1851, while Henry William Deane, a medical student, died aged only 20 from fever caught at the Hospital in 1862. Dr Hibbert Sullivan Parker of the Army medical staff died in India aged 28 in 1886 and Dr Charles Blake Lewis died in Egypt aged 29 in 1883. Dr Francis Edmund Anstie FRCP, Physician to the Westminster Hospital, who was an advocate of morphine as delivered through the newly-improved hypodermic needle, died from blood poisoning aged 40 in 1874. Lord Lister, 'the Father of Antiseptic Surgery', did more than anyone to ensure that such deaths became less common in the 20th century. He was Professor of Clinical Surgery at King's from 1877 to 1892 and is commemorated in a prominent tablet outside the Chapel.

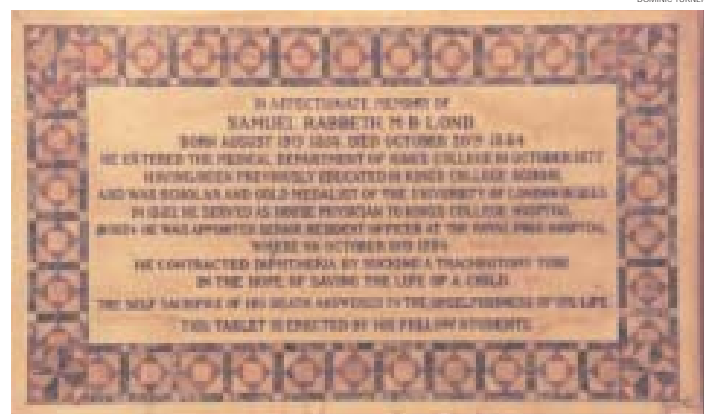
Also outside the Chapel is the memorial to Dr George D'Oyly, Rector of Lambeth in the early 19th century. The College Council minute recording the commissioning of the tablet in 1846 acknowledges that 'the design of [King's] was originally conceived by him and ... by giving the first impulse and direction to public opinion, he was virtually the Founder of the College'.

Sir Herbert Benjamin Edwardes was a distinguished English soldier and colonial official and an alumnus of King's who died in 1868. His tablet in the Chapel commemorates in particular how he 'reduced to order the turbulent people of Bannu without the sacrifice of a single life'. Bannu was a district in the North-West Frontier Province of British India. The inhabitants had already fiercely resisted the Afghan and Sikh invaders who were the predeces-

sors of the British, but after the annexation of the Punjab the valley was apparently administered by Edwardes so well that it remained loyal to the British during the Indian Mutiny in 1857-8. The tablet recalls Edwardes as 'buoyant in danger, wise in administration'.

The tablets also commemorate six principals of the College (William Otter, Hugh James Rose, John Lonsdale, Richard William Jelf, Arthur Cayley Headlam and Ronald Montague Burrows). Otter, the first principal of King's, became Bishop of Chichester in 1836, and Bishop Otter's School for (teacher) Training (now part of University College Chichester) was founded in 1839 as a tribute to his eagerness to promote education in the diocese. As Principal of King's from 1903 to 1912 Headlam successfully piloted through the separation of the theological and secular parts of the College, and the formal incorporation of King's into the University of London. He went on to become Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford and then Bishop of Gloucester, and was a distinguished theologian whose biblical commentary and other works are still in use today.

Other memorials include those to John Richardson Major (the first headmaster of King's College School); to a professor of chemistry, a lecturer in Hebrew and Latin, a demonstrator in metallurgy, two students, a benefactor, and two porters. Ironically, it's the grander memorials which are now less likely to be read because they were couched in Latin, whereas the simpler ones to the porters still speak loud and clear. Edward Gough (1825-1887), the College's Chief Hall Porter, was remembered with 'regard and esteem' by the staff and students, while George Fisher, who died in 1870 aged 55, was 'for many years chief porter to the Anatomical Department' of King's, and was commemorated for 'his exemplary character and his long and faithful services'.



DOMINIC TURNER

Chapel tablet for Dr Samuel Rabbeth and Arthur Headlam (above)

Christine Kenyon Jones

Ben Bowling

Dr Ben Bowling, Reader in Criminology and Criminal Justice in the School of Law, contributed to the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry and regularly comments on matters of racism, crime control, policing and justice.

How long have you been at King's and what is your background?

I started at King's in 1999 after four years teaching applied criminology to senior police officers at the University of Cambridge. I've had quite a varied career including a year teaching English in Sudan, seven years as a researcher in the Home Office and 18 months as a visiting assistant professor at City University of New York. My very first research job was at the Age Concern Institute of Gerontology here at King's, studying elderly people from ethnic minorities.

What are your research interests?

I have a broad interest in all aspects of crime and criminal justice. In the past few years I have written about youth crime, racist violence, policing and discrimination in criminal justice. I currently have ongoing research projects relating to minority ethnic groups' experience of the criminal justice system, 'immigration policing' and transnational police co-operation.

Following the recent events in Birmingham you were quoted in the press about street crime and gun culture. Can you explain this in more detail?

Not long after two teenage girls were shot dead in the crossfire of a gun battle in Birmingham early in the new year, I was phoned at home on a Sunday evening by the *Guardian's* arts correspondent who wanted to know what I thought about culture minister

Kim Howell's comment that rap music 'created a culture where killing is almost a fashion accessory'. I said that I thought that blaming music for violence in society was a rather shallow view and that to understand why young men carry firearms requires a more careful analysis of economic and social conditions, the dynamics of local drugs markets and what the people involved see as the options to escape what they see as a bleak future.

I have studied drug-related shootings in New York City and looked at what evidence there is in the UK, and in my opinion the problem certainly won't be solved by censoring music and film depictions of violence.

The other point I made was that Ms Dynamite – perhaps the best known UK garage performer – sings out against violence and lends support to prevention campaigns. The minister's stereotyping of a whole genre of musicians as 'boasting macho idiots' just discredits politicians in the view of young people.

What do you see as the solution to the problem of gun crime in our cities?

I think that the key to crime prevention is the active participation of communities, particularly of children and young adults, in developing solutions to the problems that confront them. Unless young people themselves reject the gun as a source of protection and power, no hectoring

politician or mandatory minimum prison sentences are going to make much of a difference.

The physical, economic and social conditions of British cities have hardly begun to recover from more than 20 years of neglect dating back to the late 1970s. Unemployment, social and economic marginalisation, bleak prospects, lack of facilities and being literally priced out of opportunities to enjoy decent housing, employment and leisure has created frustration, anger, anxiety and a bleak outlook on the future. While those conditions remain and people feel powerless to escape them, the illicit drugs business and the lethal tools that accompany it will continue to be considered by some people as a preferable alternative, despite the obvious dangers of injury, death and incarceration.

What are your future plans in terms of your teaching and research?

I have just started an ESRC funded project on 'transatlantic police co-operation' that will look at the links between police officers in the UK, USA and various locations in the Caribbean region. I am looking forward to a year's study leave starting in July

that will enable me to spend time as a visitor at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados, which is also where the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police is based.

Before I leave I will be spending some time looking at the work of Metropolitan Police Operation Trident, which is targeting drug-related shootings in London, and also at the UK training of overseas police officers. One of the exciting new challenges on my return to teaching in 2004 will be the launch of a new masters degree in criminology that will cement King's position as a centre of excellence in the field.

What sort of music do you listen to?

At the moment I am listening mainly to jazz and world music. I picked Norah Jones *Come Away With Me* as album of the year 2002 and think her fist full of Grammys was richly deserved. My most recent purchase was the soundtrack to *City of God*, a full-on Brazilian feast for the ears, every bit as dynamic and powerful as the film – an extremely violent film, in fact... I wonder if the minister thinks this might be the cause of gun crime in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro!

BRIAN D'LAUGHTON



King's People

Presentation for Principal

The Principal, Professor Arthur Lucas, was presented with his CBE by HRH Prince Charles at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace on 13 February. Professor Lucas was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Jubilee Year Birthday Honours last year for services to higher education.



OFT Board

Secretary of State Patricia Hewitt has announced that Richard Whish, Professor of Law, has been appointed as one of four non-executive directors of the new Board of the Office of Fair Trading, established under the Enterprise Act 2002.

The Board, which will come into effect on 1 April, will play a key role in policy and enforcement of competition law. The appointment is an acknowledgement of Professor Whish's international reputation in the field of competition law.

Patricia Hewitt commented: 'This is an excellent team. The Enterprise Act creates a new, independent OFT with increased powers to protect consumers and business from unfair competition and unlawful activity. This Board will give the OFT a new vision and perspective, as well as having a range and depth of experience to ensure proper accountability for the OFT's new powers. The Board will take the OFT from strength to strength.'

FCO appointment

New measures to combat torture are to be addressed by a new expert panel on torture launched by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Dr Andrew Coyle CMG, Director of the International Centre for Prison Studies (ICPS), has been appointed onto the Panel.

The Panel's creation is part of the FCO's ongoing commitment to press for international action against torture.

Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell said: 'The use of torture is totally unacceptable. The UK is committed to combating torture everywhere. Over the past four years the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has worked to combat torture and built an enviable record as one of the most active countries in Europe on this subject.'

Baroness Stern, Senior Research Fellow, ICPS, has been a member of the FCO's Anti-Death Penalty Panel for the past two years.

Department of Health Panel

Professor Anthea Tinker of the Age Concern Institute of Gerontology, is chairing the Accreditation Panel for the Single Assessment Process for Older People.

The Department of Health panel, which will be in existence for three years, will make recommendations to ministers on the extent to which off-the-shelf assessment tools comply with published guidance.

Hudson Prize

Philip Britton, Director of the Centre of Construction Law, has been awarded first prize in the prestigious Hudson Prize essay competition, run by the Society of Construction Law, the leading UK professional body in the field.

The prize is in memory of Alfred Hudson, a leading barrister and author of one of the earliest textbooks on construction law (now in its 11th edition, currently edited by Ian Duncan Wallace QC, a Visiting Professor at King's).

Mr Britton's winning essay was entitled *Oxalic acid and the applicable law: the Rome Convention and construction*. He comments: 'The title was meant to tease, since one of the cases discussed

happened to involve oxalic acid, to clean stonework on a building in Edinburgh. The essay is really about an intensely practical, but still difficult question: what law should apply to a construction contract which has connections to more than one legal system? Within the EU the Rome Convention has unified these rules, but a look at how they work shows that there can still be great uncertainty, which may force parties to waste time and money going to court.'

He won second prize in the same competition in 2001.

Society of Ethnopharmacology

Peter Houghton, Professor of Pharmacognosy, was recently elected President-Elect of the International Society of Ethnopharmacology.

Ethnopharmacology is the scientific study of natural materials used by mankind for medicinal purposes and may provide new pharmaceuticals as well as give a scientific validation of traditional medicines. Professor Houghton is also an editor of the *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, officially linked with the Society, and has carried out research on traditional remedies used for treating inflammation, cancer and those used to heal wounds.

Long Service

Franco Juliano (right) retired last month after nearly 35 years dedicated service to the College on the Strand campus. He is well known not only in his capacity as Supervisor of the Terrazza (GO1 Macadam Building) but also for his work on numerous catered functions and special events.

Joy Ryan who works in the Payroll Office is retiring after 30 years service to the College.



JO FISHENDEN

King's first Artist in Residence



Distinguished playwright Claire Luckham will take up the position of King's first Artist in Residence on 1 April. The Leverhulme Trust awarded the College a grant of £10,000 to enable this ten-month post.

Claire Luckham's work includes *Trafford Tanzi* (1980), *The Dramatic Attitudes of Miss Fanny Kemble* (1990) and *The Seduction of Anne Boleyn* (1998). Her play *The Choice* (1992) involved her in

research into the ethical issues surrounding abortion and she has written a series of five 15 minute plays for BBC Radio 4 about a family coping with cystic fibrosis.

'When I was first approached to see if I was interested in this position I was flattered, naturally, and immediately attracted by the possibility of having some proper time for research purposes,' said Claire Luckham, 'I've often found myself in the situation of having to both research and write a play almost simultaneously. Writer's commissions don't normally take research into account. However during the time that it has taken to secure funding, my excitement and enthusiasm for the project has grown in a way that I never expected. I now can't wait to start and I see this piece of work as being central to my development as a writer.'

'I have received continuing support from John Stokes, Katharine Rabson and Brian Hurwitz, and hope to repay some of it by sharing my working

experiences with students in the English Department, as well as by writing an entertaining and thought-provoking play.'

The aim of the residency is to produce a play that will focus on the experiences of medical

A play that will focus on the experiences of medical students from post-colonial societies

students from post-colonial societies in London today. It will address the varied experiences of individuals as well as the larger issues relating to London's contemporary multiculturalism and its past as the capital of a major empire.

Ms Luckham will undertake research involving students, academic and non-academic staff at the Guy's, King's & St Thomas' Medical School. She

will also explore creative issues such as the construction of plot and the delineation of characters through workshops with students and staff from the English Department who are interested in contemporary theatrical practice.

Professor Ann Thompson, Head of the Department of English commented: 'This residency is unique in that the artist will be 'resident' in both the Medical School and the School of Humanities. Her research and creative work will cross the traditional boundaries between 'science' and 'art' and help to increase understanding between different parts of the College.'

Ms Luckham will be working partly with Brian Hurwitz, D'Oyly Carte Professor of Medicine and the Arts, who, together with Professor John Stokes of the Department of English and Katharine Rabson, Business Manager for Culture and Media, crafted the application to Leverhulme.

Race relations

The College's Race Equality Policy was recently commended by the consultants working for Hefce during their review of 130 such policies for HEIs in England and Wales, as an exemplar.

In their review of the King's Race Equality Policy, the consultants commented: 'This is a truly impressive Race Equality Policy and Action Plan and a model of good practice in every respect. The Principal, staff and College Council are to be commended for the care and commitment with which the task of constructing

this policy and plan was approached, as is so evidently reflected in the outcomes they have achieved so far.'

The Equality Challenge Unit of UUK, who project-managed the consultancy work for Hefce, has asked that the King's policy and action plan be listed by UUK and Hefce as an exemplar of good practice within the sector at this stage of implementation.

The Policy and Action plan can be viewed on the College website by using the link www.kcl.ac.uk/equal_opps/race-equality-policy.html

Dental celebration

Dr Mark Woolford, President of the GKT Dental Society, gave the Society's annual Presidential Address in January at a well attended evening for staff and students, held jointly by the Dental Society and the Dental Institute.

In his address Dr Woolford spoke about his life and work in dentistry, which included time working in Siberia. A highlight of the evening was the distribution of prize certificates to students for clinical and academic achievement by the Dean and Head of

School, Professor Nairn Wilson.

The evening ended with a reception at which staff and students had the opportunity to interact and share experiences. Special guests at the event included Professor Jack Rowe and Dr Alex Inglis, both former Deans of the School.

FD Maurice Lectures: 70 years

The FD Maurice Lecture series celebrated its 70th anniversary this year. The lectures, established in 1933, have a fine tradition of attracting eminent speakers discussing important topics in theology and religious studies in three lectures over three days.

WR Inge, Dean of St Paul's was the first Maurice Lecturer and spoke on *Maurice, Pioneer and Prophet*. Many of the early Maurice Lecturers were leading Anglican churchmen including William Temple, J Scott Lidgett, EF Carpenter and Michael Ramsey, who mostly spoke on subjects concerning Maurice and his theology.

Frederick Denison Maurice (1805-72) held the posts of Professor of English (1840-46) and Professor of Theology (1846-53) at King's and was one of the leading Anglican theologians of the 19th century. He was also a pioneer in adult education for men and women and the prophetic founder of the Christian Socialist movement.

His Christian socialism and contacts with working class radical leaders won him the

disapproval of many of the conservative establishment and ultimately his ousting from the College in 1853 following the publication of his *Theological Essays* which discussed eternal life. The reinstatement of his reputation within King's began with the establishment of the FD Maurice Lectures in 1933. (See *Comment* 133 for more details about Maurice's life and work)

Organised by the Department of Theology & Religious Studies, this year's series took *Christ as Culture* as its theme. Professor Robert Jenson, Senior Fellow for Research at the Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, delivered the lectures.

Colin Gunton, Professor of Systematic Theology, said 'Robert Jenson was a most appropriate speaker to mark the 70th anniversary of the FD Maurice Lectures. He is widely regarded as America's most distinguished theologian and has written extensively on theology and culture. His most recent major work, a two-volume *Systematic Theology* has had an impact throughout the world.'

Previous speakers have included Raymond Brown who lectured on *The Passion Narratives*, George Steiner whose lectures developed into the influential book, *Real Presences*, and Neil MacGregor, then Director of the National Gallery, whose *Seeing Salvation* later became the theme of a major exhibition of paintings.



News in brief

Testing results

'Future Games laboratories [should] adopt the procedures for analysis as carried out in this highly professional and effective laboratory,' reported the World Anti-Doping Agency Independent Observer Programme on the College's Drug Control Centre drug testing performance following the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games.

Byron conference

Germaine Greer of Warwick University was the keynote speaker at a conference *Byron: The Image of the Poet* organised



jointly by the National Portrait Gallery and King's on 8 February. Professor Greer and six other speakers, including Dr Christine Kenyon Jones of the English Department, explored visual aspects of Byron to a capacity audience of about 140 at the National Portrait Gallery, in association with the Gallery's current exhibition on the same theme.

German linguistics

The first Joint Meeting of the British-Irish Forum for Germanic Language Studies and the Amer-

ican Society of Germanic Linguistics was organised by Dr Christian Fandrych (King's) and Dr Klaus Fischer (London Metropolitan University) in January. Some 80 participants from 17 countries attended the conference at which 52 papers were given covering a wide range of topics and languages. Although the majority dealt with the development and description of German, a number of other Germanic languages were also covered, including Afrikaans, Dutch, Old English, Faroese, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Yiddish.

Literary prize

King's was host in February to the prestigious Duff Cooper Prize. At a ceremony held in the Great Hall, the 47th Duff Cooper Prize was awarded to Jane Ridley, for her book *The Architect and his Wife: A life of Edwin Lutyens*. The prize is given annually for

a book of history or biography, politics or (very occasionally) poetry.

Hard rock

Leo Houlding, 21, one of the UK's best know rock climbers, will be talking about his amazing achievements at an event on 25 April at 18.30 in the lecture theatre SS1 in the Stamford Street Apartments. For tickets contact Blacks on 020-7361 0060.

Did you know?

Allan Nunn May, the British atomic scientist who was unmasked as a Soviet spy in 1946, and who has recently died, taught at King's in the 1930s and 1940s. He holds an important place in Cold War history as the first person convicted for supplying atomic bomb secrets to the Soviet Union and went onto serve seven years in prison.

Conserving the Special Collections

The College has launched an appeal to help the conservation of the Rare Books and Special Collections at the Maughan Library. The Foyle Special Collections Library contains over 100,000 books, pamphlets and periodicals that by virtue of their age, rarity or fragility, require special treatment in terms of storage and consultation. Almost half the items in the collections will require specialised conservation treatment if they are to be available to the scholars of 50 years from now.

A number of highly successful events have been held at the Maughan Library for alumni and friends to hear about and view some of the Library's most precious books, and to listen to academics discuss the importance of the collections of their own research fields.

Nearly £8,000 has been raised since the beginning of the appeal last autumn. This has secured the conservation of nearly 100 books in a range of disciplines from medicine to ecclesiastical history.

The next event will be held on 25 March, and further events are planned after Easter.

If you would like to find out more about the Collections, please contact Katie Sambrook

at catherine.sambrook@kcl.ac.uk or refer to the website: www.kcl.ac.uk/specialcollections

If you would like a copy of the appeal brochure, or would like to discuss the Special Collections appeal, please contact Rosie Caley in the Development Office at rosie.caley@kcl.ac.uk

Legacy gifts

The College continues to receive bequests from alumni and friends. Last year, Mr Frederick J Bartlett OBE (KCL, 1923) and Mr John B Hurst (KCL, 1940) both left gifts to King's in their wills which have been directed to the conservation of the Special Collections.

Also, Dr Phillip Henderson from the Institute of Liver Studies at the Denmark Hill campus received a legacy gift of £10,000 from a former patient in his care to support his research into primary liver cancer. Recently, Ms Maeve A Willis (Dip Education, 1948) left a gift of £5,000 in her will to the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery to benefit nursing students in financial difficulties.

Please contact Caroline Bartholomew on 020-7848 3006 if you would like to discuss making a gift to King's in your will.

Collection holds book signed by the first Astronomer Royal

A book that once belonged to the first Astronomer Royal, John Flamsteed (1646-1719) can be consulted in the College's Foyle Special Collections Library in the Maughan Library.

The book, a copy of an early work on the theory of motion, Giovanni Alfonso Borelli's *De vi percussiois*, (Leiden: Pieter van der Aa, 1686), was one of more than 3,000 volumes from the library of the London Institution that were given to King's in 1916, after the closure of that library. It was only when an online catalogue record for the book was being created recently that its early ownership by Flamsteed came to light. His signature and a note of the price he paid for the book appear on the engraved title page.

Katie Sambrook, Special Collections Librarian, explained how this was authenticated: 'A scanned electronic copy of the inscription was sent to Dr Frances Willmoth, of Jesus College Cambridge, editor of Flamsteed's collected correspondence, and she was able to confirm that it was indeed his signature.'

John Flamsteed is best known today for his *Historia coelestis*

(London: John Matthews, 1712) and its later enlarged version, *Historia coelestis Britannica* (London: H Meere, 1725), one of the most significant books on astronomy to be produced in the 18th century.

She continued: 'We are fortunate enough to possess copies of both these works in the Foyle Special Collections Library. As the first Astronomer Royal, he was responsible for introducing many of the systematic methods of modern astronomical observation. A hot tempered and sometimes difficult man, he quarrelled frequently and publicly with Isaac Newton!'

So far, no indication has been found as to how his copy of Borelli's book came to the London Institution's library, nor have any other books owned by him been found in the College's collections.

The engraved title page of Borelli's *De vi percussiois* signed by John Flamsteed



Classics reunion

A successful reunion of classics alumni was held on 8 February to coincide with the final performance of this year's Greek play. More than 200 alumni and friends saw the play and attended a reception after-

wards. Speakers included Professor Brian Sparkes, who played Hippolytus in the first Greek play in 1953, talking about his memories of the Greek play, and Professor Alessandro Schiesaro, Head of the Department of Classics.



Hippolytus twice: Dickon Ausden, second year classics student and Brian Sparkes (Classics, 1955) took the lead role in *Hippolytus* in 2003 and 1953 respectively

In the news

Lindisfarne Gospels

Department of English professor, **Clare Lees**, appeared as one of the guests on Melvyn Bragg's BBC Radio 4's *In Our Time*. She explored the social, spiritual, political and cultural circumstances of the conversion of Northumbria to Christianity in the 7th century, concentrating on the Lindisfarne Gospels and St Cuthbert.

Falsifying history

Jeremy Adler, Professor of German, caused a stir when he attacked the international best-seller by Bernhard Schlink, *The Reader*. Writing in the *Times Literary Supplement*, he accused Schlink of falsifying history. His views were reprinted at greater length in Germany and were widely reported in the media including German and Austrian TV, and the Czech literary magazine, *Babylon*.

Juries

Appearing on Radio 4's *Law in Action*, medical law and ethics lecturer **Penney Lewis** discussed what juries should and should not be told about a defendant's previous misconduct or similar allegations against him, particularly in the context of sexual abuse cases.

Pharmaceutical developments

Two research teams from the Department of Pharmacy were featured on BBC Online. **Dr Melanie Pires** in collaboration with **Dr Amala Raman** found that the Indian plant *Vernonia anthelmintica* possessed promising anti-inflammatory and antiproliferative activity *in vitro*, thereby targeting two principal features of psoriasis. **Dr Glyn Steventon**'s research found that a defective pro-teiin could be involved in

Parkinson's Disease, the manipulation of which could potentially offer some protection against the disease.

GMC and public trust

Professor Sir Graeme Catto, Vice-Principal and Dean of GKT School of Medicine, was interviewed on BBC *Hardtalk* on the subject of the General Medical Council. The need and means to regain public trust was discussed at length.

What's cooking?

A new generation of devices designed specifically for chemical synthesis were part of a news feature in *Nature*. **Nicholas Leadbeater**, a synthetic chemist, discussed fresh interest in the power of microwaves among industrial and academic chemists and the ability of new microwave ovens to revamp reactions.

To be or not to be..

Dr Bethan Marshall, lecturer in Education, was quoted in the row over the new Shakespeare test for 14 year-olds in the *Times*, the *Telegraph*, the *Guardian* and the *Daily Mail*, and wrote an article on the same subject for the *Independent*. She also published an opinion piece in the *Independent* regarding the effects of ten years of Ofsted.

Tests and Targets

A recently completed ESRC funded study carried out in the Education Department by **Dr Sheila Macrae**, **Dr Meg Maguire** and **Ms Linda Milbourne** has generated much media interest including in the *Daily Mail*, the *Guardian* and the *Times Educational Supplement* (TES). The study focused on how current national policy to reduce

school exclusions in the primary sector was interpreted and implemented in a complex, urban area with a cluster of schools with high levels of 'difficult' and vulnerable children. They found that the current competitive climate of standards, attainment and formal academic curriculum does not readily leave room for wider emotional and mental health needs.

Moral authority

In a two-page feature article in the *Guardian*, **Jonathan Glover**, Director of the Centre of Medical Law & Ethics, discussed the seriousness with which people approach life and death decisions in medicine. He suggested that the same seriousness would lead decision makers about going to war to be far more concerned than they are to make sure war is always a very last resort.

Teeth evolution

New Scientist focused upon the work of **Professor Moya Meredith Smith** following an article published in the journal *Science*. Research at the Dental Institute has questioned the classic concept of the evolution of teeth and could lead to a shake up of the family tree of jawed vertebrates.

A clear sense of mission

In a feature published in the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, Senior Research Fellow **Bill Durodié** of the Centre for Defence Studies argued that a lack of conviction and purpose could undermine the capacity of British troops to fight in Iraq and of the British people to be resilient in the face of future terrorist attacks. Also, after tanks and troops were posted at Heathrow he appeared on BBC

London, BBC Breakfast, LBC, GLR, 5 Live, Radio London, Newsnight Scotland, ITV Lunchtime News, ITV News Channel, and 5 News.

Tantrums

Children's expressions of anger and frustration were the subjects explored in an article in the *Daily Telegraph*. **Hilton Davis**, Professor of Child Health Psychology, explained the difficulties of children in making sense of an unfamiliar world, often resulting in tantrums.

Lionhearted

Dr Jan Willem Honig, Senior Lecturer in the Department of War Studies, commented extensively in a major historical documentary *Lionheart: the Crusade* on Channel Four. As well as a thorough chronology of the crusades, the programme also examined the personalities and motivations of Richard the Lionheart and Saladin.

Mental illness

The prejudices and misunderstandings about mental illness were discussed in an article in *Marie Claire*. Factors leading to mental instability were explored by **Dr Kwame McKenzie**, a consultant at the Institute of Psychiatry.

Brand equity

In the *Independent on Sunday* (Business), the Director of the Centre for Risk Management **Professor Ragnar Lofstedt** wrote an article regarding institution name changes. He discussed the importance of brand equity and the pitfalls associated with re-branding.

The Public Relations Department are keen to know of any staff featured in the media. Please do keep us informed by contacting us on 020-7848 3202 or emailing

Alexander Stokes (1919–2003)

Alec R Stokes, a member of King's Department of Physics and the Biophysics Unit from 1947–1982, has died. He was one of the team of scientists involved in the most important discovery in biological research of the 20th century: the deciphering of the structure of DNA, the biological molecule that carries our genetic identity. His role was crucial in the research and he was the first person to work out that the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) molecule was probably helical in shape.

Dr Stokes, a crystallographer who had obtained his PhD from Cambridge working on the use of x-rays to determine the structure of materials, was involved in examining evidence of the structure of DNA from x-ray diffraction patterns. The technique had been developed by the father and son team of William and Lawrence Bragg, and later applied to DNA by Professor Maurice Wilkins at King's.

Alec Stokes, recruited by John (later Sir John) Randall, head of the College's Department of Physics, brought exceptional experience in x-ray crystallography to the King's team; he also excelled in the mathematics

needed to translate the patterns created on an x-ray diffraction film into a description of the atoms that must have produced them.

He joined two other scientists who would soon take the lead in the search to solve the structure of DNA, Maurice Wilkins himself and Rosalind Franklin. The extraction of pure samples of DNA and obtaining x-ray diffraction patterns was an incredibly difficult and delicate job.

In a now famous 1950 experiment, the team slowly pulled a long delicate thread of DNA from solution and, keeping it moist, subjected it to x-ray analysis. To their delight, the x-ray pictures showed a clear pattern of spots. It took Stokes's mathematical mind to explain the picture as the diffraction pattern of a helix, the shape of a spiral staircase.

There were some false starts arising from earlier pictures, but the research was dependent on x-ray diffraction as the only method of analysis that could provide the data for an adequate description of a three-dimensional shape of the molecule. Hence, the emergence of sharp diffraction pictures of DNA, and Stokes's theory of the helical shape of the molecule, galvanised the research.



Alec Stokes (far right) with Raymond Gosling, Herbert Wilson and Maurice Wilkins, beneath the DNA plaque in the Strand Quad and with a model of the double helix in 1993

The work ultimately led to the discovery of the double helical structure of DNA in 1953 and the Nobel Prize for Maurice Wilkins (together with James Watson and Francis Crick of Cambridge) in 1962.

Stokes continued to work on large biological molecules through the 1950s and 1960s, bringing to bear his exceptional skills as a mathematician, and on the study of light scattering by suspensions of randomly orientated long prisms and x-ray scattering of

chain molecules.

He wrote extensively, and his books include *The Principles Of Atomic And Nuclear Physics* (1972), and *The Theory Of The Optical Properties Of Inhomogeneous Materials* (1963).

A plaque in the Quadrangle at the Strand campus commemorates his contribution, along with those of Professor Maurice Wilkins, Drs Rosalind Franklin, Ray Gosling, and Herbert Wilson, to that seminal work.

Esther Seeds (1956–2002)

Esther Seeds passed away on Christmas morning 2002 after courageously fighting a protracted illness. Esther graduated with a BSc in Pharmacology from the University of Manchester and after a brief spell at the Hammersmith Hospital, she joined the Pharmacology Department of Chelsea College in 1980.

Esther spent much of her working life as a departmental technician helping with undergraduate laboratory classes. She also ran the research laboratories of Dr Patrick Thomas and on his

retirement in 1986, following the merger of Chelsea College and King's, Esther joined my research laboratory and worked with me until her untimely death.

Esther was a loyal member of the research team and helped countless postgraduates and visiting scientists in my laboratory. She helped establish a number of techniques and during her research career she actively contributed to ten publications. Esther also continued to run undergraduate practical classes and her wit and banter in these laboratory classes will be remembered by many undergraduate pharmacology students.

Esther had a character larger than life that touched all who encountered her – she was certainly not someone to get on the wrong side of in a laboratory! King's has seemed considerably quieter without her as we mourn the loss of a colleague who was such a vibrant member of the College community. Our thoughts go out to Esther's family, friends and colleagues.

Clive Page
Professor of Pharmacology,
Centre for Allergy & Asthma

Memorial Service

A Memorial Service for John Houlston will be held on 20 May at 17.30 in the College Chapel, Strand campus. (See his obituary in *Comment* 143)

Trincomalee: The Last of Nelson's Frigates

Andrew Lambert, Laughton Professor of Naval History (Chatham)

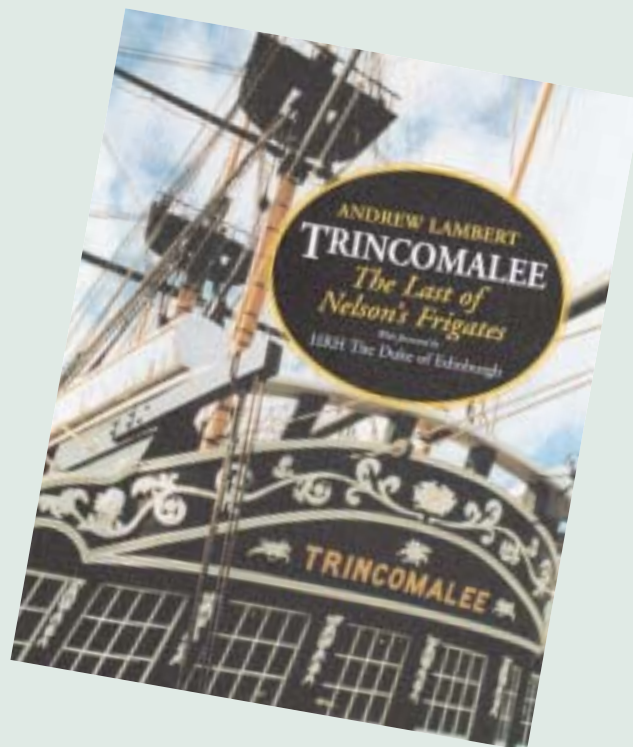
Trincomalee: The Last of Nelson's Frigates is a study of the eponymous Royal Navy sailing frigate, built by the East India Company at Bombay in 1817 of prime malabar teak.

After an interesting career as an Imperial Cruiser in the West Indies and Pacific, she became a stationary drill ship for the new Naval Reserve in the 1860s, and a charitable boy training ship in the early 20th century.

After the First World War she was used to provide experience

of life at sea for school-children, until the late 1980s, by which time her fabric was in need of a major overhaul. In the 1990s she was restored at Hartlepool at a cost of £7 million, with much assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and is now a major tourist attraction, as well as a magnet for film and television work.

This book examines the career of this unique ship, and the many contexts in which she has operated, from the East India Company, through 'Pax Britannica', to naval reform, sea-training and ship restoration.



Defence under Thatcher

Dr Andrew Dorman, Department of Defence Studies (Palgrave, 2002)

During Margaret Thatcher's premiership, there were major changes in international and domestic politics. In 1979 the East-West relationship appeared to be in a state of terminal decline. Yet by August 1990, the Berlin Wall had been breached and the superpowers were co-operating with Britain over the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Within this context of international upheaval and domestic change, defence emerged from its traditional post-war position of relative insignificance to become one of the key issues in successive general elections.

Drawing upon a range of previously unavailable interviews

from key personnel, Andrew Dorman examines the implementation of British defence policy during Margaret Thatcher's premiership. He considers three elements of defence policy: official policy; military strategy and procurement policy, and the impact of international and domestic policy upon them.

A Shoemaker, A Gentleman by William Rowley

Dr Trudi Darby, Humanities Research Centres (Nick Hern Books and Shakespeare's Globe)

Trudi Darby's edition of *A Shoemaker, A Gentleman* by William Rowley has just been published. William Rowley was a friend of Shakespeare and wrote *A Shoemaker, A Gentleman* in 1617.

The play is a comic history set in Romano-Britain and deals with the foundations of British nationhood, the creation of the first British martyrs and the beginnings of dynastic rule.

This is the latest volume in the Globe Quartos series of editions, of which the General Editor is Gordon McMullan (Department

of English). The Quartos give modern-spelling texts with notes and a brief introduction, and are designed to bring plays by Shakespeare's contemporaries to a wider audience.

If you have a book that has recently been published, do let us know about it for this page of Comment. Please email pr@kcl.ac.uk

Student news

News from KCLSU

GKT RAG Week

GKT RAG Week was launched at an opening ceremony that saw more than 500 sponsored balloons released from the Guy's campus, beginning the race to be the best rag week in London! A record-breaking £102,000 was raised for charities associated with our teaching hospitals.

Medics, dentists, and students from all over College swamped the streets of London, collecting in cold and wet weather to make GKT RAG 2003 one of the most memorable in years. The week of events began with the usual Mystery RAG Raid, this year to Canterbury, followed by nights at Inverse, Tommy's, and culminating in the black-tie RAG Ball. Students also celebrated with the traditional champagne breakfasts on Westminster Bridge.

GKT Musical Theatre also

returned in January with the fantastic sell-out production of *Oliver!* at the Greenwood Theatre. The first GKT Fashion Show will take place in March at top London nightclub SE1. Proceeds from both events will go to RAG.

KCLSU elections

I'm proud to say we've had a record number of candidates standing for elections in the new KCLSU structure. Posters filled every square centimetre of space at the end of February as candidates fought to represent fellow students. Email voting, trailed for the first time this year, proved extremely popular.

White Paper

We're currently preparing the Students' Union response to the Government White Paper on The Future of Higher Education. The abolition of up-front tuition fees will mean students will no longer face debt and debt-collectors from the first day at university, but allowing universities to potentially charge differential fees will mean students will graduate with huge mortgage-sized



Dean gets groovy: This year's RAG week had an Austin Powers theme. He (aka Peter Frost of the Estates Department) is pictured with Professor Gwyn Williams, Head of the Medical School with the 'fembots'

debts around their neck. A return to maintenance grants is obviously good news to a limited extent. We'll be representing King's students at the next NUS lobby of Parliament in early March where we'll be putting questions to MPs.

The Students' Union has

recently invested in its own online discussion forum. Join in our initial response to The Future of Higher Education and get anything else off your chest at www.kclsu.org/forum

David Utting KCLSU President

Student volunteering

For the first time King's took part in Student Volunteering week, held last month.

Students from King's worked together with others from eight London universities, the CSV's Go-London project and Millenium Volunteers project, at a London primary school.

The bare walls, floors and corridors of Tyssen Primary School in Stoke Newington were transformed by over 80 volunteers to create a more welcoming environment for the students when they came back from half-term.

As well as enthusiastic painters, King's also provided one of

the artists for the day – Winnie Chan, who produced two fantastic murals: Elmer the elephant, and the very hungry caterpillar – and one of the event leaders Sioned Phillips, who helped with the exhausting task of keeping the many volunteers busy and happy!

Future King's student volunteering plans include work in a playground for children with disabilities in Clapham, and working with local housing group Southwark Habitat for Humanity on their new build, helping to lay the foundations for new homes in the area.

For more information about student volunteering, contact Eleanor Coker Volunteer and Development Co-ordinator, KCLSU (eleanor.coker@kclsu.org)

Student prize winners

Times law prize

Kasia Walawska, an LLM student in the School of Law was a runner up in this year's *Times* Law Awards. Prizes were presented at a dinner in February at which the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irving of Lairg, was the speaker.

Simon O'Dwyer Russell Prize

Matthew Edwards, a student in the Department of War Studies, has been awarded the Simon O'Dwyer Russell Prize for his outstanding performance on the MA War Studies course, 2001-2002.

The prize is awarded annually

to the top performing students in the Department. Matthew attained a Distinction in his MA and was the overall highest scoring post-graduate student in his year. In particular, his dissertation entitled *Disciples of Kipling and Mackinder: The New Great Game and the New Great Gamers*, was regarded as an exceptionally impressive scholarly accomplishment. He also made a notable contribution to the life of the Department during his time at King's.

Tuesday Group play

Stars of stage and screen took part in a groundbreaking play, written by a King's academic, promoting greater understanding of terminal illness. The debut performance of the play, which explored and communicated the experiences and needs of people facing death, took place in front of a capacity audience in the Auditorium of the Franklin-Wilkins Building on Saturday 22 February.

Sue Eckstein, a playwright and King's Research Fellow in the Centre of Medical Law & Ethics, wrote the play after close collaboration with colleagues at St Christopher's Hospice. The work was commissioned by Dr Bobbie Farsides, also of the Centre of Medical Law & Ethics, as part of a European Commission funded project entitled *European Palliative Care: Ethics and Communication*. This was a

multi-disciplinary international project which also involved Professor Irene Higginson of the Department of Palliative Care & Policy. The Tuesday Group play was performed as part of the College's year-long Art of Dying programme.

St Christopher's Hospice, a world leader in the care of the dying and the founding hospice of the modern hospice movement, attracted the support of well known actors to perform the play which focuses on the experiences of a fictional group of terminally ill people who attend a support group at a hospice day centre.

Directed by Faynia Williams a BBC drama producer/director, the cast included Gina McKee (*Notting Hill*, *Wonderland*, *Our Friends in the North*, *The Forsyte Saga* and *The Lost Prince*), Phyllida Law (*Emma*, *Peter's Friends*, *Much*

Ado About Nothing, *The Winter Guest*), Sarah Collier, Will Godfrey, Candida Gubbins, Stefan Kalipha, Jacqueline Kington, Amanda Mealing and Jean Trend.

Sue Eckstein explained writing the play: 'When I started work on the play and read through the piles of anonymised reports of day centre group meetings, I was immediately struck by how seldom we hear the words of the terminally ill except perhaps on death beds in novels or films, and how strange it is to hear the dying talk about themselves rather than being talked about.'

'I felt extraordinarily privileged to have been given access to these voices, and how very important it was that I should be true to them. Seeing this wonderful group of actors bring the play alive to a very diverse, receptive and appreciative audience has been an unforgettable experience.'

Barbara Monroe, St Christopher's Hospice Chief Executive, commented: 'The Tuesday Group play provided an invaluable insight for both healthcare professionals and the general public into the personal and individual needs and concerns of those coming to terms with death.'

The *Daily Telegraph* ran a long interview with Phyllida Law about the play and the issues it raised.

Rehearsals: Jean Trend, Gina McKee and Phyllida Law.



Scientific books exhibition

An exhibition of scientific books from the College's Foyle Special Collections Library is taking place in the Maughan Library's Weston Room until 19 March.

The exhibition, entitled *Robert Hooke and his circle: seventeenth century scientific works from the Foyle Special Collections Library*, is the first in a programme of regular displays of items from the Foyle Special Collections Library, which will aim to highlight different aspects of the collections.

It takes as its theme the career and achievements of Robert Hooke (1635-1703), scientific polymath and inventor, who died 300 years ago. Hooke was one of the leading members of the scientific enlightenment in this country during the 17th century and was the Royal Society's first curator of experiments, holding this position from 1662 until his death.

Among the books on display are two fine copies of Hooke's masterpiece, *Micrographia* (1665), one of the earliest explorations of the natural world under the microscope.

Also on display in the Weston Room are the Rolls Bible and the Rolls Book of Common Prayer, which were recently presented to the College by the Master of the Rolls, as reported *Comment* 145.

For further information see: www.kcl.ac.uk/specialcollections/exhibitions.html

What's On

Enclosed with this edition of *Comment* is *What's On* at King's, a diary of King's events: lectures, seminars, exhibitions, film showings, and musicals open to everyone. Events are listed from March until July.

